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IMPACT OF TRANSLATION

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the impact of translation in all walks of life. An individual feels an urge in learning different languages for some specific purposes. The need and importance of translation is felt increasing day by day. Besides enlightening it proved to awaken India to become conscious of their existence and knit India together as a nation throughout history. The best example of it can be found when Akbar set up *Maktabkhana* or translation bureau, which encouraged translators of Sanskrit, Turkish and Arabic texts into Persian. It also helped strengthening the voice of weaker and marginalised people against oppression and atrocities. Translation has become not only desirable, but indispensable in our prevailing circumstances.

Keywords: Familiarize, Advancement, Heritage, Enlightenment, Disseminated, Hegemony.

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A large number of languages are spoken or written all over the world, and, as such, an individual would not like to remain confined to a single language or the native language only but, preferably would like to have interest in learning different languages for some specific purpose. The need and importance of translation also arises day by day. One wants to know the words or phrases or a languages spoken in other countries so as to familiarize oneself for that particular purpose. As a matter of interest, translation is also important when a person forms thoughts about how he would mingle with people of a different country if he needs to stay in connection with business or employment.

Translation has become an essential tool all over the globe in all walks of life. Now a days an individual cannot confine himself within the boundaries of a particular language and is keen to know about several languages that results in

translation. It has developed enormously in the past twenty years. Translation is an important tool for the advancement and development of language. Translation guarantees the survival of our civilization in a globalized world with its digital and electronic innovations.

Translation has the capacity to bring out revolutionary changes in the static literary culture. Life is too short to learn even the major languages of the world and enjoy their literatures. Hence, translation is the only potent vehicle of reaching out to those who do not have direct access to literature and knowledge in an alien language system. (Vaidhya 270-74) It is also helpful in preserving ancient literary and cultural heritage.

It will act as a bridge between different worlds as well as being a vital means of communication among people who speak different languages, so they use translation to cope with the

diversity of languages. In other words, we can say that it plays an important role in building bridges in connecting disconnected people.

Translation also helped Europe to dominate the world and exploit it to its ends. It was from the Spanish Arabs and their pupils like Roger Bacon, Michael Scott, William Ockham and Peter Abelard, that Europe received the spirit. (Khan and Mansuri 65) West borrowed literature from the East especially from the Arabs who were good in all areas of life such as architecture, culture, philosophy, science and literature. By using their artistic ability they initiated the growth of wondrous buildings as places of worship like great mosque of Damascus, the great mosque of Cordova. Culturally they were advanced as it could be depicted by their relationships with others. This behaviour was kept alive even during wars. There were great philosophers as Greek philosophy reached Europe through them like Al-Farabi (950), Al-Ghazali (1111) etc., in science they were at peak as Muslim scholars become source of inspiration for the West. In literature also they borrowed sources from the Muslims like Sidney, Spenser and Donne etc. as rightly said by Dr. Sir Mohammad Iqbal:

*Magar voh alem ke moti kitabein apne
aaba ki*

*Jo dekhein un ko Europe mein to dil hota hai
separa*

But the pearls of knowledge that belonged to our ancestors My heart broke by finding them in Europe Enlightenment of Europe came from the Arabian deserts, at the hands of the Muslims. Arabic translations were not the only cause of renaissance but they prove as catalytic agents of great transformation. They accelerated the arrival of enlightenment.

Translation has also helped in assimilation of Indian literature. In medieval times Indian literature was disseminated by the means of systematic translation of the great epics and other important books. British who came here had only political dominance, but culturally they were dominated by Indians, as well depicted by Dr. Sir Mohammad Iqbal:

Yunani Misri sub mit gaye jahaan se

*Kuchh baat hai ki hasti miteti naheen
hamari*

Sed-ye raha dushman dori jahan hamara

The Greeks, the Egyptians, the Romans have ceased [civilization]

There is something within that prevents us from being vanquished Even though nations stood against us in enmity since ages

European translated Indian literary texts into English just for agenda of hegemony. Kashmiri literature gained importance by the interventions of Western translators of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Western scholars like Aural Stein and George Grierson played an important role in documenting the classical and folk literature of Kashmir. They were beginners who took keen interest in Kashmiri literature.

