

Paratexts in Literary Translation: A Study of Select Urdu and Kashmiri Short Stories in English Translations

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Abstract

Translation has become an important tool in cross-cultural communication. It has played a significant role in the proliferation of knowledge across cultures. However, the challenging task of transferring the meaning from one language into the other has always been difficult for the translators. In literary translations, due to the linguistic and cultural differences across languages, the debates on the issues of equivalence, loss and gain, linguistic and cultural untranslatability have raised many questions on the various theories and practice of translation. The aspects of ideology and politics of translation have also created new discourses and dimensions in translation studies. How the issues of linguistic and cultural untranslatability can be overcome by translators? What are the various techniques and strategies applied by translators to negotiate the cultural differences between the source and the target text? With these objectives the present paper aims at exploring the Paratexts in literary translation in the select Urdu and Kashmiri short stories in English translations and its role in understanding and explaining the cultural nuances between the source text and the target text. How historical and cultural aspects of the source text are expressed to meet the demands of the target audience? It highlights the importance of Paratexts in literary translation. It also focuses on the reception and consumption of the source text in the target audience. Moreover, it attempts to discuss the ideological overtones of these translations through Paratexts.

Keywords: Equivalence, Linguistic and Cultural Untranslatability, Ideology and Politics, Paratexts

Introduction

Paratexts is a term coined by the French literary critic Gerard Genette. It is a concept used in literary interpretation in which the