Chapter - 5

Summary, Observations, Conclusions and Recommendations
5.0 Introduction

As it has been frequently observed translation is recreation of the original text there are conflicting tendencies observed in the field of translation at present. On the one hand it is claimed that the translations have their own existence and are independent of everything. On the other hand, it is a general practice to compare the translation with the original. Ultimately it can be stated that to translate is to pass through the labyrinth of cultural grid and come out of it with a finished product like a scientific compound, with its own qualities and attributes.

5.1 Summary of the Study

5.1.1. 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. 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 these problem. Gujarati is a potential and important language. Gujarati writers have expressed their views attitudes, beliefs, experiences in a very appealing way.

The works of Gujarati writers are loaded with anguish, pain and a variety of different feelings. Their women characters represent the condition of women belonging to various social levels and positions. This study was taken into
hand with a view to highlight the 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 into 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 the theme of 'feminism' is expressed through Gujarati language, and when it is translated into English, what are its specific problems regarding themes, expressions, emotions etc.

5.1.2 Objectives

The major objectives of the study are

- To select some Gujarati short-stories of different writers focusing on feminism.
- To select and develop translation techniques/strategies for translating Gujarati short-stories into English.
- To translate selected Gujarati short-stories focusing on feminism.
- To apply and examine certain translation theories for translating Gujarati short-stories.
- To study problems and challenges in translating Gujarati short-stories into English.
- To study the effectiveness of translation in communicating the meaning, feelings, cultural shades and rhythm in foreign language.
- To make suggestions for an effective translation of Gujarati short-stories into English.
5.1.3 Scope of the Study

The study focuses on the process of translation, and it also throws light on the problems faced during this process of translation. Further, it also discusses the major theories of 'feminism' and process of translation.

The issues while translating these stories were discussed such as:

- potentiality of Gujarati language in conveying culturally loaded expressions, contemporary theories of translation
- different types of problems faced during the process of translation
- feminism as reflected in various life situations and the problems to translate these typical feministic situations and feelings etc.

5.1.4 Selection Of The Stories

The following stories were selected for translation.

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 stories were selected very carefully. Each story represents a typical woman but each woman is, apart from being an individual, representative of a specific class of society. The problems faced by each and every woman are different and their reactions to the problems are also different. Sometimes they are revolutionary like Radha (Nyay-Justice) and Kusum (Shiro); while sometimes they are suppressed totally, like Sarika (Sarika Pinjarastha -The encaged sarika) or Shakuntala (Dikari nu Dhan-Daughter's property). The rest two stories - Abhinandan (Congratulation) and 'Itara' (The other woman 'Itara') reflect women with a different angle. In short all the stories together try to capture a multi-dimensional reflection of womanhood.

5.1.5 Procedure of the Study

It was really a challenging task to translate the stories from Gujarati to English. For that a procedure was designed and accordingly it was followed.

In nut-shell, the procedure was as following

1. A general study of feminism was made in which major elements of feminism, history of feminism etc. were studied in detail.

2. A detailed reading of Gujarati short-stories representing feminism was made and six stories with various view-points representing feminism were selected.

3. Before starting the translation, a general study of various theories of translation was made, and the opinions and suggestions of various critics were considered and organized with proper sub-headings in chapter no. 2
4. Actual translations of the selected stories were done.

5. While translating, the problems raised at various levels were studied, and for that the solutions were thought.

6. The translations were revised once again.

7. Opinions of some experts were taken about the appropriateness of translations.

8. Suggestions were made for future translations of Gujarati short-stories.

5.2 Observations

5.2.1 Scenario of Translation

From the very beginning translation is considered to be a complex activity. It has posed a lot of problems. Even before serious translation started in England, there was what can be called a native tradition of translation in France. From then, the discussion over translation is going on. Various critics have worked over it and had given various notions and ideas regarding it. But there has been a very strong assertion of the individuality of the translation in the twentieth century. The translator is no longer required to translate the original word by word. On the other hand he is respected as creative writer. And to be sure, translation is bound to play a very crucial role in the years to come.
5.2.2. Feminism in Gujarati Literature

Literature is the reflection of society. Religion, culture and society all these three factors are mainly responsible to decide the position of a woman. The feminist movements have brought a great change in the social condition of a woman through these selected stories, we get the reflection well of the changing role and condition of the woman after these feminist movements; and also it throws light on how much literature is successful in capturing this new image of woman specifically in Indian traditional society.

