CHAPTER - 1

INTRODUCTION
1.0 Introduction
Translation of a literary text is a complex activity. Recent globalisation has created a need for a qualitative translation. In a way, it is a medium of cultural communication. It fosters understanding of other cultures, and thus, narrows down the barriers. In this way the world comes closer.

Translation is more of an art and less of a science, therefore, every translator has to develop his / her own strategies to fill up the cultural gaps between two languages and cultures. It may vary according to the type of the text, purpose of translation, and the target audience. And that’s why, Brower (1959:233) notes: “Translation from one language to another substitutes the message in some other language. Such a translation recedes and transmits a message received from another source. Thus translation involves two equivalent messages in two different codes.”

1.1: Translation as a Socio-Cultural Activity

Literature is often considered as the mirror of the society. And so the aim of literary translation should be “a successful translation” of the culture too. The translator should have a thorough association with and the understanding not only of the SL (Source Language) and TL (Target Language) but of the source and target cultures as well. With culture, it has also to carry forward the sense, emotional appeal, and the connotations of the original work. Newmark comments, “All the translations must be in some degree communicative and semantic, social and individual. It is a matter of difference of emphasis” (Newmark 1982:62)
1.2: A Bird’s View of Gujarati Language and Literature

Gujarati, though geographically confined to a limited area, is undoubtedly, a potential and important language of India. It is prosperous, expressive, rhetorical and richly embedded in Sanskrit/Indian tradition. Gujarati literature is strong in thematic concerns having universal appeal.

Gujarati literature has acquired national recognition and now, it is time to put it on an international map, to which we can call a global / cultural give and take. Up to now, especially in the field of translation, the procedure was one sided only. It means Gujarati literature had stood at the receiving end only. But now we are on equal footing. A lot of Gujarati literature is already translated in many national and international languages.

Gujarati writers have expressed their views, attitudes, beliefs, and experiences in a very appealing way. Some of the authors have shown a special focus on the feministic problems. They have subtle outlooks and expressions. They have tried to put forward the motives of life by probing into the psyche of female characters. Their works are loaded with the anguish, pain, misery, gloom, helplessness... and what not! Their characters, especially, women, represent on a wider scale a gender sensibility and the conditions of the Indian women belonging to various social strata and cultures. Translation of these works can amplify the voice of the typical Gujarati / Indian people, especially women in the present society. It may be a step towards cultural interaction, and our literature and culture can pave its way in an international language.
1.3 Objectives of the Study

The major objectives of the study are:

1.3.1: To Select Some Gujarati Short Stories of Different Writers Focusing on Feminism

Now it is very clear that translation is an accepted academic discipline. We have already got a lot of theoretical works ready, but ultimately translation is largely dependent. It is not possible to discuss theories of translation in absence of some strong grounding in the first hand experience. So some Gujarati short stories of different female writers have been selected focusing on feminism.

1.3.2: To Select and Develop Translation Techniques/Strategies for Translating Gujarati Short Stories into English

The genre of short story in Gujarati has not received the attention of translators that it deserves. One of the major reasons for this may be lack of proper translations. To inspire and encourage more and more translators, it is necessary to develop various techniques and strategies for translating Guajarati short stories into English.

1.3.3: To Translate Selected Gujarati Short Stories Focusing on Feminism:

Gujarati short stories reflect a variety of subjects with significant variations in theme and form. Certain stories are especially feminist
with minute and typical feministic feelings. Women have their own world of emotions and sentiments. Their reactions are also specific. The stories are selected with special care and attention. Each story highlights a different category of woman with her specific reactions and mentality. Together, perhaps these stories are able to create a wholesome image of various Gujarati women. And this image of women with their attitudes and feelings are to be translated into English.

1.3.4: To Apply and Examine Certain Translation Theories for Translating Gujarati Short Stories

It is one thing to read and understand the theories of translation. And it is altogether different thing to apply it and test it while making actual translation. So it is one of the major objectives that after studying the theory of translation, to utilize it and test it for translating Gujarati short stories.

1.3.5: To Study Problems and Challenges in Translating Gujarati Short Stories into English

After applying the theory of translation, and translating the selected Gujarati stories into English; it is also one of the objectives to sort out various problems and challenges in translation.

1.3.6: To Study the Effectiveness of Translation in Communicating The Feelings, Cultural Shades and Rhythm in Foreign Language

Every language is culture specific. It means language is deeply rooted in the culture of its speakers. And the language of literature is not objective.
It carries with it some deep rooted cultural, emotional and sentimental meanings. It is challenging to translate this connotation hidden in the words. So, it is interesting to study how far a translator can preserve this effectiveness of hidden meanings, feelings, cultural shades and rhythm in a foreign language.

1.3.7: To Make Suggestions for an Effective Translation of Gujarati Short Stories into English

After making the experiments in translation, it is the objective to make suggestions for an effective translation. However, translation is not a mechanical activity, and the same strategy or technique may not be applicable to another story; yet some suggestions would surely help for a more effective translation.

1.4: Statement of the Problem

The study covers the translations of some selected Gujarati short-stories having the elements of feminism. It also studies the various problems faced during the process of translation. It also discusses the major theories of feminism and the process of translation. So the problem is stated as-

A STUDY OF THE ISSUES IN TRANSLATING SOME GUJARATI SHORT STORIES REPRESENTING FEMINISM
1.5: Definition of Terms

1.5.1: Translation

In simple way, translation means translating each and every word from SL to TL. But especially, in the reference to the literacy text, it is a very complex procedure. Not only words, but even the expressions, connotations, associations of a word, and the culture- all these are to be translated. Translation is a transformation of the cultural discourse Therefore some change is inevitable.

