

## **Avenues and Opportunities of Translation Studies**

**K.S. Saradhambal**

*Assistant Professor and Head, Department of English, Sri Vasavi College, Erode*

---

**Abstract:** *Translation has developed into an independent discipline over the years. Opportunities galore this field particularly in this modern technologically advanced world. The present study tries to bring out the avenues and the opportunities in the field of translation for the future aspirants of the field. Awareness of the career options and qualification necessary to take up translation as a profession becomes pertinent. Hence, to take up translation as a full time career or as a part time vocation depend on the individuals flare for the different fields of translation. Business avenues with global technologies along with the new communication channels provide an ever widening scope for the future translators. It is high time that the education field should provide sources from basic to the advanced level to make this field of translation more of utility, thereby providing the knowledge of any indigenous nature to a global one.*

**Key Words:** *translation avenues, career options, National Translation Mission, literary translation, technical translation.*

---

### **I. Introduction**

Translation has helped to knit India together as a nation throughout its history. It brought, and still brings languages closer to one another and introduces to one another diverse modes of imagination and perception and various regional cultures thus linking lands and communities together. Ideas and concepts like 'Indian literature', 'Indian culture', 'Indian philosophy' and 'Indian knowledge systems' would have been impossible in the absence of translations. Translation also plays a role in extending the scope of language and reframing the boundaries. New terms and coinages necessitated by translation create new vocabulary and contribute to greater expression. One thus learns not only to understand foreign literature and philosophy through the mother-tongue, but also to speak about modern knowledge in the regional language.

Translation strengthens democracy by establishing equality among different languages and questioning the hegemony of some over the others as it proves that all ideas and experiences can be expressed in all languages and they are exchangeable in spite of their uniqueness. It also enables the weaker sections of the society to be heard as they can speak in their own dialects or languages and then get translated into other languages that are more widely spoken and understood. Thus translated works contributes to the empowerment of the marginalised or underprivileged sections like the Poor, Women, Dalits, Tribals, Minorities, the Disabled and others.

Translation also helps fight colonial prejudices by translating indigenous works of literature and knowledge into English, The colonised proved to the world that the coloniser is in no way superior to us as we too have a long history of great writing and research. The British had translated from India only what suited their taste, but now the empire is writing back, telling them what they have to read to understand our peoples and cultures, thus changing their old 'orientalist' conceptions of India.No doubt translation also promotes the growth of indigenous literature and knowledge by bringing into local languages the great wealth of other literatures and cultures. By translating masterpieces from other Indian languages as also from foreign ones enrich local literatures. Thus occurs the development of writing standards when works of great masters of world literature like Shakespeare, Homer, Dante, Vyasa, Valmiki, Kalidasa and contemporary writers from Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Kafka, Beckett, Lorca, Eliot, to Pablo Neruda, Octavio Paz and others are translated. These exchanges also create new movements and trends.

**Job Opportunity and Career prospect in Translation:** One of the career options that have been gaining importance in the wake of this technological revolution is translation. With the world shrinking into a global village, linguistic abilities are being appreciated more than ever. Translation can be a rewarding career, either as a full-time vocation or as a supplement to your writing jobs. The skills you learn as a translator - patience, attention to detail, expression, composition and can help writing enormously.

Translation should not be viewed as an activity that involves only word-by-word translation of text from one language to another. In actual practice, it involves moving the soul of a text into a different body. One of the best ways to improve ones' skills as a translator is to analyse the translation work done by other writers. This will give an idea of the level of creativity required while executing the work as a professional. Just like all other careers, it will take time to learn the craft and the business. One needs to spend the first few years of the career in learning the nuances of the craft.

The advent of the internet has helped organizations to spread their tentacles outside the home markets. As a result, there is an acute shortage of foreign language translators for handling an organization's external communication needs in overseas markets. Success, however in these markets can only be achieved by gaining an in-depth understanding of the needs of the customers, which is only possible when you have a solid translation backbone. Translation is set to be a multi-billion dollar industry in the coming few decades. This is one of the reasons why many youngsters are opting for a career in translation.