Secondly, it is also important to discuss the new themes added to literature by feminism. The feminist movements have brought about a remarkable change in the social condition of a woman. In Gujarati literature also, there is a conscious attempt to capture the image of the new woman changing from the 7th decade to twentieth century. Through these selected stories, an attempt is made to highlight the complex picture of the woman in these changing situations at various levels.

5.2.3 Special Features of Narration and Expressions

Each and every author has got a typical style. And it is difficult to re-create the same style. The narrative style in Gujarati has got special sentence structures; e.g. sometimes the sentence begins without subject; or sometimes a routine past is used. In English such types of patterns do not exist, and so the style of narration differs. Some deepest expressions also do not find equally expressed into English.
Style is dependent on the speaker's attitude to life in general and to the person addressed in particulars. It may also reflect the speaker's status, personality etc. In any literary work there can be characters who speak in a formal colloquial or intimate manner. A skillful translator will be able to distinguish the style of a speaker easily and can make him speak in the same style in the translation also.

5.2.4 Developing Translation Devices

Translation is just like a hurdle-race where one has to face a lot of difficulties. Every translator encounters certain problems when he undertakes to translate a literacy work. And every time, using the individual intuitive power and knowledge, one has to solve the problems. However, certain strategies like borrowing, definition, literally translation, using substitutions, new lexical creations, transliteration, omission, addition transcription etc. can be suggested. Sometimes certain words are untranslatable. Names of dress, dishes or household items are generally passed into other languages as borrowed terms. Many of these methods can be used in combination as well. For example, borrowing and definition, transliteration and giving notes etc. Ultimately, the translator himself has to choose his own way. He is the law-maker of the work when he translates it.

5.3 Conclusions

At the end of this study, certain conclusions can be derived, such as
5.3.1 Understanding and Interpreting the Text

The greatest problem for a translator is to sustain the right mood, tone, purpose, feelings and sense of the original writer. Languages are culture-specific. So it is not possible to re-create the same culture into a foreign language. But a good translator can produce the ‘echo’ of the original. But to re-create this ‘echo’, the exact understanding and interpreting the original text is very essential.

5.3.2 Elements of Feminism in Selected Stories

Due to feministic movements, women are changed; but the male-mentality is the same. So, now the women are facing a greater conflict. These selected short-stories reflect the women fighting at two levels- at home, and against the world. These Gujarati short-stories narrate the passion and impulses of the women-sometimes tired, sometimes accepting the defeat, and sometimes revolting. But overall all these stories can capture the reflection of the changing women with the different shades of their personalities, problems, exploitations and revolutions. Gujarati, short-stories have given voice to the problems as well as all the complexities of her inner psychology. Now, she faces a greater conflict against society as she herself is now aware about the injustices done to her. Yet, she still has enough coverage to fight against society. But these stories together try to put a wholesome picture of womanhood in front of society.
5.3.3 Challenges Posed by Cultural Dimensions and their Solutions

Literature is the outcome of specific culture. And culture is closely connected with the language too. So, when we transfer one culture to another language, it creates various problems at different levels. Ecology of every society may be different. The names of flora, fauna, geographical features etc. may not find equivalent terms in TL. So they must be kept as they are with foot-notes or proper explanations. The material culture names of food-items, clothes, housing, transport etc. also may not find exact equivalents. In the same way, social culture-customs, ideas, relations etc. may not be the descriptions of non-verbal communication like facial expressions or gestures. It is not necessary that the same gesture may convey the same meaning in another culture. The translator must be very careful about this too. Proper names and nick-names also cannot be translated. Such cultural problems are always there, and these must be solved properly. Cultural un-translatability occurs because of the difference in SL and TL. However, languages of the same family may not face this problem. Yet, even in such situation, translation can be made only loosely. But the problems are greater when the cultures of SL and TL are totally different; as it happens here. The rural Gujarati culture doesn’t suit English language; and so certain expressions must look odd. Such expressions can be omitted, or simplified when translated into English.
5.3.4 Challenges Posed by Idioms, Proverbs and Local References

‘Idioms’ is a language variety, which is related to the personal identity of the speaker. Idiomatic expressions may have dialectical touch. Dialects can be geographical, temporal or social. All these language varieties test the potential of the translator. It is almost impossible to reproduce this special dialect in TL. He uses the standard language most of the time leaving the special effect. However, he can make the readers conscious of the difference in the verbal competence of the speaker by using ellipses, wrong pronunciations, faltering etc. This method if used carefully, can impart some effect.

Idioms, proverbs and metaphor are specific problems of localized situations. A translator has to be thorough with the localized situations in SL. In such a context, the translator reports to a “created substitute”. Proverbs also have a local touch and only a creative substitute can solve the problem.

