

Assignments

Lecture 1

Assignments

1. Who are the major translators and translation theorists of the western world?
2. Identify the important events in the translation history of the west.

Lecture 2

Assignments

1. What are the multiple strands that go into the history of translation in India?
2. Attempt to catalogue the translations that have gone into the making of the literature of your mother-tongue.

Lecture 3

Assignments

1. How have the central concerns of translation practice evolved with the centuries?
2. Evaluate the respective merits and demerits of literal and figurative translation.

Lecture 4

Assignments

1. Which are the concepts that are basic to translation as a practical activity as well as an academic discipline?
2. Identify a few idioms or proverbs in your mother-tongue and try to translate them into another language. What are the difficulties you face? How would you surmount them?

Lecture 5

Assignments

1. What are the various strands that go into the making of Translation Studies as a discipline?
In your opinion, which is the most important theoretical stand in the field of Translation Studies? Justify your position.

Lecture 6

Assignments

1. How do the purpose and readership of translation influence the method of translation?
2. Select a text of your choice and translate it for young readers. What are the changes you would make?

Lecture 7

Assignments

1. What are the various ways in which equivalence can be attained?
2. Select a text in your mother-tongue and translate it into another language. Which method would you adopt to attain equivalence and why?

Lecture 8

Assignments

1. What are the problems encountered in translation between two languages?
2. Select a play in one language and try to translate it into another language. What are the challenges that you face in this?

Lecture 9

Assignments

1. What was the influence of Russian Formalism on Translation Studies?
2. In your opinion, which of these early theorists is most relevant today? Justify your answer.

Lecture 10

Assignments

1. What are the four perspectives from which translation can be approached? Which, according to you, is the most balanced?

2. Evaluate the contribution made by Eugene Nida to the field of Translation Studies.

Lecture 11

Assignments

1. What is the contribution of Itamar Even-Zohar to the field of Translation Studies? Do you think his theory is relevant today?
2. Do you agree with Toury's concepts of norms in translation? Why?

Lecture 12

Assignments

1. What was the contribution of poststructuralist theories to the concepts of language and meaning?
2. How do these theories alter the traditional concepts of translation?

Lecture 13

Assignments

1. How do Indian theories of aesthetics influence translation theory in India?
2. In your opinion, which of the Indian theories of aesthetics seems more applicable to translation today? Why?

Lecture 14

Assignments

1. Do you think that Dharwadker's principles will ensure better translations of Indian language works? Can you think of other areas that need to be addressed?
2. The problem with Indians like Aurobindo and Ramanujan is that they emphasize the metaphysical and abstract aspects like intuition and inner logic. Discuss.
3. Read up more on Chomsky's concept of deep and surface structures, Jakobson's verse instance and verse design, and Kristeva's phenotext and genotext. How are they similar to Ramanujan's concept?

Lecture 15

Assignments

1. What are the changes that you can detect in the Indian translation scene as you move from the pre-colonial days to the present?
2. How did translations help in the building of the nation?
3. What is the politics of language that is behind translation in India today?

Lecture 16

Assignments

1. What fresh perspective does Niranjana's work bring to translation theory?
2. How has postcolonial theory helped translation activity in the former colonies?

Lecture 17

Assignments

1. How have Anandamath and its translations contributed to the making of the nation?
2. Keeping in mind all that you have read about equivalence and translation, what is your assessment of these various translations?

Lecture 18

Assignments

1. What is the attitudinal difference between the two foreign translators of *Abhijnanasakuntalam*?
2. Of all the four translations, which do you think is the best? Why?

Lecture 19

Assignments

1. Do you think the cultural turn in translation studies is a welcome trend? Why?
2. Who are the patrons of translations in today's world? How would you evaluate their role in the production and consumption of translations?

Lecture 20

Assignments

1. What is the concept of chronopolitics? How has it affected translation theory and practice?

2. Based on a reading of this lecture, evaluate the position of your mother-tongue with respect to English.

Lecture 21

Assignments

1. Evaluate the role played by your mother tongue in your daily activities in the workplace and domestic domains respectively. Which do you use more—English or the mother tongue?
2. How do the power dynamics between languages affect translation?