There is no dearth of Jobs in translation field due to bilateral relations among countries, mushrooming of MNCs, BPOs, etc. There is also good scope of these translators in government sector. One can also associate with Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC), in Delhi for better opportunity. The package is well nourished. One can get from Rs. 10, 000 to 1 lakh. It depends upon the experience, knowledge, understanding as well sharp acumen with the latest happenings of the world. Translators do the job not on the basis of paragraphs or per page, yet they translate and charge per word. For example, translation from English to German, the company charge Rs. 3/ word. The same things happen with other languages too.

The languages which are in huge demands are German, Japanese and French. After technological revolution, translation has become a rewarding career. Overseas markets have also generated big avenues. All the Government Ministries require Junior Translators, Senior Translators, Subject Experts and Assistant Director (for official languages). Criteria for Translation: The candidates should have fluency and command over at least in two languages and have a flare of writing. To get admission in good university and colleges, graduation is must. For good translation, one has to go into the soul of the content. Translated works of experts serve as a good guide. While enrolling in part-time language courses is a good option, acquiring a degree in the language of your choice goes a long way in launching your career as a translator. Universities such as the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) as well as University of Pune offer graduate and postgraduate courses in various foreign languages. Although companies prefer hiring translators with a degree in translation, such courses are still few and far between.

There are two main types of translators: translators who work with anything written or published, and interpreters, who listen and translate a voice as it is being spoken. Translators may work on software, internet related materials or a variety of documents, including legal, business-related, technical, or "literary" texts, and is generally paid by the word. Interpreters are normally paid by the hour at business conferences, courts or government proceedings. Simultaneous interpreting is probably the most difficult discipline of translation as the interpreters need to be highly trained and fluent to interpret the voice of the speaker in real time. While interpreters can find their profession very challenging, it can also be quite tedious churning through word after word of, for example, technical texts. Translators, on the other hand, have significant advantages in that they have time to polish their final product revising their translations with dictionaries, glossaries and other reference tools. A variety of working environments exist for translators such as various translation environments for software translation and website translation that include translation memories and glossaries. It can often take significant training for the translator to get fully up to speed with these tools.

Colleges Offering UG/PG/Other Courses: Several institutions in India are now offering programs to learn foreign language, which opens up the opportunity of working as language translators in India. Some of the prominent institutions are School of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi), Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages (CIEFL) (Hyderabad), Banaras Hindu University (Varanasi), University of Delhi (New Delhi), Indo - Italian Chamber of Commerce (Mumbai), Ram Krishna Mission (Kolkata), Indo-Japan Chamber Of Commerce & Industry (Chennai), Pune University (Pune) and Rajasthan University (Rajasthan).

This is an age of translations and the avenues for translators are constantly expanding. Some of these areas and vocations are: Literary translation: There are many institutions in our country and abroad dedicated to literary translation. Translating foreign literature into Indian languages, Indian literature into foreign languages and Indian literature in one language into other Indian languages are all gainful activities in every sense. SahityaAkademi, National Book Trust, regional literary associations and publishing houses both in English and the languages are on the lookout for capable translators.

There is a new interest in Indian literature abroad as the young non-resident Indians are eager to read their literatures in translation in the languages they know and also as foreign readers are eager to know what is happening in Indian literature. The recent literary festivals all over the world from Berlin to Jaipur and book fairs like the ones held annually at Frankfurt, Paris, London, Bologna, Abu Dhabi etc. have contributed to this rising fascination. The Government of India has also recently responded to this new interest by launching a new mission, Indian Literature Abroad (ILA). Big Indian publishing concerns like Penguin, Macmillan, Orient Longman, Oxford University Press, Harper-Collins, Hatchett etc. as well as smaller houses are encouraging translations of literary works in a big way. Our freedom struggle and later democratic struggles for change had received great impetus from the translations of the works of Victor Hugo, Tolstoy, Rousseau, Gandhi, Tagore, Emile Zola, Maupassant, Gorky, Premchand, SubramaniaBharati.

