Preface

It gives me immense pleasure to see that the research which my academic supervisor, Dr. Mohd. Asim Siddiqui, encouraged me to do in late 2008 is now in its final form. Writing a preface seems to re-live the cherished memories which I enjoyed earlier.

When one opens one’s memory, it reveals pleasant things as well as things which are not so good. However, most of the memories which I have of this research have been pleasant ones, either be they related to working and writing the research or having conversations about it with my mentor, friends, family and many teachers.

But as it might have happened with most researchers, there were a few times in the beginning and towards the end of the research that I got frustrated. When I took over the task with the hope of contributing to the field of Hindi English translation, I had hardly any idea as to how I would finish the task. The absence of a stylistic model for the study of translations, and the volume of the six texts under review posed the main problem. However, the optimistic words of many, and the idea that I was writing the initial research, to my best knowledge, on the stylistic study of loss and gain in Hindi English translation helped me to continue the project. As happens in most narratives, after much struggle, I was able to frame a stylistic model and also fit that paradigm to the translations.

Towards the end of this research, the frustration mainly became synthesizing the material in the writing. Presenting the textual evidences so that they should not bore the readers was also no less a challenging task. Thankfully, my wife came to my rescue in this field.

Strange though it may appear, the research at times also affected me psychologically. When I, at times continuously for seven to nine hours, was looking for the places where the translators lose meaning, there were minor things which annoyed me immensely. At such
moments, I even scolded my siblings, and became annoyed with wife, parents and Mamaji. Looking back at those moments, I laugh at the interesting combination, and feel thankful for having these loved ones.

All is well if it ends well, as Shakespeare might have restated it. Now the research is complete, and it is like ending a conversation with someone very dearly known for three years. Now I can clearly imagine Lord Byron’s position in “When we two parted” when he says, “If I should meet thee/ After long years,/ How should I greet thee?/With silence and tears.”

Structurally, this research is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter surveys the history of translation studies in India and the West whereas the second chapter first explores available English translations of Godaan and Nirmala, and then reviews available literature on four of them. The next four chapters comparatively study Godaan and Nirmala and their four translations so as to find out where the select four translations lose and gain meaning on the devised stylistic model. Chapter III and IV are original contributions where not only a conceptual framework of the stylistic analysis is proposed but also applied to the two translations of Godaan. Chapters V and VI are an extension to Chapters III and IV. In order that they might work as an extension to what is being discussed and concluded in Chapters III and IV, they follow the same conceptual and analytical framework. They also highlight areas where the two translators of Nirmala lose and gain meaning.

Although in the analysis, I only refer to single Hindi imprints of Godaan and Nirmala, at places where the question of typographical and grammatical errors arises, I have consulted two more imprints of them by two other publishers, mentioned in the secondary sources. For those who are curious to comparatively study the translations, I have added first chapters of these texts in the appendix.
The aim of the present study is the improvement of Hindi English translation. I hope that future translators, translation theorists and scholars (and various academic programs in translation studies) will benefit from this research. Since continuation of this research is very important for the development of the emerging field of translation studies, I also hope that future researchers will continue the task.

Herein I wish to acknowledge all those who have made this project possible. First, I thank my supervisor for making this endeavor possible. I am also thankful to him for helping me emotionally with his ever encouraging words. It was always nice to hear from him that I write very well. Prof. A. R. Kidwai (and many other teachers), Department of English, AMU, also provided this kind of support.

I am also thankful to Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Chairperson, Department of Hindi, Sri Varshney College, Aligarh, who helped me anytime I had queries about the Hindi texts. In the beginning of my research, I also had a few sessions with Prof. Pradeep Saxena (who also remained available during the research), Dr. Ashutosh Kumar (now in Delhi University) and Mr. Ajay Bisariya of the Department of Hindi, AMU. I am also thankful of them.

During my Fulbright year, I had the privilege of two meetings with Prof. Tom Beebee, Department of Comparative Literature, Pennsylvania State University, USA. These two meeting were very helpful, and it is he who suggested to parallel Chapters V and VI against Chapters III and IV. I am thankful of him too.

Without the help of many libraries and the persons who made that help possible, this research would never have been possible. Hence, I extend my gratitude to the staff of the libraries of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh; Pennsylvania State University, USA; Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Delhi University, Delhi; Maulana Azad National Urdu University,
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Finally, I am also obliged to all who have not been named here but, on different occasions, have assisted me in one way or another. I keep them all in my thoughts.

Tota Ram Gautam

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