



75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Five-Day National Workshop on
**Translating
Folktales of Sikkim:**
Co-Creation, Critique and Collaboration

organised by
Department of English, Sikkim University
In Collaboration with
Indian Council of
Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi

12th-16th September, 2022
(On-site Workshop)

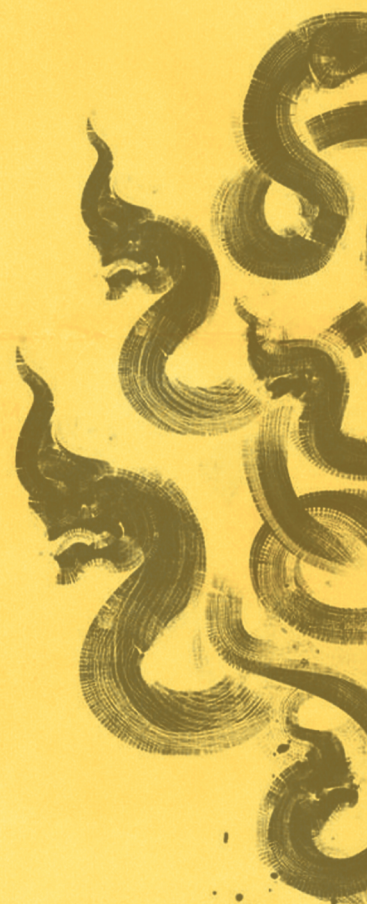


Concept Note

What is the role of translation when it comes to transferring cultural code? What might the notions of indigenous culture and linguistic minority add to translation practise and theory? Translation is an act, by which one specific culture gets acquainted with another. The task of the translator is, therefore, to bring home to one's audience a world of foreign culture to which they had no access and thereby, the translator becomes a link between societies. However, this complicated task becomes more problematic when one has to translate folk tales and indigenous literature which lack 'prestige and authority' and are situated as 'the non-standard and the non-canonical' (Venuti 2016). Unlike the translation of written documents, translation of oral narratives entails a venture into a close-knit community of oral narratives, myths, and legends. The translator is not just faced with the challenge of being "faithful" to the source text, but that of integrating indigenous knowledges into discourses and practices of the mainstream knowledge systems. This, in turn leads to the question of translational ethics, politics of representation and epistemic violence and whether the translator should attempt 'cultural consensus' (Sterk 2020).

Sikkim has been an essential part of India with its rich linguistic and cultural heritage. Home to many endangered languages like Lepcha, Limboo, Bhutia, Magar, Rai-Rokdung, Bhujel, to name a few, the Indian state of Sikkim is a unique linguistic hotspot nestled in the Eastern Himalayas. It goes without saying that translation is the need of the hour for English studies in Sikkim. The Department of English, Sikkim University, keeping in mind the theme of the Azadika Amrit Mahotsav's celebration of the intangible cultural heritage of India proposes to hold a five-day national level translation workshop to translate folktales from Sikkim. In this workshop we will be translating from oral narratives which are intrinsic to the intangible heritage of communities in Sikkim. The focus would be on translating folktales from Lepcha, Limboo, Bhutia, Nepali and Hindi.

The participants will be divided into groups to translate select texts over a period of five days. Resource persons from the field of translation studies and experienced translators will be invited to deliver lectures on the theory and practice of translation. When it comes to translating folktales, the practice of translation calls for an intimate understanding of the nuances of orality and oral culture. It calls for an essential understanding of the cadences, the intonations, the telling of the tale in the "original." Our workshop would thus also encourage narration of these tales by native speakers so the translators may be able to capture the entire range of emotions and significations in their translations as best as they can. Instead of simply making word-to-word translations, readings of the tales in the "original" and then in the English translation is something we plan to incorporate in our workshop sessions. This will be supplemented by interactive sessions where translators and native speakers can share feedback and learn together. Since there are many variations in oral tales, these variations would also be kept in mind and experts and facilitators consulted on how best these variations can be incorporated in the translations. This workshop would thus lay emphasis on co-creation, critique and collaboration between native speakers and translators. The workshop co-ordinators also propose to publish the translated texts in an edited volume to make the translated works available to a wider readership.



Interested participants may apply using the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1-FAIpQLSe_TRI8K4EEsYUtpPPfvOlltuldiGwXywiNno7JVljC24eExg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Important Dates

Last Date for application: **2nd August 2022**

Selected Participants will be notified on: **5th August 2022**

Last date of registration: **25th August 2022**

Registration Fee and Details:

Faculty Members: **INR 2000**

Students/scholars: **INR 1200**

Upon acceptance, participants will be provided with registration details through email.

(The Registration Fee will include workshop kit, certificates, working lunch for five days of the workshop)

The participants will have to be available on all five days of the workshop.

Sikkim University will not be able to provide accommodation to the participants. However, the Organising Committee might assist in finding suitable accommodations near the workshop venue. Payment may be made by the participant to the hotels directly.

Should you have any queries please address them to the Workshop Organising Committee:

Professor Rosy Chamling (rhamling@cus.ac.in)

Dr. Abrona Lee Pandi Aden (aladen@cus.ac.in)

Dr. Saswati Saha (ssaha@cus.ac.in)

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