

# THE ROLE AND SCOPE OF TRANSLATION STUDIES IN THE 21 CENTURY

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**Abstract:** In the 21<sup>st</sup> century the role of translation has become even more significant. Translation studies are not only an interesting but a challenging job also it is highly skillful action and profession in the twenty-first century. Translation practice is an intercultural activity through languages, with adequate sensitivity and knowledge of the cultures of both the languages, the translator becomes a mediator who creates the scope and means to transfer the meaning and experience of the original text into another language. In this paper, I intent to explore the role and scope of translation in the globalized world. How translators play a vital role to build a bridge between two different cultures, language and customs. This paper provides a panorama of the many perspectives in which translation is becoming an essential for us and far interdisciplinary studies Translation studies, the theory of translation and courses on translation are introduced and implemented at University level all over the world.

**Keywords:** Translation studies, language, scope, role, nature, and culture of translation.

## INTRODUCTION

The English word translation derives from the latin word 'translatio' which comes from trans, across ferre 'to carry' or to bring (latio in turn coming from latus) Thus, translatio is 'a carrying across' or 'a bringing across'. Translation has emerged and flourished as a new field with a lot of ideas springing from anthropology, philosophy, literature, linguistics, literary studies, lexicology, semiotics and many other fields. Both written and spoken translation have played a crucial role in the inter-human communication throughout history. The term 'translation studies' was coined by the Amsterdam-based American scholar James S. Holmes in his paper 'The name and nature of translation studies', this is considered as a foundational text. The Ancient Greek term is 'metaphrasis' (to speak across) and this gives is the term 'metaphrase'. this distinction has laid at the heart of the theory of translation throughout its history: Cicero and Horace employed it in the seventeenth century and it still exists today in the discussion around 'fidelity versus transparency' or 'formal equivalence versus dynamic equivalence'. The first known translations are those of the Sumerian epic Gilgamesh into Asian languages from the second millennium BC. In India, Later Buddhists monks translated India sutras into Chinese and Roman poets and adopted Greek text The Bible.

## The Nature of Translation

Translation is a production process of conveying meaning and information underlying in the source language into target language with the help of linguistic and cultural convenience. The scope of translation is a bright and beautiful in the coming years because it is the only medium through different people come to know different works. Today many people think that anyone who knows more than one language can become a translator or interpreter. But it is only a half-truth because a good translator must have good background knowledge of both language, subject knowledge, social, and cultural competence and apart from it he/she need advanced language skills for the medium of communication. The fact that we are able to produce equivalent in English for every word does not mean that we can give an adequate translation of the text. We can express their thought in a manner that is not only parallel to the original text, but also acceptable to the target language Basudeb Chakraborty says that a good translation shows a “spontaneous and creative process of journey of a theme and a meta theme from one linguistic framework to another.” We need to be faithful and loyal to the original text while act of translation and it is necessary to focus more on ideas and concepts than its surface meaning of the text.

### Indian Perspective: Medieval Examples

Indian translation had not in limelight till the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Throughout the Middle Ages, translation of Sanskrit's classic like the epics and puranas continued to be related, adapted, subverted and translated without proper consideration about the formal equivalence. For about freedom while translator Valmiki's **Ramayana** into Tamil Version. He followed the **Dravidian** epic structure and modified the text according to the taste of readers. There are still some kinds of version among these text from Valmiki's Ramayana, **Tulsidas Ram Charita Manas** and to Folk Ramayana, religious text has played a great role in the history of translation. One of the oldest examples can be cited from the **Old Testament of bible** into Greek in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. **Saint Jerome**, the patron saint of translation, produced a Latin Bible in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD which was preferred a text for the roman Catholic Church for many years to come. **Martin Luther** king Jr. is being the first European to propose that one translates satisfactorily only toward his own language which statement still is true in modern translation theory.

