

India in Slovakia: The Works of Jozef Banas

The event 'India in Slovakia: The Works of Jozef Banas' was held on 20 March 2018 in the Translation and Translation Studies Centre. The speakers were Jozef Banas, a famous writer of political and historical novels from Slovakia and Prof. Amrit Mehta, a linguist and prolific translator who has translated many of Banas' novels into Hindi. Dr. Babli Moitra Saraf chaired the event.

With special reference to his recent novel *Code I*, translated as *Jerusalem se Kashmir tak* in Hindi, Jozef Banas spoke of the interesting historical and mythological links between disparate religious frameworks and the importance of historicizing religion as much as politics. He also enumerated the many ways in which translation often democratizes the gap between the sacred and the profane and helps establish religious and humanitarian tolerance. Prof. Amrit Mehta then elaborated on the various challenges that come the translator's way when translating such rich and nuanced texts and how the cultural paradigms of the target reader have to be kept in mind while attempting such translations. The session ended with Prof. Mehta reading a few passages from the Hindi translation of the novel to give the audience a flavor of Mr. Banas' writing.



On the 2nd of February, Indraprastha College for Women conducted an *International Symposium on Translation: The Cultural Challenge*. The esteemed speakers of the event were Dr. Babli Moitra Saraf (Principal, Indraprastha College for Women), Dr. Tomoko Kikuchi (Writer and Translator), Dr. Milena Bratoeva (Professor, Sophia University), Aditi Maheshwari Goyal (Director, Vani Publications) and Dr. Rekha Sethi (Vice Principal, Indraprastha College for Women).

The event commenced with welcoming the Chief Guests. The Talk was chaired by Dr. Rekha Sethi. She talked about the activities undertaken by the Translation Studies Centre of the institution and informed everyone that Dr. Milena has extensively translated Sanskrit Upanishads and has recently translated the well-known Hindi writers, Jaishankar Prasad and Muktibodh. She asked Dr. Milena about her journey as a translator, to which Dr. Milena humbly replied that she is not a translator professionally but a Professor who teaches Contemporary Literature. She shared that she had mainly worked on translating from Sanskrit to Bulgarian but recently explored a new arena and translated a Hindi poem, “*Andhere Mei*” by Muktibodh to Bulgarian. She believes that one can develop an understanding of the foreign literature, culture, ideology and sentiments through the act of translation.

The talk proceeded with Dr. Tomoko sharing that she has translated from Japanese to Hindi and vice versa. Being a Japanese, she realised that it is her responsibility to spread cognizance about the Hiroshima Nagasaki tragedy among young children and therefore, composed a comic addressing the same theme. The comic is known as “Hiroshima no Pika” in Japanese and is translated to “Hiroshima ka Dard” in Hindi. She told that she avoids using footnotes in her translations since her target audience are common readers and children. Dr. Saraf highlighted the two different viewpoints shared by the two guests who chose their source text according to their target readers and the different mannerisms associated with both the languages.

Dr. Sethi asked Dr. Milena how she links and harmonizes while translating from ancient literature. Dr. Milena responded that she translates the texts keeping her students in mind as the target audiences and that there is a certain regard to the whole act of translation in her surroundings. People in Bulgaria are fascinated by the ancient Indian texts and are curious to know more about Indian culture, Upanishads and Patanjali Yog Sutra.

Dr. Sethi stated that it’s due to Dr. Saraf’s hard work that we have access to the Hindi versions of English nursery rhymes. In her book “Tun Tun Tara Tara”, not only we find the linguistic translation of the rhymes but also the cultural translations within its illustrations. Two students, Tanvi and Sneha shared their interesting experiences as illustrators of the book. Later, Aditi Maheshwari enlightened everyone about its publishing and the various dynamics of publishing industry. The event ended with Dr. Sethi thanking the guests for their time and valuable knowledge.



TRANSLATION WORKSHOP

A Translation Workshop was held from 9 October 2018 to 11 October 2018 in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi, in the Translation and Translation Studies Centre. Dr. Babli Moitra Saraf was the director of the workshop and Dr. Rekha Sethi and Dr. Vinita Sinha were the coordinators. Mr. Jyoti Krishan Verma, assistant editor at the Sahitya Akademi, was also present at the event.

The TTSC held this workshop as part of the undergoing collaborative Translation Project between IP College and Sahitya Akademi. This project aims to publish an anthology of short story translations from Hindi to English with Dr. Saraf as its chief editor along with fifteen skilled student and faculty translators. The primary motive behind the workshop was to vet and evaluate the translated stories through a series of engaging theoretical discussions under the expert guidance of Dr. Saraf. After three days of rigorous editing, all the stories were submitted to Sahitya Akademi in the form of a formalized manuscript for publication.



