PREFACE

It is an established fact that the world needs translations. And we can’t even imagine how the world would have been without translations. The contribution of translations to the development of human race is acknowledged without a protest. The significance of translations is more evident in a multilingual country like India with so many cultures. Even in the context of globalisation, the necessity of translations is felt more than ever before.

The Telugu literature has its presence since the age of Nannayya who translated Mahabharatha into Telugu and subsequently the great writers such as Tikkanna, Sreenatha, enriched the Telugu language with their masterpieces. From their period to the Modern writers such as Sri Sri, Viswanatha satynarayana, Chalam, Buchibabu, there has been no dearth of great writers in the Telugu literary field. But their works are confined to a region. It is obvious that Telugu literature also deserves a place in world literatures. To prove the point Palgummi Padmaraju’s ‘gaaliwaana’ (Cyclone) won the second prize in the prestigious Herald-Tribune sponsored short story competition in 1952. It so happened that the writer knew English and could translate his own work. Unfortunately many good vernacular writers have no knowledge of English. It is so pathetic that many great works in the Indian vernacular languages go unnoticed; on the other hand, a few western mediocre writers are received with admiration. The world is not aware of even a fraction of the treasure of literature that is hidden in the vernaculars. And it is the solemn responsibility of a translator, either professional or amateur, to expose the rich wealth of literature to the rest of the world.
That untranslatability is accepted but still attempts should be made, else the great works may remain in dark forever. So the need of the hour is not aiming at a perfect, infallible translation but one that introduces the literary work to the non-Telugus and it is good as long as we do not feel the need of a fresh translation. Under these circumstances I happened to attend a few seminars and workshops of translations where academic attempts are made to understand the theory of translation. Then I felt that I should take up a study of translation process so that I can better my own skills of translation. Prof. M.Kumaraswamy Raju, who happened to be my teacher at the university and being himself a translator, encouraged me and suggested this topic. In fact he compelled me to translate a few literary works and get them published before I take up this academic assignment. Consequently I have translated a few stories and I have selected a few of them for my study. So the main focus of this thesis is on the practical problems a translator encounters and how the problem of non-equivalence can be tackled. Theories are not always helpful but a systematic practical approach is what is needed now. However a few theories are also examined but the chief objective of this thesis is to identify the major aspects of translation process that cause untranslatability.

This thesis entitled 'Translating Telugu Literature into English: A Study of Some Aspects' has ten chapters. In the First Chapter attempts are made to define the process of translation and a brief history of translation is mentioned. I have examined a few major theories of translations in the Second Chapter. In the Third Chapter the features of the Telugu language are described briefly and the transliteration symbols used in this thesis for Telugu texts are furnished. The Readers' role in translation is examined in the Fourth Chapter and the alternative principles of translation offered by
Savory are scrutinized with reference to a few practical examples in translating Telugu texts into English. The readers are categorized into groups and the right type of translation that caters to them is identified. In the Chapters 5 & 6, the translations of two Telugu novels, Puppets and He Conquered the Jungle are analysed and the specific problems of translation are identified. Ranga Rao’s translation, Classic Telugu Short Stories is studied and his occasional thoughts on translation are considered in the Chapter-7. The major problem of translating humour in the play Kanyasulkam is discussed with reference to two TL texts in the Chapter-8. A few translations are selected from the Telugu short stories which I have translated into English and the strategies to overcome the practical problems involved in the translation process are discussed in the Chapter-9. In the final Chapter I have recorded the aspects of translation that cause untranslatability or non-equivalence and a note on reviewing a translation is added.