



A Space for Translation: Thresholds of Interpretation

Presentation Details

Title of Paper: Creative Maneuvering of Textual Spaces in Translated Poetry

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Abstract:

The focus of this paper is to explore the textual spaces available to the translator of literary texts, especially poetry. The challenge of making a creative piece of writing, such as, poetry meaningful while retaining the aesthetic element in tact in translation, requires maneuvering the textual spaces both within and beyond the translated text.

This paper will examine the maneuvering of textual spaces in the English translation of Odia (one of the 22 Official Languages of India) poetry of Guru Prasad Mohanty. The maneuvering of textual spaces will be highlighted while analyzing the literal and the inferential translation along with the cultural explanations of words, phrases and ideas inherent in Odia into English. This paper will focus on the strategies of creative maneuvering of textual spaces through italics within the texts and footnoting which entails using the additional spaces in the text.

Every piece of translated text inevitably requires maneuvering of textual spaces to make it meaningful and culturally adaptable. This maneuvering of textual spaces, especially in translated poetry, requires linguistic acumen and cultural sensitivity along with creative proclivities. However, as none of these skills provide scope of absolute perfection, maneuvering of textual spaces can never be definitive, especially in translated texts. Nonetheless the potential for creative maneuvering of textual spaces in translated texts, especially of poetry, is unique.

The paper argues that translated texts, especially of poetry, demand a unique blend of creative maneuvering of textual spaces to enthuse novelty while retaining the aesthetics of the original (source) text.

Author's Biography

Gopa NAYAK is an educationist with experience in researching, teaching and training English communication skills to learners in India, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. She has a DPhil and Masters in Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition from the Department of Education, University of Oxford, UK. Her first Master's degree was in Sociology from Delhi School of Economics. She has an MA in English Language Teaching from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Her research interests include professional communication in English, teaching pedagogy for ESL/EFL learners, technology in language learning and translation studies among others.

Currently she is the Director of the English Language Centre at the O.P.Jindal Global University Sonapat, India.