



## THE CONCEPT OF TRANSLATION IN WESTERN AND INDIAN TRADITIONS

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**Abstract:** *An effort is being made in this paper to suggest a methodology underlying the idea of translation that incorporates its definition. Its types and its aspects keeping both Indian and Western Points of View in mind. Translation is an art form that conveys the complete quality of aesthetic beauty from one language to another. For translation work, it is critical that the translator understands both the 'source language' and the 'target language.' In India, translation plays a critical role because the country is home to individuals who speak 22 recognised languages and hundreds of mother tongues and dialects. Every day, we are obliged to communicate with individuals in English and one of our mother tongues in business and professional settings. As a result, we are bilinguals by nature and rely on translation to communicate. People from the peripheral and the centre, the dominant and dominated cultures, communicate with one another through translation. We can claim that India would not exist as a nation without translation since we utilise it to communicate, and communication keeps us together as a nation. Free translations and adaptations of epics such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata have had a significant impact on Indian literature. Furthermore, until the eighteenth century, Indian literature primarily comprised of translations, adaptations, interpretations, and retellings.*

**Key Words:** Source language, Target language, equivalence, Metaphrase, Paraphrase, Imitation.

Translation In a larger sense is as old as human communication. In fact when humans didn't have a language they used to communicate with gestures, actions and dance movements. Later on when language developed, the range of methods direct and indirect communication started. The concept of translation in Indian concept offers a plurality of thoughts and diversity of culture is received in its multiplicity, while in the western context translation is received in a very specific and scientific mode of Literary communication. The term "translation" has numerous connotations. Translation is the process of communicating the meaning of a source language text into a target language text. "Translation consists in replicating in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style," says Eune Nida, a renowned modern linguist. His brilliant concept was 'equivalence.' Equivalence is regarded as the most important and difficult method of acclimating when translating a text from a remote culture. Nida distinguishes between two types of

equivalences: formal and dynamic.

"The substitution of textual material in one language by similar textual material in another language," according to J.C. Catford. (A linguistic theory of translation, by J.C. Catford) "The Process of translation between two different written languages involves the translator changing an original written text (the source text or ST) in the original verbal language (the source language or SL) into a written text (the target text or TT) in a different verbal language (the target language or TL)," according to Jeremy Munday (a British linguist and translation scholar).

Similarly, Susan Bassnett's book Translation Studies starts with the fundamentals of the field and focuses mostly on language and semiotics. She starts with a quote from Hawkes (Structuralism and Semiotics): "The first step toward an examination of the processes of translation must be to accept that, while translation is at the heart of linguistic activity, it belongs most appropriately to semiotics, the science that studies sign-system or structures, sign processes, and sign functions."



Bholanath Tiwari, a well-known Indian linguist, expounded on the translation of the Indian language. "Translation is a process of concepts from one language into another language with equivalent and easy expression," he says. 'The first and most important job of translation is to retain the original text untouched and to generate the same in text in front of the readers,' Alexander Pope said while translating Homer's classic work 'ILIAD' into English. Jonson, on the other hand, had stated that "a translation must be like his original." It is not his job to outperform him.'

'The interpretation of verbal signs by means of some other language,' defined Roman Jakobson, a famous linguist and noted scholar on the subject of translation. Texts in one language are changed into texts in another language with the same meaning through this process of translation. These elements range from single words in a language to large networks of sentences found in philosophical literature. Some scholars consider translation to be an art or a trade, while others refer to it as a science. All good translations are reflections of the translators' creative impulse, which is why it's termed an art. Likewise. Because of the technical requirements and intricacies involved in the procedure, it is considered a science.

'The process of translating words or text from one language into another,' according to Oxford University. That is also supported by the Cambridge dictionary. This can refer to word-for-word translation of a text from one language to another or the replacement of equivalent words or phrases in one text with equivalents in another. When the source text and the translated text have the same form, the translated text may have formal equivalence. When the source text and the target text or translated text transmit the same meaning or execute the same function despite formal discrepancies, it is said to have functional equivalence. The idioms and usage of the source language frequently sneak into the target language through translations, enriching the structure of the target language.

