CHAPTER - V
COMPARITIVE VIEWS OF PROBLEMS

5. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the translator researcher deal with the language problems encountered by the him and also discusses the comparative views of problems in translating prose and poetry. The researcher also lists out various problems, Similarities and differences in translating prose and Poetry.

There are many language problems encountered by the translator. The writers use of many dialectical terms which refers to the usage of vocabulary i.e characteristic of a specific group or community of people. For such terms which belong to the Brahmin community were given the closest English equivalents. In some cases the author has used some unexplained acronyms and abbreviations. The author has also used many proper names for people, organizations, places etc. For all such terms, transliteration is employed by the translator in order to maintain their sense.

For the classical words, the translator finds difficult to find the meaning of those classical words and the translator transliterated. These are certain expressions that are untransposable from one culture to another. Mainly, the words that pass effortlessly into everyday speech and some similes and metaphors in Tamil and some sayings and proverbs would be impossible to render in English as well as in other Indian languages. This cultural leap is the translator’s most difficult one.

Cultural aspects can complicate translation. As these terms cannot be omitted, the translator has given the most suitable English equivalents for cultural terms and colloquial expressions. The use of obscure jargons, a characteristic language of a particular group and obscure idiomatic expressions, whose meanings
cannot be inferred from the meanings of the words that make it up and also posed a problem to the translator. For such cases, the contextual meaning is taken into account and the nearest English equivalents are given by the translator.

A problem of translation in poetry arises out of linguistic and semantic meanings. English and Tamil have totally different cultural backgrounds. The translator is forced to omit a few expressions that defy translation. The translator found difficult in translating some of the descriptions of the poet.

Slang or informal language, consisting of words and expressions that are not considered appropriate for formal accessions, often vulgar, also, complicates the translation process.

In poetry metaphors, alliterations, assonance and onomatopoeia cannot be rendered from source language to target language. Proverbs are culture bound they cannot be successfully translated into a language with a different culture. Similarly names of plants, birds and bees in geographical locality and in a target language and at a particular time in history may not have equivalents. So they have to be written as such and have to be transliterated. Word for word translation of metaphors may lead to confusion, because the symbol of one bird or an animal in one culture may be entirely opposite in another culture or in another country.

There are problems related to stylistic differences like redundant phrases in a source language and differences between languages with respect to punctuations and conventions.

The distinction between syntactical systems of the source language and target language pose problems. The art of translation continues to pose a variety of challenges to its practitioners, especially when the work to be translated to is a poem. The translation into rhyme requires more skill and time. The translator has to catch the nuances, the titles, the suggestive, symbolic, the rhythmic and the unexpressed.
Certain codes, symbols and some technical terms cannot be translated. In such cases only transliteration is required.

The English and Tamil poetry are rhymed. The poetry translator gives importance to the meaning, matter and manner of the poem in another language. In this translated poetry, the poet uses the conversational method and colloquial language in some of the places so the translator also does not stick on to the rhyme while translating from the source language into target language.

5.1. PROBLEMS OF POETRY TRANSLATION

Poetry presents special challenges to translators. In his influential paper (1959) “on linguistic aspects of translation”, the Russian born linguist and semistictian declare that “poetry by definition (is) untranslatable”.

There are number of problems in translating poetry. The first and foremost thing is “Rhyme”. It always composes a constraint upon the writer. To find a rhymed translation of a lyric is scarcely possible. Poetry is highly complex form of art. Poem constitutes of images, metaphors, rhymes, etc. The translator faces some difficulty in bringing the sameness of meaning in the target language text. Jacobson says re-encoding a poem in another language becomes an act of “creative translation”. The intention of the poet poses some problems to the translator because he must bring the exact idea in the ‘Target language’. English poetry is rhymed but Greek and Latin are not. The translated work of a poem is a new product which shows its new dimension. The poetry translator gives importance to the meaning, matter and manner of a poem from another language. In poetry translation, the translator may face the linguistic, literary and aesthetic and socio-cultural problems in translating it. The linguistic problems include the collocation and obscured syntactic structure. The aesthetic and literary problems are related with poetic structure, metaphorical expressions and sounds. While the socio-cultural problems arise when the translator translates expressions containing
the major categories, ideas, ecology, behavior and products. As one genre, of literature, poetry has something special compared to the others. In a poem, the beauty is not only achieved with the choice of words and figurative language like in novels and short stories, but also with the creation of rhythm, rhyme, meter and specific expressions and structures that may not conform to the ones of the daily language. In short, the translation of poetry needs ‘something more’ than translating other genres of literature.

5.2. PROBLEMS IN PROSE

There are Problems and difficulties in finding Equivalence and there are areas of untranslatability. Linguistic Untranslatability is Due to the Absence of Lexical or Syntactical subscripts in the target Language. Lexical untranslatability

Is due to the absence of Lexical substitute in target language. English has both active and passive Voice but Tamil has No Passive Voice. In good Translation, Most passive Verbs are rendered into active voice in Tamil. Indian Languages have more Kinship Terms than in English Language. Some of the Kinship Terms in Tamil are used as mark of respect or as a token of affection it is impossible to find an equivalent term for items if food and drink, units of weights cup measures between languages that are not culturally linked. Proverbs idioms, figures of speech, Metaphor, Alliterations cannot be translated into another. Employment of an elevated diction will fail to bring out the colloquial or regional flavours. The problem and difficulty generally faced in translating a Tamil version into English is giving the certain names in English. As the Sounds of The two Languages do not synchronized always, the difficulty arises there.

In translating a prose, the translator needs a depth of knowledge of the author, his background, etc., In order to interpret what he has written. If the Translator Does not understand the meaning of the particular word, one can only Guess the meaning and translate, sometimes it may be dangerous.
The Translations of the proper names are the example of the problems of trying to render a source language system in Target Language that does not have a comparable system.

5.3. SIMILARITIES IN POEM AND PROSE

Untranslatability occurs both in poem and prose. Transliteration is employed by the translator in order to maintain their sense. Slang or informal language, consisting of words and expressions that are not considered appropriate for formal accessions, often vulgar, also complicate the translation process. The distinction between syntactical systems of the source language and target language prose problems Cultural aspects can complicate translation. As these terms cannot be omitted, the translator has given the most suitable English equivalents for cultural terms and colloquial expressions. The use of obscure jargons, a characteristic language of a particular group and obscure idiomatic expressions, whose meanings cannot be inferred from the meanings of the words that make it up also pose a problem to the translator. Transliteration only occurs in both poetry and prose when the translator find difficult in translating certain aspects.

5.4. DIFFERENCES IN PROSE AND POEMS

Geographical barriers in this is an another obstacle in translation. The readers will not understand equal terms in English as it is mentioned in Tamil words. It will be unfamiliar to the English reader. In translating, the translator needs a depth of knowledge of the author, his background etc in order to interpret what he has written. Whereas in poetry there is no such hardship.

5.5. SUM-UP

In this chapter the researcher brings out the comparative use of problems in translating a prose and poetry. The researcher also brings out the problems similarities and differences in translating a prose and poetry.