

Book Reviews

***Studies in Translation* second revised and enlarged edition edited by Mohit k. Ray. Published and Printed in India by Atlantic Publishers and Distributors (p) ltd, 2002, pp, 1-308, ₹650, ISBN 978-81-269-0922-3.**

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This anthology consists essays which offer a broad spectrum of translation studies lately developed into an independent discipline known as 'translatology'. The editor Mohit K. Ray is associated with many International bodies namely Association Internationale de literature, compare, Paris, Association Internationale des Critiques Litteratures, Paris and SANART Association of Aesthetics and Visual Culture. These essays give us an insight into the history and theories of translation, it also substantiates the problems of translation, in practice, unraveling the precise/delicate objects and complexities which are difficult to analyse or describe while doing translation.

The book is comprised of 19 essays excluding appendix which throws light on the different aspects of translation and the problems associated with the act of translation. Those interested in the study of translation will find the book interesting because it explores new grounds, bridging the gap between the vast area of dialects, languages, and cultures. It is not merely about providing a reading material but an emerging discipline firmly rooted in practical application, it tries to convey the idea that translation is a 'bond' not a 'barrier'. The essayist focusses on two significant words Bhashantar and Anuvad, the former is change in language and the latter is translation, unlocking the text by following the source text (ST). The book draws a clear distinction between the two to avoid any further confusion and also to show that unless the soul of the ST is captured by Anuvad the work is not capable of standing on its own independently. The essays delve deep into the nature and purpose of translation process which is mainly to carry the theme and meta-theme of the source language (SL) to the target language (TL) as it forms the kernel of translation. So, this book is primarily concerned with individual translations or their receptions. It chiefly deals with the analysis and evaluation of a number of Target Texts (TTs) comprising a sub system, a tradition in the target culture over a specific period of time.

Chapter 1 deals with the history of translation which can be divided into four stages - immediate empirical focus, hermeneutic methodology of approach, structural linguistics and communication theory and finally reversion to hermeneutic enquiries of translation. Apart from the history of translation Suka Josua also concentrates her attention on the prominent contribution to the study of the theory of translation given by scholars like J.C.Catford, Eugene Nida, and Peter Newmark. These scholars with

their theories have proved the point that translation is not just changing the language but to re-create a text in the target language. In Chapter 2, Mallikarjun Patil throws light on the importance of translation and the difficulties involved in doing it. He opens up the reflection whether 'adaptation' is another mode of translation. The next essayist, R. Shanti, comprehends translation to be not a mere translation but a creative process in itself. As he states that translator has to keep in mind three things before h/ she chooses to take up the job of translation and these are: what; the selection of the source language (SL); where, the content of the source language (SL); and to whom; the readers. He derives the conclusion that the gain is more than the loss in translation.

In Chapter 4, K. Krishnamurthy explores the nature of translation by discussing the different views on it such as art, a craft and a science. He takes translation to an altogether different level by comparing it to the promethean fire, of Greek mythology the light which reveals the hidden treasures of the world. The essay by Uma Shankar Joshi elucidates the problems faced by the translators in translating poetry to the vernacular language with special reference to Gujrathi as the target language. Here, the essayist makes a distinction between *Bhashantar* and *Anuvad* to explain the process of making a text appropriate to the target language. The next chapter deals with K. Ayappa Paniker's call to the translators who suffer from the anxiety of authenticity in translation. With the help of many examples taken from Malayalam he conveys his ideas and in this way also shares with the reader his own experiences as a translator. Harish Trivedi in his analysis of the postcolonial situation and politics argues "colonial or postcolonial is a diachronic marker and at the same time an act of ideological and political faith ". The essay by Basudeb Chakraborty, an eminent scholar, tries to explain the nature of translation by drawing a comparison between the study of SL text and TL text. As per his observations neither substitution nor transference of grammatical form is possible so the suitable means is to transfer the meaning of the SL text to the TL text.

In Chapter 10, Anjana Tiwari, summarizes that translation at times emerges to be a transcreation. She derives the conclusion that in the Indian context only through translation it is possible to bridge the gap between different dialects, languages, and cultures. The next chapter critically analyses translation of two poems, one by Subhas Mukhopadhyay and another by Narendranath Chakraborty. Chapter 12 focuses on the European approaches to the criticism of translation which finally gives birth to a model of translation criticism for the assessment and evaluation of target texts. The next chapter a well-researched paper by Sunil Sawant who offers a broad spectrum of Marathi Literature which was influenced by translation in the nineteenth century. It was called the age of translation as the process of the formation of models, norms and strategies of translation in Marathi from English and English to Marathi took place. Sawant also focuses on the contribution made by the Marathi Scholars like Gopal Ganesh Agarkar, Vishnushastri Chiplunkar, and others. Chapters 14 and 15 states Dryden's and Arnold's perspectives on translation where Mohit k. Ray and Chattopadhyay give a detailed observation of Dryden as a translator and the problems faced by him and

on Arnold's contribution to the theories of translation. In chapter 16, Professor Subhas Sarkar deals with the methodology of Tagore's translation (self-translation or author translation) and the problems of judging as well as translating him. The temptation to be creative being a constant phenomena in him. Tagore's poems are often a sort of re-creation then a 'faithful translation' of the original.

The essay in Chapter 17 is by Niranjana Mohanty, an eminent Indian poet and critic who does a 'workshop criticism' of the art/science of translation. He states certain parameters which can help a translator to comprehend his/her work in the diverse facets of the translated texts. To summarize his objectives it would not be wrong to say that he believed that the best translation would never read like a translation. To conclude, for him a translator is "a veritable aesthetic" and "no less than a creative writer". Chapter 18 deals with the linguistic and cultural problems of translation where Bijay Kumar Das recommends the limits of translation which one must keep in mind to preserve the nitty-gritties of the translation process. Chapter 19 revolves around Rama Kundu's "Perspectives on Translation" where he sums up the views on translation given by great thinkers like Desiderius Erasmus, Edmund Spenser, and George Steiner. The appendix provides additional information to the reader. It is comprised of innumerable comments by Matthew Arnold on different aspects of translation.

Translation studies is an emerging discipline and this volume gathers essays, articles and book chapters that represent many of the main approaches to the study of translation developed during the 21 century focusing particularly on the past few centuries. We have witnessed the growth of translation as a new academic field, at once international and interdisciplinary. The translator training programs worldwide is an outcome of the rapid growth of this discipline and the recent survey reports show more than 250 institutions offering a variety of certificates and degrees, under graduation and Post- graduation courses. In these centres of learning, training is not only imparted to professional translators but also to scholars - teachers of translations. This book offers a challenging and stimulating perspective on translation studies in the present century. Many of the essays included in this collection will stimulate our thought process and help us to understand the translation procedure better.

This book has made an attempt to eradicate the false notion of accusing a translator to be a traitor. It offers a broad spectrum to understand what translation is all about and how it is playing an active role in bridging the gap between the vast area of dialects, languages and cultures besides being a reader of translation it is worthy of praise of as it provides insight into various dimensions of translation practices. Each essay included in this book stood against the stereotypical concept of identifying the writer and his work as per his/her native language and gave a universal message that only translation can stop this blind categorization. While going through this book the readers are invited to pause and reflect as to whether translation is a 'bond' or a 'barrier' will stop and reflect on the points made by the essayists and derive the

conclusion that translation is a 'bond' not a 'barrier'. As such *Studies in translation* is an effort made by the editor and the respective authors to show how translation can be used as a creative mode in providing a fresh impetus towards a deeper understanding of English literature.