

## The Importance of Translation in the World Literature

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Now a day the word *Translation* becomes very famous and common in literature. Literature is not confined for only a country but literature has become global in the modern age. The globalization of material, cultural, and intellectual production, accompanied by the dissolution of Eurocentrism and “West-centrism” and by the rise of Eastern culture and literature, has assisted at world literature’s birth from the ashes of comparative literature. However, globalization has brought about both homogenization and diversity. During this process, translation has been vital not only in building up national and cultural identities but also in constructing a literature with the potential to cross the boundaries of languages and nations as well as those of literary and cultural traditions. It is fully reasonable today, then, to associate globalization with world literature. To achieve new advances in literary studies, our era requires a comparative perspective and an international view. The enlarged frame of reference that we gain may be the most important motive for the challenging labor of undertaking literary study from the perspective of global culture and world literature.

The word *translation* has derived from the Latin word *translatio*. The word *translation* itself comes from *trans-* and *fero*, the supine form of which is *latum*, together meaning “to carry across” or “to bring across” The modern Romance languages use words for translation derived from that source or from the alternative Latin *traduco* (“to lead across”).

Translation is the communication of the meaning of a source-language text by means of an equivalent target-language text. Translation begins only after the appearance of written literature. There exist partial translations of the Sumerian *Epic of Gilgamesh* (ca. 2000 BCE) into Southwest Asian languages of the second millennium BCE. Translators always risk inappropriate spill-over of source-language idiom and usage into the target-language translation.

Literary translation has always invited debate, in which a particularly significant consideration is the effect of the translator’s choices on the circulation of a given text. According

to Andre Lefevere, literary translation is a type of “rewriting,” which may well “manipulate” the writer’s fame. If so, the writer’s reputation will largely depend on whether the translation gains the work a foothold in world literature. Orhan Pamuk is a good example. Translation of literary works (novels, short stories, plays, poems, etc.) is considered a literary pursuit in its own right. For example, notable in Canadian literature *specifically* as translators are figures such as *Sheila Fischman*, *Robert Dickson* and *Linda Gaboriau*, and the Governor General’s Awards annually present prizes for the best English-to-French and French-to-English literary translations. Other writers, among many who have made a name for themselves as literary translators, include Vasily Zhukovsky, Tadeusz Boy-Zelenski, Vladimir Nabokov, Jorge Luis Borges, Robert Stiller and Haruki Murakami. In translation the original finds new life, grows, matures, is supplemented. If one aspect of multiculturalism is the reclamation of disappearing cultures, translation serves its purpose by retrieving a text and ensuring its “continued life”. Adapted translation retains currency in some non-Western traditions. The Indian epics, the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana*, appear in many versions in the various Indian languages, and the stories are different in each. Similar examples are to be found in medieval Christian literature, which adjusted the text to local customs and mores.

To conclude we can say that translation is an egalitarian process that engineers the plane space. It frees the knowledge system from the possession of a few individuals, transfers the text into different domains, and gives it new linguistic and cultural incarnations. Translation is not concerned with the transfer of meaning; it transforms a text, and, in the process, may transform the meaning, which the target language culture often influences and determines. Derrida calls translation “a regulated transformation”. Walter Benjamin, in his “The Task of the Translator”, argues that instead of simply transporting the meaning of the original, a translation must “lovingly and in detail, incorporate the original’s mode of signification, thus making the original and the translation recognizable as

fragments of a greater language, just as fragments are parts of a vessel”.

## References

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