

Core Course XI – Theory and Practice of Translation

The general aim of this course is two fold : One is to provide the student with a historical – theoretical perspective on the evolution of translation-activity and the other is to equip the student with basic requirements for practical translation activity :

The objectives are :

1. To make the student comprehend the different approaches to translation based on different theoretical perceptions.
2. To help the student perceive the significance of the linguistic communicative fibre present in the translation activity.
3. To introduce the student to the complex issues involved in equivalence - identification and rewriting.
4. To facilitate the student appreciate the culture–environmental determiners in translation.
5. To make the student get acquainted with the conceptual / practical dimensions in machine translation.
6. To make the student gain evaluative proficiency in assessing the structural and communicative merits or inadequacies of translated texts.
7. To provide the student with hands on experience on a smaller scale.

Unit I

Definitions of Translaiton

Paraphrase, transliteration, transference, transcreation and translation

History of Bible translation

Language varieties and task of translation – Phonological, lexical, grammatical & syntactic analysis.

Unit II

Concept of equivalence

Kinds of equivalence – linguistics, textual and cultural.

Problems in equivalence identification and use.

Difficulties in translation – linguistics level, formal level, cultural–social level, Ideological level.

Unit III

Types of translation – literal and free, partial, total and restricted - constraints imposed by socio-cultural contexts - Translatability and limits of translation - Machine Translation.

Translation of scientific texts – terminology, syntax.

Unit IV

Study and assessment of translations: Tamil to English : A.K. Ramanujan's Interior Landscape.

English to Tamil : Desika Vinayakam Pillay's translation of Fitzgerald's Omarkayam.

Unit V

Practical Work : A short literary or scientific text to be given. Students are asked to identify and discuss the difficulties in translating the given text.

Books for Reference :

Susan Bassnett McGuire : Translation Studies

Arrowsmith, W & Shattuck R (eds) : Crafts and context of Translation

Savoy Theodore, H : The Art of Translation

Catford : Linguistics Theory of Translation

The Routledge Encyclopadia of Translation