



---

## JOURNAL OF INDIAN LANGUAGES AND INDIAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

---

*Journal of Indian languages and Indian literature in English*, 02(01), 17-24;2024

### DYNAMICS OF TRANSLATION IN POST-COLONIAL INDIA

**Dr. T. DEVIKA,**

Assistant Professor of English,  
ADM College for Women (A),  
(Affiliated to Bharathidasan University)  
No.1, College Road, Velippalayam  
Nagapattinam - 611 001 Tamil Nadu.  
[saidevika2106@gmail.com](mailto:saidevika2106@gmail.com)

APA Citation:

DEVIKA.T, (2024). DYNAMICS OF TRANSLATION IN POST-COLONIAL INDIA, *Journal of Indian Languages and Indian literature in English*, 02(1), 17-24

Submission Date: 11/01/2024

Acceptance Date: 26/01/2024

---

#### Abstract

During the Indian freedom struggle there was a big role played by the writers who wrote inspiring words which had encouraged the freedom fighters. We live in political boundaries and protected by it, so whatever happens in that politically bounded area it directly affects the society and a literature is the best medium to represent in a realistic way. Literature is not only the medium of expression but it is also a medium of awareness. Whatever experienced by society becomes the subject matter of literature and it is inexhaustible. Literature is an inseparable part of human's life the situations and the miseries bear by the people it takes shape of the literature which creates realism in art of life. Literature is not only intimately related to life and the society but it is a big factor which plays tremendous role in creating a literature is 1 Fox, Ralph (1956). *The novel and the People*, Moscow, Foreign Languages Publishing House. history, because today's politics is tomorrow's history and history is that we learn our lessons from. History is not only the testimony but it is a written testament of our past and so it is very much related to literature. History are the stories, a written memory of past. It is the narrative of our cultural roots. And so is the literature. According to Zhu Ying it is "derived from the Latin *historia*, history implies, first and foremost, a story or narrative of events connected with a real or imaginary object or person; second, history is a systematic written account comprising a chronological record of past events, circumstances, and facts." If we look into our history we can find that in the time of nationalist moment Indian writers and intellectuals represents history in a new form to push the freedom moment.

---

Keywords: Linguistics, translation, history, communication, information, learning....

In the colonial period when India was under the rule of foreign power, we almost in a way forget our past full of rich cultural and heritage. It is the writers who reintroduced our golden past and exhibits our identity and nationalism through past history. They re-created Indian identity in their works, like poetry, fictional and historical writings. Telling historical facts through literature creates a realism which makes reader to think upon. History books are narratives of political activities and such narrations are as writings of criticism or as an analytic view point to find out the reasons why it happens or just a memoir of the past. It has nearly nothing to do with the emotions and the sufferings of the common man but literature has a deep connection with human sufferings because literature rises from the core of the society carries the real facts which writings based on pure historical content loses.

Writers of historical fiction approaches the historical past from a different dimension to come with it in a realistic historical material to attempt to recreate them in an imaginary milieu. As far as the history telling is concern it is perhaps does not touches the human consciousness and even it deals with the actual facts primarily, becomes faded and suspicious.

In this regard

“history has an element of functionality, whereas fiction is deep rooted in actuality. History and fiction, therefore, form an intricate reciprocity, influencing and conditioning one another.”

He further takes Aristotle’s view on the relation of poetry and history that, poetry tends to express the universal, history the particular’, and the historian recounts what has happened’, whereas the poet what may happen- what is possible according to the law of probability or necessity. Literature represents things and experiences of life which have been experienced by many but expressed by few. The foundation of a literary product emphasis on expression or representation in which subjective element is essential. When the author’s thought and his perspective mingle with his way of understanding of what he experienced along with his creativity and art then it leads to an ultimate romanticism. Though it is not easy to mention that what constitutes the political factor because the concept of political effect varies from age to age. When the foreign power invades our country and the people of our country unites to face the common enemy with all forms of struggle, the literature was one of it.

Here it is essential to understand that there is an ample number of political movements in India and the influence of it on literature are in different perspectives. It is necessary to mention the difference between political writings and writings which bears the political impact.

