



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE

***Int.J.Eng.Lang.Lit & Trans.Studies* Vol.2.Issue. 3.2015 (July-Sep) AND
TRANSLATION STUDIES (IJELR)**

**A QUARTERLY, INDEXED, REFEREED AND PEER REVIEWED OPEN ACCESS
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL**

<http://www.ijelr.in>

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Vol.2. Issue 3., 2015 (July-Sept.)

JOURNEY OF TRANSLATION FROM SOURCE LANGUAGE TEXT TO TARGET LANGUAGE TEXT: A CRITICAL STUDY



INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA

2395-2628(Print):2349-9451(online)

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ABSTRACT

The present paper is an attempt to trace the history of translation right from the time when writing was not introduced to the present day century where translation has become an inevitable activity. The paper further critically teases out the process of translation, establishing it as a critical, creative and cultural activity and not merely as a mechanical activity concerned with finding just lexical equivalents. Further, endeavour is made to bring out thoroughly the various difficulties faced while making translation in general and in particular while being in the domain of creative literature, especially poetry. In wake of the difficulties faced, theories and solutions that have surfaced to counter them are discussed and consequently the essential qualities of a good translator are established.

Key words: translation, creativity, transference, word-for-word translation, sense-for-sense translation, SL, TL.

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DISCUSSION

Translation is a human endeavour of distant past. Long before the innovation of writing, whenever linguistically different groups of people happened to come in touch with one another, communication between them must have been made possible by bilinguals who acted as interpreters. In the twenty-first century with thousands of languages in the world, and ever surging international communication, translation has become an immensely crucial activity. The history of translation is the history of a prolonged chain of attempts for making complimentary understanding feasible by way of interpretation and translation for those using divergent languages. Leaving aside the oral interpretations, literary translation has, with the progress of time, assumed more and more significance. There was a point when literary translation was looked up as a marginal and mechanical activity, rather than being creative or worthy of any grave critical contemplation. But since the past century, literary translation drew great public and scholastic attention. There have been great writers who hold the opinion that translation of creative literature is inherently impossible but