The role of Translation in literature is vital and pivotal because the importance and flavor of classic works can be reached to a number of readers by means of translation only. If **Rabindranath Tagore's Gitanjali** would not have translated into English. Could Tagore have received **Nobel Prize in 1913**? Obviously, no. The role of translation is always great and grandeur. Translation discipline is as attractive and lucrative area for job-seekers and researchers because in the globalized world, translators are in great demand. One may frankly say that it is necessary at every step of career and life because in the world of science and technology advancement, one has to know more than two languages. Still, he/she has to depend on translation works because there are still good and great books which are untranslated. Untranslated words

are may be called as ‘oparia’ which Derrida termed for dead lock of meanings. Is untranslatability a myth or reality? This question often rises in Target source. Untranslatability is a myth because it is a problem of translator but not for act of translation. **Roman Jacobson** asserts that poetry is untranslatable because he considers that the semantic equivalence as a final objective of a translation act which is not possible in poetry. It is relevant here to quote Jacobson’s threefold of translation which he proposed in his epoch-making essay ‘**On the Linguistic aspects of Translation**’ (a) **Intralingual translation**, or ‘rewarding’ – an interpretation of verbal signs by means of the other signs of the same language. (b) **Interlingual translation**, or translation proper’ – an interpretation of Verbal signs by means of some other languages. (c) **Intersemiotic translation**, or ‘transmutation’- an interpretation of verbal signs by means of signs of non-verbal sign system.

There are two major ways of translation: literary and machine translation where theoretician initiates in both means. There is a big gap between literary and machine translation where NTM, Mysore and other institutions are ready to fulfill a long –felt gap for which teachers, learners, language technologists, newspaper reporters and other media groups have to suffer. Machine translation is a sub-field of computational linguistics that investigates the use of software to translate a text or speech in a very useful in the live programme or some international discussion. The arrival of newer centers of language suggests that there is no dearth of economic opportunities for there aspiring to take up translation or interpretation as a full time profession in language like English, Hindi, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Russian etc. The main aim CIIL Mysore is to produce potential and perfect translators rather than simply translators. Awadesh Kumar Mishra, CIIL director, inaugurated the programme and he states to become a “good translation one should have good knowledge, ability to grasp the intended meaning of the source language, knowledge of linguistic languages and cultural practices of the language. Whereas **L Ramamurthy**, course coordinator of the programme said: “To choose translation as one’s profession, they should have specialization in that field. As the demand for the course has decreased, CIIL came forward to recognize translation course and make it available for all Indian languages” (July 17, 2013. the Times of India)

Translation Studies is rapidly prevailing in the globalized world when different lives come under an umbrella. Today it has developed into an independent discipline known as Translatology. The act of translation plays an essential role in order to shape a global world. The text in source language translated into target language is called translation. A source language text is subverted in the process of translation if not perverted. Translation is an art and science and it is an old-age process and has continually evolved throughout the years. Translation has built a blocking bridge between two languages, cultures, customs and civilization. Today it has become the part and parcel of day-to-day life because India, a country of diversity in terms of languages, cultures, costumes and civilizations where twenty three languages are constitutionally recognized languages and many more still in the awaiting list. That’s why, the scope and space of translation is inherent not only in India but also in the world of globalization. Due to globalization, the world has come

under an umbrella where translation plays pivotal role in shaping and understanding the world. Without any doubt and dilemma, one can advocate that translation a connecting link between two different natures and cultures for instances. English is a link language, “**lingua franca**” and language for masses.

The translator of a literary text will have to bridge the gap small or large between cultures. The main problem of the translator is how to comply with cultural issues i.e. which issues to take priority: the cultural aspect of target language community or perhaps a combination between the two. According to French humanist **Etienne Dolet in 1540** established five principles for translators such as follows:

The translator must fully understand the sense and meaning of the original author.

The translator should have a perfect knowledge of both the SL and TL.

The translator should avoid word for word renderings.

The translator should choose and order words appropriately to produce the correct tone.

The translator should use forms of speech in common use.

As in the case of translating the English word “hello” and “yes” into Italian language (“pronto”, “Ciao”: and “yes” in Italian is “Si”) then at first we have to take the word and started analyzing it, like “hello” is used for “**friendly greeting and arrival**” and “yes” is used to show “**affirmative sign,**” so after analyzing the translator started to restricting the words with other words which are related to “arrival or greeting” and “affirmative signs” in the TL and by doing this, at last found the target word, so this is the process of almost every translation.

