



THE MAGIC OF TRANSLATION - LIFE TO LANGUAGE & LANGUAGE TO LIFE

Lanke.Subha

(Phd Research Scholar, Department Of English)



India is a land of multicultural diversity, where we have people who follow different cultures, traditions, customs, rituals, faith in god, and lot so on. The land that has had given birth to variety of these components, which we could come across through literature. We come across native writers of literature and non-native writers of literature who put forth their ideas, knowledge of society, people and their behavioral attitude of the past and the present in different forms of literature. After independent India, the rise of the importance of the foreign language i.e., English started to become the official language the literature started to develop and there is a wide spread of publications by numerous writers in all the areas of literature. So, there is gradual let down of native literature written by native writers. To enjoy the fruit of native literature by literary lovers, Translation of literature started with the great epics or philosophical script being translated in the early period to the other languages. Translation is the bridge that fills the gap between the known and the unknown, past and the present, tradition and modern.

© Copyright VEDA Publication

Translation typically has been used to transfer written or spoken texts to equivalent written or spoken texts. In general, the purpose of translation is to reproduce various kinds of texts—including religious, literary, scientific, and philosophical texts—in another language and thus making them available to wider readers. In this regard, Culler (1976) believes that languages are not nomenclatures and the concepts of one language may differ radically from those of another, since each language articulates or organizes the world differently, and languages do not simply name categories; they articulate their own (p.21-2). The conclusion likely to be drawn from what Culler (1976) writes is that one of the troublesome problems of translation is the disparity among languages. The bigger the gap between the source language and the

translating Language, the more difficult the transfer of message from the former to the latter will be.

In this article I have selected a short story written by Sujatha the pseudonym of the Tamil author S. Rangarajan, the author of over 100 novels, 250 short stories, ten books on science, ten stage plays, and a slim volume of poems. He was one of the most popular authors in Tamil literature, and a regular contributor to topical columns in Tamil periodicals such as Ananda Vikatan, Kumudam and Kalki. He had a wide readership, and served for a brief period as the editor of Kumudam, and has also composed screenplays and dialogues for several Tamil movies. The short story title is "My Name Is Andal"

Today is my birthday, born on 2000. I do not know to speak because I did attain 4 years. But I feel that soon I will be able to talk like the others. I like



chocolate very much. My name is Andal. My father chose this name without asking me. After I was born many people came to see me. Everyone called me "bujji" "ammukutti" out of fondness. They enquired my father about my star, and asked my name. My uncle asked my father, "What is the name you are going to choose for your daughter? My father said, Andal. Andala! It is a good name, but what is the name you are going to register in the school? My father told its Andal Desingh. Don't joke, its better you go for a modern name, which suits her well. Later my uncle left to the choice of my father and went away.

In a while my mother's friend came to see me. He got with her a white teddy doll from America for me. It was very cute and it laughed at me too. My mother gave her a coffee and she went to kitchen leaving me and Auntie alone in the hall. What is your name? Andal What? What is your name? Andal. All of us sudden my mother came to the hall. Auntie told my mother, "Hey, I couldn't understand what she is saying..... What's her name? Andal said my mother, what? You should be crazy. Hey come on Yeah, even in Srirangam the people are not opting this name. She also criticized on her part and went away leaving my mother in depression.

My mother's despair made her to request my father to change my name as Samjuktha. But my father didn't accept it. One day I had a severe fever, so my parents took me to the hospital. At the reception, the nurse asked my parents, "What is the child's name? my father replied Andal. What! Child's name is Andal! She exclaimed. My father angrily stressed that his daughter name is Andal to the nurse. Doctor Auntie didn't inject me, but gave a syrup and advised to give me one spoon of syrup. Doctor Auntie asked, "Baby what is your name?" Andal Oh my goodness! My name is also Andal said the doctor. Everyone was surprised. Then only we came to know the reason why the nurse had asked the name again and again.

The Iyengars' who came to my house were also surprised when they heard my name. My father felt sad, as all the people criticized or passed silly comments on my name. They don't know about the famous Andal who lived in the 9th century felt my father. Most of my relatives didn't like my name.

Everyone advised my father to change my name during my school admissions. Still the people who come to my house are shuddered when they hear my name. The only one who appreciated my father for selecting this name is my grandfather Nani. Now I know 6 Thiruppavai which my father has taught me. Sorry I forgot to tell you that tomorrow I am going to school. LKG and my name is Andal.

The present story portrays the sensitive issue of a naming a small girl. It is not a simple issue, as name is the identity for a person. Where the person goes, he/ she is identified with his/ her name. Even after death they are remembered by their name. So when a name is given it should be carefully done with the consent of both the parents. As the child would be small enough to comment on her name, it is the parents who should think again and again to name their children. Though they have a good name sometimes they are called by a pet name. So there is a chance to remember them with their pet name. Even the pet name should be a pretty one. In the above story the author heart touchingly describes the agony of a small girl who has not started to go to school. Though her name Andal is a famous name and resembles the goddess, people of the modern ages are not used to such names. That would be the reason for her mother's friend from fortunate land to comment on the girl's name. Though the father was happy in naming the girl, all their friends and relatives were not interested in the name as it didn't fit to the modern culture. This made the family and the girl distressed. The author has vividly portrayed the feelings and emotions of the girl and parents in a heart touching manner. But in translation the feelings may not be felt in the way as they were in the original text. But the readers could understand the agony of the members of the family on their daughter's name.

The technique of narration, one way can be called as the autobiographical element was included in the story. The narration from Andal herself made the story amusing. In the native languages one can understand the intense meaning of the word and the importance of it in their culture. When it comes to translation, the readers miss the importance of a tradition which is new to them. But as said earlier to enjoy the cultures and traditions of various cultures



present in the globe, one need to read the stories and understand their neighbouring cultures. Then only it would be possible for them to respect their fellow beings. For this literature helps to wide spread the traditions and cultures from one place to another than other forms of medium. So translation helps to enjoy and know the world around us.

REFERENCE

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sujatha_Rangarajan
 2. <http://translationjournal.net/journal/41culture.htm>
 3. Culler, J. (1976). *Structuralist poetics: structuralism, linguistics, and the study of literature*. Cornell: Cornell University Press.
-