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## Translating Historical Texts: Strategies, Issues and Perspectives

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### Abstract

Translation has always bridged the gap across cultures and nations. It is through translation that world becomes a place where the voices of different people and places meet at one point. History of different nations would have been unknown to the world if not translated. Similarly, the rich history of people and places represents the culture and identity of a particular nation. In the postcolonial setting, writing back has become one of the trends to reclaim the past and at the same time resisting the dominant languages and literatures. The cross-cultural interaction between the different social groups has become an important factor in reclaiming and redefining the marginalized identities. In Indian context, translations of regional texts become important due to the multilingual and multicultural nature of the country. Moreover, translating literary, cultural and historical texts have the political overtones as well as the academic significance. The discussion of this paper is on the topics/contents translated by the author from the book Nawabeen Awadh Aur East India Company (Siyasi Rishtay) written by Dr. Mustafa Hussain Nizami in 1995. The translation done by the author was a part of the workshop Under UGC SAP DRS-11 conducted by the Department of English, AMU. The study aims to highlight the importance and relevance of the book in general and the translated topics/contents in particular. Secondly, the paper discusses the theoretical notions applied by the translator while translating these topics from English into Urdu. The study explores in detail the issues and challenges encountered by the translator in the process of translation. Finally, the study has revealed the various problems related to the equivalence at the linguistic and cultural level.

**Keywords:** Cross-cultural communication, culture, issues and challenges, problems etc.

### Introduction

Mini Krishnan who has a long experience in translation and publishing provide a good reason why there is a need of translations of Indian literature into different languages. She states "Why do I publish translations of Indian writing? Because in them lie our own histories, our sense of identity and belonging. Because we need to breathe our native breath. Because it is our historical duty in a largely illiterate country to preserve our word worlds and slow their disappearance" (Krishnan). Thus, translation is not just transferring words/message from one language into other. But it is bridging the gap between two cultures and nations. The paradigm shift in 1990's from linguistic to cultural turn in translation has changed the discourse of translation to the wider perspectives. Translation has played a vital role in understating different cultural diversities across nations and states. It is through translation that intercultural communication is possible. To highlight this fact, Azurda states, "The importance of the art of translation can be grasped by the fact that if Socrates, Plato and Aristotle had not been translated into other languages, the world, except for Greece, would have been a poor place." (57) Translation has made possible the comparative study of literatures across cultures and languages.