

## METASIS – A ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON UNDERSTANDING TRANSLATION

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**Mar. 28, 2019:** Department of Languages, Literature and Aesthetics organized a one day workshop on '*Metasis*' on understanding tensions of translating and politics of translation on Wednesday, March 28, 2019. The workshop was organized especially for the students of English Minor who in the current semester study a course on Indian Literature in English Translation.

To conduct the workshop, Mr. Chirag Trivedi, a faculty in the area of Communication at Ahmedabad University was invited. His research interests lie in Identity politics in literature, Partition Literature, Dalit Literature and Culture Studies. He fondly takes to creative writing and translation of literary texts. He has translated a collection of short stories by Hansda Sowendra Shekhar into Gujarati with Dr. Rupalee Burke under the title, 'Adivasi Nachshey Nahi' (ISBN: 978-81-935210-3-8).

Ms. Niyati Trivedi first welcomed the faculty and introduced him to the students. She provided a brief understanding about the course and background of Liberal Studies students to Mr. Chirag Trivedi.

Mr. Trivedi then took forth the workshop by explaining the 'tensions' of/in translation. He clarified the difference between Literary Codes and Translatibility Codes. And how to keep a balance of both when one is engaged in the process of translation. The participants were given a pre-workshop exercise to translate the small texts. With the help of those translated texts by the student-participants, various 'tensions' were realized, identified and analyzed. It turned out to be a very engaging and an interesting way of learning. As part of this exercise, a remarkable observation was noted that all the participants translated those small texts only in English rather than selecting any other native language which opened the discussion platform on the influence of colonisation on the activity of translation and also the power-politics of the West.

Through those translated pieces, the difference between translation and trans-creation was explained in detail. Mr. Trivedi further deliberated upon various aspects such as Politics of Translation, Translatability, Trans-Creation, Readability, and Perception of the Translator. Further to enhance upon the same, activities were performed by the students to express/communicate/translate the concepts through different mediums other than the use of language. They also played game of Taboo. These activities broadened the understanding of translation from limiting it only to the level of languages.

As part of the workshop, it was realized that different channels of communication require different modes and techniques of translation, thus translation is not a singular process but an amalgamation of various diverse processes. The students were also given an opportunity to state and comment on their experience of translating while performing the activities that made the learning process intense and open. These remarks and observations also brought about various insights into the perception and stereotypes that are being performed in our everyday lives. The instructor shared views on what a translator should keep in mind before translating, how to pre-decide what he/she wants to convey through a translated text, and on the transfer of the appropriate as well as the intended meaning in the relevant context/s.

In the later part of the workshop the students were given another piece of text to translate, keeping in mind all the learning and cues as understood during the course of the workshop and to implement them accordingly. The translated texts by students were then read and were given the required remarks. Mr. Trivedi then made a presentation about some more influences on translation where the need for the reader to understand the unwritten, implied meaning was emphasised upon. The impact of the individual perception added with the societal perception (stereotypes) can create what effect was discussed.

Mr. Trivedi, at the end of the workshop, read out an excerpt '*Adivasi Nachshey Nahi*', a Gujarati translation of 'Adivasi Will Not Dance'. The text represents the lives of Adivasi women of Jharkhand, their emotional and sexual exploitation. He narrated his personal experience of the process of translating those stories and explained the difficulties he faced. He reflected upon his struggle to translate/create imageries from the source text to the target text and the impact that it produce. The workshop turned out to be an enriching experience for the students.