

Department of English
Visva-Bharati
Santiniketan
Call for Papers and Participation in a Workshop
On
Rabindranath Tagore and Translation
24-26 February 2018

In English, an act of translation involves a written text. For communicating an idea by means of gesture, sign, voice or movement, in English, the word customarily used is 'interpretation'. However, in *Siting Translation* (1992), Tejaswini Niranjana alerts us to the fact that *translatio*, the Latin origin of the word translation, suggests movement, disruption and displacement, while *traducteur* in French is a "translative practice between interpretation and reading, carrying a disruptive force" too(p.8). We propose to return to *translatio* once more, where *trans* suggests 'across' and *latio*, 'to carry' or 'to bring', and broaden the scope of translation beyond languages into the realm of ideas. In Christianity, translation meant relocation of human bodies from one world to another. In recent times, Cultural Translation suggests dynamism, involving human beings and their doings, crossing continents. Again, in common parlance, words 'translate' into action and conceptually difficult theoretical knowledge is 'translated' into more accessible language, involving the same language. Translation signifies mediation, marketability and greater visibility too. It is a complex cultural process and not simply the literary and linguistic. 'Sited' as we are in Santiniketan, we remember that Rabindranath Tagore weighed the Bengali words *tarjama*, *anubad*, *bhasantar* and *rupantar* and settled mostly for the first as suggesting a sense of rendition and interpretation in translation. Tagore's work involving his own texts in Bengali suggests transcreation and transculturation to make the content accessible in English. Remembering the rich and interconnected ideas of translation, interpretation, rendition, rendering, transcreation, cultural translation, transculturation, *tarjama*, *anubad*, *bhasantar* and *rupantar*, or, taking the word 'translation' in a truly comprehensive sense, we propose to organize a three-day conference and workshop on 'Tagore and Translation' at the Department of English, Visva-Bharati, in Santiniketan, during 24 to 26 February 2018 as part of our UGC DRS SAP II Programme on 'Rabindranath Tagore: East-West Confluence'. Papers and presentations will be on topics related to

1. Translation by Tagore and of Tagore (involving Bengali and English): theory, history, policy, politics and practice
2. Translation of Tagore into languages other than Bengali and English
3. Translation/ rendering of Tagore's texts: (a) from literature to performance (song, dance and theatre) and (b) from one medium of expression to another as in the case of movies.
4. Translation of Tagore's (cancelled) writings into doodles and subsequently, paintings
5. Translation as experiment by Tagore: (a) the 'everyday' into literature, (b) folk elements into the canonical, (c) foreign tunes into Bengali culture.
6. Reception of works of translation of and by Tagore: popularity (or the lack thereof) and means of popularization.

A collective effort will be made to translate Tagore's own writings on translation from one language to another at the Workshop. Mail your brief bio-note and contact details to Debarati Bandyopadhyay (abdebarati@gmail.com) by 12 February 2018 for possible participation in the Workshop.