We can't limit ourselves to just one or two

definitions when it comes to translation. It is flexible in nature and is dependent on the individual performing the translation. It vary from one language to the next, as well as from one culture to the next. As a result, it is not as simple as it appears. While attempting to be a distinct version of the original, it retains its own individuality and uniqueness.

**Concept of Translation in Indian Context-** Anuvada, or repetition of what is commanded by a Vedic book with a different phrase, is the name for translation in the Indian context. However, repetition should not be interpreted as a word-for-word reproduction of the original from the source of the target. The reader is never a passive receiver of a book in which the truth is embedded in the Indian context.

"The original has never been specifically prized" in India, according to K. Satchidanandan, and "the translator's position has never been secondary." In the Indian setting, rewriting classics or epics is a very creative translation norm. During the pre-colonial period, Indian translation was heavily intertextual. The historical length of existence of India's translating awareness is explained by Vatsayan's expression lokopichanuvada, which means "translatability." Gopath Brahmana comments on the philosophy of purposefulness of translation, according to Indranath Choudhary, in addition to the concept of repetition (vidhivihitatasyanuvachanuvadah) (saprayanamanuvadah). As a result, the difficulty of translation is not only cultural or linguistic, but also aesthetic.

With reference to Sujit Mukherjee's examination of Indian translation, pre-colonial translation in India was likewise very much intertextual. According to SibaniPhukan, "While I employ the term 'trancecreation' to describe pre-colonial India's 'translation' process, Sujit Mukherjee observes in 'Transcreating Translation' that names like 'anuvad' or 'vivartanam' from Sanskrit and 'tarjuma' from Arabic were common during that time.

According to Jaimini Nyaya, translation

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reveals meaning, while Kayyat and Tolkapier discuss 'Pramanaantar, the contextual meaning,' which indicates that when translation is communicated, it becomes a reality. "AyyappaPanikar has cobbled together some extremely valuable concepts in the context of mediaeval Indian translation of Sanskrit classics," writes Indranath Choudhury, "which, in fact, expose all that has been said about translation by Sanskrit theoreticians, but in a new dimension:

**1. Anukriti:** Anukriti is imitation of the original. One can imitate only what one is not. The product of imitation is not the same text, but a similar text;

**2. Arthakriya :** Arthakriya is putting emphasis on the manifold ways in which meanings are enacted in different text.

**3. Vyakrivivekam:** Vyaktivivekam is rendering of the meaning inferred by the reader or invoking interpretation based on anumana or inference potential of a given passage.

**4. Ullurai:** Ullurai is a Dravidian term primarily means the inner speech, not the heard, melody but the one unheard or the speech within. In a literary text this is the vital layer.

**The Western Context** -Cicero, who lived nearly a century after Herodotus, is credited with establishing translation theory in the West. But one of Herodotus' main concerns is crosscultural communication, or how individuals speaking various languages communicate with one another, and he insistently frames this process in a geopolitical context. Cicero, a rhetorician and brilliant orator, was born in 106 BCE and is often regarded as the father of western translation theory. He is the first scholar to discuss translation methods and to offer advice on how to attain the best results. Because the world is changing so quickly, translation has become quite interesting all over the world.

As the concept of translation has grown in popularity, readers have become increasingly interested in learning about the flavour of international translations. Because it is not always possible to read the same in its original language,

translation has become an important requirement for the worldwide community. The ability to understand evolving trends in literature, culture, and society is aided by translation. It also allows us to keep up with scientific and technological advancements, as well as the progress of research and investigation around the world.

In his various reflections on literature and other writings, Gothe, prominent author and philosopher, discusses translation and international literature. Gothe later stated that when translating, one should go as far as the untranslatable, only then does one become aware of the foreign nation and the foreign language, in his concept of the 'third epoch' of translation, in which translation is not received 'instead of' the other text (the original), but rather 'in the other's stead; The translation process entails the transfer of the source text's source language to the target text's target language. However, in a translation process, the cultural domains of both languages are extremely important. It is self-evident that a work written literally in one language in one manifestation will be read by a multilingual audience, necessitating the translation of a book into several languages.