5.3.5 Challenges Posed by Narrative Techniques and Diction

Narrative style or diction of the writer is the combination of Idiolect, dialect, register with his own style. Style reflects the writer’s attitude to life in general, and the speaker’s attitudes, beliefs, status, personality- in particular. So it is a challenge for the translator to manage at these two levels. The translator at particular situations must make changes in diction. A skillful translator, perhaps, would be able to distinguish the style of a speaker easily and can make him speak in the same style in translation also.
5.3.6 Challenges Posed by Tone and Innate Intentions

Certain extra lingual items like tone and punctuations are also quite significant. The same expression may give even directly antithetical meaning, if the tone is ironical or satirical. Therefore it is the job of the translator to analyse the tone of SL text.

5.3.7 Challenges Posed by Selection of Words and Names

Sometimes, words are used with significant functions. e.g. Certain names and nicknames like “Sarika” or “Kusum” are intentionally chosen to convey specific meaning. When a word has a significant function in a given culture, it is difficult to translate. Sometimes, the use of some meaningless words also causes problems. The use of homonyms and polysemic words create a big problem for the translator. The same is the problem when he translates slangs, abstract, terms, derogatory words, colloquial words and words which carry extra sentiments and emotions. To find the absolute equivalent of such words in another language is almost an impossible task. In such situation, the translator should look for the feeling of the speaker along with the meaning of the word.

5.4 Recommendations

5.4.1 Translation in General

In general, translation procedure can be of two types- (i) technical, and (ii) organizational. In technical procedure, first of all the text is analyzed and a thorough study of the SL text is made before making attempts to translate it. Then, the judgments should be made about its semantic and syntactic approximations.
In organizational procedure constant re-evaluation of the attempts made are necessary. It can be compared with other existing translations too of the same text. Its communicative effectiveness can be checked by asking reactions of the target language readers.

5.4.2 Translation of Gujarati Fiction

It is comparatively easy to translate into mother tongue from other language; but it is really difficult to translate the story from mother tongue to any other language. The translator must have excellent command over both the languages. The translation should not look completely ‘domesticated’, not is should seem to be completely foreign. In Gujarati stories, certain slang words or idioms are really challenging to be translated. At such time, the role of the translator is very crucial, and he must have command over both these languages.

5.4.3 Translation of Special/Characteristic Expressions

Certain specific expressions are culture-specific. e.g. a typical gestures-postures may convey some other meaning to the TL readers. So, a translator must be very careful while translating such lines expressing body-language. Sometimes, the expressions of the deepest experiences are also challenging to translate. In such a situation, the translator must have adequate knowledge of not only both the languages, but also of both cultures. If the same expression would mean something different in TL culture, it would be better to write the meaning or explanation; or the expression can be changed also.
5.4.4 Framing New Devices/Techniques

After analyzing the SL, while translating it, the translator faces a lot of problems. Each translator solves these problems differently. Certain devices or techniques can be suggested while translation; such as-

Making up a new word, explaining the meaning of the SL expression, preserving the SL term intact with explanations, or foot-notes etc. are the techniques generally used. If the term is formally transparent or explained before, it may be used alone. The other techniques like borrowing, defining, substitution, lexical creation, transliteration, omission, addition, transcreation etc. also can be formed.

5.4.5 My Learning Experience

For many years, translation is one of my favorite activities. And that’s why I have chosen this specific subject for my research work. However, after completing the work, I come to know that translation is not as easy as I used to believe to do. Literary translation demands a lot of creativity on your part. It demands complete involvement with the original story, characters, experiences and feelings. After realizing this hidden sense and tone, it is equally challenging to re-create it in a foreign language. So many times, it seems so odd to reproduce the Indian-Gujarati culture into English language. And yet, there is no way out.

Feminism is yet another field of my interest. It was really interesting to read a lot of stories with feminist elements. It gave me a chance to have a broad vision about the mentality of the Indian women. And thus, the study was really interesting.
5.5 Conclusion

Ultimately it can be concluded that a good translation must produce the same or at least similar effects on the target readers. Secondly a competent translator should not deprive the TL reader of enjoying the story, in the name of fidelity. Translation should be close to the original as far as possible; yet the translator can have certain freedom to make changes according to his/her requirement. In short translation should not look like ‘translation’ only, and yet, it should create the same tone, feeling and experiences. So the role of the translator is really crucial, and no final strategy or method is possible. Ultimately it is a creative process; and translator himself/herself must find out the solutions for the problems.