

5

At a time of explosive innovation, and amid a real threat of surfeit and disorder, translation absorbed, shaped, oriented the necessary raw material. It was, in a full sense of the term, the *matiere premiere* of the imagination. Moreover, it established a logic of relation between past and present, and between different tongues and traditions which were splitting apart under stress of nationalism and religious conflict.

The above lines explain at length about the relevance of translation during Renaissance. It also makes clear that translation is not a secondary activity as some think. In fact, it is a primary one which acted as a shaping force on the intellectual life of the Renaissance. At the same time the translators were regarded as revolutionary activists than a servant of a text.

attempts to use a style that brought few changes in the use of contemporary terminology. This changes occurred especially in the contemporary terminology for certain important Roman terms. Following words are the example to see how these words got transformed.

- (i) patres et plebs was transformed into Lords or Nobles and Commons
- (ii) Comitium became Commonhall, highcourt and parliament.
- (iii) Praetor was transferred into Lord Chief Justice or Lord Governour of the city.

Likewise whenever he feels that there is some obscurity in some passages or references he inserts explanatory phrases and sentences as an attempt to clarify those obscurities. Holland, in his 'Preface to the Reader' a translation of Pliny he vehemently attacks those critics who opposes the vulgarisation of Latin classics. He also comments that these critics "think not so honourably of their native country and mother tongue as they ought". He further claims that if they did they would have been eager to "triumph over the Romans in subduing their literature under the dent of the English Pen". This would be like a revenge against the Roman conquest who conquered British in the ancient times by the sword.

In fact, the role of translation was felt all over the Renaissance Europe. As George Steiner rightly says,

and converts it into

The pillar perished is whearto I lent;

The strongest staye of myne unquiet mynde; (ccxxxvi)

The above illustrations make it clear that Wyatt has used translation not to deliver Petrarch's words line by line or to imitate the elegiac quality rather he has used translation process for some other purpose. Moreover Wyatt's translation indicates how his translations have given much importance to 'I' and also emphasises the strength and support of what has been lost. Certain theory claims that this sonnet is written in commemoration of the fall of Oliver Cromwell in 1540. Whatever the theory is, Wyatt's scheme of translating the sonnet is to bring his contemporary readers close to the text. He attains this purpose by bringing the reference of Cromwell in his translation who is a contemporary of their time.

Generally a text gets updated through translation.

Translation happens in various ways like additions, omissions or conscious alterations. In fact, these aspects are present in the work of Philemon Holland (1552-1637). Philemon Holland who is considered as the 'translator general' discusses about translation in his translation of Livy. In it he declares that his sole purpose of translating Livy was to 'deliver his mind in English, if not so eloquently by many degrees, yet as truly as in Latin'. He further claims that he has not used 'any affected phrase, but... a meane and popular style.' He even

this device he was able to bring² about the closeness and vitality to the text. Moreover North has utilised a lively contemporary idiom

Translations of Wyatt and Surrey:

As far as poetry is considered these two Elizabethan poets made some adjustments to the St text. The adjustments that they have made had led some critics to call their translations at times as 'adaptations'. But Edmond Cary defends them by explaining that such kind of distinction will mislead. While analysing Wyatt's translation of Petrarch, he never showed any faithfulness neither to the individual words nor to the sentence structure. Whereas he concentrated in understanding the meaning of the poem and its relationship with its readers.

According to Edmond Cary, a poem should be understood as an 'artefact' of a particular cultural system. Similarly a translator remains faithful only if a same function is done in the target cultural system. Cary illustrates this with an example how Wyatt took Petrarch's renowned Sonnet 'On the Events of 1348' in which there is a description about the death of Cardinal Giovanni Colonna and of Laura. It begins as follows,

Rotta e' l'atla colonna e'l verde lauro
che facean ombra al mio stanco pensiero; (cclxix)

(Broken is the tall column (Colonna) and the
green laurel tree (Laura))

That used to shade my tired thought)

History Of Translation.

Translation Studies

The Renaissance.

Edmond Cary, discusses Dolet in his Study of the great French Translators. In it he emphasises the importance of translation during the 16th c. He speaks about the translations that were taking place throughout Dolet's age. He also states that Reformation was a topic of discussion among the translators. Likewise translation remained an affair of both the nation and religion. Translation bothered both the king and the scholar simultaneously. The poets and prose writers debated about the translation. In this way translation remained the heed of the hour during the Renaissance. He quotes that Joachin du Bellay's 'Defence et Illustration de la Langue Francaise' in which there is a discussion focussing on the problems related to translation. During Renaissance many translators were translating Chapman's 'Epistle' and Dolet's pamphlet. These translations were carried out with a quality of 'aggressive assertiveness'.

One of the major characteristic features of the period is the affirmation of the present with contemporary idiom and style. The affirmation of this kind is clearly seen in Mathiesson's 'Study of Elizabethan Translators'. Edmond Cary exemplifies how there is a frequent interchange of indirect discourse by direct discourse in North's translation of Plutarch (1579). In fact, through