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THEME OF NATIONALITY AND ETERNAL LOVE IN JAI SHANKAR PRASAD'S REWARD

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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.

Keywords-Translation, Significance, Translation in India, Shankar Prasad.

"Language is not a neutral medium that passes freely and easily into the private property of the speaker's intention, it is populated over populated with the intentions of others. Expropriating it, forcing it to submit to one's own intentions and accents, is a difficult and complicated process." - Mikhail Bakhtin

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 *Puraskar* (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 *Puraskar*. In this story Madhulika is a poor village girl who gives her land to the king for free and spends her life by working on another people's lands. Arun the prince of adjacent state is struck by the beauty of Madhulika and instantly falls in love with her;

Madhulika was sleeping under the tree on ground.

The prince was bewildered by her charm. "Oh what a rustic beauty"! He thought to himself. Suddenly Madhulika woke up. Her eyes were red with anger.

She asked – "Who are you to gaze upon the sleeping beauty of a girl".

The Prince said – "Haven't you been the coordinator of Yesterday's festival?"

Madhulika – "Festival? Oh yes it was a festival for others".

But please let me live in peace with my loneliness.

On this Arun said – "My heart had become a devotee of that image of yours my Goddess."

Madhulika – "What an irony? Please forgive me and follow your way.

The prince said "O goddess of simplicity, I am the prince of

Magadha, seeking for your grace. My heart does not know how to hide my feelings of love for you".

He decides to attack the kingdom of Madhulika and make her his queen .

Madhulika – “O great prince, I am a farmer girl. I live and work on my land. You are the prince of Magadha. I am sad because all my right are taken away from my ancestral lands. Please do not make fun of my conditions.”

Arun – “But I can get you the land back from the king”.

Madhulika – “No, I do not want to get my land back. It is a national law and I don’t want to change it even if, it gives me pain.

Arun – “Then what is the reason of your suffering”.

Madhulika – “Heart is the reason of all the suffering and sorrows of the world. It does not understand any rules and regulations. It is the sole reason because of which a prince is standing and insulting a farmer girl like me”.

After hearing such words the prince returned to his land.

Arun could not forget Madhulika and so he returned to her.

Arun – “Don’t forget I am a warrior. I am confident about my strength. Why be disappointed”. We can even establish a new state”.

Madhulika – “New State? Your excitement is worth appreciating.

Tell me the ways so that I can also enjoy your imagination”.

Arun – “Do not worry your land, Madhulika. I will make you the queen of my kingdom”.

Madhulika started enjoying herself – “Oh Arun! I was waiting for you for so many years.”

Arun – “So is it true, you also love me. Oh dear! I have waited so

long for this moment. Now, wait and watch, what my sword will do for you”.

However Madhulika was the daughter of a freedom fighter. Feeling of nationality ran in her blood .She was also aware of Arun’s love .A kind of dual caught up her mind .

It was dark and Madhulika’s heart was filled with all sorts of confusion. Suddenly her heart shuddered with the feeling of defeat. What if Arun was defeated. The imagination of happiness slowly started dissolving in darkness.

Madhulika started thinking – “Why should Kaushal get defeated in war against Magadha. Kingdom of Magadha is our enemy. I can never let an enemy win for my selfish purposes(happiness and comfort)”. She was reminded of her father who was a true patriot. Madhulika suddenly heard her late father’s voice -“What are you doing. No, my daughter cannot be a traitor”.

She realised that adversities had made her insane. On one hand, she could see her father and on the other hand there was Arun(Lover). Madhulika was in a state of Trans. She could not decide what was right. After gaining her consciousness she decided to tell Arun’s plan to the commander of Kaushal kingdom.

The form of inner conflict is seen in the works of Jai Shankar Prasad. It is the fundamental quality of his writing. This inner conflict is present at a deeper level in each of his works. Every work is sentimental in nature. The reader keeps on thinking till the end of the story as to what Madhulika will choose;

The king was surprised to see Madhulika again. The commander informed the king about the attack.

King – “Is it true Madhulika?”

Madhulika – “Yes”.

King – “Once again you have done a great favour for Kaushal. By giving this information, you have become worthy of award. But let me deal with the enemies first. You wait here in the palace”.

Arun was captured in his adventurous mission. He was brought in the fort and people surrounded him. The crowd was in a state of wild ecstasy, Kaushal was once again saved from the enemies. People of every age were rejoicing in joy. Arun was brought in front of the king as a captive.

The crowd said –“Kill him”. The king ordered sentence for Arun.

Madhulika was called. She was in a state of bewilderment.

The king said –“You can ask for any reward from me. I give all my lands to you for farming”.

Madhulika looked towards captivated Arun who was smiling. Then she said –“I do not need anything.”

King –“No, I will give you a reward. Ask for anything”.

Madhulika started walking towards Arun and said – “Give me life sentence with Arun”.

This story aptly reflects the theme of nationality and eternal love within the characters. Madhulika loved her country so she revealed Arun's thoughts of attacking her own kingdom. However she also loved Prince Arun, so she decides to get punished with him. The translation of Prasad's stories is a hard-earned endeavour 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 enthusiast 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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