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Translation of Literary Texts across Culture: Study of Parinesh Saniee's The Book of Fate And Bama's Karukku

S.V.Usha

II- M.A English Literature

Department of English and Foreign languages

Bharathiar University

Coimbatore.

ushavenkatesan97@gmail.com

Abstract

Regionalism in literature has a great impact on a literarian, for understanding culture and traditions of a region or about the people of a region. It is a general notion that regional literature is less proficient than a common literature. Greater the geographical area, greater the awareness among people, so topographical space plays a deeper role in assessing the quality of a work. Opulence of regional literary writing starts when a person belongs to a region begins to put forth his own regional experiences and perspectives of time. This paper "Translation of literary texts across culture: study of Parinesh Saniee's The Book of Fate and Bama's Karukku" under the thrust area " Translation- moving from regional to universal" talks about how basic regional culture attains globalized recognition when it is translated in worldwide. Parinesh Saniee's "The Book of Fate", a book twice banned by her own Iranian society, but attained national appreciation as the characterization of Massoumeh and her milieu gives realistic picture of Tehran and Qom in Iran. Massoumeh reflects the subjugating status of a woman in her own region. Bama's "Karukku" is an auto biography, in which she throws her personal suppression as a Dalit woman in her own region. Though Dalit in every corner of the world is dominated by upper caste men, this novel provides a complete source of how rural regions in India still have norms for treating the lower caste people. This proposed paper is an attempt to propagate the significance of translation for better understanding of regional context of a writer.

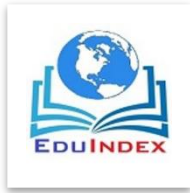
Keywords: Milieu, Opulence, Regional, Significance, Topographical.

1. Introduction

"Translation is a disturbing craft because there is precious little

certainty about what we are doing, which makes it so difficult

in this age of fervent belief and ideology, this age of greed and creed"



-Gregory Rabassa.

Translation is an art which involves creativity. It is a process of converting message or information probably interpreting into one's own language taking source from another language. Most of the time translation does not happen as it is mentioned in the original text. One can translate the context without its originality if its data or quantity but it is not possible to simply translate the words one has gone through. Strict translation of words sometimes gives inappropriate word pattern which provides unfamiliar meaning to the text. Primarily, translators should receive message efficiently to interpret. Though it is not literal in sense it should reach the audience with the essence that author tried to convey. At the same time the originality of a text will not lose when it undergoes translation. Each language has its individuality over credibility, so if a work undergoes translation the sweetness of a language shouldn't lose.

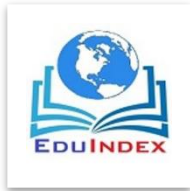
“Translation is craft which attempt to discover the meaning of the source to use receptor language form which expresses this meaning in a natural way”

- Larson

“The Book of Fate” is a powerful story which talks about an ordinary girl, Mossoumeh's life on love, friendship, education and hope. It intensely portrays life of an Iranian woman who struggles to get liberty in all her doings but miserably fails in all her attempts because of continuous opposition from her family members. Massoumeh belongs to a typical Iranian Muslim family who moved from Qum to Tehran. Even though Tehran is a place where people started to educate and coming out from old traditions, her family remains connected to old thoughts and customs. To them life is all about getting married and nothing more. Though Mossoumeh is a studious and talented girl in her school days, she is always discouraged by her mother and her two older brothers Mahmoud and Ahmad. To their fortune when Mossoumeh falls in love with Saidd, it becomes their favorite cup of tea to extend her matter to the maximum extent. When Mahmoud discovers that her sister Massoumeh falls for a pharmacist, everything breaks down in her family. The situation gets even worse when Mossoumeh was caged like a bird. Her fate turned to be someone's wife. “Karukku” is an autobiographical work which talks about the life of Bama who is marginalized because of her gender, caste and religion she follows. This work talks not only about her own sufferings as a dalit woman but it focuses on the realistic picture of dalit community particularly in her own region. Though untouchability has been abolished many years ago still people of particular region consciously or unconsciously following it. Some voices of subjugation are heard before they extinct and some remains unheard. Thus Bama's life is a report of how dalit discrimination resist for ages and ages.

2. Background of the Book of Fate

Islam is the practiced religion of Iran. The Lord Prophet and Quran are considered as a great privilege to them. Apart from the fact that Islamic people are fond of prayers and their day will not complete without pray for five times, there are many customs and norms that are kept concealed. Even now also, it is mandatory for an Islam woman to wear Hijab throughout the day. In this novel too, Mohmoud and Ahmad don't want Massoumeh to mingle with Parvaneh Ahmadi since she is a liberalized girl and to her family wearing Hijab is out of superstitious religious practice. One could



understand that the literacy quality of her parents but Mohamud and Ahmad see Parvaneh not as a girl of good character. They always blame her for making Massoumeh to behave like educated. When Massoumeh is invited by her friend Parvaneh, she hesitated to refuse her proposal. When she asks her the reason behind it she says:

‘Because you have an older brother?’ - Massoumeh.

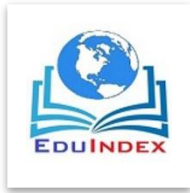
“Dariush? What’s older about him? In fact he is one year younger than us. I for one don’t understand your customs” – Parvaneh.

Family is the best basis for the Iranian culture. They give more priority over their family members and women are always protected from external influence. It is a belief that it is a sin to ask about wife and other female members of the family by the outsiders. When Ahmad invites a butcher to his house to see her sister Massoumeh, for marriage it is clear that men of that society is not ready to get acceptance even from the person who is going to lead a life with her. Ahmad who hurries to settle her sister fails to consider about his characteristic features. His primitive motif is to get his sister marry so that he can begin to frame his life. Soon, Massoumeh gets married to a young man named Hamid. She is forced to leave her house with her husband. Hamid and his family culture is a great turn to her. She is never forced by her in-law’s to wear Hijab. Entire family treats her with utmost liberty and respect. Even though Hamid is not interested in getting marriage he makes up his mentality to start life with Massoumeh.

