CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

A translator being represented as a bilingual mediating agent between monolingual communication participants in two different language communities is left to fend for himself for want of practical tools to ease his task of translation. A translator has to play a double role, once as a decoder of the source language text and secondly as the encoder of the target language text. The review of literature surveys extensively the help offered by the literature on the subject which is very negligible. The pre-linguistic studies are more prescriptive about the quality of translation and some scanty rules are deduced from the translations executed in the past. Although there is a vast literature on the translation, an attempt has never been made to study the translation process while translating from German into Marathi, therefore, the literature on German-Marathi problems is almost nil, although few works, stories and dramas have been translated. It was felt that it would be an interesting cross-cultural study as the problems encountered will be different from those encountered while translating from German into other European languages.

The real problem of any translation lies in the selection of perfect equivalent from many available choices.
We have tried to evolve a theory of segmentation which is based on segmentation of a text from various angles like syntactics, semantics and pragmatics of the concerned languages. We did not come across much difficulty in the field of syntax because most of the grammatical categories like noun, verb, prepositions, cases etc. were common in both the languages, even then the segmentation and cultural filter come in the way. The word-building rules were also having similar operation in both the languages, however, the application of rules differed from pair of words. Further, we have tried to take into account extra-linguistic components which help in segmenting the text. The theory developed in the study can be used by the translator independently and also can be used in the class-room for teaching translation.

1.2. ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY:

We have tried to take stock of the information available on translation as science in two groups namely, pre-linguistic studies and post-linguistic studies in the second chapter. We have attempted to offer our comments on the merits and demerits at pertinent places. We tried to give more information on the post-linguistic literature with a view to impart familiarity of the linguistic problems as encountered today. The new terminology as used in the
present day linguistic studies of translations has also been explained where necessary.

In the third chapter we have compared important features of German-Marathi grammar which probably is the only attempt so far in this direction. We must immediately mention here that the comparison is not exhaustive. We consider that the translator's grammar is different from that which is required while acquiring the knowledge of German as a foreign language. A translator has already developed a certain degree of competence and the minor grammatical points have not been compared. It is felt that each topic of German Marathi grammar can be probed further for writing a research work on each of them.

We have propounded a theory of segmentation based on signal grammar, dependencies for cutting a sentence into meaningful units. In chapter IV we have reviewed here the analytical tools developed by linguistics and proved that they are inadequate and are of no direct help to a translator. We have tried to analyse the sentences keeping in view both syntactic and semantic structural components for which the said theory has been developed.

In chapter five we have made application of the theory to concrete texts. We have chosen six types of texts namely cognitive, aesthetic, creative, appellative, trivial - narrative,
informative and normative texts. It will be seen that the theory of segmentation operates and is applicable in all types of texts. Before carrying out the translations of these cohesive texts, we have translated a vast number of sentences in order of difficulty to illustrate the application of the theory.

In the end we have discussed the theoretical and practical implications of the segmentation theory and discussed the advantages offered by the same. We have further made concrete suggestions both for translator and the students and teachers of translation.