There is no disagreement about the fact that in the nineteenth century there was a kind of general awakening throughout India and that was made possible only through extensive translation of European and mainly English works in different languages, not only of literature, but also of other fields like social sciences, philosophy, ethics and morality etc.

One can say Indians are conscious of their existence and the conditions of their everyday communication have turned them at least bilingual if not multilingual. It would be said without any hesitation that India could not have been a nation if there had been no links. It was possible only through translation that we keep translating unconsciously, when we converse with people who use different language than ours.

Our first writers too were translators and our whole literature from early till up to the nineteenth century consisted mainly of translations, adaptations, interpretations and retellings. Translations of every field whether it is architecture, philosophy, religion, science, medicine, astronomy and logic has kept our cultural scene vibrant and enriched our awareness of the world for long. Most of our writers were multilingual.

Translation has helped knit together India as a nation throughout history. It brought and still brings languages close to one another and introduces to one another and mingles various

regional cultures. It helps in linking lands and communities together. For example when Akbar sponsored debates and encouraged translators of Sanskrit, Turkish and Arabic texts into Persian by setting up *Maktabkhana* or translation bureau.

Translation has also played a major role in extending the scope of language and reframing the boundaries of the syllable. New terms and concepts occur through translation which helps in creating new vocabulary and help in expression. One thus not only learns foreign literature and philosophy through mother tongue, but also is able to speak about knowledge of modern language in regional languages.

Translation has also helped in strengthening weaker and marginalised people to raise their voices against their oppressive conditions. Many writers who write in regional languages about their miseries could not have reached to wider audience if these works have not been translated. It is necessary to translate texts that are written about weaker sections of the society, so that common masses can realise the issues of inequality within a country as also highlighted by Sahir Ludhunvi like this:

*Rung-wa-nasil, zaat aur muzhab, jo bhi hai
admi se kamtar hai
Is haqiqat ko tum bhi meri tarah, maan jow
to koye baat bane
Nufurutein ke jahein mein hum ko, pyar ki
bastiyein basani hain
Doar rehna koye kamal nahe, paas aaw to
koye baat bane*

Whether race or religion these are lesser important than man It would be worthwhile if you know this fact as I have understood. We have to build castles of love in a world of hatred. Come closer as segregation would not survive any purpose

Translation will be the most valuable tool which can bring life back into Indian languages, enable them to keep pace with modern science and technology. To attain this objective translation tools should be designed according to the requirements prevailing in Indian languages at present. Translation can act as a catalyst among nations in order to know the cultural differences and can bring them close together for mutual understanding and harmony in

every respect. Translation acts as a bridge between the oceans of languages. Translation brings the readers, writers and critics of one nation in contact with the others not only in the field of literature alone, but in all areas of development. Languages are inseparable and translations relate them what they want to express. Translations increase communication among diverse people and communities. Translation has enabled peoples belonging to different cultures, lifestyles, customs and traditions to come close and know one another more thoroughly. Translation acts as a unifying medium and has made literatures written in diverse languages accessible to all. The practice of translation will contribute in making the world a global village by functioning not only as a language bridge builder, but also as a connector between disparate cultures.

Translation will act as a vehicle of reaching out to those who do not have direct access to literature and knowledge in an alien language system. Translation is a tool promoting power by giving light to ignorance/darkness, voice to silence and presence to absence in its evolutionary move. It provides a new life to literary texts. Translation will also help in preserving ancient literary and cultural heritage. Translation has become not only desirable, but indispensable in our existing circumstances.

As a link language, English has an important role to play and translation into English can certainly foster the growth of a holistic view of Indian literature. It would also help dispel the impression one frequently gets while travelling aboard that Indian literature is written in English. However, we must be clear in our minds about the objectives of the translations, as they would determine our choice of the authors and texts that merit translation.

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