Similarly, Jeremy Munday characterises the discipline in his book *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications* as "Translation Studies is a new academic discipline concerned with the study of the theory and phenomena of translation." It is multilingual and multidisciplinary by definition, embracing languages, linguistics, communication studies, philosophy, and a variety of cultural studies.

Multilingualism is a powerful linguistic phenomenon that stems from the need to communicate with people from different speech communities. Multilingualism is the ability to communicate in more than one language, whether as an individual or as a group. Interdisciplinarity means that at least two disciplines can work together to investigate shared mechanisms or methodologies. Linguistics and philology are at the heart of the multidisciplinary component of translation studies. Philosophy, sociology, and cultural studies are three





fields of study. Furthermore, most translation scholars define translation interdisciplinarity in terms of these fields of research. Linguistics is a branch of science that studies language structure, variation, and use, as well as the description and documentation of modern languages and the implications of language theories for our knowledge of the mind and brain, human culture, and social behaviour.

**Types of Translation-** Literal translation and non-literary translation or informative translation: Literal Word-for-word translation is a method of translating a text by translating each word individually without considering how the words are used together in a phrase or sentence. This strategy will not be able to convey the original content, and phrase and sentence patterns in the TL tend to be overlooked. Non-literary or informational translation is a sort of translation that focuses on changing the meaning of the text rather than word-for-word correctness. In other words, it lends credibility to the source text's message. Non-literary translation is a useful tool for creating text summaries and highlighting the most relevant elements of a document.

Literary translation is a difficult task in and of itself. Poems, plays, songs, articles, novels, short tales, and other works are included. However, when translating a text, the following key considerations should be kept in mind: The type of text that needs to be translated; The translation's purpose; The target audience.

Every writer has a distinct literary voice, which is reflected in his work. The manner of a literary translation has been a point of contention for some time. Some authors and theoreticians argue that a translated text should represent the translator's style, while others argue that the substance of the source text should be preserved. Some concepts or traits may be unfamiliar or nonexistent in the other culture. As a result of globalisation, literary translation has evolved; works have gotten more exotic, and these translations should contribute to a better and more accurate understanding of a country's source culture. Susan Bussnett- McGuire

says: The degree to which the translator reproduces the SL text's form, metre, rhythm, tone, register, and so on will be governed by the TL system as well as the translation's function. Poetry is one of the most difficult things to translate. Newmark further adds that maintaining the flavour of the original text is critical, and that translating poetry is an acid test that demonstrates the difficulty of translating.

Oral translation and written translation: There are two main varieties of oral translation: Consecutive and Simultaneous. When communication occurs at numerous levels, from official speeches to interpersonal conversation, both styles are actively used. Simultaneous translation is used during conferences, seminars, workshops, and business meetings with a large number of participants where the groups are small and have to interact, make presentations, or pay a visit to a public notary office or reach specific business agreements, etc. Consecutive translation is used during seminars or business meetings where the groups are small and have to interact, make presentations, or pay a visit to a public notary office or for reaching specific business agreements, etc. Microphones, earbuds, and both are required technical equipment for simultaneous interpretation. Written translation is the reproduction of the content of an original document in written form using the translation language. The main goal is to create textual translations of materials and documents from SL to TL. A translator should be attentive about the following details to translate a text: Translate integrity, all the necessary details should remain intact, Accurate reproduction of content and terminology, Correct spelling and grammar; compliance with language standards, Absence of misprints and other errors, including and spelling mistakes undetectable by automatic means.

**Human-assisted translation and computer aided translation:** Any written material - books, legal documents, manuals, product information websites, personal documents, magazines, letters, and advertising - is best translated via human translation (HT). As a result,



all of the operations involved in the written text are carried out by human translators. Here, the translator transforms the original text into a version that maintains the spirit and meaning of the original while maintaining the appropriate tone and style for the translated material's intended audience. Machine Translation (MT), on the other hand, is a type of automatic translation. It is a method of converting a text from one natural language (e.g. Gujarati) to another using computer software (eg. English). To comprehend any translation, whether human or mechanical, the original (source) language's meaning must be fully recovered in the TF, i.e., the translation. Although this may appear to be a straightforward task, machine translation necessitates significant knowledge of the source language's grammar, syntax, and semantics, as well as familiarity with each local region.

