

History of Translation in Dogri Literature: An Overview

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Abstract:

It is well said that literature is the reflection of society and broadly speaking society is a not mixture of language, culture and ethnicity, but it also contain customs and habits, the festivals and rituals and all aspect relating to the day to day life. Now, there is an urgent need to study the in depth commonality and diversity of the different societies of the world. There are number of languages in the world and it is not possible for everybody to learn well more than one or two languages. Translators could contribute a great deal in the above context. That's why the tradition of translation of oral literature is as old as human society. But, the translation of written material started in different languages of the world in different eras. The tradition of translation of written material Dogri started in late eighteenth century when Rajauli a Persian book written by Bali Ram for Dara Shikoh was translated by Tahal Das. Later, the regime of Maharaja Ranbir Singh was a landmark not only political history of the Dogra kingdom but in the literary arena of Dogri literature also.

Dogri, one of the prominent languages of J&K state has an important place on the linguistics map of northern India. The History of modern Indo-Aryan languages such as

Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Assamese, Bengali, Odia, Punjabi and Dogri can be traced to its earlier stages-Old Indo-Aryan language (1500 B.C. to 600 B.C.) and Middle Indo-Aryan language (600B.C. to 1000 A.D.). The earliest reference to Dogri (Duggar) is found in Nuh-Siphir, a masnavi written by Amir Khusaro in 1318-19 AD for sultan Kuttubuddin Mubark. (Sindhi O Lahori O Kashmiri O Doggar, Dhur, Samundari Tilangi O Gujar). Here Doggar refers to the language of Duggar. The language spoken in between the area of Lahore & Kashmir. Earlier Dogri has its own script namely “Dogare Akkhar” or “Dogare” based on Takri script which is closely related to the Sharada script employed by Kashmiri. This script was the official language of Jammu & Kashmir state during the regime of Maharaja Ranbir Singh. The regime of Maharaja Ranbir Singh (1857-1885 A.D.) was a landmark not only in the political history of Jammu & Kashmir but in the literary arena of Dogri language also. After the independence the state government constituted a committee on 29th October, 1953 headed by Sh. Girdhari Lal Dogra presented a report and accordingly the state government decided to adopt Devnagri as well as Persian script for Dogri and it was incorporated in the State Constitution in 1957. So at present the Devnagri script is mainly used in India and the Nasta'liq form of Perso-Arabic in Pakistan.

Dogri Literature:

In Dogri Literature the folk literature of Dogri deserves special mention; it has enriched the Dogri literature with folk tales, folk songs idioms, proverbs, riddles etc. it offers an easy comparison with the folk-literature of any other language which represents various aspects of Dogra life. The earlier literary stage of Dogri literature is a long period from the sixteenth century Ad to the first half of the twentieth century. It was during the 20th century that Dogri literature witnessed a spurt in spheres like poetry, prose, novels, short stories and plays. Now, the modern literature of Dogri departs from its traditional period in a number of ways, most

importantly, in terms of being influenced by the Western literature, mainly English and Russian and translation has also played vital role in this transformation.

Early Translation in Dogri:

The History of Dogri translation can be traced from late eighteenth century when Rajauli a Persian book written by Bali Ram for Dara Shikoh was translated by Tahal Das who did it for master raja Dhyan Singh of Kotala in Kangra district near Nurpur around 1785 AD. This book narrates the story of ancient dynasties of Kings who occupied the throne of Delhi beginning with the Pandava king Yudhisthir and ending with the Mughal ruler Shah Jahan.

In 1816 R.V. Carey included Dogri in his list of 21 Indian languages for getting missionary material translated. After that the tradition of translation in Dogri started with the translation of the Bible into Dogri. Thereafter, a large number of Sanskrit and Persian books were translated in Dogri.

In 1818, Christian missionaries of Serampore published Dharam Pustak a Dogri translation of the New Testament from their press and according to Colonel Shivnath this was the first print book in Dogri in Takari Script published till then. In 1826 the translation of “The Gospel” by Saint Luke published in Dogri as Bacana Ala Koka ai by Scripture Gift-Ministry of India, Bangalore.

