

School of Letters
Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Time Slot: Wed. and Fri. 9-11 am

Room 311-12, Administration Block

Course Code: SOL2CL109 / SLS2CL109

Title: Perspectives in Translation

Type of Course: Elective (Comparative Literature & Translation Studies)

Cohort for which it is compulsory: NA

Cohort for which it is elective: All MA programmes.

No of Credits: 4

Semester and Year Offered: WS 2018

Course Coordinator and Team: Professor Radha Chakravarty

Email of course coordinator: radha@aud.ac.in

Pre-requisites: None

Aim: The course offers a range of perspectives on translation as a dynamic field of theory and practice. It is intended to make the student aware of the historically important role of translation through the ages, as a medium of social and intellectual transformation. It also signals the subversive and interventionist potential of translation in contemporary contexts, as a ground for cross-cultural communication, negotiation of power relations in society, and the creation of an ethics of inclusiveness. Through conceptual and practical approaches to translation, the course underscores the importance of multilingualism in our world.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Module 1. Histories

In this module, students will learn to value translation through a study of the role it has played in shaping our history. The power of words to transform our lives will be the focus.

Readings (indicative only):

1. Sisir Kumar Das, *A History of Indian Literature 1911-1956: Struggle for Freedom: Triumph and Tragedy*. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 1995. 39-46, 54-60.
2. G. N. Devy, 'Translation as Origin'. In '*Of many Heroes*': *An Indian Essay in Literary Historiography*. Mumbai: Orient Longman, 1998. 152-156

Module 2. Approaches

This module addresses conceptual and practical approaches to translation, through theoretical study and practical exercises intended to draw out the student's linguistic and interpretive abilities.

Readings (indicative only):

1. Jeremy Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications*. London and New York: Routledge, 2001. [Extracts.]
2. Indra Nath Choudhuri, 'Towards an Indian Theory of Translation'. In Dorothy M. Figueira and Chandra Mohan, eds. *Literary Culture and Translation: New Aspects of Comparative Literature*. Delhi: Primus Books, 2017. 181-194.

Module 3. Crossings

This module examines translation as a way of crossing thresholds that divide society, by positing textuality as a space where difference can be negotiated. The idea is to emphasize linguistic and literary mobility across geographies, cultures, histories and identities.

Readings (indicative only):

1. M. Asaduddin, 'Translation and Indian Literature: Some Reflections'. *Translation Today*, 3: 1 & 2, 2006. 1-19
2. Diverse translations of Rabindranath Tagore's *Gitanjali*.

Module 4. Interventions

This module situates translation in the context of our world, to argue for interventionist possibilities. The subversive potential of translation is explored here, in ways that empower the translator as agent of social transformation.

Readings (indicative only):

1. Tejaswini Niranjana, 'Translation as Disruption: Post-Structuralism and the Post-Colonial Context'. In *Siting Translation: History, Poststructuralism and the Colonial Context*. Berkley: University of California Press, 1992. 163-186.

2. Homi Bhabha, 'How Newness Enters the World'. In *The Location of Culture*. London: Routledge, 1994. 212-235.
3. Pilar Godayol, 'Gender and Translation'. In *The Routledge Handbook of Translation Studies*. Ed. Carmen Millan & Francesca Bartrina. Routledge, 2013.
4. Susan Bassnett, 'Postcolonial Translations'. In *A Concise Companion to Postcolonial Literatures*. Ed. Shirley Chew and David Richards. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. 78-96.
5. H.S Shivaprakash, 'Translating the Tehsildar', in Tapan Basu, ed. *Translating Caste*. New Delhi: Katha, 2002. 122-130.

Assessment Details with weights:

For MA:

- Class participation (presentation/exercises/test/quiz/other) 20%
- Assignments 20%
- Mid semester examination 20%
- Term paper/ translation project 40%

Reading List:

Suggested readings:

- Tariq Khan, ed. *History of Translation in India*. Mysuru: National Translation Mission, 2017.
- Theo Hermans, 'Translation, Ethics, Politics'. In Jeremy Munday, ed. *The Routledge Companion to Translation Studies*. London and New York: Routledge, 2009. 93-115
- Sujit Mukherjee, *Translation as Discovery*. New Delhi: Allied Publishers, 1981.
- Lawrence Venuti, ed. *The Translation Studies Reader*. New York and London: Routledge, 2004 (2nd edition).
- Walter Benjamin, 'The Task of the Translator'. In *The Translation Studies Reader*.
- E.V. Ramakrishnan, 'Beyond Orientalist and Postcolonial Constructs: The *Telos* of Translation Studies from the Perspective of Comparative Indian Literature'. In *Literary Culture and Translation*. 206-225.
- Susan Bassnett and Harish Trivedi, eds. *Post-Colonial Translation: Theory and Practice*. London: Routledge, 1999.

Homi Bhabha, 'Foreword' to Franz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*, trans. Charles L. Markmann. New York: Grove Press, 1967.

S.N. Balagangadhara, *The Heathen in His Blindness: Asia, the West, and the Dynamic of Religion*. Leiden and London: E. J. Brill, 1993.

David Mosse, *The Saint in the Banyan Tree: Christianity and Caste Society in India*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012.

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, *Death of a Discipline*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2003.

Tejaswini Niranjana, *Siting Translation: History, Poststructuralism and the Colonial Context*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992

Alok Bhalla, 'The Politics of Translation: Manto's Partition Stories and Khalid Hasan's English Version'. *Social Scientist*, 29: 7 & 8 (Jul.-Aug. 2001). 19-38

Sherry Simon, *Gender in Translation: Cultural Identity and the Politics of Translation*. New York and London: Routledge, 1996.