Sooner or later she shares her interest and both have started to begin their role as husband and wife. Her bondage with him grows even stronger when he allows her to pursue her desires. Sometimes his inability to stay in house for many days as he is engaged with his work most of the time, makes her to feel for her husband. At a point of time, when she comes to know about that her husband is troubled by his business, she tries in all her possible way to secure him but it all miserably failed. Sara Khali, translator of this work paved a great way to learn more about Iranian culture. This novel is a fine example as it exemplifies traditions of Iranian Islam society. As interacting with people of concerned belongings is always good to get more information, this translation is like a conversation with a conservative Iranian woman. At the same time, when Massoumeh struggles a lot to get back to her husband into normal walk of life, it reflects how a typical Iranian woman is serious about their marriage and their relationship with their husbands.

3. Analysis of Bama’s Karukku

Dalit issues contribute the most to the exploration of writings. Literature is considered as an eminent tool to talk more about the Dalit sufferings. Foremost aspect to take dalit writings as a social issue is because of the loss of identity in them. Many writings probably focus on Dalit people’s continual rejection on gaining individuality over subjugation happens assignable to profession, gender and class. Dalit writings have started when a person has a familial connection from dalit begins to talk about one’s own culture valiantly and the discrimination, one has to face because of that. The Christianity is a religion which says everyone is equal before God. But to them Christianity is not the exception. Their discrimination happens in convictions of religious perspective too. Bama Faustina Mary who starts to suffer from her very young age is admitted to isolation from education, profession and so on. This autobiographical work is later translated by Lakshmi Holmstorm, written



in a simple language throws light on the profound sufferings of Dalit. Delineating each repression of this novel reflects her strong anguish over the supremacy of upper caste men.

“A Hundred times a second there are scuffles among them. Shameless fellows. Of course the upper caste men will laugh at them. Instead of uniting together in a village of many caste, if they keep challenging each other to fight, what will happen to all these in the end?”

Lakshmi Holmstorm also portrays about Dalit Catholicism. She says Dalit majority is only in count. They might appear to be major in population in her region but they are given very less importance. Church is another target for her, as she says Churches and those confrontations meant only for Upper caste not for the lower caste people like her. They are even rejected by teachers, priests and masters. Her angry over her own caste begins when her family members claim that the upper caste people as Higher figure in the society. This tragedy has not ended in school, when she happens to attend college she is targeted by her own upper caste people, as she wears a set of clothes to class because of poverty. This incident has frustrated her heart, so she decides to take up her position as a Christian nun. But it is not as she expected, they have insulted her, by rejecting her from participating in religious activities of the church.

4. Impact of translation in literature

As far as literature is concerned, translation plays a very important role in learning. Nowadays it appears as a separate form in learning a language. Translation is basically different from the other forms of literature. Though the author is interpreting the same context, which is already written by someone, the essence and flavor of the theme shouldn't be lost. The aesthetic quality of the text is very important for readers. When a text is translated from a foreign language, the emotion of a text should perceive. Therefore a translator not only concentrates on the exact translation of a text but also should focus on interpreting the same culture, emotions and feelings as the original author has portrayed. However, some challenges are there for a translator. We can say translator shouldn't lose the emotions that originally expressed but it also important for them to maintain uniqueness in their writing. For example, when a word is mentioned by a translator it should give the same connotation to the readers as it is mentioned by the real author. But in most of the cases, translator failed in this aspect, as cultural gap is visibly present. So it is always necessary for the author to know not about the second language he uses for translating but also he should thorough with the culture and rhetoric traditions of the people. Therefore, a translator should not be a bilingual but also a bicultural.

“To use the same words is not a sufficient guarantee of understanding;

one must use the same words for the same genus of inward experience;

ultimately one must have one's experiences in common”

-Friedrich Nietzsche.

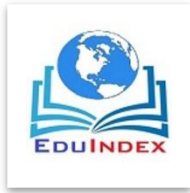
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Impact created by the translated works includes its wide source which provides a reader to know more about the history. As far as a literature student is concerned, it makes the learner to gain knowledge about other cultural terms and content. Literary translation is very important in literature as it helps the people to understand about the culture and people. Reading translated works of ancient scholars like Homer and Sophocles makes one to get clear understanding of Philosophy and History. So translation has its impact on everywhere around literature.

5. Conclusion

Regional literature is generally considered as an inferior literature than universal. The reason one considers it is because of geographical region but the truth is, books which is written globally has been commercialized more easily than a regional work. But this doesn't remain for long, translating trends start to flourish which provides the way for everyone to learn about the culture and features of a region. This paper is an attempt to bring out the emerging translation trend and how the regional context propagated to universe through this.

“Translators have to prove to themselves as to others that they are in control

of what they do; that they don’t just translate well because they have a

“Flair” for translation, but rather because, like other professionals, they have

made a conscious effort to understand various aspects of their work”- Mona Baker.

Acknowledgements

With immense pleasure I, Ms. S.V.Usha presenting the paper “Translation of literary texts across culture: Study of Parineesh Saniee’s The Book of Fate and Bama’s Karukku”. Thanking Jain Deemed-to-be-university for organizing the international conference on “Indigenous languages and translation studies”. I thank my guides from Bharathiar University to provided insight and expertise that greatly assisted my research paper. I wish to thank all the people who gave me unending support.

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