

Title: Translation as Growth: Towards a Theory of Language Development

Author: Udaya Narayana Singh

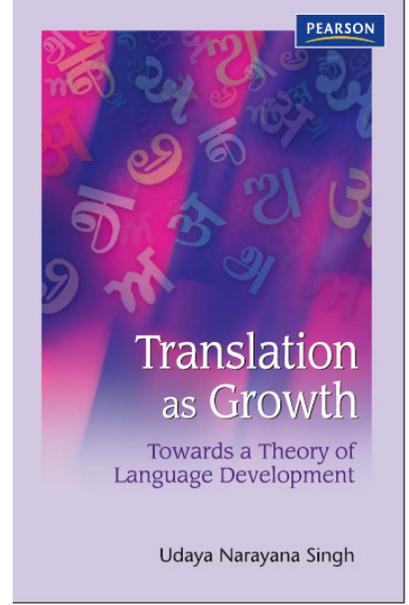
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Book Description

In this interesting and original volume, renowned linguist and author Udaya Narayana Singh argues that translation, like authoring, is a creative act that enriches both the original and translated language. Singh shows that the major modern Indian languages have developed not only through ‘vertical’ translations from the languages of power and knowledge—English and Sanskrit—but also by engaging in ‘horizontal’ translations of one another, ultimately contributing to the creation of an inherently pluralistic body of literature in India. The author’s theoretical insights, corroborated with ample use of excerpts from original and translated works and discussions from his vast personal experience in this field, will definitely be of great use to students and scholars of literature, comparative literature and linguistics, as well as to translators.

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The Author

Udaya Narayana Singh is Tagore Professor, Rabindra Bhavana, Visva-Bharati; Director, Indira Gandhi Centre for National Integration (IGCNI); and former Director,

Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore. He is a renowned linguist as well as a reputed poet, playwright and essayist in Maithili and Bengali. He set up the Centre for Applied Linguistics and Translation Studies (CALTS), the Centre for Distance Education and the Study India Program (SIP) at the University of Hyderabad, and has taught at the Universities of Delhi, Baroda and Surat. As a creative writer, he has published four collections of poems and twelve plays in Maithili (he writes under the penname 'Nachiketa'), and six books of literary essays and two volumes of poetry in Bengali, besides translating several books. His recent authored volumes include an anthology of poems in Maithili—*Madhyampurush Ekvachan* (2005), which has been translated and published in English (with Rizio Yohannan Raj, 2006), Tamil (2008) and German (2009); a play in Maithili—*No Entry: Maa Pravisha* (2008); a collection of one-acts—*Priyamvadaa aa anya ekaankii* (2008) in Maithili; a collection of nonsense rhymes—*Khaam-kheyaali* (2003) in Bengali; and *India Writes: A Story of Linguistic and Literary Plurality* (2006). Presently, he is the Chief Editor of the State-of-the-art Maithili bi-monthly, *Mithila Darshan*.

Professor Singh has also edited/co-edited many volumes, and contributed numerous chapters to edited volumes and articles to journals. His most recent edited volumes include *Culturation: Essays in Honour of Jawaharlal Handoo* (2001); *Linguistic Landscaping in India* (jointly with N. H. Itagi 2002); and *Language, Society and Culture* (jointly with N. H. Itagi and S. K. Singh, 2004). He has been the chief editor of the journal, *Indian Linguistics*, and general editor of the 'Language and Development' series (LAD) from Sage, and of the Longman–CIIL series of bilingual dictionaries from Pearson (forthcoming). He has also been the mentor or chair of several interesting academic projects, including the *Linguistic Data Consortium for Indian Languages* (LDC-IL), *National Testing Service* (NTS), *National Translation Mission* (NTM), and CIIL's *Bhasha Mandakini* series of documentation. Under the last project, Professor Singh has designed and created 545 short films in English on teaching of Bangla, Tamil, Kannada and Marathi. A poet-invitee at the Frankfurt Book Fair (2006)—India Guest of Honour presentation—and the leader of the Cultural Delegation of Writers to China (2007), Professor Singh has visited and lectured in Bangladesh, the Caribbean, China, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, the UK and the USA, and has received several grants and honours.

Praise for the volume

A laudable contribution with penetrating insights on the theory and methodology of translation by one of the most active scholars of India. Every chapter of *Translation as Growth* is a nugget of information. Those interested in the theory of translation will find it stimulating and rewarding.

— **Braj B. Kachru**

Professor of Linguistics and Jubilee Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

Translation as Growth presents many new views on the process of translation itself. For example, Singh discusses the question of what the difference really is between authoring and translating in

a new light (given that translation is in a basic sense creative). He also relates Western theories of translation to Indian theories and relates translation to language development and to the, often socio-politically dependent, processes of contact and influence between languages (translation is a major force behind 'linguistic convergence'). The book, in short, makes a valuable contribution to the increasingly important academic field of translation studies.

— **Jens Allwood**

Professor of Linguistics and Chair, Cognitive Science Program
The University of Gothenburg, Sweden

In *Translation as Growth*, Udaya Narayana Singh brings his insights as a poet, linguist and translator to bear upon his reconceptualization of the idea and the process of translation. He rethinks Western and non-Western approaches to translation in his attempt to refigure key concepts like text, language, ideology, culture, location, locution, othering, reading, *jouissance*, modernism and postmodernism. He semiotically links creativity with translativity, critically surveys the models of and metaphors for translation and closely examines the connections among language, translation, folklore and culture. The thematic range of the book is as admirable as the freshness of its insights. This is no passive report on the scene; the author takes unambiguous positions on most of the issues and breaks many idols in the process.

— **K. Satchidanandan**

Poet, critic and playwright, and former Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, India

This book establishes the centrality of translation in a globalizing linguistic scenario. Translation is not merely the shift of a given content from one language to another, but it is a cultural, emotional, interpersonal activity we engage in all the time. By thus expanding the connotations of translation, the author explores step by step the science of the translation process. At the end, we realize with amazement that translation is as creative as writing or doing something anew. This stupendous book adds a whole new dimension to the term 'translation'.

— **Martin Kämpchen**

Translation and Tagore expert and former Visiting Fellow
Indian Institute of Advanced Study
and Rabindra Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University, India