During the regime of Maharaja Ranbir Singh (1857-1885 A.D.) when Dogri was the official language of Jammu & Kashmir state lots of books translated in Dogri language either in Namein Dogre Akkhar or Persian Script. The translation of Lilavati, Sanskrit text of Mathematics written by a famous astrologer and Sanskrit scholar of the eleventh century Bhaskar acharya translated by Pandit Jyotish Vishwisher published at Vidya Vilas Press, Jammu in 1873 in Namain Dogre Akkhar occupied a prominent place in the history of Dogri translation.

According to Colonel Shivnath in History of Dogri Literature lot of religious material translated in Dogri by Christian Missioners in 1900 AD.

Translation in Dogri from 1901 to 1950:

The translation of Muhasin Phani's Persian book Nambara 249 Davistane Majahab was translated in Dogri in 1931 in Devnagri Script. Translation of Baliram Gonsai's Persian book Nambara 351 "Danisha Nama" was published in Dogri in same era. Nambara 368 Tavarikhe Jahaan was also translated in Dogri. There have been several attempts to translate the Sri Madbhabva Geeta in Dogri. The first translation of Sri Madbhabva Geeta was published in 1934 under the same title translated by Prof. Gauri Shankar. The second translation of Sri Madbhabva Geeta was published in 1943 under the same title done by Pandit Gauri Shankar Bhadarwahi. In 1945 translated by Thakur Raghunath Singh Sambyal the third translation Sri Madbhabva Geeta was published.

Translation in Dogri from 1951 to 1975:

Translation work gained momentum in Dogri with the establishment of regional literary bodies like Dogri Sanstha, Jammu and J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages Jammu & Kashmir and in this period Sahitiya Akademy, New Delhi also recognized Dogri as an independent language in 1969. These organizations assigned different literary works from other languages to be translated into Dogri and have been published. There is a large amount of prose works, plays, novels, short stories and poetry-books translated into Dogri from Sanskrit, Hindi, Bengali, Assamese, Marathi, Urdu, Punjabi, Malayalam, Gujarati etc. The fact however is that barring a few translations many of the translated works have not been done directly from the original text and are translations from translated books in Hindi, Urdu and English etc.

In 1959 and 1968 two more poetry translations of Sri Madbhabva Geeta was published done by Parshuram Nagar and Chakardhar Shastri. In 1969 the translation of Sri Madbhabva Geeta was published by Mahatam Dharmarth Trust Jammu. In 1973 translation of Sri Madbhabva Geeta done by Shresth Pathania was published. In short stories Sanskrit book Panchtantra (Pt. Vishnu Sharma) was translated into Dogri by Anant Ram Shastri in the year 1959, Bal Bhagavat and Srimadbhagawat's stories were translated by Shyam Lal Sharma in a book namely Bhagavat Diyan Katthan (1962), twenty one short stories of Tagore were translated by Ved Rahi under title Ikki kahaniyan (Part-I and Part-II). Some stories from Gunadhaya's Brihatkatha were also translated into Dogri by Shyam Lal Sharma in the book entitled Betaal Pachisi (1969). Narayan Pandit's Hitopadesha (a book of 14th century A.D.) was translated in Dogri by Harivansh Chopra and Madan Magotra under same title Hitopadesha (1970).

First Dogri translation of novel appeared in the year 1969, when Bengali Novelist Sharat Chander Chatterji's Novel Data, translated by Narendra Khajuria was published by Dogri Sanstha Jammu. Parinita was translated by Sudesh Kesar. Bhagvad Prasad Sathe translated Prem Chand's Hindi Novel Godaan and Susheela Gupta translated a Malyalam Novel Shiv Shankar Pille into Dogri under name Do Tuppe Dhaan (1970).

Rabindra Nath Tagore was a literary giant of the subcontinent honored by a Nobel Prize. Some of his works have been translated in all the modern languages of the India including Dogri. Prof. Ram Nath Shastri has made lot of contribution in rendering some of his books into Dogri. Prof. Ram Nath Shastri translated eight dramas namely Balidan (1967) (visarjan), Malani (Malini) and Dakaghar (Dakaghara), all the three plays by Ravindra Nath Tagore in Bengali; Annayuga (1967) (Andhayug by Dharam Vir Bharati); Patalabasi (1969) in Dogri.

