



## TRANSLATION AS A...

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The writings of Munshi Premchand or even Shakespeare could not have been known to the people of the world. Also, for the welfare programmes of government or international agencies, good translation is essential for the success of these programmes and for the spread of messages they possess.

Translation has a deep relationship with the language. Though, translation kills some essence of the content but good translation sometimes enhances the essence of the content as well. It is true that one's mother tongue cannot be equated with even best of the best translation as Michel Foucault correctly said that language is not just a means of communication; rather it is a thought process. Obviously, translation does not fit well with this definition as it comes from a different thought process but it helps different civilization come together and builds bridge between them. For the same reasons many great scholars of the day have preferred to read even poorly translated content in their own language; rather than reading it in an alien language difficult to understand or move them heartily.

So what quality should a translator possess? Obviously he must be master of both languages and their traditions and also master of the subject which he translating. He should translate the feelings; not the words without tampering the facts. Moreover, he should be having more command over the language in which he is going to translate or re-produce the content.

In India with growing literacy rate and explosion of internet communication, translation is going to be much in demand. Government and non-government agencies, courts, security and diplomatic institutions as well as corporates are always in need of translators. Though, translation could be learnt through self study but there are several institutes which are providing translation degrees and diplomas which could be useful for the youth to seek employment in this sector:

#### **M.Phil. in Translation Studies**

University of Hyderabad - Centre for Applied Linguistics and Translation studies

#### **M.A. in 'Translation: Theory and Application'-University of Pune**

Max Mueller Bhavan New Delhi for German, Alliance Francaise New Delhi for French, Cervantes for Spanish and so on.

In West Bengal, Calcutta University (CU), Jadavpur University (JU) and Ramkrishna Mission offer language courses. The Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages (CIEFL) in Hyderabad also offers language courses. Many other institutions and universities in the country have been offering translation courses.

Again, a growing literacy rate in India is pushing publication houses to enter into the zone of local language translations and many global publication houses have started translation in Hindi and other national languages. Penguin and Harper Collins have entered into Hindi in a big way and they are also getting some success.

So, there are opportunities spurring up. However it is not essential that a newcomer coming into this field would get instant success. Since, there is lot of competition in a large country like ours, one should create his name first and do the work at low rate for some month. He should also be a good networking person to get constant work. Generally, foreign agencies pay well in translation and there are many websites like proz.com which provide translation work. Even many government and non-government agencies and publication houses offer translation work on regular basis. But there should be quality and timely delivery assurance.

Obviously, English to Hindi/other language or vice-versa is the main translation work happening in India but in terms of payment, Chinese, Japanese or Spanish are more paying. For example, the rate of English to Hindi translation varies from Rs 0.75 to Rs 3 per word depending upon the client, quality, deadline and reference. The same for the Chinese to English or Chinese to Hindi may vary from Rs 2 to Rs 6 per word.

Generally book publication houses pay less for a new comer, it is good to gain experience there and create his name. For students of universities it may also add to their bio data if they translate a book or article of a great author.

With the explosion of internet and social media, good translation will be in huge demand in future as the character and trend of the social media is mother tongue friendly. It has suddenly happened that people are communicating more and more in their own language rather than the languages of the professional world. The post in someone's mother language gets more hits and shares than a post in a major power language. So, internet is opening up plethora of opportunities and bringing new dimensions which have yet to be understood. Again with the world being more connected and being more decentralised, translation is the key word in this world and it will be there for sure.

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