The translation of a literary text become a transaction not between two languages, but rather a more complex negotiation between two cultures of any two languages. Every text holds multiple dynamic significance within its deep linguistic and compositional structure. On close reading one might find a literary text enlightening one further that its stated purpose or reveling hidden context. Translation is enjoyable act on the basis of theoretical framework suggested by **Devy**: we can study comparative literature in India that is Bhakti Movement in Indian Literature and Dalit Literature. By this way translation helps in the process of nation building in our country. the language of national level translated into 30 other regional languages for the administrative benefits translation is necessary in India. The translation of literatures in India has assumed a special status in our country. The Ancient Indian Literary heritage which is to be found in languages like Sanskrit, Marathi can be preserved through translation. Indian Literature which includes Hindi, English, Marathi, Bengali can reach all the people of India only through translation. As we know two great epics, Ramayana and Mahabharata have been translated into almost all the regional languages of India. In India there is a craze for translation in recent times for two reasons. First writers of regional language want to be translated there text into English. Secondly when a literature is immediately gets the scope of being compared with the target language.

Translation is the land of transformation. In the post **1980** period, translation has been given a position equals to that of the original by such critics and translators like **Lambert, Jajuques Derrida** few others.

In the Post-Romantic period translators like **Friedrich Schlemarcher, Carlstyle, William Moris**, pleaded for a separate sub language for translation Mathew Arnold, laid emphasis on the source language text and wanted that the translation to be committed to it. In this first lecture on “Translating Home” Arnold says,

*“Let not the translator, which trust to his notion of what the ancient Greeks would have thought of him, he evil lose himself in the vague. Let him not trust to what the ordinary English readers thinks of him, he will be taking the blind for his guide. Let him not trust to his own Judgment of his own work, he may be misled by Individual Caprices. Let him ask how his work affects those who both know Greek and can appreciate poetry” (1914:247)*

Literal translation has been emphasized by other translators as well; Henry Wordsworth Longfellow speaking of his translation of Dante’s Divine Comedy underlines that.

*“Where Omar asks for a loaf, a jug of Wine. A sheep thing and a pretty boy Fitzgerald Omits the meat, substitutes a “thace”, and introduces a poetry book, when we see that the translators first prose shot said “a bit of mutton and moderate bottle of wine.” (1968:61)*

In the post-Colonial era many language writers in the their effort to reach a wider audience and to complete the Indian English writers in term of national international visibility allowed there works to be translated into English AK Ramanujan’s a great poet and translator who made U.R Annathamurthy’s “Samskara” famous translating of into English.

Translation is primarily meant for a reader who doesn’t know the original language; the translator’s problem is not only to translate the text into the readers’ language but to make the reader see into the literary tradition and Culture of the original language. The poetic sensibility ought to be preserved.

Translations have historically maintained a central role in the diffusion of knowledge, culture, religions, art and science across national and cultural borders. Although the globalization process have fostered an International million in which English is increasingly the Lingua Franka in popular culture economic, technological and academic conversation alike, distances and differences among culture still remain and translation retain a central role in international communication. The landscape is however evolving at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Bassnett (2014) captures the nature of translation as a ‘movement across time beginning at one point and moving across the borders, itself a far from innocent or politically neutral activity, and it is a textual process that involves encounters between languages and identifies,

*“... the 21<sup>st</sup> century as the great age of translation” as an unprecedented number of individuals crossing the globe because of vastly different circumstances encounter, other language, other cultural framework and other belief systems, rendering this an historical moment what translation is an increasingly human condition.”*

According to Eugene Nida in order to present a text to a language whose speakers live in a completely different culture than the speakers of the source language, a translator is permitted to take liberation when interpreting the sentences. Naturally, the gap occurs between source text and translated text because there are some words which do not have equivalent in target language. “Translation is a complex activity. It is so because of the nature of its instrument i.e. language. Language is a technology. It is self-reflexive and self referential. It is the blue guitar of Wallace Stevens on which things, as they are changed upon.”

The relationship between words and their meaning is a fascinating one linguists have spent number of years to understand and deconstruct the relationship between words and their meaning which is always fascinating. One cannot wholly express one’s feeling and ideas through words because words have no real connection to their meaning or the things they describe but they arbitrariness, according to **Ferdinand De Saussure**, where he states that words make sense to us only because they are relational. It is important here to put Friedrich Nietzsche’s statement where he says “Words are but symbols for the relations of things to another and to us; nowhere do they touch upon the absolute truth” It is matter of extensively debate and discussion where the idea cannot express in words.