Bhagvat Prasad Sathe had also translated Vrindavan Lal Verma's Hindi Novel Mriganyani into Dogri which was published in the year 1971. Sharat Chandra Chatterjee's Bengali Novel Path Ke Davedaar and Rajendra Singh Bedi's Urdu Novel Ek Chadar Maili Si were translated by Vishwa Nath Khajuria, got published in the years 1971 and 1975 respectively. In 1975 Sharat Chandra's other Bengali Novel Grihadah was translated by Madan Mohan Sharma under title Lorey.

Not many autobiography and biographies have been translated in Dogri so far. The translation of M. K Gandhi's autobiographies 'My experiences with truth' have been translated by Ram Nath Shastri under the names Atam Katha (1968). The language is simple and with a natural flow. It is not a word to word translation of the original but is true to the original facts. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru's 'Letters from a father to his daughter' have been translated by Naryan Mishra under the names Pita De Pattar Putri De Naam.

An introduction to Modern Dogri Literature (Nilamber Dev Sharma) was translated by Narayan Mishra under the name Adhunka Dogri Sahitya Ik Pariche (1975).

Translation in Dogri from 1976 to 2000 AD:

In 1979 the translation of Sri Madbhabva Geeta done by Shriniwas was published. In 1980 the translation of 140 pages of based on Geeta was published done by Madan Mohan Sashtri. In 1981 one more translation of Sri Madbhabva Geeta was published by Prof. Gauri Shankar. In 1982 the prose translation Sri Madbhabva Geeta was published in Dogri-Pahari language done by Dr. Shyam Lal Sharma. Rabindra Nath Tagore's Gitanjali and Ekautarashati have been rendered in chaste and musical flow in Dogri by Prof. Ram Nath Shastri and Kehri Singh Madhukar respectively. It is true that the beauty of feeling and music of the original Bengali have not been fully captured, but still the translations have been fairly successful in gathering the spirit of the underlying philosophy of songs, the play of omniscient and

omnipresent God and the poet's devotion and love. Besides, Tagore's poetry Prof. Shastri has also enriched Dogri literature by translating Bhartrihari's Niti Shataka and vairagya shataka six upanishada (kathoupanisada, kenoupaniSada, taittiriyaopaniSad, aittariya, praśna and Ishavasya upaniSad); C. Raja Gopalchari's Ramayana; Vinoba Bhave's Gita Pravacana etc.

Shyam Lal Sharma has translated a couple of works poetry in Dogri like Rajagoplachari's Mahabharata, Sanskrit poet Kalidasa's Meghaduta etc. Famous Kashmiri poetess Lalleshwari's selected couplets have been translated by Ved Pal 'Deep' (1929-1995) which have been published by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in a book entitled Lallavacanamirta (1980). And the same institution has published Dogri translation of Sanskrit poet Kshemendra's Deshapada Narmamala translated by Bal Krishan Shastri (1920-1986) under same title. Padma Sachdev a famous poetess in Dogri, translated five poetry collections, a Hindi poetry book entitled Akaal Mein Saras by Kedar Nath Singh as Barasagandhai Di Dhuppa (1993), Sita Kant Mahapatra's Oriya poetry collection Sabdar Akasa as Akkhar Gaas (1993), Kunwar Narayan's Hindi collection Koi Dua Nein (1997).

In short story translation collection of Kashmiri short stories by Akhtar Mohiuddin, namely Satsangar was translated into Dogri in the book entitled Satt Kingare (1979) by Gopi Nath Kaushik. Four parts of Sanskrit writer Som Dev's Kathasaritsagara have been translated into Dogri and published in the year 1975, 1979, 1984 and 1994 respectively. Translations were done by Kedar Nath Shastri (Ist two volumes), 3rd by Champa Sharma and 4th by Satyapal Shrivatsa.