D.P. Sarin in his book “Influence of Political Movements on Hindi Literature (1906- 1947)” explains that literature is majorly affected by the political movement. He argues that political writings only concerned with the propagating of facts or the issue with which the author is familiar. He can use the phrases or the slogans in his desired way to put an effect on his readers. He can give his views and support his idea to make people think differently to the matter. He explains that

“in literature which bears political impact, the idea to be propagated is still alive and growing in the writer’s mind. It is a creative influence irradiating and transforming his experience. He is dominated by it, possessed by it. It is growing shoot which ramifies through his mind. And since he also has an aptitude for verbal expression, he is able to communicate to his public not merely certain ideas, dried and salted and conveniently packed, but a portion which may transform their whole attitude to life.”

Political forces affects the social life which develops literature. Writer came under the social influence caused by political activity which put writer to resist and express his ideas and thoughts through literature. He further explains “political conditions play a major part in giving rise to or in subduing the economic as well as the social problems. Therefore, it can safely be 4 Sarin, Dhram Paul. (1967), Influence of Political Movements on Hindi Literature (1906- 1947), Chandigarh, Panjab University Publication Bureau. concluded that political conditions are nothing but the bed-rock of the literature of a particular period. Literature is only one of the many channels in which the energy of an age discharges itself; in its political movements, religious thought, philosophical speculations, art, we have the same energy overflowing into other forms of expression.”

In this atmosphere writer wright and his writings immensely affects the socio-politic life of the society and most of the time it creates great impact and it starts affecting the politics which accelerate a revolution who can bring down the dominance of colonial rule and its power. In the context of India the activities going on in political and literary field in 19th century and 20th century can be seen in the awakening of the feeling of mother land and it beings with Bankimchandra Chatterjee define his birth land as his mother land he wrote Anandmath published in 1882 which is full of patriotic feeling and enough to accelerate the nationalistic awareness.

This was translated in English as the name The Abbey of Bliss by Nares Chandra Sen Gupta in 1906. Its song Vande Maatram become the holy recite for patriotism. Shridhar Pathak wrote his poem „Naumi Bharatam“ as a worship song. Maithilishran Gupt a renowned poet with their poetry describes mother land as the resemblance of the God. He praises his birth land

under the nationalist moment. At the time of war Harishchandra wrote his poem in praise of Indian forces got victory in Egypt named „Vijayani-Vijaya-Vaijyant“, Pratapnarayan Mishra’s poem ‘Krandan’ Pandit Badrinarayana Chaudhari’s Premghan’ poem was influenced by the political moment, Maithilishran Gupta’s writings were astonishing. Period of awakening 1906-1919 was the period of patriotic poetry and moments like Swadeshi, Boycott and the peasant moments. Poetry is the most famous form of the literature up to the end of 18th century. Prem Chand was the first novelist who wrote fiction under the “Peasant Movement” he wrote “Premashram” in 1922. His novel “Rang-Bhumi” was influenced by Non-Cooperative movement leads by Mahatma Gandhi. ‘Naya Savera’ by Manmathnath Gupta and ‘Raain Andheri’ are based on the themes of swarajya. His „Rang-Manch’ was based on styagraha. Shri Krishnalal Verma’s ‘Punaruthan’ comes under the same influence. Under the Hindu-Muslim unity phase Pandey Bechan sharma ugra’s ‘Chand Husinon Ke Khatoot” in 1927 was based on two livers belongs to two different religion.

In the Revolutionary Movement Manmathnath Gupta was the prominent writer of the movement. He wrote Naya Sawera, Rain Andheri, Rang- Manch and Aparajit. In the mid-thirties there was a significant change in Indian Politics. The politico-economic aspects become the center point. After establishment of the ‘Progressive Writers Association’ the writers emphasizes on socialist and Marxist thought. Ramchandra Tewari wrote Mahakal on the Famine of Bangal. This was the time when freedom struggle was at its peak and came under the influence of Quit India Movement. The novel Bujhne Na Pae by Anuplal Mandal was arise from the thought of this movement. Dhramaputra by Acharya Charutsen Shastri and Zich by Manmathnath Gupta explains the 1942 movenent. These was the great examples of the influence of the political movements.

