



THEME OF TRAGEDY IN JAI SHANKAR PRASAD'S *KARUNA KI VIJAY*

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Abstract

Translation is an extremely interesting reality which opens up numerous possibilities. In the Indian context the translator has a greater role to play. India is a paradise for translators and translation has a great scope in our country. Translating texts from one language to another is a necessary activity. The present article is an original translation of Jai Shankar Prasad's short story *Puraskar*. The theme of the story is based on the dual of a woman's heart between Nationality and Love.

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Translation is a process of substituting a text in one language to a text in another language. It is basically the replacement of textual material in source language by its equivalent textual material in target language." - Catford (A Linguistic Theory of Translation)

Translation is a mental activity in which meaning of a given linguistic discourse is rendered from one language to other. It is the act of transferring the linguistic entities from one language to their equivalents in another language. The word translation has its origin in the Latin word "translatio" which means carrying or bringing across.

The Sanskrit word - Anukriti explains translation very well. Anukriti is made of the words 'anu' and 'kriti'. Kriti means, a piece of work which exists after a given piece of work is translated. That is what all translations are. Translation of a language opens up the doors to unknown cultures and linguistic environments. These help the readers in

the Target language (TL) know and understand the vast expanse of knowledge available in the source language (SL) hitherto hidden from them.

Translation promotes the local literature and culture by bringing the great wealth of literature and cultures from foreign lands. When we translate the great masters of the world literature like Shakespeare, Homer, Dante, Valmiki, Kalidas, Premchand or more, we not only enrich our knowledge base but also raise the standard of our own local or regional languages. Thus, translation not only communicates, rather crosses through different cultures.

Indian Literature and Translation

In the Indian context the translator has a greater role to play. India is a paradise for translators and translation has a great scope in our country. It is not reproduction but recreation. These translations aim at reorganizing the society. No theory with a special linguistic orientation can be enough to grasp

the total magnitude of this traditional Indian translation activity.

Translating texts from one language to another is a necessary activity. The purposes vary and so do the methods and technique. Translating regional literature into English has been widely recognized as a priority item in our present literary agenda. Now, English has become an Indian language. The influence and interference of the 'power' aspect of the colonial days is gone, thanks to Independence and the ascendance of democratic moves all over the world. Now is the time to throw open the treasure in our regional literatures to the entire world via the world language. A wide range of translation should be made available to knit the country with literary achievements. Though translating our literary text into English is fraught with difficulties, negotiating between cognate languages is actually less hard.

Jai Shankar Prasad was a prominent figure in modern Hindi literature. Prasad is said to have promulgated '*Chhayavad*' (a literary trend) in Hindi literature. He is considered as one of the four Pillars of Romanticism in Hindi literature, along with Sumitranandan Pant, Mahadevi Verma and Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala'. The subject of his poetry spans the entire horizon of subjects of his era from romantic to nationalistic.

Prasad wrote on a variety of subjects. He was adept in writing in any genre of literature be it poetry, drama, fiction or short stories. The majority of them revolve around historical stories of Ancient India. Some of them were based on mythological plots also. His writings have made him secure a special place in the corpus of Hindi literature. A translator's relationship to the text he/she has taken up to is seen as one of amorous love. I have chosen *Karuna Ki Vijay* (short story) by Jai Shankar Prasad for the purpose of translation, since it encompasses within itself the unique colours of almost every human emotion.

Each story of Prasad is filled with virtues like humility, charity, chastity, gratitude, temperance, patience and diligence. The characters in the story are common men with uncommon fortitude and willpower. They have not descended from heaven or

bear a rich legacy like kings. The stories depict the suffering of a common man. Each one of us can relate to them. And that is the triumph of Jai Shankar Prasad. He never intended to write for the upper class of the society. Prasad's writings bear an originality which can be emulated and hence is translatable.

The present story is an original translation of Jai Shankar Prasad's story *Karuna Ki Vijay*. In this story Mohan is an orphan who has to look after his younger sister Ramkali. Mohan makes his living by selling grams. One day Ramkali was hungry. That day Mohan could not make enough from his day's sale. She started to show her stubbornness for eating the grams which Mohan had saved for selling the next day. He had to give up in front of her demands:

Mohan earned his livelihood by selling gram. He had already sold half of them in two paise. Now a small amount of boiled gram, worth two three paise was left in water. Mohan too, was filled with self-esteem. But today he was feeling perturbed in front of Ramkali's demand. He himself was burning in the flame of hunger from within. But he had to feed his sister first. Responsibility had put down the flame in his stomach. Lastly with half-filled stomach both Mohan and Ramkali slept on the platform of the well"

After Mohan and Ramkali slept there was a competition between Poverty and compassion:

Poverty said- "I rule in every corner of the world.

Compassion said proudly – "You will never be able to enter my kingdom. Your rebellion will never succeed."

However Poverty was adamant.

She said – "You will not be able to save these children from my grip."

Pride was sitting quietly in a corner. It had decided to go on the side of the victorious value of life.

Compassion wanted to give same peace to the sleeping children.

Therefore, wind, started blowing softly over the children.

The readers suffer along with the characters .Mohan a small boy ,in whose age children study and play has to bear the responsibility of her sister. Poverty makes Mohan do something which was unimaginable :

Poverty on the other hand took a horrible form in the dream of Mohan. Mohan started shivering with fear by seeing his sister dying of hunger. He decided in his mind that he would die rather than begging for life. In a spur of moment, Mohan decided to throw her sister in the well and provide her the 'eternal comfort' of life. Poverty roared in laughter after witnessing the incidence.

People took Mohan to the court where he was punished with lifetime imprisonment of "guilt ":

People started gathering around Mohan and looked at him in wonder. Mohan accepted his crime in the court and asked for death sentence. However, the judge was compassionate towards him. He said "Justice tries to find out the motive behind every crime. Though you have killed your sister, but it is the circumstances which were responsible for making you the guardian of a small child. When a rich person without any heir, dies then his money goes to the city treasure. Similarly, it is a crime to lay down the burden of a child on the shoulders of a helpless and poor boy. Therefore, you are not found guilty and hence set free from the court of law."

Compassion cried over her victory. Tears of guilt started overflowing from the eyes of Mohan.

The translation of Prasad's stories is a hard-earned endeavor to deal with various issues such as theme, language, style and cultural aspect of the time. When we are concerned with literary translation it is our aim to take most of the beauty and significance of the source text into the target language text. For this purpose, various considerations have to be made in terms of style,

diction, expression etc. The most important quality amongst them is appropriateness, aptness and felicity in the target language.

The present work of translation is intended to be read by a wide range of audience. It includes students, researchers, learners, literary enthusiasts and other general reading public. Very often it happens that the students are only aware of the writers prescribed in their syllabus. However, it is very interesting to do interdisciplinary reading of books. The activity of translation not only enriches the translator but also opens the door of knowledge for the target audience.

The present translation was an endeavour to highlight some of the basic qualities contained in the works of Jai Shankar Prasad. He was one of the shining stars in the sky of Hindi Literature. All his stories are important for the readers as well as for the scholars and researchers of Hindi language. Although the language used by Jai Shankar Prasad was a bit difficult to understand at some times, but every effort has been made to reach, capture and represent the intention of the author of the source language text. The works of Jai Shankar Prasad have a lot of translatable scope for the future as they have not been translated by anyone before. Through this translation readers will come to know about some stories of Prasad. It will create their interest in Hindi literature and hence help in transcending our literature beyond culture and boundaries. Thus translation not only communicates, rather crosses through different cultures

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