

# Current Global Reviewer

Peer Reviewed Multidisciplinary International Research Journal  
PEER REVIEWED & INDEXED JOURNAL

ISSN: 2474-3643

Impact Factor - 7.139

Indexed (SJIF)



February 2020 Special Issue-23, Vol. 1

## The Role of Language and Literature in Unity in Diversity

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# CURRENT GLOBAL REVIEWER

Special Issue 23, Vol. 1  
February 2020

Peer Reviewed  
SJIF

ISSN : 2319 - 8648  
Impact Factor : 7.139

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## Indian Literature in English Translation: A Historical Approach

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Translation studies as an Academic Discipline Translation studies deals with the practical experience of the translator; it also explores from theoretical and methodological perspectives. It also explores the history and philosophy of translation along with current trends in the field. Translation studies may examine the practices and context of translating texts. It may also explore the art of translation as a creative act in literary translation and international marketing. It also explores how issues of culture, power, gender, ethics affect the act of translating. Translation study enables students to apply their theoretical understanding to the approaches techniques and choices that are used as a practicing translator. Translation study involves the analysis of key texts, enabling students to develop an awareness of the problems of understanding and interpretation. It also involves the development of the analytical, practical, evaluative aesthetic and expository skills required to translation problems. It also includes the development of research skills, practical translation skills and the ability to develop strategies for managing complex linguistic and cultural transactions.

Today's multicultural and multilingual society, the skills of translation are becoming ever more important and desirable. Multilingual society demands effective, efficient, and empathetic communication between language and cultures. Translation studies examines translation not only as intercultural communication, it can also be described as an interdiscipline which touches on other diverse field of knowledge, including comparative literature, cultural studies, gender studies, computer science, history, linguistic, philosophy, rhetoric and semiotics. It also deals with the theory, description and application of translation not only as intercultural communication but also be described as an interdiscipline which touches on other diverse field of knowledge. Translators from the Romans have had much to say about the theory and practice of translation, it was not until the 20<sup>th</sup> century that translation studies emerged as a formal academic discipline. James & Holmes 1972 landmark paper entitled The Name and Nature of Translation Studies was the foundational statement of Translation studies. It called for the creation of a distinct discipline with its own system of classification. Translation studies is an academic interdiscipline dealing with the systematic study of the theory description and application of translation interpreting and localization as an interdiscipline, translation studies borrows much from the various fields of study that support translation.

Translation is an ancient literary activity caused to survive the most ancient literatures in India like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. Now translation has gained a particular place in Indian literatures in English because the rising contact with native Indian languages has proved to be one of the inevitable activities and parts of any language literatures in India. Indian translation literatures is an attempt to reveal the various facts of the ancient Indian literature and its effect on the contemporary scene of Indian literatures in English. The earliest translations seems to have happened between Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali and the emerging languages of the regions and between the same languages. Indian narrative and knowledge texts like Panchatantra, Arthshashtra, Yogsutra, Ramayan, Mahabharata and Bhagwat Gita were translated into Arabic between eighth & ninth centuries. There was an intense exchange between Persian and Indian texts. Sanskrit texts especially Bhagwad Gita and Upanishads name into contact with other Indian language from the eleventh century onwards with the rise of modern Indian languages. Sanskrit technical and Cultural texts began to be transferred to those languages such as Assamese, Marathi, Kanada, Telgu, Bengali and many other as a method of preserving those texts through diffusion. In the seventeenth and eighteenth century, the great- Sikh Guru, Guru Govind Singh set up a bureau and has a Carge number of Sanskrit texts translated into Panjabi.

During late eighteenth and nineteenth century in the field of science, engineering and other new disciplines such as politics and economics, English became the donor language for translations into Indian languages. In the field of philosophy, religion, linguists and literary theory, Sanskrit renewed its role as a donor language for translations into English and other European languages. During colonial period we saw a spurt in translations between European languages and Indian languages especially Sanskrit. Though there were exchanges between Germans, French, Italian, Spanish and Indian languages. English was considered privileged by its hegemonic status as it was used by the colonizers. The colonizers attempt in translation were determined by the orientalist ideology and need for the new rulers to grasp, define, catagonize and control India Raja Rammohan Roy's translations of Shankarrao's Vedanta and the Kenand Isavasya Upnishads were the first



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Indian interventions in English translations of Indian texts by Indian scholars it was followed by R.C.Dutt's translations of Rigveda, the upanishadas, Ramayana, Mahabharata and Few Classscial Sanskrit plays. Translations between Indian languages also began around this time, though in a limited way brought new dimensions to the language and translation activities translation remains the most powerful tool for better understanding among cultures. Indian literature in English translation has been published under various circumstances. There have been public as well as private enterprises. The Sahitya Academy and the National Book Trust both fully funded by the government of India are supports of literary publications under the public enterprise. The development of communication theory the expansion of the field of structural linguistics and the application of linguistics to the study of translations effected significant changes in the principles and theory of translation. Good literature written in any part of the world in any language now made available to the rest of the world through translation during twentieth century, Tagor translated Geetanjali originally written in Bengali into English which won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1913.

Thus translation plays a role in extending the scope of language and reforming the boundries of the available. No doubt translation also promotes the growth of indigenous literature and knowledge by bringing into our language the great wealth of other literatures and cultures. It also helps fight colonial prejudices. By translating masterpieces from other Indian languages as well as foreign ones, we enrich our own literatures.

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