In decade of 1990's six collections of short stories were translated and published into Dogri. In the year 1991 Narendra Sharma's Dogri translation of Rahul Sankrityayana's Volga Se Ganga was published as Volga Thama Ganga in 1993. Shiv Dobia's Dogri translation of Vishnu Prabhakara's children's story collection Suno Eh Kahani was published; in 1994

Dogri translation of Raskin Bond's Short Story Collection 'Flight of the Pigeons' by Champa Sharma was published as *Duari Kabutaren Di*; where as in the year 1995 Dogri translation of two short story collections were published, one of Punjabi writer Jasbir Singh Bhullar's *Jungle Tapu* (translated by Shiv Dobalia) and the other, Qurtulen Haider's Urdu collection *Patajhara Ki Awaz* (translated by Usha Vyas). In the year 1998 Marathi book *Rana Tali Rata* translated by Vijay Verma was published under name *Jangalai Di Ik Raat*.

In addition to these six collections one collection entitled *Samkali Bharati Kahaniyan* was also published by Sahitya Akademi in the year 1998 containing short stories of more than fourteen Indian languages including Assamese, Bengali, English, Gurarati, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malyalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sindhi, Tamil, Telgu etc. Different translators of Dogri contributed to this collection compiled in a translation workshop organized by Sahitya Akademi. The collection was edited by Shiv Ram Deep.

In the field of novel Thakur Poonchhi's Urdu Novel *Vadiyan Aur Virane* was translated by the author himself. It was published by Dogri Santha Jammu under title *Chanani: De Chor* in the year 1976. Sharat Chandra Chatterjee's another Novel *Shrikenta*, translated by Nilamber Dev Sharma was published in 1977 by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. It is to be mentioned here that Dogri prose writer and translator Vishwa Nath Khajuria made a notable contribution to enrich the translations in Dogri. In addition to *Path Ke Davedaar* (Sharat Chandra chatterjee) and *Ik Chadar Maili Janehi* (Rajindra Singh Bedi), he had also translated Mirza Hadi Rasva's Urdu Novel *Umrao Jaan Ada* and Phanishwar Nath Renu's Hindi Novel *Maila Anchal* under titles *Umrao Jaan*(1980) and *Neel Kamal* respectively. Both these Novels were published by J&K Academy. Ravindra Nath Thakur's Novel *Chokhera Bali* has also been rendered into Dogri by Hans Raj Pandotra under title *Akkin Di Rarak* in 1978.

Maxim Gorki's three Novels namely 'My Apprenticeship', 'Childhood' and 'My Universities' have been rendered into Dogri with the titles pained Mere Jivanade (1985), Mera Bachapan (1988) and Meriyan Univarstiyani (1999) by Madan Mohan Sharma, Nilamber Dev Sharma and Veena Gupta respectively. Nilamber Dev Sharma has also translated Assamese Novel Yeruingham (by Veerendra Kumar Bhattacharya), under title Lokraaj (1991).

Om Goswami, a prolific writer has also contributed Dogri renderings of two Novels. One from Hindi Kogara Ki: Aag (by Himanshu Joshi) and other from Malyalam Agnisakshi (by Lalithambika Antar Janam) under titles Dharan Te Lorey (1991).

In children literature translations of Gasai Bagair Bhut by Sheersendu Mukhopadhyaya, Chandar Pahar by Vibhuti Bhushan Bandopadhyaya and 'Peacock Garden' by Indira Goswami have been enriching children's literature in Dogri. These have been translated by Hans Raj Pandotra, Sudesh Raj and Uttam Chand Uttam as Gusai De Bagai Da Bhoot (1990).

In drama's translation Lower depths by Maxim Gorkio; Mitti di Gaddi (Mricchakatikam by Sanskrit writer Shudrak); Do Prahasana (1976) (bhagavadajjuki:yam and mattavilas:s both are Sanskrit plays). Translation of Rabindra Nath Tagore's three plays is sufficiently representative of Tagore's dramatic work and it looks quite natural in its Dogri garb. Andhayug which deals with Gandhari, curse and Krishana's death in free verse, its Dogri rendering is in line with original.

