

Emergence of Translation Studies as a Discipline and its Diversified Dimensions

Shiv Shankar

Research Scholar of English
Patliputra University
Patna

Abstract

Translation Studies has emerged as a new discipline in the late 20th century but with the passing time, the importance of translation is growing by leaps and bounds. Translation of the written text and spoken word is flourishing and increasing with each passing minute. Through this paper, I have focused on different aspects of Translation, Myths of translation, Types of translation, its relevance in contemporary Era etc. The aims of translation are manifold and play a crucial role in linguistic and cultural development. Translation is as obscure as poetry and over the years it has dynamic growth. People regard translation only as a means of learning new language or of reading a foreign language text when one did not have the linguistic ability to read the original. But the value of translation has been restored and leads it towards an independent academic discipline, Translation Studies. Translation Studies aims to develop and train the students to acquire strong ground in translation theory. It helps in linguistic transformation and recreation of words and meanings. In recent time, the occurrence of translation has become the very important aspect of human life in terms of global communications, production of knowledge and transmission of socio-cultural-linguistic factors. My paper will unearth and unwrap different misconceptions, themes and thesis of translation. It will pave a new and sustained way for the future researchers.

Key Words: Translation, History & Myths of translation, Types of translation, Contemporary Relevance of Translation.

Introduction

Translation in wider sense is as primitive as human expressions & emotions in the human civilization. At the age of man, when we human beings were not able to communicate with words but used to translate our minds in different kinds of performances or activities. So it won't be wrong to say that language itself in its very essence is already translation, first from the non-verbal world and now in different streams. Language itself is the product of translation, it is born out of translation. Each civilization holds its own method, practice and culture of translation. Translation is very necessary to communicate not only with outsiders of the

community but also to communicate with the insiders. Every community tries to keep their knowledge alive through different mode of translations or through different artistic mediums.

Translation is a mode of transferring knowledge from one civilization to another. Many Indian texts such as Panchtantra, Vedas etc. have been translated into many languages and make us aware about ancient Indian text. **Sussan Bassnet** rightly argued, "No introduction to Translation Studies could be complete without consideration of the discipline in an historical perspective."

[Bassnett, Susan. Translation Studies. London and New York : Routledge, 2002. Print. pg. 47]

Systematic study of translation is not begun in India but in the West. The translation consciousness which the Western theorist developed , is almost absent among the Indian practitioners , so it is too difficult to develop a historiography of translation theory in the Indian context.

Colonial experiences and post colonial studies emphasized for a scientific study of Indian translation as it carries history of culture and civilization. It is colonial rule and colonizer's use of translation for different purposes which make translation studies very much significant in India.

The key term Translation Studies is popularised by the Dutch based US scholar James S Holmes in his paper published in 1972. Translation studies as a discipline since the last decade of 20th century has been expanding its area, it includes the study of not only literary translation but also offers proper training to the translators , deals with filmic translations, adaptation, legal translation, translation of non-literary documents, studying translation and its relation with history, sociology anthropology, gender , globalisation, comparative literature, world literature etc.

Dryden's Model of Translation

In order to understand all kinds of translation , **Dryden** divided it into three different types :

1. **Metaphrase** : a literal, word for word translation. Ben Jonson's translation of Horace's Art of Poetry falls in this category.

2. **Paraphrase** : re-narration of a text in different words , generally used to clarify meaning . Waller's translation of Virgil's Aeneid falls in this category.

3. **Imitation** : taking only some general hints from the original , to run division on the ground work as a translator pleases. Mr. Cowley's practice in turning two odes of Pindar and one of Horace into English is in this category.

Jakobson's Model of Translation

Roman Jakobson, a renowned formalist divides translation into three different ways :

1. **Intralingual** - Translation in same languages.
2. **Interlingual** - Translation in two different languages.
3. **Intersemiotic** - Translation took place from one sign system to another sign system.

Eugene Albert Nida gave the idea of "equivalence" while translating a text of another culture. A translator need to find the cultural equivalent term from the target language. He further divides Equivalence into Formal Equivalence and Dynamic Equivalence.