### **Translator Vs Interpreter**

The complexities of an evolving 21<sup>st</sup> century, society, shaped by the unfolding phenomenon of globalization, brings to the fore the necessity of lato Sansu translators, connecting among different networks of knowledge who can bridge existing gaps not only between linguistic landscape but also between different semantic and semiotic environment. In this condition, the role of translator shifts from Paradigm to the chief negotiator whose skills are increasingly necessary to navigate a complex, multilayered, global landscape.

In the age of globalization, technological advancement is cutting all boundaries and sections of society and making a global village and connected village. The emergence of English language as an international language is very powerful weapon where jobs for translator and interpreters are easy and available in the countries like India, China, Japan and others. Translation and Interpretation are two loosely linguistics disciplines. On the surface level, the difference between translation and interpreting is only in the medium of expression, the translator interprets written text, while an interpreter translates orally. According

to Pradip Dutt, a freelance translator: “Both Interpreting and translation presuppose a certain love of languages – the source language and the target language”. Translation is an act of interpretation and recreation as well as generation of the meanings come out the consequences of interpretations only. Friedrich Nietzsche, a German philosopher says “there are no facts, only interpretations”

Given the current situations, we live a globalized era characterized by constant migration our aim as translator can only be to find the most appropriate association for the local and the global, for the self and the other through specific cultural experiences which are also related to what is alien different to us. (Cronin 2006). On the other hand globalization has transformed the epistemological approaches to everyday life and individual discourse on the other hand, migration have become global phenomenon which has transformed lifestyle demography, and the composition of societies. In this 21 century scenario, the challenge which translation faces is obvious. Especially cross-cultural relationship. Therefore translation is just not a mirror, about rather seems closer to Alice working glass, where everything is clear. According to **Bauman (1999-XVII)** translating is, at the same time, a process of self-creation, art of mutual creation. Translation is ongoing, unfinished and inclusive dialogue, which is bound to remain such.

A work of translation has a fixed audience and purpose. The same text may be translated for different audiences and serve different purposes. Say for example, **Gulliver’s Travels of Jonathan Swift** has been translated into many languages for different purposes and for different audiences. The some text is read by children and the adult readers alike. When the purpose differs, the audience also changes. When a text in a foreign or alien language is translated into a local language, we are required to import a local flavor to it to suit the needs of the local readers. This is called **domestication**. We also need to take into account the cultural set-up where we expect the translated text to be accepted. While deciding upon the audience, we also need to take into account the age-group, level of mental or intellectual maturity and the level of exposure to the content being translated. If we are translating, a book on discoveries and inventions for small children, we need not give the technical details of the discoveries and inventions. But it will be mandatory for us to give these details if our focus shifts from school children to university students or research scholars.

If children are our audience, we can translate something to entertain them, inform them or educate them. But if adults are our audience, we may have purposes other than the ones we have mentioned for children. In the last three decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Translation studies started functioning as an autonomous branch of study. Today, in this age of globalization, the scope of translation is immense. It stretches from our immediate environment to every sphere of life. The significance and relevance of translation in our daily life is multidimensional and extensive. Translation helps us to know about the developments in the field of Creative arts, education, literature, business, science and politics. It has shifted from the traditional conception of the fixed, stable and unchangeable nature of the text and its meaning to a text with wide scope for variations.

People now feel the importance of interacting and remaining connected with the people of other socio-cultural communities, both in their respective countries as well as countries across the world. Translation has acquired an increasing importance and satisfies individual, societal and national needs. Let's take the Indian society as an example. Whatever we see as Indian, be it literature, culture, history, politics, economics, it is reality only because translation has made it possible for people to understand, interpret and compile the literature, culture, history, politics and economics of the respective states. "Translation has helped knit India together as a nation throughout her history, ideas and concepts like, 'Indian Literature', 'Indian Culture', 'Indian Philosophy' and 'Indian knowledge systems' would have been impossible in the absence of translation with their natural integrationist mission".

While translating, a translator takes into account the **lexicon**, the grammatical structure and cultural context of the text in the source language to understand the meaning built in the text and then transfers the same meaning to the text in the target language with the help of lexicon and grammatical structure appropriate to the target language and its cultural context. The translator takes liberty with the original text to allow some accommodation or adaptation in order to keep pace with the sense or spirit of the original. Accommodation is inevitable in practice if the translation is to maintain the essence, impact and effect of the text in the source language. This is particularly true of poetry where the text is highly emotive and artistic in nature. A translator may come across a couple of words which are culturally-rooted and thus untranslatable. Translation of a language opens the doors to unknown cultural and linguistic environment. It also promotes the growth of local literature and culture by bringing the great wealth of literatures and cultures from foreign lands. When we translate the great masters of world literature like **Shakespeare, Homer, Dante, Valmiki, Kalidasa** or more contemporary writers from **Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Kafka to Gabriel Garcia Marquez, J.M. Coetzee, Pablo Neruda, Octavia Paz** and others, we not only enrich our own knowledge base, but also raise the standards of our own local or regional language.

