

International Multidisciplinary
Research Journal

Golden Research
Thoughts

Chief Editor
Dr.Tukaram Narayan Shinde

Publisher
Mrs.Laxmi Ashok Yakkaldevi

Associate Editor
Dr.Rajani Dalvi

Honorary
Mr.Ashok Yakkaldevi

Welcome to GRT

RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2231-5063

Golden Research Thoughts Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

International Advisory Board

Flávio de São Pedro Filho
Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil

Kamani Perera
Regional Center For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka

Janaki Sinnasamy
Librarian, University of Malaya

Romona Mihaila
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Delia Serbescu
Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania

Anurag Misra
DBS College, Kanpur

Titus PopPhD, Partium Christian
University, Oradea, Romania

Mohammad Hailat
Dept. of Mathematical Sciences,
University of South Carolina Aiken

Abdullah Sabbagh
Engineering Studies, Sydney

Ecaterina Patrascu
Spiru Haret University, Bucharest

Loredana Bosca
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Fabricio Moraes de Almeida
Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil

George - Calin SERITAN
Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political
Sciences Al. I. Cuza University, Iasi

Hasan Baktir
English Language and Literature
Department, Kayseri

Ghayoor Abbas Chotana
Dept of Chemistry, Lahore University of
Management Sciences[PK]

Anna Maria Constantinovici
AL. I. Cuza University, Romania

Ilie Pinteau,
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Xiaohua Yang
PhD, USA

.....More

Editorial Board

Pratap Vyamktrao Naikwade
ASP College Devrukh, Ratnagiri, MS India Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur

R. R. Patil
Head Geology Department Solapur
University, Solapur

Rama Bhosale
Prin. and Jt. Director Higher Education,
Panvel

Salve R. N.
Department of Sociology, Shivaji
University, Kolhapur

Govind P. Shinde
Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance
Education Center, Navi Mumbai

Chakane Sanjay Dnyaneshwar
Arts, Science & Commerce College,
Indapur, Pune

Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya
Secretary, Play India Play, Meerut (U.P.)

Iresh Swami
Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur

N.S. Dhaygude
Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur

Narendra Kadu
Jt. Director Higher Education, Pune

K. M. Bhandarkar
Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia

Sonal Singh
Vikram University, Ujjain

G. P. Patankar
S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar, Karnataka

Maj. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary
Director, Hyderabad AP India.

S. Parvathi Devi
Ph.D.-University of Allahabad

Sonal Singh,
Vikram University, Ujjain

Rajendra Shendge
Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University,
Solapur

R. R. Yallickar
Director Management Institute, Solapur

Umesh Rajderkar
Head Humanities & Social Science
YCMOU, Nashik

S. R. Pandya
Head Education Dept. Mumbai University,
Mumbai

Alka Darshan Shrivastava
Shaskiya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Dhar

Rahul Shriram Sudke
Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore

S.KANNAN
Annamalai University, TN

Satish Kumar Kalhotra
Maulana Azad National Urdu University

Address:- Ashok Yakkaldevi 258/34, Raviwar Peth, Solapur - 413 005 Maharashtra, India
Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.aygrt.isrj.org

“THE MYSTERY BEHIND THE ART OF TRANSLATING: WITH REFERENCE TO SELECT ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF ‘TIRUKKURAL’”



J. Thangamariappan

Principal Investigator (UGC-MRP), Assistant Professor, Department of English, N.M.S.S.Vellaichamy Nadar College, Nagamalai, Madurai, Tamilnadu-India.

Short Profile

J. Thangamariappan is a Principal Investigator (UGC-MRP) & Assistant Professor at Department of English in N.M.S.S. Vellaichamy Nadar College, Nagamalai, Madurai, Tamilnadu-India. He has Completed M.A., M.Phil. He has Teaching experience of 5 years and research experience of 5 years.



ABSTRACT:

According to the Encyclopedia Americana(1974:12), translation ‘is as old as written language’. Literary historians say that the art of translating has been there in practice from 3000 B.C. The art of translation has such a long history. Unfortunately, there is no well defined and authentic strategy for translating a text from one language to another. It remains a mystery. This mystic nature of translation, kindle the researchers, linguists and translator to extend their research in translation. Here, in this paper, the author wants to enumerate this mystic nature of translation with reference to select English translated ‘Tirukkural’ couplets.

