

National Seminar

Perceiving Dawn of Dreams and Translating Partition

20th and 21st October, 2009

NTM, CIIL, Mysore

A two day National Seminar on “**Perceiving Dawn of Dreams and Translating Partition**” which is a part of the translation series events on “**Approaches to Translation: Indian and South Asian Perspectives**” was organized under the aegis of National Translation Mission (NTM), CIIL, Mysore where the interface between the original text *Khwabon ka Savera* and its translation *Dawn of Dreams* was thoroughly probed. There were more than 20 attendees from different parts of the country and there were 15 presentations in total. This seminar aimed to

- Look at the translation,
- Elucidate its dynamics as an object in itself,
- Analyze how adequate it is as an incarnation in the other language
- Investigate how creative a build-up it is on the original
- Examine on what lines it is a creative build-up
- Probe the relevance of various theories/streams of thought in understanding the nuances of translation
- Look into the various other questions that one could ask about translation as a phenomenon per se and see how these questions get instantiated in the empirical objects of the translation and the original on which the translation is built.
- Scrutinize the success of the translation: The problem and prospects of vernacular literature in translation with reference to *Dawn of Dreams*
- Analyse the critical evaluation of the translated text in the prevalent literary, cultural and socio-political context

The seminar began at 10:45 am with the formal announcement made by an outstanding anchor Ms. Arpita Ray, NTM personnel. The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva, Director CIIL, Mysore. Guests and gatherings were given a cordial welcome along with a brief of the novel by Dr. G. Vijayasarithi, Coordinator NTM, CIIL. Further, it was carried over by Prof. Rajesh Sachdeva, Director CIIL who shared his experience and views about the partition took place at the time of independence and encouraged the ongoing academic exercise. The Asst. Director (Administration) also addressed the gathering referring to a few other books related to partition.

Dr. P P Giridhar Head NTM gave a brief introduction of NTM and its activities. Prof. B. Sheik Ali, former Vice chancellor, Mangalore and Goa University addressed the gathering as the guest of honour and delivered a epoch-making speech on the partition referring the fictional expression of the crisis in the form of a novel *Khwabon ka Savera* written by Prof. Abdus Samad and it was followed by Dr. Javeed Nayeem’s speech on the significance of translation and the importance of communal harmony and universal brotherhood who is serving as a Director, Bibi Ayesha Milli Hospital, Mysore.

As a keynote address Prof. Zaman Azurda, Former Chairperson, Department of Urdu, University of Kashmir spoke on getting equal rights and opportunities and also on the problems of translating literary and knowledge texts.

Dr. Abdul Halim gave the vote of thanks to the inaugural session. Lunch was served to all the participants at 1.00 pm. Everyone met again for the afternoon session at 2.00 pm where the announcements were carried over by a composed anchor Mr. Avishek Sarkar who is NTM personnel.

The afternoon session was chaired by Prof. Sudhakar Marathe, HCU, Hyderabad and a joint paper written by Prof. Alladi Uma & Prof. M. Sridhar – Department of English, HCU, Hyderabad, but Prof. Alladi Uma was not present and Prof. M. Sridhar presented the paper titled “Between Being Readable and Being a Translation: A Study of *Dawn of Dreams*”. After the presentation there was an open discussion on papers. The next paper was presented by Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, CP&CAS, JNU, New Delhi titled “The Book under Review: English version *Dawn of Dreams* by Mehr Afshan Farooqi” who also said about the problems of translating religious and cultural specific terms in the novel and commented upon the jargon language of the novel and pointed out that the language is not par excellence to the standard of Urdu language to some extent. Dr. Musarrat Firdaus, Head, Department of Urdu, Women’s College, Aurangabad presented her paper titled “Synopsis of *Dawn of Dreams*” which was a general analysis of the original and translation and pointed out the problems of translating idiomatic expressions. After the two presentations, the papers were discussed and it was followed by tea break.

The second afternoon session held again at 4.00 PM and it was chaired by Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, CP&CAS, JNU, New Delhi. There were three papers. The first paper was presented by Dr. Sohail Ahmad Farooqi, Department of Urdu, Jamia Millia Islamia paper titled “Dynamics of *Dawn of Dreams* as an Object Rather than a Build up on the Original”. The next paper was presented by Dr. Ahmad Badr, Head, Department of Urdu, Karim City College; Jamshedpur titled “Language Barriers of Translating Culture with Reference to *Dawn of Dreams*” where interesting issues were discussed regarding translating the Islamic cultural terms into English and highlighted the problems related to cultural transformation of source language into target language. The last paper of the session as well as the day was of Dr. Ziyaul Hoda, Centre for Indian Languages, JNU, New Delhi who presented a paper titled “Approaches to the Translation of *Dawn of Dreams* and its Receptivity”. He examined the different approaches to the translation prevalent in the context of literary translation with reference to *Dawn of Dreams*. The chairperson Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan reviewed all these papers and allowed all these papers an open discussion and then concluded the session.