Indian perspective of Translation

In pre-colonial India , the idea of translation was popularly practiced as "retelling" in different Indian languages. Mainly the religious text like the Mahabharata , the Ramayana and many more Sanskrit text were used to be translated in different Indian languages. And the story of those source texts were recreated and re-told in the particular language to make it more acceptable by target audience. It helps people to imagine desh through telling of their regional stories or making the characters desi from Dev Bhasha Sanskrit. So it was actually the retelling of classics or epics which can be considered as recreation or creative departure. The translator's position has never been secondary in Indian context. During Colonial Era , translation was being used especially for political purpose. It not only helps to build contacts between the East and the West but it also shows the cultural hierarchy and hegemony of translation done by the British Institutions established in India.

Now a days , translation has been given a new meaning and its theories have attained an independent status which play an important role in interborder communication and globalisation. It has become a very crucial aspect of human life in terms of global communication, knowledge production and socio-cultural-linguistic transmissions.

Broader Categorisation of Translation

Translation can be broadly divided into following binary types :

1. Literary Translation and Non-literary or Informative translation
2. Oral Translation and Written Translation
3. Human Assisted Translation and Computer Aided Translation.

1. Literary and Non-literary Translation

Literary Translation

Literary translation includes translation of plays, literary books, poetry, songs, literary articles, novels, short stories etc. While translating any literary texts, the translator should keep the following point in consideration:

1. The type of text which is to be translated.
2. The main purpose behind the translation.
3. The target or intended audience.

The literary translator must be aware of the source and the target languages and text. S/he must be skillful enough to apply the suitable method for translating a literary text. The aim of translator should be intended on the quality of translation, quality must be same as the source text without leaving any of the content. The translated text must be seen as an integral and coherent piece of work. Translator must take care of finding cultural equivalence. As Newmark says, "Translation of poetry is an acid test showing the challenging nature of translating".

In the translation of poetry, figures of speech, meters and rhymes become a challenge to translate. The main methods used in translating literary texts are: Phonemic Translation, Metrical Translation, Literal Translation, Rhymed Translation, Free Verse Translation, Interpretation etc.

Non-literary Translation

Also known as Informative Translation, is a type of translation which does not focus on word for word accuracy rather on redirecting the meaning of the text. The main focus is on the intended messages. Some major forms of non-literary translation are:

1. **Legal Translation**: It includes legal documents such as case files, warrants, summons, administrative texts and other texts of court proceedings. The process of translating legal

equivalence varies from country to country. The main focus is on the production of translation that are acceptable by a legal jurisdiction.

2. Technical Translation : It involves the translation of materials produced by specialised technical writers. Many technological related terms, are present in these text. Some of the prominent areas of technical translation are : 1. User Guides 2. Engineering Specifications 3. Multi-media audios and visuals 4. Websites 5. E-learning etc.

2. Oral and Written Translation

Oral Translation

Oral translation is also known as interpretation. In this, the interpreter carefully listens to the oral messages and translate it into the target language verbally. It is just the translation of spoken language from source language to target language.

Consecutive Translation and Simultaneous Translation are two main varieties exist under oral translation.

In Consecutive Translation , the speaker takes a break and in between the translator interprets the said text. It is usually performed for smaller audience and where interpretation is needed in just one language.

In Simultaneous Translation the interpreters listen to the speaker through headphones and simultaneously interprets into the microphone. The audience can choose a suitable language and listen to speaker through headphone. Ex :- Meetings organised by UNO.

Written Translation

It is representation of the source text into target text in written form. While translating a translator must be attentive of the following details :

i. Maintaining language standards; correct spelling & grammar.

- ii. Accurate translation of terminology and context.
- iii. Integrity must be maintained, all necessary details should remain intact.

It is done either by human or machine.

3. Human Assisted Translation and Machine Translation

Human Translation

Machine has overlapped the human expertise and is performing well in many fields. But in translation human translation is still the best form of translation. The translator captures the spirit, senses and meaning of the source text using the right tone and style which is very important for the target audience. The choice of right alternative which exactly denotes the correct meaning is done by human only. Human translation is more accurate and has better quality than machine translation.

Machine Translation

It is an automated translation. In this process computer software is especially designed to translate the text from one language to another. Ex: Google Translation.