Shakespeare's English play Macbeth has been translated into Dogri by Satyapal Shrivatsa. Shambhu Mitra's Kanchan ranga (Bengali) has appeared as Sunna te Swarth has been translated by Jitendra Sharma. Asharh ka Ek Din (Hindi play by Mohan Rakesh), a romantic and sentimental play about Kalidasa and Mallika, has been translated by Jitendra Sharma and Chanchal Sharma. A Gujarati folk-play Jasman of Shanta Gandhi, has been rendered into

Dogri by Kavi Rattan. Sanskrit writer Bhasa's *Dutvakya* was translated by Chakra Dhar Shastri under the name *Namian Natak*. *Nurapurai Da te Kavita* by Dogri Di Narendra Khajuria's Hindi play *Rasta Kante Aur Haath* was translated by Kuldip Singh Jindrahia, under the name *Nhere Raste Channa Hoe*.

Shyam Lal Sharma has also translated two plays, one Kalidasa's *Abhijnan Shakuntalam*, a Sanskrit play and the other Revati Saren Sharma's Hindi play *Deepashikha* under the names *Shakuntala Natak* (1987) and *Deepashkha* (1988). Apart from translations adaptations of a few plays also has enriched translated literature in Dogri. For example, a play namely *Panch Parmeshara* based on Prem Chand's story *Panch Parameshwar* *Macbeth* based on Shakespeare's play in English *Macbeth* and *Sakharam Baindara* based on Vijay Tandulkara's Marathi play under the same name have been translated into Dogri. First adaptation was by Puran Singh and the second and third by Shiv Mehta.

History of Dogri Literature (Shiv Nath) was translated by the same author and Hans Raj Pandotra jointly under the title *Dogri Sahitya da Itihas* (1990); Nilamber Dev Sharma has translated from English into Dogri a compilation of papers read in National Seminar organized by Sahitya Akademi and the collection was published under the title "Contemporary Indian Literature." The Dogri translation of said collection was also published by Sahitya Akademi in the decade of seventies under the title *Ajjai Da Bha:rati Sahitya*. Besides, *Alokapuarva* (Hazari Prasad Dwivedi) an essay book from Hindi was translated by Shakti Sharma under the same name in 1994; and *Samanya Bhash Vigyan* (Babu Ram Saksena), a book on linguistics in Hindi was translated by Bansi Lal Gupta.

Translation in Dogri from 2001 to onwards:

In poetry translation Ramakant Ratha's poetry collection *Sri Radha* (2001) and Kailash Vajpayi's Hindi collection *Hava Mein Hastakshara* as *Bhau Ch Dastakhat* (2016). Jitendra

Udhampuri has also made a contribution of translating one poetry collection of Marathi entitled Salam by Magnesh Padgavakar under same title in Dogri. Hindi poetry collection Vitasta Ka Teesra Kinara by Maharaj Krishna Santoshi translated by Nirmal Vinod and published by Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in 2015. Arun Kamal's Hindi collection of poems namely Naye Ilaake Mian translated by Vijya Thakur as Namen Ilaake Ch has been published by Sahitya Akademi in 2016.

In genre of Short Stories and Novel the first decade of the 21st century a good amount of short stories from various languages has been Dogri short story in translated form Urdu writer Surendra Prakash's short story collection Baazgoi translated by Jitendra Sharma into Dogri as Laio Phi Suno (2002). Marathi writer N.D. Tamhankar's collection Gotya was translated by Arvind Goswami under same title Gotya (2004). Urdu writer Gulzar's short story collection Dhuan translated by Jitendra Sharma got published as Dhun Gai Dhun (2008). Punjabi writer Mahendra Singh Sarna's short story collection Namen Yuga De Waris and Hindi writer Nirmal Verma's collection Kale Kavve were translated under titles Namen Yugai De Waris and Kale Kaau Te Kala Pani translated by Shashi Pathania and Krishan Sharma respectively have been published in 2010.

