

Analysis of Allama Iqbal's Poetry "Kabhi Ae Haqeeqat E Muntazir" Under The Light of Eugene Nida's Linguistic Model

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received : December 31, 2023

Revised : January 3, 2024

Accepted : January 5, 2024

Available online : January 10, 2024

Keywords:

*Dynamic Translation; Nida's
Linguistic Model; Iqbal's
Poetry*

Abstract

This study examined Allama Iqbal's poem "Kabhi Ae Haqeeqat-e-Muntazir" through Eugene Nida's dynamic equivalence model, evaluating Dr. Mustansir Mir's English translation against the original Urdu text. The analysis revealed a nuanced interplay between literal meaning and metaphorical expression, highlighting challenges in conveying cultural nuances. The Findings indicated that Mir's translation adeptly preserves the essence of Iqbal's profound themes—encompassing the quest for truth, the transcendent power of music, the soul's significance, sacrifice, peace, and sincerity in prayer. By navigating linguistic complexities and cultural barriers, the translation succeeds in ensuring accessibility and cultural resonance for a wider audience, affirming Nida's principles in maintaining fidelity to the original while adapting it to a different linguistic and cultural milieu.

INTRODUCTION

Translation, the intricate art of transposing meaning from one language to another, serves as a conduit for cultural exchange and intellectual dialogue. Translation, the conversion of speech or writing from one language (L1) to another (L2) or vice versa, is widely practiced in society, notably in educational institutions. L2 often forms a part of the curriculum, irrespective of whether it entails around five hours of weekly instruction or caters to mixed-ability classes receiving three hours of focused learning. The educational emphasis might differ, accommodating students needing oral and written language skills or those solely focused on comprehension and composition (Barus & Ekalestari, 2022). Eugene Nida, introduced the concept of dynamic equivalence, advocating for translations that not only capture the literal meaning but also resonate culturally and contextually with the target audience. Allama Iqbal, an eminent figure in Urdu literature, intricately intertwined spiritual introspection and socio-political commentary within his poetic oeuvre. Notably, his poem "Kabhi Ae Haqeeqat-e-Muntazir" stands as a profound embodiment of these themes within the Urdu literary tradition.

This research endeavors to apply Eugene Nida's dynamic equivalence model to the translation of Iqbal's poetry, specifically focusing on Dr. Mustansir Mir's English rendition of the notable poem. Grounded in Nida's principles, the study aims to scrutinize Mir's translation against the original Urdu text, aiming to unravel the intricate interplay between literal meaning and metaphorical expression. It seeks to navigate the complexities of conveying Iqbal's multifaceted

themes—ranging from the pursuit of truth and the transcendental power of music to the significance of the soul, sacrifice, peace, and sincerity in prayer—while ensuring cultural resonance and accessibility for a diverse global audience. The poem is about the awaited reality, which the poet desires to come into view in the dress of contingency.

Eugene Nida, a prominent figure in translation and linguistics, significantly shaped translation theory (Analysis of Eugene Nida's Translation Theory, 2023). His theories, notably "dynamic equivalence" later termed "functional equivalence," wield profound influence, particularly in Bible translation. Nida's contributions not only expand understanding but also offer guidance, broadening horizons in translation practice. Studying Nida's theories becomes crucial; their comprehension lays the foundation for their practical application, ultimately enhancing the quality of translation endeavors.

By delving into the challenges and nuances of translating Iqbal's deeply layered poetry, this research endeavors to shed light on the application of Nida's dynamic equivalence model in preserving the essence of Iqbal's profound themes, thereby enabling a deeper appreciation and understanding of his work among wider audiences. The objective is to ensure that the translation is understandable and culturally appropriate to the intended audience in the target language.

This study aimed to analyze How Allama Iqbal's poetry, specifically his poem "Kabhi Ae Haqeeqat-e-Muntazir Nazar Aa" (Sometimes, O Awaited Reality, Appear), reflect the principles and concepts of Eugene Nida's translation model when considering the interplay between the literal meaning (Haqeeqat) and metaphorical expression (Libas-e-Majaz) and to what extent the translation of Allama Iqbal's poem میں اے حقیقت مد نظر نظر آں لباس مجاز ی ہبک into English, utilizing Eugene Nida's model of translation, successfully adhere to the principles of dynamic equivalence.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The poetry of Muhammad Iqbal stands as a testament to the intricate interplay of spiritual and political themes. Scholars have extensively examined this interplay, shedding light on the profound nature of Iqbal's works. Ali (2017) underscores the fusion of spiritual and political ideas in Iqbal's poetry, emphasizing how these themes intertwine to reflect the poet's vision. By seamlessly weaving together the spiritual essence of human existence and the sociopolitical realities of the world, Iqbal's poetry captures the depth and complexity of the human experience.