John Dryden proposes three types of translation that can be useful in understanding all kind of translation :Metaphrase , Paraphrase and Imitation. Meta is a translation term that refers to a literal word-for-word and line-by-line translation from one language to another based on the original author's intent. It's a near-perfect replica of the source text, complete with the relevant words. The essential idea of the source text is addressed; it entails a flexible and sense-by-sense translation. Imitation is a translation technique that ignores the source text's words and meaning. A translation is distinguished from an imitation by the degree of freedom or divergence from the source.

According to Roman Jakobson, a renowned formalist, divides translation in three ways: Intralingual translation: In the case of intralingual translation the changes take place within the same language. Interlingual translation: Interlingual translation or translation proper is an interpretation of verbal signs by means of some other language. A fine example this type would be the Bible. Assumed to be have been written in Hebrew, the Bible also endured copious translations into Greek and Latin and then into English. Inter-semiotic: Inter - semiotic translation is an interpretation of verbal signs by means of signs of

nonverbal sign system like novel to film or story to a play.

**Literary translation:** Literary translation is one of the most common types of translation since it makes world literature available in regional languages and brings regional literature to an international audience. In recent years, it has been observed that young non-resident Indians who do not speak their mother tongues are keen to study their literature in translation in languages they do speak. Furthermore, foreign readers and intellectuals are interested in Indian literature because they want to know where it is headed.

**Knowledge Translation:** The educational level in the distinct Indian languages. Furthermore, it democratizes education by making these resources more accessible to the rural poor and other underserved groups. Competent translators can put their knowledge and talents to good use by translating resources available in English into their regional languages, so expanding the repertoire of resources available in the local language.

**Media translation:** With the proliferation of media industries in print, electronic, visual, and aural media-newspapers, magazines, radio, television, cinema, and internet-enabled entertainment services, the demand for translators from one language to another has skyrocketed, particularly in regional languages. Dubbing and subtitling are also used to provide the films to a wider audience in multiple languages. There is no shortage of chances for persons who have a strong command of both the source and target languages, as well as a thorough understanding of the media in which they intend to work.

**Machine Translation:** Scientists and linguists have collaborated to automate translation or to aid the human translator in terms of specially designed software programmes with an in-built mechanism for substituting the structures in the source language into a chosen language, in light of the increasing demand for translation, the complexity involved in the process of translation, and the lack of competent translators.

**Computer Aided Translation (CAT) tools:**



People all around the world are increasingly using computer-assisted translation (CAT) techniques to fulfil the needs and problems of the global market. The Internet's pervasiveness in all aspects of life has increased the importance of translation in modern life and greatly facilitated the usage of machine translation. When deciding whether to utilise machine translation versus a professional human translator, we must consider a number of aspects, including cost, target audience, quality, and legal consequences of the text being translated, as well as the subject matter's intricacy. In some cases, machine translation assistance can improve the speed of translation and help deliver products on time in human translations. However, it is nearly unrealistic to believe that machines will be able to replace human translators entirely. Later, we'll go into the specifics of machine translation in a separate unit.

**Conclusion-** The process of transferring a text from one language to another is known as translation. Both the source language and the destination language must be well-versed in the translator. The term "translation" (Anubad) appears in early Sanskrit literature to describe the process of translating messages from one language to another. The translation process has changed as a result of E.Nida's research. Bholanath Tiwari and

others had looked into the issues of translation as well as practical issues.

Translation has its own thrills and interests. It is always possible to produce a passable translation, but a skilled translator is never satisfied. It is typically possible to improve it. A flawless, 'ideal,' or 'right' translation does not exist. A translator is constantly attempting to expand his knowledge and improve his ability to communicate; he is constantly exploring facts and words.

Thus, translation enlightens and broadens the intellect, encouraging tolerance while also inspiring fascination with the unfamiliar. As a result, translation from this aspect of modern life that is controlled by a 'virtual' rather than a proximate existence is required.

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