

National Seminar on The Literary and Linguistic Terrain of Translation

**National Seminar on
The Literary and Linguistic Terrain of Translation
(30-31 July 2010)
A Report**

Honourable Chairperson Dr. Fr. George Thadathil, Principal SCS, Dr. Irshad Ahmed, HoD, P.G. Dept. of English, Darjeeling Govt. College, Prof. Anisur Rahman, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, Prof. Ameena Ansari, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, Rev. Fr. Dr. Tomy Augustine, Rector, SCS, all the dignitaries, erudite scholars, colleagues and dear students.

We have come towards the end of the two days national seminar on *the Literary and Linguistic Terrain of Translation* (30 and 31 July 2010) organized by Salesian College Sonada, in collaboration with Darjeeling Govt. College and it was sponsored by University Grants Commission (Eastern Regional Office), Kolkata. As a seminar secretary it is my duty to present a report of the seminar. I do this task with a sense of satisfaction.

The planning of the seminar began last year. Everything was going on well. There came the possibility of series of strikes and forty days bandh in the hills. This created an unsteady situation whether the seminar would take place in Salesian

College Sonada or not. This also bewildered many of those who wanted to participate or present papers. As a result we could not get proper responses as expected from the invitees in the beginning. Many of our speakers opted to withdraw and some of them withdrew in fact. However, we managed to get a satisfactory response.

The Registration:

The registration process began at 9.30 a.m on 30 July 2010 as scheduled. The inaugural session was delayed by 20 minutes due to a mishap which shook up the organizing committee a bit. Sudden fluctuation in voltage burned up many of our equipments and electronic gadgets. It took time to make alternative arrangements as a result of which the seminar was delayed and we could begin at 10.20 a.m.

The Inaugural Session:

The programme began at 10.20 a.m. with an introduction by Bro. Amit Xess, 3yba English Honours student who was the master of ceremony for the function. The students of SCS presented a prayer dance which was followed by lighting of the lamp by Rt. Rev. Bp. Thomas D'Souza, D.D., Prof. Anisur Rahman, Dr. Fr. George Thadathil, Prof. I. G. Ahmed and Prof. Meenakshi Chakraborty. It was followed by a bhajan and the reading from the *Bhagavat Gita* and the *Bible* by the students of SCS. Dr. Fr. Joseph Pauria, Vice-Principal, SCS officially welcomed all our guests and participants. It was followed by the presidential address of Dr. Fr. Tomy Augustine, Rector, SCS. Next, the Guest of Honour, Dr. Meenakshi Chakraborty, D.O., NBU, representing NBU, addressed the audience. Prof. Anisur

Rahman, Jamia Millia Islamia, delivered the key-note address titled *Traversing a Tough Terrain: Issues in Text and Translatability* after which Rt. Rev. Bp. Thomas D'Souza, D.D., Bishop of Bagdogra Diocese and the chief guest for the day gave us his message. Dr. Fr. George Thadathil, Principal, SCS, addressed the audience and the vote of thanks was proposed by Rev. Fr. Francis Gomes, Convener, Seminar Committee, SCS. Prof. Terence Mukhia, Secretary, Seminar Committee, SCS briefed the audience about the technical sessions and made few announcements. The inaugural session ended with an orchestra piece by the brothers of SCS.

We had ten minutes of break after which the first technical session began at 12 noon.

Technical Sessions:

A total of thirteen papers were presented during the technical sessions in this national seminar. The papers were evenly distributed in four technical sessions. Three papers were presented during each technical session. The first and the second technical sessions were held on the first day and the last two were held on the second day.

Dr. Amit Bhattacharya, Dept. of English, University of Gourbanga, Malda was the chairperson for the Technical Session: I. Dr. Zinia Mitra, Nakshalbari College, presented a paper titled as *Translation: Possibilities and Limitations*. Prof. Tuhin Sanyal, Tufanganj Mahavidyalaya, Coochbehar, presented a paper on An Abstract, Though Concrete... The Literary and Linguistic Terrain of Translation, and Prof. Terence Mukhia, Campus In-charge, Salesian College Sonada, presented a paper on Translating Agamsingh Giri: Problems Re-visited. After a round of clarification and

interaction the chairperson invited a great Nepali literary figure, Dr. Jiwan Namdung, Convener, Nepali Language, Sahitya Akademi, Nepali Translator, Govt. of WB to respond.

