

Editorial

Translation and language are so intertwined that they seem to be synonymous and coterminous in multilingual settings. From historical and evolutionary standpoints, translation could not have preceded language, however, from communicative and typological perspectives translation must have coexisted with the use of languages. The formal study of translation is though recent but a vigorous phenomenon. Consequently, translation has come of age to become not merely an academic discipline, but also an institution of its own. In the process, translation has also acquired the well-deserved prominence in policies.

The Government of Indian recently announced the National Education Policy 2020. It is heartening to note that the new policy has given an adequate emphasis on the sustenance of linguistic diversity, promotion of multiculturalism and restoration of weakening languages, which cannot be possible without the active involvement of citizens skilled in translation, interpretation and adaptation activities. Perhaps, for this reason, the new policy has also recommended the setting up of Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI). These developments augur well for translators, interpreters and adapters as well as the students and researchers of Translation Studies, Interpretation Studies and Adaptation Studies. Other stakeholders, especially in a plurilingual country like India, may benefit too. With such proposals in the offing, the acceptance and actualization of ideas like “India as a translation/interpretation/adaptation area” and “India as a translation/interpretation/adaptation industry” will gain the due momentum. In consonance with these ideas, Translation Today assigns to itself some new goals while maintaining the target and tempo envisioned earlier. The efforts are also on to index Translation Today in various databases. This journal endorses the idea of free access to

knowledge. Therefore, all its contents have been made available for free access and are licensed under Creative Commons.

The scholarship of Translation Studies and related disciplines is expanding gradually and substantially towards establishing itself on par with other disciplines that are canonized in the international arena. The recent surge in writings on translation has necessitated the creation of a wide network to maintain the best publishing standards through a robust evaluation mechanism. Translation Today receives quantitatively huge and qualitatively diverse contributions. Consequently, the journal has an enormous challenge of reviewing all the submissions received for an issue. The journal is able to meet the reviewing challenges primarily due to the voluntary services of the subject experts. However, this process is at times very tedious and time-consuming. A survey by Joe Salmons reveals that numerous journals of international scope are also facing the problem of the shortage of reviewers. It is commonly observed that some reviewers who respond well go on to receive more review requests than they can handle or more requests than they are interested in. Reliability of the reviews (i.e. to say the review is not a superficial one) has also emerged as a big problem in addition to the shortage of reviewers.

When Translation Today tried to figure out why such problems were arising and interviewed some reviewers personally, the response was highly worrisome. It appeared that on most occasions the reviewing task is voluntary in nature. The reviewers may receive a complimentary copy of the publication, but they do not have any financial benefit or academic recognition that would act as an incentive. Reviewing is an academic task and a good reviewer contributes to the work academically. However, the reviewers

being anonymous their contributions also become unknown and invisible. For obvious reasons, it may not be practical to mention the names of the reviewers in the publication. However, there is a need to devise a system by which the reviewers can get some incentives. Since reviewing tasks are as global as publishing, there can be an initiative to make a platform to maintain the database of potential reviewers based on their specializations and certified association with the journals that are publishing regularly. Such platforms can function online and issue badges/identification numbers to the reviewers of a given discipline.

Translation Today would like to invite suggestions from its valued readers to overcome the shortage of quality reviewers. The journal would also like to invite recommendations and nominations of subject experts, who are qualified and willing to review the submissions received for its regular as well as special issues. With these words, it is the pleasure of the editor to present the second issue of volume fourteen of Translation Today.