The main limitation of machine translation is that it is unable to find the cultural equivalent, it mostly engages in literal i.e word to word translation.

Myths of Translation:

i. **Translation as a trade of loss:** it is one of the important method shadowing the realm of translation, but actually every act of translation is a thing of gain, not of loss. The basic point in this case is that in translation there is either less gain or more gain there isn't any loss. If any text is not translated, the text will have the limited audience. What if Gitanjali would not have translated into English perhaps India might have deprived of Nobel prize. Andre Lefevere says that "Translations can only be judged by people who do not need them."

[Lefevere, A. Translating Poetry : Seven Strategies and a blue print. Assen: Van Gorcum 1975, p-7]

ii. Untranslatability:

It is also a myth. Untranslatability is a problem of translator but not of translation. The text which is untranslatable for a translator today, may find more expert translator tomorrow. All depends on the competence and commitment of a translator.

iii. Source Text:

Since Ancient Time , translation has been considered as the secondary activity, claiming that it completely depends on source text. Translator are considered as parasitic, derivative and subservient but what is the idea behind the source text? As every text is the result of experience, events or of something abstract or concrete ideas. So how can it be a Source Text? We can consider translation as a Succeeding Text (S.T) and so called source text as Preceding Text (P.T.).

Contemporary relevance of translation:

i. Role of translation in making the world a global village:

This world is full of boundaries and there are different languages within it. But, in the contemporary era the whole world is communicating with each other. It is only because of translation. It is translation which has surpassed every border and leads the world towards a combined family.

ii. **Democratization of knowledge:** As 21st century is considered as the century of knowledge. Translation democratizes knowledge i.e "knowledge for all". Now language is no longer barrier for any person to know Shakespeare or Sanskrit. It makes the text available in different languages and democratizes it.

iii. **Voice to voiceless:** Translation acts as a boon for the downtrodden sections whose voices have been crushed and limited to a particular region. By translation their texts get a large group of readers. Now we are knowing about the dalit texts , translation has played very important role in raising their voices louder.

iv. Act as a linguistic and cultural bridge:

With the translation, we come to know about the different cultures. Now language is no longer barrier. In the multilingual country like India translation plays a very important role in bilateral relationships and maintaining integrity as well as spreading brotherhood.

Conclusion:

In the recent time, the phenomena of translation has become a very important and upbringing very crucial aspects of human life in terms of global communication, knowledge production and socio-cultural-linguistic transmissions. Translation studies as a discipline has been enriched very much and involves many unexplored area for tracing. Translation has been given a new meaning and its theories have reached an independent status. It is playing very important role in international communication and globalisation. It acts as cultural transmission leads to the enrichment of cultural system.

As Translation Studies scholar **Mark Newman** rightly says:

"Translation has its own excitement, its own interest. A satisfactory translation is always possible but a good translator is never satisfied with it. It can usually be improved. There is no such things as a perfect, ideal or 'correct' translation. A translator is always trying to extend his knowledge and improve his means of expression, he is always pursuing facts and words.

[Newmark, Peter. A Textbook of Translation. New York. Prentice Hall, 1988. Print. p-6]

The process of translation may be painful but the product is pleasant. Translating a text is a responsibility, as a translator needs to be impartial & neutral and relay information accurately. Looking upon the importance of translation it would not be wrong to refresh the celebrated statement by Leo Tolstoy:

"All everything I understand, I understand only because I love".

as "All everything I understand, I understand only because I translate."

Translation is not merely the exchange of meaning. It is omnipresent, it is present everywhere. It is in our mind, beyond our mind. Translation has thus come out as one of the pre-conditions of survival in this rapidly changing world. Processing of knowledge has become faster than ever before due to translation. Translation aims to expand the horizon of knowledge through multilingual fertilization.

In the present Era, Translation is necessary for the spread of information, knowledge and ideas. It is much necessary for effective and empathetic communication between different culture. It acts as a catalyst for social harmony and peace. Translation makes a text remain beyond its age and is like the process of metamorphosis. With the growing impact, translation is growing to be a green

field and will present a secured job scope as a translator, interpreter, subtitler, free-lance translator in publishing houses etc.

At last I conclude my paper from the point that Translation is an ever continuing force in any civilization and it will remain flourish.

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