The first session of the second day held on 21st October 2009 started at 10.30 am. The session was announced by Mr. Avishek Sarkar and was chaired by Dr. Md. Rizwan Khan, Department of English, AMU, Aligarh. In this session three papers were presented. Prof. Sudhakar Marathe, Department of English, HCU, Hyderabad presented the first paper titled “Do translate but mind your Language” and said that the translation was miserable failure, It served the original Urdu novel ill, and it served the prospective reader in English very ill, indeed. The next paper was presented by Dr. K. S. Mustafa, NRLC, Punjabi University Campus, Patiala titled “Cultural Ethos and its Translation: A Critical Study with special

Reference to *Dawn of Dreams*". The paper dealt with the cultural ethos especially of Muslim community as presented in the novel and endeavoured to critically examine its translation as done in 'Dawn of dreams'. After discussing this paper Mrs. Meera Marathe, Hyderabad presented her paper titled "Dreamers and dreams in *Dawn of Dreams*" which looked the text in a different perspective describing the partition and its impact on Indian Muslims in detail. The Chair of the session Dr. Md. Rizwan Khan reviewed all these papers and invited questions and comments. The session was concluded by the Chair, Dr. Md. Rizwan Khan

After a small break for tea the next session of the day met again and the second half of the morning session was chaired by Prof. M. Sridhar, Department of English, HCU, Hyderabad who successfully carried out the session where Dr. Md. Rizwan Khan, Dept. of English, AMU, Aligarh presented his paper on "Dynamics of Translated Text: A reader – oriented Critique to *Dawn of Dreams*" wherein he gave an international readers' perspective to the translated text. The paper thus was set to explore various dynamics of the text in question like language, culture, socio-political issues, etc from the readers' point of view for making the required inferences. Much scope was added to his paper after the discussion. The second presenter was Prof. S. A. Majeed Bedar, Dept. of Urdu, Usmania University, Hyderabad, with the paper titled "Translation Techniques in Dawn of Dreams". The paper concentrated on the technical aspects of translation, which was appreciated and contributed in the discussion. The last paper of the session was presented by Dr. Ishtiaque Ahmed, CP&CAS, JNU, New Delhi, titled "Translating the cultural aspects of Dawn of Dreams: A Literary Intervention" which studied how Dawn of Dreams is different from *Khwabon ka Savera* and said that to me, despite a successful presentation of *Khwabon ka Savera* in the form of Dawn of Dreams, the original Urdu novel is still preferable. He opined that the socio-cultural ideas, ethos, notions, dreams, imaginations, culture and philosophy involved in the writings of Abdus Samad is beyond any literary translation which gave rise to a few queries and was discussed in the session.

After the three presentations lunch was served and everyone was informed to meet again at 2.00 pm. The after lunch session was chaired Prof. Zaman Azurda, Former Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Kashmir. In this session, Prof. A. R. Fatihi, Chairperson, Dept. of Linguistics, Director, CCSILC, Aligarh presented his paper titled "Towards a Pragmatic Theory of Literary Translation" which was continued with a valuable discussion. In his paper he analyzed the pragmatic and semantic dimension of the translated text and linguistic considerations and approaches to the literary translation. The next paper titled "Bridging Connections – *Dawn of Dreams*" was written by Ms. Zakya Mashhadi. She sent her paper and requested us to read in the seminar. Paper was read by Mr. Abhishek Sarkar, NTM, CIIL. The last speaker of the last session of the day was Prof. M. Gnanam, Regional Director, Central Institute of Hindi, Mysore. He presented a paper titled "Perception of Partition and its after effects: A comparison of *Dhai Ghar* and *Dawn of Dreams*."

After the tea break there was an interaction with the author of the original text *Kwabon Ka Savera*, Prof. Abdus Samad. Which was a good time and an opportunity to all of them who participated in the seminar. Many questions came from the different corners related to omission of some portion in the translated text, language problem and about his involvement as a creative fictional writer.

Immediately after meeting the author a valedictory session took place. Valedictory note was given by Prof. A. R. Fatihi and Prof. Sudhakar Marathe. Prof. A. R. Fatihi started his valedictory note with the declaration of the seminar successful and congratulated the organizers for selecting an innovative topic which is different from the hackneyed and stereotype topics. He placed Prof. Abdus Samad among the good writers after Sadat Hasan Manto, Qaratul-ain-Haider, Intizar Hussain, Khadeja Mastur, Abdullah Hussain and Hayatuallah Ansari. He added that the outcome of the Seminar is a success story of the growth of Translation Studies as a separate discipline. The subject has developed in India and is clearly destined to continue developing well today. The presentations of the seminar provide clues to believe that today Translation studies brings together work in a wide variety of fields, including linguistics, literary study, history, anthropology, psychology and economics. This seminar will reflect the breadth of work in Translation Studies and will enable scholars to share in the exciting new developments that are taking place at the present time. This was followed by conclusive remarks given by Prof. Sudhakar Marathe. At last Dr. Abdul Halim was called upon to propose a vote of thanks on this occasion.