A significant aspect of the study of Iqbal's poetry is the examination of its reception in different cultural contexts through translation. Scholars, including Hussain (2015), have delved into the impact of translation on Iqbal's works, aiming to unravel the nuances and challenges faced by translators in conveying the essence of his poetry. Hussain's analysis reveals the intricacies involved in capturing the spiritual and political themes within Iqbal's poetry in translations, as they navigate linguistic and cultural barriers. The study underscores the role of translation in enabling cross-cultural engagement with Iqbal's poetic legacy, allowing diverse audiences to access his profound ideas.

Furthermore, the literature review highlights the extensive translation efforts that have made Iqbal's poetry accessible to a wider audience. Rahman (2020) examines the translation of Iqbal's poetry into various languages, expanding its reach and enabling engagement with his philosophical ideas. The review reveals the significance of these translations in broadening the audience and fostering a global conversation on spirituality, politics, and the human condition as portrayed in Iqbal's works.

According to Malik (2005), in his book "The Translation of Iqbal," he provides a comprehensive analysis of the translation of Iqbal's poetry into English. He thoroughly examines the translation strategies utilized by translators and their influence on the interpretation of the

original work. Furthermore, Malik discusses the cultural and linguistic challenges faced by translators when translating Iqbal's work (Malik, 2005).

The analysis by Mehmood and Umar (2019) delves into the translations of Iqbal's 'Shikwa' and 'Jawab-e-Shikwa' in three English renditions, exploring lexical choices and syntactical strategies. The study employs Vinay and Darbelnet's model (2004) to dissect the source and target texts, revealing varied translation approaches and products while noting occasional similarities. It concludes that achieving flawless verse-to-verse translation, especially across syntactically and culturally divergent languages, remains a challenge. The research underscores the translator's role in balancing technical poetry aspects, acknowledging the inevitable trade-offs between preserving the original meaning and capturing poetic essence in translation.

Nichols (1996) critically examines Eugene A. Nida's Dynamic Equivalence (DE) theory in "Translating the Bible," providing a comprehensive analysis. The thesis explores Nida's sociolinguistic model and the translation of various Bible genres into different languages, acknowledging Nida's insights while pinpointing flaws in DE. Nichols' critique challenges DE's treatment of language intricacies and its tie to reader response, questioning its impact on cultural fidelity in Bible translation (Nichols, 1996).

To explore the applications of Eugene Nida's model of translation on Allama Iqbal's poetry from his collection "Kulliyat e Iqbal." Specifically, the text aims to analyze a particular poem titled "کبھی اے حقیقت منتظر نظر آ لباس مجاز م میں" and its English translation. The analysis aims to determine whether the translated poetry adheres to the principles of dynamic equivalence, as proposed by Eugene Nida. Khan's study (2019, p. 45) further emphasizes the widespread translation of Iqbal's poetry, reflecting the extensive reach of his philosophical ideas across multiple languages. Khan asserts that Iqbal's poetry serves as a reflection of his philosophical concepts and has garnered global attention through its translations. This observation highlights the impact of translation in disseminating Iqbal's poetic legacy to a broad audience, transcending linguistic and cultural boundaries.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this theoretical framework, the paper will first provide an overview of Eugene Nida's model of translation, highlighting its key principles and considerations. This will include an exploration of the concept of dynamic equivalence and its relevance to the process of translating literary works, particularly poetry.

Subsequently, the study will delve into Allama Iqbal's Kulliyat-e-Iqbal, a renowned collection of the poet's works. The focus will be on the poem "Kabhi Ae Haqiqat-e-Muntazir," which presents an opportunity to evaluate the application of Nida's translation model on Iqbal's profound and nuanced poetic expressions.

The analysis will involve a comparison between the original Urdu text and its English translation by Dr Mustansir Mir, assessing the degree to which the translation maintains the essential meaning, style, and cultural nuances of the source material. This evaluation will encompass the examination of grammatical structures, idiomatic expressions, cultural references, and other linguistic features, highlighting the challenges and choices faced by the translator.

By employing Nida's theoretical framework, this study aims to provide insights into the effectiveness of the translation in achieving dynamic equivalence. It will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on translation theories and shed light on the complexities involved in translating poetic works, particularly those of Allama Iqbal, an influential figure in the world of Urdu literature.

