



THE CHALLENGES FACED BY THE TRANSLATOR

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1. INTRODUCTION

Translation needs minimum two languages namely Source Language (SL) and Target Language (TL). According to the proverb namely, 'If a woman is beautiful, she is not faithful and if faithful not beautiful. So, translation is like a woman if beautiful not faithful, if faithful not beautiful'. So, one can understand that translation is an attempt to accomplish an impossible task as told by wilhem. Moreover translators struggle hard to find out equivalent words in the target language.

2. TRANSLATION

Translation is an art. The original writer can write anything, as he likes. But the translators cannot translate as he likes as he has to follow the original works very carefully. The translator has to work hard using his brain and dictionary. Rabindranath Tagore was of the opinion that translation is never satisfying.

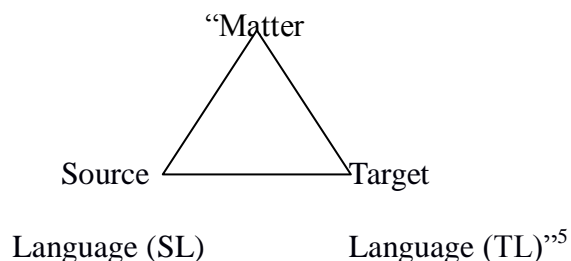
Based on the dictionary definition on translation is

“Translate : to express the scene or meaning of something”¹. Moreover,

“Translate : to change the written or spoken from one language to another”² and

“Translate : express one's ideas in a different form”³. Hence,

“Translation (Anuvad) means repetition of something said an interpretation”⁴. In translation matter, Source Language (SL), Target Language (TL) play a pivotal role.



3. VIEWS ON TRANSLATION

Every translation must consist of five parts as a detailed and analytical essay on the subject matter of the original literature, the text and the translation in parallel, explanatory notes on illusions, stories, episodes, religion, etc., parallel quotations, exhaustive glossary.

- V.Perumal Glimpse of Tamil Culture

Simplicity is one of the main criteria of a good translation.

- V. Perumal

Clarity of thought is an essential quality of translation.

- V. Perumal

Every translation is inevitably an adaptation.

- Joseph T.shiplay

A good translation should capture the style and atmosphere of the original.

- F. Finlay

You have asked me if I like translation, my answer is yes, otherwise the world would have been a closed book for me.

- C.N.Annadurai, Former C.M. of T.N.

Ideas can be translated, but not the words and their associates.

- Sydney.

4. TRANSLATOR

Translators need techniques. For example if anybody wants to translate from Tamil to English according to situations only the ideas should be translated. When the translation is made from Tamil (SL) to English (TL) the translator has to think and work as follows:

TAMIL

ENGLISH

Pachai Pillai

Very Young Child

Pachai Thanneer

Cold Water

Pachai Vayal

Fertile Green World

Pachai yana Pechu

Vulgar Words

Pachai Maram

Growing Tree

Pachai Pudaivai

Green Saree

Pachaiya Parkamudiyala

Can't see any green crop

Pachai Poi

Absolute lie

Pachai Thamilan

Vibrant Tamilian or Pure Tamilian

Pachai Pulli

Green dot

Pulli Pachai

Green Banana

Pachai Podanum

Mavilaku Podanum

Again in a Source Language (SL) many words can be obtained, and in the Target Language (TL) more equal words cannot be seen as in SL as followed in the examples.

<u>HINDI (SL)</u>	<u>TAMIL (TL)</u>	<u>ENGLISH (TL)</u>
Panee	Thanneer	Water
Jalam	Neer	Adam/s ale
Theertham	Punal	
Thoyam		
Neer		
Tanneer		
Water		

Another Example

<u>HINDI (SL)</u>	<u>TAMIL (TL)</u>	<u>ENGLISH (TL)</u>
Pankaja	Thamarai	Lotus
Jalaja	Kamalam	
Girija		
Vanaja		
Shailaja		
Kamala		
Lotus		
Sarojam		
Neeraja		
Rajeeva		

So, the translator in case fails to get equivalent works he may have to transliterate the same in the Target Language (TL). Translator cannot arrange the words as it is from one language to another language by writing down the meaning word by word because he has to know the grammatical aspects.

gps;isahh; Nfhapy; cg;Gkh Crpg; Nghr;R

Son who temple salt flour needle gone

will not be a translation from Tamil to English. “the Upma of Pillaiyar Koil is not good” is the meaning behind it. One has to understand a fact that English belongs to the European family. Tamil belongs to the Indian Dravidian family. Translators face problems at times challenges while expressing their ideas in Target Language in transliteration, transfiguration, transformation, transplattation. Transliteration of English words into Tamil

NEDUNALVADAI : neLey; thil neLehs; til

VITAMIN : tplkpd; tpl;lkp; tplhkp; tpl;lhkpd;

itlkpd; itl;lkp; itlhkp; itl;lhkpd;

In Transfiguration, for **death suspected** if translator writes as **suspected death** meaning changes. Transformation means from the source language to Target Language context or message is transformed. Transplattation means one plant is planted from one place to another place, idea is communicated into different languages from a language. Translation will have the style of the translator as Buffo rightly pointed out ‘Style is the man himself’. Translation may be in the form of **direct translation, adaptation. Simplification and amplification.** The impact of English literature can be seen in Tamil films. The poets in their own style have enriched the mother tongue Tamil by giving colourful words. So one can understand that if the Target Language is mother tongue it will be easier to translate.

Once, the famous Tamil Cinema Poet Kaviyarasu Kannadasan was travelling in a train in a 1st class compartment. At that time an English Professor who was travelling with him enlightened Kannadasan by quoting from Shakespere. Then Kannadasan has given the poetic translations for some of them on the spot. Then the impact of English literature has taken a dominant role in Tamil films. Then many writers followed Kannadasan in the mass media. For example -

‘Thy eyes rest in sleep Thy hearts rest in peace’

Immediately Kannadasan translated the same in the form of poetry as

‘Thookam un kangalai thazhuvattume

Amaithi un nenginil nilavattume’

‘J}f;fk; cd; fz;fisj; jOtl;LNk

mikjp cd; neQ;rpdp; epytl;LNk’

5. CONCLUSION

At the age of twenty, one can become a poet like Shelley, Bharathi. At the age of forty, one can become an essayist like Becan, Manian. At the age of sixty, one can become a novelist like Dickens, Asokamitran. At the age of eighty only, one can become a successful translator, as language denotes the symbol of thought, expression and culture. Man lives in an inter-dependent age. So, nowadays translation takes an important role.

REFERENCE BOOKS

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