

Problems Faced in Translating Poems/Poetry

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Abstract

Poetry is different when compared to other genres of Literature. The term poetry creates soothing experiences for both Poets and Readers. Poems always form a special mechanism to deliver the hidden messages with aesthetic beauty. A Poet tries hard to bring out his/her original imaginative things and ideas based on feelings of love, depression, pain, friendship, relationship etc., into reality by the words of their own Language with the help of Literary devices. Poems can be written in all living languages throughout the world. In every language, every individual poem is written with different interpretation and with different mentality. Some genius will make attempt to translate Poem from one language (Native Language) to another language. Definitely it lacks to come up with exact artistic value and meaning. Because a word from a language can give various meanings and even fails to suit the contemporary times. So, the attempts of particular genius may or may not be succeeded. If his/her idea worked accordingly to the hands of success, it is sure that translator was well-versed in both selected languages. Yet, translating poems is not an easy task.

Keywords: Translation problems, Imagination, Hidden message, Aesthetic Beauty, Artistic values.

Introduction

Poetry is a literary work that expresses feelings and ideas with greater intensity by the use of distinctive style and rhythm. Poetry shoots a quality of beauty and intensity of emotion. Poetry uses aesthetic and rhythmic qualities such as meter, rhyme, symbolism to give additional meanings. Poetry has a long history from prehistorical times. Poetry always suggests different interpretations of words to stir some emotive responses to the readers.

“Poetry is a spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotions recollected in Tranquility.”

- William Wordsworth.

The usage of controversial terms like ambiguity, symbolism, irony, and all other stylistic elements of poetic diction which leaves the reader to take the poem with enumerable diversions in meaning. Literary devices such as assonance, alliteration, onomatopoeia, consonance, repetition give musical effects to the Poetry. Figures of speech such as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony etc., to give special advantage to Poetry.

Difficulties in Translating Poems/Poetry

Translating a literary work is a challengeable task because every work has some special significance in order to give the vivid picture to the readers cognitive. Poetry stands unique as a

genre of Literature because it holds some importance by using the figurative Language. The beauty of Novel or Short Stories achieved by the choice of words. Moreover, A Novel or Short Story can be done with colloquial Language if needed. Whereas the beauty of the Poetry should be measured with the creation of rhythm, rhyme, meter, structure, imagery, symbolism, choice of words that cannot conform to the ones daily Language.

“Poetry is ordinary language raised to the Nth power. Poetry is boned with Ideas, nerved and blooded with emotions, all held together by the delicate, tough skin of words”

–Paul Engle

The words used in the Poetry stands different from prose and the sentences in the poetry are correlated to each other and also it has coherence in meaning. The poetic truth in a Poem is shown through the usage of words and sense that too in a logical sense. When the translator has thought to transfer it to his/her TL (Target Language), then he/she should be more attentive to make it possible. If the Translator destroys the order and choice of the words and sounds, he/she disfigures or mismatches the aesthetic beauty and artistic values of the original Poem. Actually, A Poem was written in NT (Native Language) at one specific time during his period based on the feelings and emotions of his Era. So, the Translator cannot promote the original feeling to the readers of his age and could not satisfy them. The average translator cannot translate a poem. A Translator must be a scholar in both the NL (Native Language) of a selected poem and also in TL (Target Language). It is important that the Translator must be free and flexible to move ahead. The Translator has to be too honest in translating Poetry. The “meaning of poetry is semantic, open to the Interpretations of the minds of readers and quite artistic. The translator should make his/her challenge to translate a poem into the TL (Target Language) only when he/ she has the power and knowledge to overcome these obstacles.

Conclusion

Poetry may be written in all the languages with beautiful words to make a Poem more beauty. The words are written in one language translated into Another Language i.e. TL (Target Language) through the Translation services. It is done because of Human Nature. People are curious to know about other Languages and Culture, on the other hand, wish to share their culture, economics and the significance of their own Language. This makes the pathway to translate every literary work to the Second Language. Translating Poetry is also a part of it. The translator should be more conscious to give the exact translation without any changes in aesthetic beauty and artistic value of the original poem when translating the poem into his/her TL (Target Language).

Work Cited

www.translationdirectory.com Difficulties in translating poetry by Sugeng Hariyanto

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