



"The Role of Translation in Evaluating the Cultural Dimensions and Diversities of a new literary canon in a Multicultural World "

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Abstract-

To quote **Gunter Grass**: *“Translation is that which transforms everything so that nothing changes.”* In today's increasingly interconnected and multicultural world, there is a pressing need to critically evaluate the cultural dimensions and diversities of a new literary canon. As global literary landscapes continue to evolve, the role of translation emerges as a pivotal factor in mediating cross-cultural literary experiences and expanding the boundaries of literary canons. Translation plays a vital role in bridging the gap between languages, ensuring that the originally felt emotions and perspectives are effectively communicated. In the context of Indian literature, particularly Indian English literature, translation has been integral, providing opportunities for audiences to understand diverse viewpoints. In the era of globalization, translators are widely recognized as artists on par with authors in any genre. **Henry Wordsworth Longfellow** has excellently described the role of the translator: *“A Translator, like a witness on the stand, should hold up his right hand and swear to “tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.”* A remarkable translation goes beyond mere literal interpretation; it involves skillfully rewriting the original text to resonate with and captivate its audience. This research paper explores the integral part played by translation in forming and evolving literary canons, emphasizing the cultural dimensions that underpin this dynamic process. Drawing upon case studies and theoretical frameworks, it investigates how translations facilitate the exchange of ideas, narratives, and cultural perspectives across linguistic borders. This research paper aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the multifaceted role played by translation in reshaping literary canons within a multicultural context. By emphasizing its influence on cultural representation, diversity, and inclusivity, this study explores the transformative potential of translated texts in shaping the global literary landscape, fostering intercultural dialogue, and embracing diverse cultural perspectives.

Keywords- *Cultural viaduct, dynamics, literal globalization, multidimensional society.*



Introduction-

The ever-growing interconnectedness of the cultural dimensions and diversities of a new literary canon our world has become a global phenomenon. As literary traditions evolve and intersect, the significance of translation in mediating cross-cultural experiences becomes increasingly apparent. Consequently, the role of translation has become universal in reshaping literary canons within the context of an ever-diversifying global society. Translation presents an insightful approach on cultural representation, diversity, and inclusivity within the literary realm. Translation is not an ingenious act of overclouding words from one language to another. Instead, it is a process that imbues meaning and significance into the foreign text through the translator's careful use of interpretations, in form, theme, and culture. As **Anthony Burgess** remarked: *“Translation is not a matter of words only: it is a matter of making intelligible a whole culture.”* Culture refers to the beliefs, values, behaviors and norms of a society. Whereas diversity refers to the quality which makes a class unique inclusive of color, language, ethnicity, socio-economic status or cultural background but just not limited to these. This inscription endows translation with the power of a performative act, essentially creating a distinct and independent text within a new language and culture. Translation serves as a vital link between cultures, allowing ideas, values, and artistic expressions to flow across linguistic boundaries. It enriches the diversity of literary canons by conveying cultural nuances, historical references, and stylistic elements from one language to another. This paper highlights the profound impact of translation in facilitating intercultural dialogue and fostering mutual understanding by examining how translators navigate fidelity, creativity, and cultural adaptation. By comparing original texts with their translated versions, we explore how cultural differences shape the reception and interpretation of works within diverse socio-political contexts. Translation has always played a pivotal role in shaping Indian literature, particularly in the realm of Indian English literature. The cultivation of translation talent in India represents a relatively new and intriguing domain. Prior to the nineteenth century, Indian literature largely revolved around creative translations, adaptations, retellings, interpretations, epitomes, and elaborations of classical texts. These literary endeavors served to interweave diverse communities, languages, religions, and cultures, effectively preserving the rich tapestry of Indian heritage. For glimpse ‘*Tamas*’ by **Bhisham Sahni**, translated from Hindi by **Daisy Rockwell**. Which is set against the backdrop of the communal riots around the partition of India in 1947, Sahni’s novel opens with a harrowing scene that perhaps has no parallel in Indian fiction. ‘*On a Wing and a prayer*’ by **Arun Sarma**, translated from Assamese by **Maitreyee Siddhanta Chakravarty**. This book counters that parodic view, with a love story that is also a complex picture of one of the most



persecuted minorities in India. It is a meticulous picture of preindependence rural India. *‘Naalukettu: The House Around the Courtyard’* by **M. T. Vasudevan Nair**, translated from Malayalam by **Gita Krishnamurthy**. It is set in the South Indian state of Kerala, among the matrilineal Nair community, the novel follows the life of Appuni, whose mother is asked to leave the house for marrying against her family’s wishes. *‘The First Promise’* by **AshapuraDebi**, translated from Bengali by **Indira Chowdhury**, the first installment in a mammoth trilogy, this novel follows the life of child-bride Satya in 19th century India. *‘Sonam’* by **Yeshe Dorje Thongchi**, translated from Assamese by **MridulaBaroaah**, set against the Brokpas, a polyandric indigenous community. *‘Zindaginama’* by **Krishna Sobti**, translated from Hindi by **Heel K Mani**. It is a saga of an intimate portrait of life in India before partition where many communities lived together for generations, with comparatively less acrimony and hatred. *‘The Gift of a Cow’* by **Munshi Premchand**, translated from Hindi by **Gordon C. Roadarmel**, comparable with Dickens, Balzac, or Gorky, he wrote fiction about the poor peasants and their desires, aspirations, and struggles in colonial, semi feudal India, in the critical realist mode. *‘Ret Samadhi’* by **Geetanjali Shree**, translated from Hindi by **Daisy Rockwell**.