We had lunch break of an hour and met at 2 p.m. for the second technical session in the college auditorium.

Prof. Ameena Ansari, Dept. of English, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, chaired the Technical Session: II. Prof. Indranee Ghosh, P.G. Dept. of English, Darjeeling Govt. College presented a paper on *A Few Thoughts on the Translation of Poetry*. Prof. Dipankar Sen, P.G. Dept. of English, Darjeeling, presented a paper on *Reflections on Translation and its Hierarchies*. Prof. Bishal Thapa, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, presented a paper on *The Role of Translation in Teaching English Literature*. The session was followed by clarification and interaction after which Dr. Lalita Rai Ahmed, HoD, Dept. of Nepali, Darjeeling Govt. College, gave her response.

The seminar secretary declared that the next day's session would begin at 10 a.m. The first day of the seminar ended at 3.40 p.m

Second Day:

The Technical Session: III began at 10 a.m. Mr. Peter Lepcha invited the chairperson Prof. Anisur Rahman, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the session. Prof. Ameena Ansari, HoD, Dept. of English presented a paper on *Making a Case for Translation Studies in India*. Dr. Amit Bhattacharya, Dept. of English, University of Gourbanga, presented his paper on Pre and Re-voicing: *Intra-lingual Translation as the Lure of the Standard*. Dr. Sharmila Lohini Mitra, Women's

College, Dabgram, Siliguri, presented a paper on *Debt to the Soil: Ketaki Kushari Dyson's translation of Tagore's Poems*. It was followed by clarification and interaction. Dr. Bhanu Chettri, an eminent Nepali Translator, enlightened the audience about Nepali translation.

The Technical Session: IV began at 11.40 a.m. Prof. Indranee Ghosh, Dept. of English, Darjeeling Govt. College, Darjeeling, was the chairperson. Prof. Pius Vazhappilly, Dept. of Philosophy, Assam University, Silchar Assam presented a paper on Intercultural Dynamics of Translation: A Philosophical Appraisal. Prof. Anil Pinto, Dept. of English and Media Studies presented a paper on *Reading more Intimately: An Interrogation of Translation Studies through Self-translation*. Prof. I. A. Changkija, Dept. of English, St. Antony's College, Shillong presented a paper on *A Pedagogic Observation on the Effects of Unconscious Translation in ESL Learners*. It was followed by clarification and interaction.

The Valedictory Session began at 12.30. Dr. Fr. George Thadathil, principal, SCS, was the chairperson. He introduced Prof Ahmed and dwelt upon the rationale for the choice of the theme and the inclusion of the local scholars in the project. The expected outcome of the seminar is the establishment of a Translation Centre at Salesian College is what he averred. The Valedictory Speech was delivered by Prof. I. G. Ahmed, HoD, P.G. Dept. of English, Darjeeling Govt. College. He highlighted the main threads of the seminar that took up the discussions in the literary, linguistic as well as philosophical dimensions of translation. He summed up the dynamics that operated during the seminar as a confluence of fresh thinking as well as concerns to preserve the boundaries of disciplines and literary-linguistic terrains. The session ended at 1.30 p.m.

The session was followed by the general report of the seminar by Mr. Terence Mukhia, the seminar secretary. It was followed by the vote of thanks by Rev. Fr. Francis Gomes, convener, Seminar Committee. The vote of thanks was followed by the distribution of certificates. The seminar ended at 2 p.m.

On the whole the two days national seminar on the “Linguistic and Literary Terrain of Translation” was an experience of intellectual discourse in view of arriving at practical involvement in the field of Translations.

Terence Mukhia, Department of English