KEYWORDS

Tirukkural’ translation.

1.INTRODUCTION :

Though translation has been practiced for centuries, there is no exact strategy or format for carrying out translation. All those drawn on the act of translating are simply enumerate one of the features of it, not the whole.

Here, in this paper, the author wants to describe the mystic nature of translation that it has been defined exactly by no one. To prove this point the author wants to take a few definitions which are drawn on translation and give suitable couplets from the select English translated versions of 'Tirukkural'

The author restricted his study by taking only four definitions on the act of translation, They are namely, the definitions of Crystal, Brislin, Eugenene Nida and J.C. Catford. The author restricts his study by supplementing with English translated versions of couplets from the first three cantos of 'Tirukkural' .

Crystal(1987), in his essay 'Translating and Interpreting, says " Translation is a natural term used for all tasks where the meaning of the expression in one language is turned into the meaning of another whether the medium is spoken, written or signed."

Here, the definition insists the transference of the meaning alone. It doesn't mention the form of the original work and also the socio – cultural context in which a work is produced. The problem lies in 'Tirukkural' translation is that the original has been interpreted by different scholars in different centuries. All those interpreters have interpreted the original version subjectively and there must be deviations from the original text. The translators have taken any one of those interpretations for their translation and they translated for different purposes.

The first couplet of the first canto in 'Tirukkural' is:

"Aghara Muthala Eluthellam aathi
Baghavan muthatray ulaghu"

This couplet means that all the alphabets in the tamil language begins with the letter 'ah'. Like that, God, the almighty is the beginning of this world.

This couplet is translated by Yogi Shuddhananda Bharati (2008:03)as follows:

" 'A' leads letters; the Ancient Lord
Leads and lords the entire world"

The same couplet is translated by V.V.V. Aiyar (1961:03) as follows:

"A is the starting – point of the world of sound: even so is the ancient one supreme the starting – point of all that exists."

Here the above two translations are completely differ from one another. The first one, the rendering of Yogi shuddhananda Bharati's, is rendered in couplet format and the second is rendered in the prose format. But, both the above translators tried their level best to render the content, but they were not able to render the form. According to the definitions of Crystal both these renderings are correct, but, we cannot judge which one is correct.

Article Indexed in :

DOAJ
BASE

Google Scholar
EBSCO

DRJI
Open J-Gate

Brislin(1976), in his book ' Translation: Application and Research', says that translation is transfer of thoughts and ideas from one language (Source) to another (Target), whether the languages are in written or oral form or whether the languages have established orthographies or do not have such standardization."

According to Brislin, anything which is transferred from one language to another language is called translation. That may be in the written format, oral format or any other established format of a language. Brislin says that it is important to transfer of meaning/content of the text from one language into another language. Here, Brislin's definition on translation is also same that of Crystal's definition on translation.

The third canto in 'Tirukkural' defines the merits of ascetics. The sixth couplet of this canto depicts that the great persons will achieve great things. People who doesn't achieve high or great things will be considered as lean. The couplet is written in 'Tamil' as follows:

"Cheiyarkariya cheivar periyar; shiryar
Cheiyarkariya cheikalaa thaar"

This couplet is translated by G.U. Pope(2008: 11) as follows:

"Things hard in the doing will geat men do;
Things hard in the doing the meas eschew"

W.H. Drew and John Lazarus(2008: 11) translated the same couplet as follows:

"The great will do those things which is difficult to be done; but the mean cannot do them,"

Both the translations rendered the meaning that the great persons will achieve the difficult things, but not the mean persons. But, the first one is rendered in the couplet format, but, not the second. Both these translations rendered the content exactly.

Nida in his book 'The Theory and Practice of Translation', says " Translation is reproducing the text of one language into another. It refers to reproducing the message."

Nida perceived translation a kind of reproduction. According to him, reproducing the message which has already been written in one language into another language is called translation. It is certainly a kind of imitation. This reproduction is to be taken place on the basis of content alone. There is no consideration of the form of the ST and style of the author.