Translation activities were also done simultaneously (Sarin. 1967). We found that while in early colonial period translation was used by colonialists to understand India and its people, in later colonial period translation was used by Indian nationalists to create an awareness among Indians about colonial subjugation and independence movement. Actually, translation is not an activity to happen in isolation. In fact it’s a part of a larger frame of system. Itamar Even Zohar has defined it “a multiple system of various systems which intersect with each other and partly overlap using concurrently different options, yet functioning as one structured whole”. He also adds that “translation is no longer a phenomenan whose nature and borders are given once and for all, but an activity dependent on the relation within a certain cultural system.” (Even Zohar 1990 p51) Thus translation activities of every period are mirror of ongoing changes and discourses of the given society.

These discourses are reflected through literature of that society. In context of India during the colonial period and pre-independence era historical and socio-political novels served as a stimulating force for rousing nationalist sentiment. While the attainment of independence this motive of writing ceased to exist. Their place was taken by novels about other discourses in society. One of the major themes of novels during this period was partition and war. Though independence movement was a pan-Indian phenomenon, this theme of writing is found mainly north, east and west India. It was because these areas were made geographical conditions. There for the spurt of partition writing is more in Hindi, Urdu, Panjabi, Assamese, Bengali, Kashmiri and to some extent in Gujarat. South Indian languages don't have much of partition literature and particularly novels. After a long struggle India got freedom on 15th August 1947 but on the condition of division of the Indian subcontinent into two parts on the basis of two nation theory, India and Pakistan.

The end of colonial rule marked a deep and bloody line on the body of our mother land whose population carries harmonious unity in varied diversity. The celebration of freedom converted into horrendous tragic events because of an unplanned way of leaders to proceeds partition. The last viceroy Louis Mountbatten arbitrarily decided the date of the Partition without leaving enough time for preparations. Then "there were power-hungry native leaders who readily allowed themselves to be persuaded to accept the Partition date."<sup>6</sup>The viceroy urgently summoned to the London barrister, Sir Cyril Redcliffe as an official British cartographer who plays a major role in his minor character play. He demarcated the boundaries between the two parts of a nation leading them as separate nations. He even did not have the courage to visit the border areas.

He took a large ordinance survey map and furiously draws a line with his red pencil on it. This partition gives a grievous blow to the Indian history. Millions on both side of the border were murdered and countless mass suddenly become an alien in the land in which they were born and brought up and now they were expelled from their home and the soil in which their sole were deep rooted. Alok Bhalla writes

"The partition of the Indian subcontinent was the single most traumatic experience in our recent history. The violence it unleashed was unprecedented, unexpected and barbaric."

The sudden disruption of the fury due to Partition were quite enough to paralysis the mind and body in which one lost his social sense, humanity and respect to the moral rights. In the introduction of Amritjit Singh, Nalini Iyer and Rahul K. Gairola's edited book *Revisiting India's Partition* they remarks, "The partition resulted in a bloody division of land as well as

the rupturing of shared histories, cultures and memories between Muslims, on the one hand, and Hindus and Sikhs, on the other.” Urvashi Bhutalia in 6 Gundur, N. S. (2008), *Partition and Indian English Fiction*, M. K. Naik’s foreword, New Delhi, Adhyayan Publishers & Distributors. They had honesty in their relation because it is derived from the practice of living together. It is because of their daily life which were so entwined that it constitute a collection of customs and practices suddenly destroyed and turn into ashes, that’s why the one common incidence become the foundation of all post partition stories and also become the most sensitive theme for writers to thought upon. The flurry and the horror it unleashed turned their “home”, memories, their collective rites and traditions are just a thing of past. A past that never been forgotten it is what they have to live with. With the attainment of Independence on 15 August 1947 was the beginning an era of challenges.

