ABSTRACT

1. Objectives: This doctoral thesis, entitled ‘A Linguo-Cultural Study of the Processes and Problems in Literary Translation: Russian-Marathi’, presents a study of some representative translations of Russian fictional prose - novels, short stories and plays – from Russian into Marathi. It defines translations as an essentially cross cultural activity and aims at:

   a. delineating at the processes of translation at work in these translated texts through a ST-TT pair oriented translation analysis of some representative samples, and

   b. examining the role and function of the translated texts in the Marathi literary polysystem

2. Introduction: The Russian-Marathi interaction started long back in the course of history. But it was in 1932 that Russian fiction appeared in Marathi for the first time in colonial India. Since 1932, around 94 novels, 58 short-story books and 13 plays have been translated and published from Russian into Marathi in book form. However, there is a paucity of work on this important area of translation culture which can address the specific problem of translations in Russian-Marathi language pair and the role and functions of these translations. The present thesis is a modest attempt to fill this gap and a step into this almost unexplored area of research.

3. Theoretical Premises of the Study: The present thesis has sought to evolve a model of analysis on the basis of the Polysystem Theory advanced by Itamar Even-Johar and further expanded by Gideon Toury. The target and function-oriented approach that emanates from the polysystem model has enabled us to examine the discourse of translation activity from Russian into Marathi, the functional value of the translations of Russian literature in relation to the Marathi polysystem.
4. **Method of analysis** followed:

a. Contextual analysis of the selected Marathi translations of Russian literary works. It involves the study of cultural context in which the translated works have been located in Marathi literary polysystem and the various issues discussed in the context of these translations into Marathi.

b. Textual analysis of selected passages from ST-TT pair.

5. **Chapter scheme:**

   **Chapter I** reviews the Russian-Marathi translations and mentions the aims and objectives of the study. It reviews the works on translation studies in Marathi. It also reviews the authors in the Source Language (SL) selected by the Marathi literary system, the translators in the Target Language (TL), the Source Texts (ST) and the Target Texts (TT), the medium language, the publishers and the readership.

   The development of modern cultural and functional translation theories offers the feasibility of evaluating these translations in a new perspective.

   **Chapter II** makes a critical survey of various translation theories and attempts to give a theoretical framework for the research.

   Within a schematic and simplified framework, translation theories have been classified diachronically under three major categories:

   1. Traditional translation theories based on source-oriented approaches,
   2. Linguistic translation theories, and

   The modern cultural and functional translation theories have offered the feasibility of evaluating the translations under study in a new perspective.

   **CHAPTER III** focuses on the temporal framework and historical background with an aim to see how a space was created for the translations of
Russian literature in the Marathi polysystem. It throws light on the
development of India-Russia contact and the evolution of Marathi literary
system.

Keeping in view the history of development of Russian literature, we
divide the literature under study as Pre-Soviet literature (before the Socialist
revolution of 1917), Soviet literature (during 1917 to 1990) and Dissident /
Émigré literature.

**CHAPTERS IV, V and VI** analyze the Marathi translations of
Russian Novels, short stories and plays respectively in a cross-cultural
perspective. The study involves contextual as well as textual analysis of the
selected authors and texts.

6. **Findings of the study:**

The findings of this study indicate that the Russian literature covers a
vast canvas in terms of form, content, literary and aesthetic value,
significance and function in Marathi polysystem. The translations of Russian
literature did serve the primary function of building an interface in Russian
and Marathi culture. It has certainly enriched the target language and culture,
introducing the Marathi readers a new language system as well as a new
outlook, new values and new trends in thought.

The Russian literature has always been linked to the tradition of
realistic trend in Marathi literary polysystem. In terms of the initial norms, the
translations mainly show adequacy. The adaptations are comparatively less.
When situated within the target culture system, the TT reveals its role,
function and significance different than that in SL culture. There is a vast
cultural difference in the SL and TL. The ST-TT comparison shows
prominently the problem of cultural transfer tackled by various translators in
different ways.

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