Lecture 22

Assignments

1. Why do some languages and texts get more prominence in translation in India?
2. How many translations of other Indian languages have you read in your mother-tongue? Evaluate the reasons thereof and arrive at an understanding of the cultural politics behind this.

Lecture 23

Assignments

1. How does migration affect languages and translation? Think of how your own language has evolved/influenced by other languages you have come in contact with.
2. Can you think of examples from your linguistic community for the strategies of translation assimilation and translation accommodation?

Lecture 24

Assignments

1. What is the role played by women translators in the history of translation?
2. Identify the gender bias in your mother-tongue and see how it compares in translation with a foreign language like English.

Lecture 25

Assignments

1. How is the translator's invisibility indicative of the larger politics of globalization?

2. Assess the status of your mother-tongue with respect to English in India. Take into account the trends in translation between your language and English.

Lecture 26

Assignments

1. How can acts of translation be linked to socio-cultural agendas of the translators or the times and cultures they live in?
2. Can you think of an analogous trend in translation in your cultural environment that can be related to contemporary discourses?

Lecture 27

Assignments

1. Which are the ways in which translation can be thought of as a resistance strategy?
2. Can you think of an example where a translated work led to a major literary change?

Lecture 28

Assignments

1. 1. Which of the old texts in your language have been translated into modern idiom? Is there a pattern you can detect in these translations?
2. 2. Think of examples of intralingual translations that have been passed off as adaptations or versions of a text.

Lecture 29

Assignments

1. What are the various ways in which a story can be retold?
2. Think of an example of how a retold text, like the Amar Chitra Katha version of Kalidasa's Sakuntalam is modified to suit its contemporary readers.

Lecture 30

Assignments

1. Which are the various way in which one art form can be translated into another?
2. Give an example of intersemiotic translation, and analyse the cultural politics of this process.

Lecture 31

Assignments

1. Trace the history of the translation of the Torah.
2. Translatability of texts assume an added significance when it comes to sacred books – Discuss this in light of the translation history of the Torah and Quran.

Lecture 32

Assignments

1. Trace the history of Biblical translation in the west.
2. Make a list of Biblical words and phrases that has become part of your vernacular vocabulary. Are they different from their usage in English?

Lecture 33

Assignments

1. Trace the Mahabharata through different languages at different points of time in Indian history.
2. Select a character from a rewrite of the epic in your language. Compare it with Vyasa's depiction. What assumptions can you arrive at with regard to cultural differences?

Lecture 34

Assignments

1. How is the translation tradition of Ramayana different from that of the Mahabharata?
2. Try to 'translate' any character of the Ramayana from your point of view. Analyse the result and evaluate how much of your own personal ideology has influenced the retelling.

Lecture 35

Assignments

1. What are the challenges faced by a translator of an advertisement?
2. Select an advertisement from a culture / language that is alien to yours. How would you translate it in all aspects of the term?

Lecture 36

Assignments

1. What are the various forms of interpreting? What are the challenges faced only by the interpreters and not translators in general?
2. Listen to a speech and attempt interpretation, either simultaneous or consecutive. Note down the difficulties you faced and try to think of strategies to overcome them.

Lecture 37

Assignments

1. What are the main types of screen translation? Evaluate the respective merits and demerits of each.
2. Select a film or television show of your choice. Attempt dubbing and subtitling and analyze the difference in approach between the two.

Lecture 38

Assignments

1. What are the various ways in which machines or computers can aid the activity of translation?
2. What does the future hold for machine translation?

Lecture 39

Assignments

1. What are the changes that have come into the field of translation studies since the cultural turn?
2. What do you think is the future of translation in a world that is developing technologically?

Lecture 40

Assignments

1. What are the ways in which the diversity of the world is threatened by the powerful economic and political forces?
2. Attempt to locate and recognize the ways in which globalization has affected your culture and language.