In this issue, the first paper titled '*Bonanza of Translation Studies: Students' Attitudes towards the Emerging Discipline*' by Nabaraj Neupane offers an empirical study on students' attitude towards Translation Studies courses. He finds that the students' attitude towards the discipline is very positive and proposes that TS resources and materials should be student-friendly, informative, interesting, and accessible to the students. The second paper titled, '*Translation and Translation Criticism: Probing a Reciprocal Interrelation*' by Viraj Desai investigates various issues surrounding Translation Criticism especially in the context of Gujarati-English translation. This paper tries to propose that translation criticism is not limited to passing binary judgments about a translation. Instead, it focuses on providing all-encompassing, detailed and rather

objective critiques of translations. The third paper titled '*From Theory to Praxis: Film Theories Translated*' by Anwita Maiti and Udaya Narayana Singh discusses the inter-semiotic translation and argues that this discourse has to take much stuff from feminist film theories. They also question the applicability of Western feminist film theories in the context of Indian films. The fourth paper titled '*Cultural Issues in the English Translation of Satish Alekar's Play Mahanirvan*', is a critical assessment of the English translation of Satish Alekar's trendsetting play Mahanirvan (The Dread Departure) in terms of the cultural issues in translation. He critically examines the translation strategies with specific reference to this play and concludes that the foreignization translation strategy would have kept the cultural ethos of the source text intact. The fifth paper titled '*The Art of Translation: On Translating Sukumar Ray's Abol Tabol in English*' by Uma Ray Srinivasan unearths the difficulties of translating Sukumar Ray's Abol Tabol into English. It has two parts; Part I discusses the challenges of translation in general with existing theoretical analysis and Part II studies these challenges with regard to the translation of *Abol Tabol*. The sixth paper titled '*The Future of Indigenous Languages: Challenges of Translating Mavilan Songs*' by Lilykutty Abraham discusses the challenges a translator faces while translating the oral songs of the Mavilan tribe in English. It also proposes some solutions to the problems of translation. The seventh paper titled '*Translating Roald Dahl's Fantastic Mr Fox to Hindi: A Case Study of Translated Children's Literature*' by Sushmita Pareek delves into the debate of foreignization, domestication and fidelity with special reference to the Hindi translation of Roald Dahl's novel *Fantastic Mr Fox*. The eighth paper titled '*Adapting Fiction into Film – Rashomon*' by Preethamol M. K. is a comparative study on how the genre of short stories can be translated into a completely different medium of visual expression that is film

with an analysis of the movie *Rashomon*. She analyzes the distinctiveness of *Rashomon* and tries to study the deviation (if it exists) from the original while critically engages herself in the discussion of adaptation of fiction into a film.

In addition to routine articles this issue also has a translator's note titled '*Women Translators in Urdu: A Survey*' by Faheemuddin Ahmed and S. M. Fasiullah. This entry surveys women Urdu translators and their literary contributions in various genres.

The interview section offers three interviews. In the first interview, K. M. Sherrif interacts with E. V. Ramakrishnan on the themes like prospects of translation in India, Indian Literature in English translation, media and translation. In the second interview, K. Mansi interacts with Udaya Narayana Singh on issues like the problem of poetry translation between Indian languages and between Indian and foreign languages, untranslatability and translation as a theory and practice in the Indian context, self-translation and the translation based on target readership. In the third interview, Umesh Kumar interacts with Dipti Ranjan Pattanaik on the historicisation of translation practices in Odia and translation as an academic pursuit.

This issue also features two book reviews. The book review section has *Researching Cognitive Processes of Translation* reviewed by Obed Ebenezer S. as the first entry. The other one is Sujit R. Chandak's review of *Kisson Ki Duniya*, titled as 'Translating Children's Literature between Indian Languages: A Case for Critical Understanding of Indian Children's Literature'.

Translation Today strives to provide high-quality research to the field of Translation Studies and adjacent fields of inquiry. This issue exemplifies the trend that this journal has set and intends to continue. While the ongoing pandemic has adversely

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affected all walks of life everywhere and slowed down the flow of academic works, the editorial team took it as an opportunity to not only bring out this issue on time but also offer quality readings to all the stakeholders of Translation Today. All subscribers of Translation Today are invited to enjoy this issue. The subscribers are also encouraged to cite the papers and recommend the journal wherever possible.

As the year 2020 is drawing to close, Translation Today hopes that the prevailing global crisis will also come to an end very soon. Wishing all readers a happy and prosperous new year ahead.

Thank you!

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