The second canto of 'Tirukkural' describes the greatness of rain.

The second couplet of this canto goes on like this

" Thupparkuth thuppaiya thuppakkith thupparkuth
Thuppaiy thovum malayai"

The couplet praises the rain that rain helps the food to grow and also it helps to quench one's thirst. This couplet is translated by G.U.Pope (2008:08) as follows:

"The rain makes pleasant food for eaters rise;

As food itself, thirst – quenching draught supplies”

W.H. Drew and John Lazarus translated the same couplet as follows:

“Rain produces good food, and is itself food”.

Here, both the translators tried to render the content. They reproduce the same message in English, at the content level.

J.C. Catford(1965), in his book ‘A Linguistic Theory of Translation’, says “ Translation is substituting or replacement of message of one text into another. In translation, the form of Source language is replaced by the form of the target language.”

As Nida says translation as a kind of reproduction, Catford defines it as a kind of replacement. Both of them are taking into account the content/message of the ST. The word ‘replacement’ refers here a kind of substitution. The content/message which is aptly written in SL which is confine to the linguistic features and subtle nuances of the SL will be substituted or replaced by the same kind of message which is aptly written in TL and also confines to the TL features and its subtle nuances. Nida perceives translation as a kind of imitation of the message, but, Catford perceives it as a kind of substitution, on the basis of the message. Both of them define translation on the basis of the language.

For example, the last couplet of the third canto describes that the one who shows kindness towards all the lives in this world, irrespective of gender, class and etc will be considered as ‘anthanar’ or sage. The original version in ‘Tamil’ is written as follows:

“Anthanar enpoor araorcatr revuyirkum
Sentanmai poondolugha laan”

The same couplet is translated by Yogi Shuddhananda Bharati as follows:

“With gentle mercy towards all,
The sage fulfils the virtue’s call”

Here, in the above given translation, the translator, Shuddhananda Bharati substitutes the ‘Tamil’ word ‘anthanar’ which eventually refers the person one who is overwhelmed with good qualities, with the English word ‘sage’ which refers a person who is ‘wise, judicious, or prudent’. Here, the substitution takes place by replacing the term which indicates the person with high qualities with another term which refers the person who excels in his intelligence.

Thus, the act of translating has been defined in different ways. Here, in this paper, the author took only four definitions on translation. The first one defines the act as a rendering of meaning, transference of the idea of the original, the third definition describes it as a kind of reproduction of the content and the last one defines the act of translating as replacement of the content in another language. From these definitions, we cannot come to the conclusion how exactly the act of translation being carried out. Though, translators and linguists tried to define it for ages, the mystery still remains and feeds the upcoming to researcher to go on.

REFERENCE:

1. Crystal, D., 'Translating and Interpreting', The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language, Cambridge: The University Press, 1987
2. Brislin, Richard. W., (Ed), 'Translation: Application and Research, New York: Gardner Press, 1976.
3. Catford, J.C., 'A Linguistic Theory of Translation, London: OUP, 1965
4. Nida, Eugene and Taber, 'The Theory and Practice of Translation', Leiden: J. Brill, 1969
5. "Trnslation", Encyclopedia Americana, Vol. 27, New York: Americana corporation, 1974.
6. Pope. G.U, W.H. Drew and John Lazarus, 'Thirukkural', Chennai: Kumaran Pathippagam, 2008
7. Rajagopalachari. C, 'Kural: The Great Book of Tiru – Valluvar', Mumbai: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 2009.
8. Bharati, Yogi Shuddhananda, 'Thirukkural With English Couplets' Chennai: Shree Shenbhaga Pathippagam, 2008.
9. Aiyar, V.V.S, Kural_: Maxims of thiruvalluvar, 4th ed, Madras, 1961

Publish Research Article

International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication, you will be pleased to know that our journals are

Associated and Indexed, India

- ★ International Scientific Journal Consortium
- ★ OPEN J-GATE

Associated and Indexed, USA

- EBSCO
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Database
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database
- Directory Of Research Journal Indexing

Golden Research Thoughts
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra
Contact-9595359435
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com
Website : www.aygrt.isrj.org