

Issues in Translation of the Classical Tamil Literature to English language

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Introduction

Translation is the communication of the meaning of a source language text by means of an equivalent target language text. The term equivalent means if a specific linguistic unit in one language carries the same intended meaning encoded in a specific linguistic medium in another, then these two linguistic units are considered to be equivalent.

Classical Tamil literature is not a direct product of an author and belongs to particular literary tradition. The Classical Tamil literary text is a collection of different authors work. Most of the poets are belongs different profession and different classes of the society and poems are edited and colphones added by the anthologist and annotators around 1000 AD. There are different editions are available for each Classical Tamil Literature. In 19th century,scholars like U.Ve..Saminatha Aiyer, Pinnathur Narayanasamy Aiyar, C.Y. Dhamotharam Pillai have edited the anthologies of the Classical Tamil Literature. The poems falls into two categories 1) inner field (Agam) and outer field (Puram) . the inner field topics refers to love and sexual relationships and outer field topics refers to all aspects of human experience such as heroism, valour, ethics,benevolence, philanthropy,social life, and customs.

There are several authors translated the Classical Tamil literature. The following things play a major role in Translation of the Classical Tamil literature. 1) Meaning of the text and extra linguistics factor which conditioned it ie the author's thought and concept of life. 2) Relation between the translator and the text to be translated, and 3) Correspondence between the stylistic effects of the original text and that of the target language.

The failure to understand the quality in Classical Tamil literary text translation cannot be assessed in terms of sameness between the stylistic effect of the original text and its translated version but in terms of an approximate correspondence between them led to the extreme notion of the impossibility of adequate translations. The failure to understand the translator has a relationship with the text other than that of a passive reader resulted into hesitant views as regards whether a translation should be faithful or flexible with the original text. All

these problems have to be solved while translating the Classical Tamil literary text to English language.

Relevance of Translation studies

Helps to lead to develop the principles and procedures found in Classical Tamil. The cultural context of Classical Tamil and English can be sort out.

Helps to study the translator's views regards the question of faithfulness and flexibility in literary translation.

By finding out the problems in translation, we can find out the techniques used by the translator. This can be useful for the translators of current age in Tamil. It also leads to the growth of Tamil language.

Helps to define the units of translation on which

One should operate in the translation process.

Helps the translator to reach an objective

Interpretation of his original text.

Helps to put importance of the relationship

which exists between the meaning of the SL

message and the author's thought which

condition it.

Issues

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Finding equivalence

நிலத்தினும் பெரிதே வானினும் உயர்ந்தன்று

நீரினும் ஆரள வின்றே சாரல்

கருங்கோற் குறிஞ்சிப் பூக்கொண்டு

பெருந்தேன் இழைக்கும் நாடனொடு நட்பே.

விளக்கம்

குறிஞ்சி மரத்தின் மலர்களைக் கொண்டு தேனடை

செய்யும் நாட்டை கொண்ட தலைவனுடன் நான்

கொண்ட நட்பானது நிலத்தின் அகலம் போலவும்,

வானின் உயரம் போலவும், கடலின் ஆழம் போலவும்

பெரிது

Te:vakulatta:r (*Kuruntokai* 3)

Translation by Thangappa

Larger than the earth

Larger than the earth

vaster than the sky,

and immeasurably deeper than the seas

is my love for him

Translation by A.K.Ramanujam

What She Said

Bigger than earth, certainly,

higher than the sky,

more unfathomable than the waters

is this love for this man

யாயும் ஞாயும் யாரா கியரோ,
எந்தையும் நுந்தையும் எம்முறைக் கேளிர்,
யானும் நீயும் எவ்வழி யறிதும்,
செம்புலப் பெயனீர் போல,
அன்புடை நெஞ்சம் தாங்கலந் தனவே.

-செம்புலப் பெயனீரார்.

(*Kuruntokai* 40) Cembulappayani:ra:r

Rainwater and red soil

Your mother and my mother

Do not know each other

Your father and my father

are not related either.

As for you and me,

how do we know each other ?

What He Said

What could my mother be
to yours? What kin is my father
to yours anyway? And how
did you and I meet ever?

And yet,

like the mingling of rainwater

with red soil,

our hearts have mingled.

But in love our hearts are as red

earth and pouring rain:

mingled beyond parting.

Two authors using two different type of lexical equivalence to each word in target. Equivalences are semantically correct but whether it is reached the target audience are not that we don't know.

Problems in translating flowers and trees

We cannot translate the flowers trees and landscapes.

punnai flower –

kalli

marutham tree

veenkai tree

konnai

‘Yavanar’

Kaanaga naadan

Problems in translating ornaments

Most of the ornaments are cultural oriented. So we cannot translate cultural oriented ornaments.

விலயோன் காலன கழலே

The bowman has battle rings on his leg

தொடியோள் மெல்லடி மேலவும்

And the bangled girls wears anklets on has soft feet

Conclusion

A lot more problems exist while translating the classical Tamil Literature. All these problems have to be solved.