**Knowledge Translation:** The National Translation Mission, a brain-child of the National Knowledge Commission intends to translate textbooks and classical works in areas like sociology, history, geography, geology, medicine, chemistry, physics, mathematics, linguistics and political science into the Indian languages in order to raise the standard of education done in mother tongues and to render accessible current and cutting-edge knowledge so far available only in English to the rural poor and the backward sections of the society. The Commission is looking for competent translators from English into all the Indian languages and there is evident scarcity in the area.

National Translation Mission (NTM) is a Government of India initiative to make knowledge texts accessible, in all Indian languages through translation. Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore is the nodal organization for its operation. NTM intends to establish translation as an industry in the country. It promotes translators and translation activities by organizing book launches for translations, instituting prizes and fellowships, organizing Regional Festivals of Translation and book exhibitions. Updates on list of books selected for translation, experts consulted, announcement of translation assignments etc. are available for the public here. The Discussion Forum facilitates the users to discuss various topics like the books selected for translation in a subject, an existing translation, and terminology issues in Indian languages etc.

Translation and Publication of Pedagogic Material has 105 titles approved for translations in 21 disciplines. It also maintains National Register of Translators through its website. Translators can register themselves online. Lists of the most prescribed texts in Indian universities in various disciplines are generated out of the Knowledge Text Module, another major facet of NTM-databases. Over 350 Union Grants Commission (UGC) accredited universities and institutions are making use of this database. Knowledge Text Database provides complete details of the prescribed books. Dictionary of Translation Studies is also prepared by NTM intends to serve as a companion to students and scholars interested in and associated with the discipline of Translation Studies. It is a compilation of the technically charged terms used in the discipline. With an aim to train and orient translators, NTM is also organising 3 weeks Intensive Training Programme on translation studies.

**Media Translation:** The print, electronic, visual and auditory media- newspapers, magazines, radio, television, cinema etc. need plenty of translators from one language into another. Many media houses publish papers and journals or run television channels in several languages at the same time and they need quick yet communicative translations of news, serials, film scripts and programmes. Dubbing and subtitling are some other areas which are in need of translators.

With rapid globalization businesses to faraway lands to sell services and products, the need for translators is on the rise. Companies which can hire good quality translators will always be in demand by businesses that need constant translation of their documents. Languages that are in demand are French, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, German and of course, English and vast number of Indian languages. With many Indian businesses going multi-national and many global companies coming to India, the translation scenario offers lot of scope for top quality translation agencies to woo clients. Translation activities have become inherent to any business venture and the need for good translation services has seen a steady rise in the last decade or so. Small and medium companies are currently offering translation services to small, medium and large business corporations with a high percentage of service retention. In the present day circumstances when things are fast moving ahead globally, not only countries and societies need to interact with each other closely, but individuals too need to have contact with members of other communities that are spread over different parts of the world. In order to cater to these needs translation has become an important activity that satisfies individual, societal and national needs. It goes without saying that the significance and relevance of translation in our daily life is multidimensional and extensive. It is through translation all the developments in communication and technology and keep abreast of the latest discoveries in the various fields of knowledge, and also has access through translation to the literature of several languages and to the different events happening in the world. India has had close links with ancient civilisations and this interactive relationship would have been impossible without the knowledge of the various languages spoken by the different communities and nations. This is how human beings realised the importance of translation long ago. The relevance and importance of translation has increased greatly in today's fast changing world. With the growing zest for knowledge in human minds there is a great need of translation in the fields of education, science and technology, mass communication, trade and business, literature, religion, tourism and many other service sectors. Hence it is now a pertinent issue for the education sector to take up this challenge to prepare the younger generation to play a predominant role in this field.

### **Works Cited**

- [1]. <http://news.nationalpost.com/afterword/translators>
- [2]. <http://digitalllearning.eletsonline.com/2011/03/translation-its-role-and-scope-in-india-2/>
- [3]. <http://www.articlesbase.com/international-business-articles/scope-of-translation-services-in-india-7314354.html>
- [4]. <http://EzineArticles.com/753318>
- [5]. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/Translator-as-a-career-option/articleshow/12893162.cms>