



Role of Translation in Shaping Indian English Writing: A study of Selected Works.

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ABSTRACT:

Translation has been an integral part of Indian literature for centuries, and it has played a significant role in shaping Indian English writing. The emergence of Indian English writing can be traced back to the late 19th century when British had firmly established itself in India. The research paper examines the role of translation in Indian English writing and its impact on cultural identity, focusing on the ways in which translation has contributed to the development and evolution of Indian English literature. The paper explores the relationship between the translation and cultural identity moreover it's analyze the work of selected Indian English authors who have used translation as a literary device and investigate how translation has helped these writers to negotiate the complex cultural and linguistic realities of contemporary India. The research draws on literary theory, translation studies, and the postcolonial studies to provide nuance understanding of the role of translation in Indian English writing furthermore the paper discusses the challenges that arise when translation Indian languages into English. The research findings suggest that translation has helped in preserving and promoting cultural diversity and has contributed to the growth of Indian English literature.

Introduction:

India is a country with rich and diverse cultural heritage. The Indian literary tradition dates back to ancient times, and it inculcate wide range of themes and genre. With the advent of English education in India during the colonial era, however Indian English literature has been shaped by the linguistic and cultural diversity of Indian subcontinent, which comprises over twenty official language and numerous dialects. English as colonial legacy, has become an important vehicle of literary expression in India, but its use has also been a source of controversy and debate. On way in which Indian English writers have negotiated this linguistic and cultural complexity is through the use of translation, which have helped them to bridge the gap between English and vernacular languages of India. Translation has enabled Indian English writers to explore the cultural implications and local idioms of India, and to create unique literary voices that reflects the diversity and richness of Indian culture. Translation played a vital role in wide circulation and internationalization of Indian literary work.

Role of Translation in Indian English Literature:

Translation has played significant role in shaping Indian English literature. It has helped in introducing Indian literature to the global audience. Many Indian authors have been inspired by translated works, which have provided them fresh outlook on their own culture and literature. Indian writers have drawn inspiration from various authors and incorporated it in their own writing. For the instance influence of Russian writer Anton Chekhov can be seen in the Work of R.K. Narayan, one of paragon of Indian English writing. Similarly, the influence of French writer Albert Camus reflected in the works the Arundhati Roy. One of the landmark events in Indian literature is the Translation of Rabindranath Tagore works in English and making them accessible to the wider range of global audience.

Translation as a Literary Device:

Translation has been used as a literary device in Indian English writing in variety of ways. Some writers such as Salman Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh, and Arundhati Roy, have used translation to incorporates the voices of other languages and cultures into their works. Rushdie for example, uses a mixture of English, Urdu and Hindi in his novel *Midnight's Children* to create hybrid linguistic and cultural identity that reflects the complexity of postcolonial India. Ghose's novel **The Shadow Lines**, similarly incorporates multiple languages including English, Bengali and Hindi to explore the themes of memory, history, and identity. Arundhati Roy's novel **The God of Small Things**, meanwhile uses Malayalam, the language of Kerala, as a narrative device, to create a sense of authenticity and cultural specificity.

Translation and Cultural Negotiation:

Translation has played an important role in cultural negotiation and exchange that characterizes contemporary Indian English writing. Writers such as Mahesh Dattani, Shashi Tharoor, and Jhumpa Lahiri have used translation to explore the complex social and political realities of contemporary India, and to critique dominant discourses of nationalism, gender and identity. Dattani's play **Final Solutions**, for example uses the Gujarati Language, spoken by Hindu and Muslim characters to play, to explore the communal tensions and violence that erupted in Gujarat in the 1990s. Tharoor's novel **The Great Indian Novel**, similarly, uses English, Hindi and other Indian languages to satirize the political and social history of India, and to challenge the hegemonic narratives of Indian nationalism. Lahiri's short story collection **Interpreter of Maldives**, meanwhile, uses Bengali and Hindi as well as English to explore the themes of cultural displacement, identity and belonging.

Challenges in Translating Indian Languages into English:

Translating Indian languages or literature into Hindi poses multiple challenges, particularly with regards to preserving cultural nuances and linguistic idiosyncrasies. Indian languages are full with metaphysical expressions, idioms, and proverbs which are difficult to translate into English however translating these expressions literally can result in loss of meaning and the translated works may turn into awkward and unnatural. Another obstacle in translating Indian languages into English is the use of regional dialects and vernacular words and phrases. Indian languages are diversified and each region has its own specific dialects and vernacular words and expressing them into can be challenging, as there may not be direct similar equivalent in English.

Conclusion:

Translation is an essential part of literary canon and has played a significant role in the development of an evolution of Indian English literature, helping writers to negotiate the linguistic and cultural complexities of contemporary India. It allows readers to access a wider range of works and promoting cross cultural understanding and exchange. By using translation as a literary device, Indian English writers have created a unique literary voice that reflects the diversity and richness of Indian culture. Through their works, these writers have contributed to a broader dialogue on the relationship between the language, culture and identity in the postcolonial world.

Citation:

- ❖ Selected works of Salman Rushdie.
- ❖ Selected works of Arundhati Roy.
- ❖ Mahesh Dattani's play **Final Solutions**
- ❖ Works of Shashi Tharoor, Amitav Ghose and Jhumpa Lahiri.