The country was hastily divided into two nations led to a communal blood bath. Near around 600,000 deaths and 8.5 million refugees was a big deed to handle. This massive politics event influenced the writings to express the human sufferings. N.S. Gundur says Partition has not remained a one-time event of history, it is unforgettable event. It has a significant place in the cultural and historical discourse of our country because it functions as a touch stone of our culture and polity. Commenting upon the importance of the Partition Survir Kaul writes, “that destructive legacies and terrible memories of Partition and its afterlife still guides us on our public policy and dwell in our progress from colonial state to post-colonial democracies. There have been continuous discussions about the partition till now. Some studies for example B.R. Ambedkar’s *Thoughts on Pakistan* (1940), K.L.Gauba's (1946) *Consequences of Pakistan* and Rajendra Prasad’s *India Divided* (1947) were published before and in 1947 but still it is an unrestful issue because it carries complexity. In the context of literary fiction, it widely expressed in the form of fictional writings which occupies a central place in creative literature mainly in fiction either written in English or in translation.

## WORK CITED

- Alexandrov, Vladimir E. Limits to Interpretation the Meanings of Anna Karenina. Madison, Wis.: U of Wisconsin, 2004. Print.
- Anderson, R. Bruce W. Translation: Applications and Research. New York: Gardner: 1976. Print.
- Asad, Talal. "The Concept of Cultural Translation". In Clifford, James/Marcus, George E. (eds.) Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986. Print.
- Baker, Mona. Critical Readings in Translation Studies. London: Routledge, 2010. Print.
- Baker, Mona. In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation. London: Routledge, 1992. Print.
- Baker, Mona. In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation. London: Routledge, 1992. Print.
- Muruganandham, V., and DR L. Rajesh. "The Eccentric Desires For Delight And The Negligence Of Social Conformity In Kiran Desai's Novel, Hullabaloo In The Guava Orchard." *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies* 17.3 (2022).
- Neelakandan, P. "Contentions Of Family And Motherhood In The Select Novels Of Anita Nair." *Journal of Indian languages and Indian literature in English* 2.01 (2023): 01-10.
- Neelakandan, P. "Changing Perceptions Of Food In The Select Novels Of Anita Nair." *Journal of Indian languages and Indian literature in English* 2.2 (2023): 11-16.
- Neelakandan, P. "Struggling Experience Of Anita Nair's Female Protagonists." *Journal of Indian languages and Indian literature in English* 2.3 (2023): 17-23.
- Sujatha, M. U., Madhavan, M., & Manimozhi, R. (2022). Quest for Self and Identity: A Study of Sherwood Anderson's Windy Mcpherson's Son. *Specialusis Ugdyas*, 1(43), 10815-10823.
- MANIMOZHI, R. (2023). VISION AND VOICE OF AMITAV GHOSH-A STUDY. *Journal of Indian languages and Indian literature in English*, 2(5), 24-31.
- Sujatha, M. U., Madhavan, M., & Manimozhi, R. (2022). Quest for Self and Identity: A Study of Sherwood Anderson's Windy Mcpherson's Son. *Specialusis Ugdyas*, 1(43), 10815-10823.
- Manimozhi, Dr R. "Women as a Social Reformer in the Novels of Amitav Ghosh." *Journal of Indian Languages and Indian Literature in English*, vol. 6, no. 2, 25 Jan. 2024, [jilile.in/socialreformer.html](http://jilile.in/socialreformer.html). Accessed 28 Jan. 2024.

- Dr.V.Umamaheswari. "Quest for Identity in Shobha De's Snapshots - a Study." *Journal of Indian Languages and Indian Literature in English*, vol. 7, no. 2, 10 Oct. 2023, [jilile.in/questidentity.html](http://jilile.in/questidentity.html). Accessed 24 Dec. 2023.
- Umamaheswari, Dr V. "Supremacy and Politics in the Select Novels of Manju Kapur." *Journal of Indian Languages and Indian Literature in English*, vol. 7, no. 2, 25 Jan. 2024, [jilile.in/supremacy.html](http://jilile.in/supremacy.html). Accessed 28 Jan. 2024.
- V, Umamaheswari. "Customs of the Past and Cultural Practices of the Present in the Select Novels of Manju Kapur." *Journal of Indian Languages and Indian Literature in English*, vol. 09, no. 02, 25 Jan. 2024, pp. 58–63.
- R, Manimozhi. "Perception of Religion and Gender in the Select Novels Of Githa Hariharan." *Journal of Indian Languages and Indian Literature in English*, vol. 2, no. 8, 20 Jan. 2024, pp. 52–57.