



## WORLD LITERATURES IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Sri Asutosh Mallick

(Research scholar ,Berhampur University (ODISHA))



Literature is the only branch of knowledge that provides ample scope to understand people, race, religion, philosophy, ethics, history, politics and the socio-cultural life as a whole. The literatures of different countries are in different languages that remain beyond the understanding of people of other countries but, it is the translation of those literatures in other languages into English that bridged the gap between languages and cultures. English is understood by the people all over the world. Hence, it is called world language or Viswa Bhasa .

© Copyright VEDA Publication

### NEED OF TRANSLATION

#### BIBLICAL VIEW

According to the Holy Bible, Old Testament (Genesis 10:10), At the beginning all the people were one and also their language was one. When God (Jehovah) found man proud, building the tower of Babel touching the Heaven, God scattered them and babbled their speech, so they became people of different cultures and could not understand one another. Now, when these countries came in contact with one another, the linguistic problem came up. English has become the Lingua Franca.

#### MODERN VIEW

Trade and commerce and military expedition felt the need of linguistic communication because the foreign land requires the native tongue for their survival. It is to mention here that the English as a nation of shopkeepers turned the entire world their market. English were not only traders and invaders, but also lovers of art and literatures, so they translated the literatures of their conquered, into English and enriched their own literature. A few examples are given below in brief.

### TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY BIBLE IN ENGLISH

The present English Bible both Old and New Testaments is a translation from the Hebrew, Greek and Latin Bible. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, The New testament written in Greek. A Greek translation of the O.T. called 'The Septuagint' made in the 3rd century B.C. was in common use in Jesus day. The Old Testament, in the 2nd century B.C. in Old Latin was translated not from the Hebrew, but from Septuagint. This Old Testament in Old Latin was revised by Jerome in 362-404 A.D. It was called The Vulgate. It was direct from the Hebrew. It was John Wycliffe in 1382 A.D translated the Vulgate Bible into English. Now, the Bible claimed as the greatest monument in English literature.

### INDIAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Perhaps India is the only country in the world to produce the largest number of religious literature and secular literature. In secular literature only Shakespear can stand apart with Mahakavi Kalidas of India. Julius Eagling and a host of scholars translated into English all most all the Rig-Veda, Brahmins, Upanishads and the texts of Buddhism and Jainism under the generic title : 'The Sacred Books of the



East' F. MaxMuller edited all those editions , Prof. H.H. Williams translated into English "The Maha Vishnupurana" and "The Bhagabata Parana" In the modern age, The Geetanjali was translated into English by a friend of Mathew Arnold , the poet Laureate of England . It was due to English translation, the Indian epics were widely popularized.

#### **ANCIENT GREEK LITERATURE IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

The ancient epics: Odysseys and the Iliad of Homer have been translated into English. Besides, the Greek tragedies and the literary works are also translated into English by which we the non-Greeks get an opportunity to read these plays Virgil's *Aeneid* was also translated into English.

#### **URDU LITERATURE IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

The Holy Quran is the greatest monument in Urdu literature. The great Rubaiyyat of Omar Khayyam has been translated in English by the English scholar Edward Fitzgerald

#### **RUSSIAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

The contribution of Russian literature to world literature is far from comparison. It is rich in poetry , drama, novel, short stories and many other . The best of them is *Maxim Gorky* , noted for the most celebrated novel " mother" and next comes Leo Tolstoy whose novels *Anna Kariana*, *war and peace* and short stories like *A Grain as big as a Hen's Egg*. have world-wide appreciation. *Lenin in Soviet Poetry*, a English translation from Russian, published by progress publishers Moscow in 1980, is a brilliant piece in world literature.

Thus the scholars of English language have done tremendous job in translating the literature of different countries into English. Where by the people of the world have got ample opportunities to know each other.

---