1.5.2: The Issues

As we have discussed, the exact translation of a literary text is not possible. It is a complex procedure, and so, the issues are bound to take place such as:

(a) The settings of the target culture and the source culture may have a wide gap.

(b) Objects, names and practices in the source text may be unknown to the target readers.

(c) Cultural associations of a word or a practice may not be realized by the target readers.

(d) A phrase or a word may be “misunderstood” by the target readers.

(e) The novelty of images and metaphors are difficult to translate with the same effect.
(f) Peculiar diction and style of the source author may not be translated.

(g) All these may result into the failure to realize the intended effect.

(h) Even to find out equivalents for each and every word is not possible; especially the words like Kinship terms, forms of address, words referring to the house-hold objects, names of food items, terms referring to the building structure, or terms associated with cultural practices etc.

1.5.3: Gujarati Short Story

The short story is comparatively recent development in literature. It is not merely a shortened novel, though it has some constituents namely plot, characters and setting. But each has to be reduced to the minimum in the interest of the impression they are together intended to convey. The success of a good short story is hidden in the “final impression” it creates. The language of a short story should be a model of economy. Every word should contribute its effect.

Gujarati literature is quite rich in this field of short stories. We have got so many authors writing on various themes like- the rural culture, the life – style of the backward class, or the feministic approach etc. Gujarati short stories reflect the variety of life- its impact and its attitudes- especially with the local colours ; and yet, they are highly universal in effect.
1.5.4: Feminism

Broadly speaking, feminism is the advocacy of the rights of women. But, different from many other ideologies feminism is not based on any single, particular principle. And so no single accepted definition can be given. Feminism encompasses agitation for political and legal rights, equal opportunities, sexual autonomy and rights of self determination.

1.6 : Rationale

To translate a literary text is really challenging. And recently the globalization has created a need for good translations. In a way it is a way of cultural give and take. Secondly, translation is not a science; it is more an art. It is really challenging to translate one culture into another language. Every language is closely connected with its culture and it is quite possible that certain ideas and emotions would not find proper expression in another language; so, every translator must develop his or her own methodology or techniques to solve this problem. Gujarati is a potential and important language. Gujarati writers have expressed their views attitudes, beliefs, experiences in a very appealing way.

Their works are loaded with the anguish, pain and a variety of different feelings. Their women characters overall represent the condition of women belonging to various social status and positions. This study was taken into hand with a view to highlight this condition of women in present time. Secondly this study was also undertaken with a view to study the challenges and problems one may face in translating Gujarati short-stories in to English. It throws light on recent interest in translation studies-as a discipline. It also makes a research on how Gujarati language
creates challenges for English language. It tries to device necessary techniques for translation. Further, it also throws light on how a peculiar theme 'feminism' is expressed through Gujarati language, and when it is translated into English, what are its specific problems regarding themes, expressions, emotions etc.

1.7: Research Questions

1. What do we mean by ‘translation’?

2. What are the effective strategies for a good translation?

3. What types of problems and issues are focused during translation?

4. To what extent, can meaning and expression be translated?

5. What is untranslatability?

6. What purpose will be served by the translation of the stories with feminist elements?

1.8: Scope of the Study

Some Gujarati short stories of the leading Gujarati female writers are selected focusing on ‘feminism’ for the translation in English. The stories are:

1) “Dikari nu dhan” – Dhiruben Patel

2) “Sarika Pinjarastha” – Saroj Pathak

3) “Nyay” – Kundanika Kapadia
4) “Shiro” – Varsha Adalja

5) “Abhinandan” – Bindu Bhatt

6) “Itara” – Himanshi Shelat

The issues while translating these stories would be discussed, such as

(a) The potential of Gujarati language in conveying culturally loaded expressions.

(b) Contemporary theories of translation.

(c) Feminism- as reflected in various life situations.

1.9: Significance of the Study

The study covers the discussion of the techniques / strategies; the problems and solutions; untranslatability etc. While translating the representative Gujarati short stories focusing on feminism; along with the model translations of these stories, so the study will be useful to various users like translators, readers and the international readers of Gujarati literature.

1.10: Procedure of the Study

1. To study ‘Feminism’-major elements of feminism, history of feminism etc.

2. To read various Gujarati short-stories having elements of feminism.
3. Selecting some short stories contain various view-points of feminism.

4. To study basic theory of translation.

5. Translating the selected short stories.

6. Defining the problems in translation at various levels like-
   - cultural level
   - emotional level
   - linguistic level

7. Revising the translations.

8. To have some experts’ opinions about the appropriateness of translations.


10. To derive guidelines for translating short stories having feministic elements.

11. To review the research studies in translation of Gujarati short stories or novels.

12. To study the techniques used in the efforts done in past in translating Gujarati short stories into English.
1.11 Scheme of Presentation

The study is divided into five chapters

1) Introduction

2) Review of the related Literature

3) Challenges, Problems and Issues in Translation

4) Feminist Elements and Problems of Translation

5) Summery, Observatories, Corulusions and Recommendation

The first chapter briefly overviews the activity of translation of Gujarati short stories into English. The second chapter is the review of various theories of translation. It also briefly highlights the history of translation works and theories, and also focuses on various modern and post-modern theories of translation. The second chapter also discusses the views of the critics on feminism. The third chapter discusses the actual problems faced out by the researcher while translating the stories. It examines the changes involved in the translation and also points out the untranslatability. The fourth chapter highlights the various feminist feelings and attitudes as reflected in these selected stories. It also points out the problems arising while translating these minute and delicate feminist elements in these stories. The final chapter concludes the study and tries to give generalized observations on the issues raised and discussed in the previous chapters.
Above all, the major issues discussed are

(a) The potentiality of Gujarati language in conveying culturally loaded expressions

(b) Contemporary theories of translation

(c) Feminism – as reflected in various life – situations