Ultimately, this research endeavors to foster a deeper understanding of the application of translation theories, specifically Nida's dynamic equivalence model, in the context of rendering

Allama Iqbal's poetry accessible to a broader international audience, while preserving the essence and artistry of the original work.

METHOD

The methodology adopted for this research is qualitative, involving the selection of a specific poem by Allama Iqbal. Both the original Urdu text and its English version, sourced from reputable websites, are chosen for comparative analysis. Eugene Nida's theory of equivalence is applied to unearth hidden complexities within both versions of this exquisite poem. This approach aims to delve into the intricacies of translation, exploring how Nida's framework unveils nuanced aspects between the original and translated texts of Iqbal's poetry

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The source text is a poem in Urdu by Allama Iqbal, a renowned philosopher, and poet. The poem expresses the poet's yearning for the ultimate reality and his devotion to God. The language is rich in metaphor and imagery, which makes it challenging to translate.

The target text seems to be a translation of the Urdu poem into English. It captures the essence of the original poem and conveys the same emotions and themes. The translation is in free verse, which allows the translator to convey the meaning of the original text in a way that is natural and appropriate to the target language and culture.

In the given Urdu poem, the use of metaphorical language and cultural references presents a challenge for translation. For example, the metaphor of "thousands of prostrations writhing in my forehead of humility" may not be easily understood by a non-Muslim audience. A translator may need to provide a cultural context or an explanation to convey the meaning effectively.

Similarly, the metaphor of the mirror in the third stanza has cultural significance in South Asian literature, where it is often used as a symbol of the self. A translator may need to find an equivalent metaphor or explanation that resonates with the target audience.

Furthermore, the use of archaic or poetic language, such as "jubin" (clamor) and "tadap" (writhing), may also pose a challenge for translation. A translator may need to choose words and expressions that accurately convey the intended meaning while also being appropriate for the target audience's linguistic and cultural context.

The dynamic equivalence theory suggests that the meaning of a text is not limited to its words but also includes the cultural and contextual factors that shape its interpretation.

Therefore, the translation should take into account the cultural, social, and linguistic differences between the two languages. To achieve dynamic equivalence, the translator must go beyond literal translation and focus on conveying the intended meaning and effect of the original text.

The translated version is rich in metaphorical language, and the original poem likely has the same quality. The poem's main theme seems to revolve around the search for truth and the struggle of the human spirit to reach it. The poet appears to be using various images and metaphors to convey this theme.

The first couplet of the poem talks about the conflict between reality and appearance. The poet seems to be urging the reader to look beyond the surface and try to find the truth hidden beneath the dress of contingency.

The second couplet employs musical metaphors to convey the power of sound and the effect it can have on the human mind and soul. The poet is suggesting that music has the ability to transcend language and communicate emotions and thoughts that are beyond words.

The third couplet talks about the value of a mirror and the importance of taking care of it. The mirror is used as a metaphor for the soul, which needs to be preserved and protected. The poet

seems to be suggesting that if the soul is broken, it becomes even more valuable in the sight of the one who created it.

The fourth couplet is more cryptic and talks about the conversation between a moth and a candle. It is difficult to ascertain the exact meaning of this couplet, but it appears to be talking about the idea of sacrifice and how it is an essential part of the search for truth.

The fifth couplet talks about the difficulty of finding peace in the world. The poet seems to be suggesting that peace is something that can only be found through forgiveness and that forgiveness is the key to achieving inner peace.

The sixth couplet talks about the fleeting nature of beauty and passion. The poet seems to be suggesting that these things are temporary and that true beauty and passion can only be found in the pursuit of truth.

The final couplet talks about the importance of sincerity in prayer. The poet seems to be suggesting that if one's heart is not pure, then prayer is meaningless.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the exploration of Allama Iqbal's poem, "Kabhi Ae Haqeeqat-e-Muntazir," through Eugene Nida's translation framework showcased the complexities inherent in preserving its essence across languages. The analysis highlighted the challenges in transposing metaphorical richness and cultural nuances, emphasizing the translator's pivotal role in navigating these hurdles. The application of dynamic equivalence proved instrumental, allowing the English rendition to capture the poem's core while ensuring cultural resonance. However, the process unveiled the intricacies of balancing literal meaning and metaphorical expression, underlining the constant negotiation between faithfulness to the original and cultural accessibility for the target audience. This study underscores the significance of translation theories like Nida's in preserving the profound beauty of poetry while fostering cross-cultural understanding.

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