



साहित्य अकादेमी

Sahitya Akademi

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PRESS RELEASE

“Translation is a original work and a recreation in another language” – Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi

National Seminar on Translation as Retelling

February 26, 2017

As part of its annual festival of letters, Sahitya Akademi organized a daylong seminar on ‘Translation as Retelling’ at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on February 26, 2017. Many eminent translators and scholars from across the country participated in the seminar. The focus of Seminar was on Indian tradition of retelling Epics and classics in different tongues as opposed to western practice of ‘translation’.

In the inaugural session of the seminar, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke about how translation lies at the core of Akademi’s activities and why Sahitya Akademi publishes a large number of translations, organizes translation workshops and seminars, symposia and literary forums on translation across the country. He also talked about the tradition of anuvad as retelling in regional languages and how it is different from the conventional western notion of translation. In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, stated that India’s translation tradition predates that of Europe with Ramkatha and Mahabharata being told and retold in almost all the languages of the country. With varied interpretations and ways of retellings with different connotations such as Tika, Bhashya, Vritti etc, the Indian understanding of translation is far superior to that of others and Translation is a original work and a recreation in another language. In his inaugural address, eminent Gujarati scholar Prof Sitanshu Yashaschandra elaborated on the Indian practice of Anuvad as Punar Kathan and stated that good translations as retelling withstand the test of time and leave lasting impression on the minds. In his keynote address, Prof Sumanyu Satpathy, eminent English scholar, talked about how retelling as a practice with liberty has made the Epics and classics relevant through times and in diverse cultures and languages. He said that translators were re-creators and cited the example of Sarala Dasa and others and stated that this practice has become invisible today. Ms. Mini Krishnan, Editor and translator, chaired the first session while Czech indologist, Dr. Blanka Knotkova, chaired the second session.

The Akademi had also organized a National Seminar on Folklore: Tellings and Retellings and a symposium on the Unwritten Languages of India on the same day.

Sd/-
(K. Sreenivasarao)
Secretary