Maithili short story collection Gananayak by Saketananda translated by Krishna Prem was published in 2013. Ram Lal's Urdu collection of short stories namely Pakheru translated by Narsingh Dev Jamwal has been published in 2015. In the year 2016 two collections of short stories, one from Punjabi namely Ik Chhitt Chanan translated by Shashi Pathania and the other from English namely Our tress still grow in dehra by Ruskin Bond translated by Nirmal Vinod as Dehra Cha Ajj Bi Ugade Na Sarhe Buhte have been published by Sahitya Akademi.

In the field of novel translation Om Goswami translated Malyalam Agnisakshi by Lalithambika Antar Janam under the title Agggoach (2004). In the year 2006 Sahitya

Akademi published Dogri rendering of four Novels namely Jahaar Hansa (Japanese Classic by Yasunari Kawa Bata) translated by Krishna Prem; Janata Da Adami ('A man of the people' by Chinua Achobe) translated by Hans Raj Pandotra; Sada Lophapha (Mati Nandies Bengali Novel) translated by Tara Danpuri and Dehri Da Diya (Marhi Da Deeva by Punjabi writer Gurdyal Singh) translated by Prakesh Premi. Earlier in the year 2001 Muktibodh a Hindi novel by Jainendra translated by Mohan Singh was got published by Sahitya Akademi. Translation of English novel The Peacock Garden, translated by Uttam Chand Uttam as Moern Ahla Baag was also published by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in 2005.

Alka Sarogi's Hindi novel Kalikatha Vaya Baipaas and Abdussamada's Urdu Novel Do gazz Zameen have also been rendered into Dogri. These renderings have been done by Veena Gupta and Jintendra Udhamपुरi under titles Kalkatte Di Kahani Vaya Baipaas (2007) and Do Gazz Zameen (2009) respectively.

Chhatrapal, a prominent short story writer and satirist has translated Kamleshwar's Hindi novel Kitne Pakistan in 2013. Yash Raina, a young poet has rendered two novels, one from Gujarati Angliat by Joseph Mac wan and other from Bengali Aranyer Adhikar by Maha Sveta Devi under titles Pichhalagg and Jarai Da Hakk respectively. Both these novels have been published by Sakhitya Akademi in 2013 and 2015 respectively. Rabindra Nath Tagore's famous Bengali novel Gora translated by Veena Gupta is been published by Sahitya Akademi. In children literature 78 short stories translated by Prof. Shivdev Singh Manhas and 21 short stories translated by Sunil Kumar published by EMESCO BOOKS, Hyderabad , Under Agreement with CIIL, Mysore in 2015.

In Drama translation Kripa Sagar's Punjabi play Miyan Dido translated by Yash Nirmal was published in 2011 and Shakespeare's prominent Julius Ceaser translated by Madan Gopal Padha was published in 2014.

Wise and otherwise, a compilation of personal essays (by Sudha Murthi) and the Sasia Story, an autobiography (by Madanjeet Singh) translated by Veena Gupta under the names Asa, Tusa te Oh (2004) published by PG Department of Dogri, University of Jammu and Sashiya di Kahani (2006). In addition to these prose works Dogri translation of Punjabi satiristic prose by Dr. Monojeet translated as Je Tus Bura Nein Manno Te by Ritu Kumar Sharma got published in 2015 and Hindi prose Banabhatta ki Atma Katha by Hazari Prasad Dwivedi translated by Om Goswami as Banabhatta Di Atam Kathha has been published recently in 2016.

The initiatives taken by National bodies like Sahitya Akademi, National Book Trust, National Translation Mission and state literary bodies like J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Jammu & Kashmir and Dogri Sanstha Jammu for development of Dogri have been playing a significant role in view of enriching the different literary genres of Dogri literature and knowledge text translation and opening new windows for aspiring writers.

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Bio-Note

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Bio-Note Prof. Veena Gupta is a former Head of the Post Graduate Department of Dogri, University of Jammu. She has published 15 books published on linguistics, grammar literary criticism etc and edited more than 30 books on different literary genres, translatology folklore-studies, linguistics etc. She has been felicitated by various national and regional organizations. She got State Award for the year 2010 for Dogri literature and Sahitya Academy translation award for 'Kalkatte Di Kahni Via Bypass' in 2013.

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