Translators and Interpreters for languages like English, Chinese, Japanese, French, German, Korean, Arabic, Persian, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese and Hindi are in great demand across the world. In this changed scenario, economic opportunities are in plenty for people who can translate from one language to another, particularly from English to the local or regional languages. A translator works with the documents and recorded versions and words at his own pace whereas an interpreter is required to communicate the sense intended by a speaker through the spoken mode. Translation is the desk work where everything's are taken in the written form while interpreter manage translation orally.

Translation is not just word-by-word translation of text from one language to another; it is putting the soul of a text into the body of another. Before starting translation as a career, it is wise for you have look at the works of famous translators to have an idea of the level of originality and creativity required to make a piece of translation look natural and professional. It is essential that a beginner in the field of translation

should understand the skills of translation before starting the translation of any work. Translation enables effective communication a courier for the transmission of knowledge, a protector of cultural heritage and essential to the development of a global economy.

The role of translation studies is effective, efficient and empathetic translation requires highly skilled practitioners. Translation enables effective communication between people around the world. It is a courier for the transmission of knowledge, a protector of cultural heritage, and essential to the development of a global economy. Translation studies are essential in comparative literature, it is because through translations, literature influence each other, and people understand others better. For example, Where an English text is translated in Turkish, they can find similarities or differences between two literatures.

One thus learns not only to understand foreign literature and philosophy through the mother-tongue, but also to speak about modern knowledge, from quantum physics to nano-technology and computer science to molecular biology in the regional language. No doubt translation also promotes the growth of indigenous literature and knowledge by bringing into our languages the great wealth of other literatures and cultures. By translating masterpiece from other Indian languages as also from foreign ones, we enrich our own literatures. Thus, we also raise our writing standards: this happens especially when we translate great masters of world literature, we are living in an age of translations and the avenues for translators are constantly expanding. Translator's studies can be safely included as an important genre in the field of literary criticism because translation is an art that stimulates the diversity of linguistic, cultural and literary content of a source language and thus highlights, reflects and appreciates the essence and kindness of literature of that particular translated language. Presently, the situation is changing rapidly in the world, not only most countries and societies interact closely, but also individuals must also come into contact with members of communities and societies scattered in different parts of the country and of the world. Translation has become an important activity that responds to individual, social, business and national needs.

It can be said that the translator is the central element of the translation process. The writer/author becomes the center because everything he or she writes will be definitive and there will not be two translators who translate a text in the same way. The role of Contrastive Analysis cannot be ignored. This process, recognized for its capacity to compare two languages in order to make the target one more apprehensible for the student, has aided translation in making students become aware of how two system can neither diverge or converge and how they can make use of it to attempt to render a trustworthy version of an original written in another language. Translation studies aims to extend the methodologies, areas of interest and Conceptual frameworks inside the discipline, while testing the traditional boundaries of the motion of translation and offering a forum for debate focusing to historical, social, institutional and cultural facts of translation.

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 thing 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. Thus, translation enlightens and broadens the mind and prompts one to be tolerant at the same time to be fascinated about the unknown. So, translation, from this point of view is a necessary component of modern life dominated by a 'Virtual' rather than a proximal existence.

### Conclusion

In this way, I would like to conclude my paper that Translation is an essential in the study of any literature. In brief, English language has become a backbone language so is the translation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As English is for all so "translation is for all." To be a translator, knowing the two languages is not enough. A literary and Creative bend of mind is essential. If we want to develop our study, translation can play a vital role in this matter. Translation can help in nation-building, and to bring unity in the society. The translator serves as a mediator of between cultures and systematizes and generalizes the process of translation. In the scope of translation we discussed the integrationist role of translation in India, the emergence of translation as a democratizing agent by giving equal status to all languages and making the voice of the marginalized communities. Finally, I would like to say, India is paradise for translator and translation has a great scope in our country.

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