In a multicultural world, translation plays a crucial role in bridging the gaps between different cultures and languages. Culture is defined by the unique patterns of behavior, social norms, beliefs, traditions, and customs that shape a community. Understanding and appreciating diverse cultures is essential for promoting intercultural understanding and fostering meaningful communication. Language acts as a gateway to culture, and translation serves as the key to unlocking this gateway. It facilitates the exchange of ideas, perspectives, and expressions between individuals who speak different languages. By translating texts, conversations, and cultural artifacts, we can transcend linguistic barriers and gain insights into the richness and diversity of various cultures. Translation enables us to delve deeper into the intricacies of different cultural contexts. It allows us to explore the nuances, historical references, and stylistic elements embedded within a foreign language. Through careful translation, these cultural elements can be accurately conveyed, ensuring that the intended meaning and cultural significance are preserved. Translation helps to foster mutual understanding and promote intercultural dialogue. Translators, attuned to the needs of their audience, have thoughtfully introduced glossaries to bring translated works closer to the original, thereby catering to the nuanced preferences of readers. Nevertheless, it remains evident that Indian writers who are translated into English do not receive the same level of attention as those who write directly in English. While literature created directly in English secures a place in university syllabi, the same cannot be said for translated literature, with a few exceptional cases such as The Ramayana, The



Mahabharata, and The Gitanjali and recently Tomb of Sand Moreover, reviews of translated books typically appear in the language of the original work, leaving the translated literature devoid of this privilege. In addition, the caste perspective in India also influences language dynamics, as language sophistication tends to correlate with social caste hierarchies. Higher castes often use more refined language, while lower castes may employ rough, colloquial, and at times, disparaging language. This multifaceted interplay of language, culture, and societal structures underscores the vital role of translation in preserving and disseminating the diverse heritage of Indian literature. To quote **Leonardo Sciascia** : *“Translation is the other side of a tapestry.”* With the increasing availability of translations of vernacular writings into English, audiences are now granted access to the unique perspectives and insights of Indian writers. It is within these vernacular expressions that the true dynamism of Indian literature thrives, capturing the richness and vibrancy of the various languages in which it is written. In the larger Indian context, the act of translating works into English takes on an additional dimension of harmony. By rendering the voices of protest and those of the subaltern into a language widely understood by the advantaged and powerful, translation disrupts existing power structures and challenges them within their own spaces. It becomes a tool for dismantling barriers and amplifying marginalized voices, forging a path towards greater inclusivity and understanding. The act of translation not only facilitates cross-cultural exchange but also highlights the multitude of narratives that exist within Indian society. It serves as a vital medium for bringing to the forefront stories and perspectives that might otherwise go unnoticed or unheard. By engaging with translated literature, readers are afforded the opportunity to delve into the complexities of Indian history, culture, and social issues, fostering empathy and expanding their worldview. In this regard, translation not only enables the wider dissemination of literary works but also contributes to the preservation and revitalization of indigenous languages and their associated knowledge systems. While the importance of translation to English cannot be undermined, it is essential to ensure that translations maintain a delicate balance between faithfulness to the original text and adaptability to the target language. Through their skillful craftsmanship, translators play a vital role in preserving the integrity and authenticity of the original work, paving the way for a more nuanced understanding of Indian literature. The act of translating vernacular writings into English serves as a conduit for harmonious dialogue, shedding light on often-neglected perspectives and challenging established power structures. It breathes life into the vast tapestry of Indian literature, enabling cultural exchange and fostering a deeper appreciation for the diverse narratives that make up the Indian mosaic. As translation continues to evolve and gain recognition within academic and creative spheres, it will undoubtedly



contribute to a more inclusive and interconnected literary landscape, enriching both readers and writers alike.

Conclusion-

In the 21st century, the role of translation has assumed even greater significance. Translation studies have transcended from being merely interesting to becoming a challenging and highly skillful profession. The act of translation is not just a linguistic endeavor; it is an intercultural activity that requires a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures. A skilled translator serves as a mediator, adept at conveying the essence and experience of the original text into another language, thus bridging diverse cultural landscapes. In the contemporary era, English has emerged as a global lingua franca, making it a pivotal language for communication and dissemination of knowledge. Consequently, the art of translation has garnered equal importance, as it enables access to a wider audience, making knowledge and literature more inclusive and accessible. Hence, "translation is for all" in this age defined by the prominence of the English language. The role of a translator goes beyond linguistic proficiency. As **Jorge Gonzalez Moore** stated: "*the translator is the author's accomplice.*" Through translation, doors are opened to unknown cultural and linguistic environments, thereby promoting the growth of local literature and culture. When great literary works from across the globe, such as those of **Shakespeare, Tolstoy, Dante, Gabriel Garcia Marquez**, are translated into local or regional languages, it not only enriches the knowledge base but also elevates the standards of the indigenous literature. As Walter Benjamin points out "*True translation is transparent: it does not obscure the original, does not stand in its light, but rather allows pure language, as if strengthened by its own medium, to shine even more fully on the original.*" In today's globalized world, where interactions between cultures are becoming increasingly frequent, the role of translation in embracing multiculturalism cannot be overstated. It serves as a powerful tool for cultural exchange, allowing individuals to connect, learn, and grow through the exploration of diverse perspectives. By promoting cross-cultural understanding, translation paves the way for a more harmonious and interconnected global community.

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