Harivansh Rai Bachchan's Translations of Shakespeare Tragedies - A Study

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INTRODUCTION

1.1Introduction

A renowned Indian poet, Harivansh Srivastava, started using the name "Bachchan" while writing. He translated four different of Shakespeare's tragedies into a poetry format. He translated the dialogues of prose into prose format. Harivansh Rai Bachchan translated these Shakespeare's tragedies into his kind of context. These translations are different from the original ones. This section will describe the background of the study, the rationale, the objectives, the aims of the study, the significance, the structure, and a summary. This is related to Harivansh and his translations of tragedies of Shakespeare. The author, Harivansh Rai Bachchan, has differences in the terms and the context of the content he has written. While translating an English text into a Hindi text, the experts say that the source language has to be translated into the target language. A language transformation process achieves this because of the difference in the culture of both texts. Harivanshi Bachchan has correctly portrayed the clashes between time and the main protagonist in the tragedies of Shakespeare. This paper focuses on the strategies used to translate Shakespeare's work into Hindi by Harivanshi Bachchan.

1.2.Background

In the later stages of 1970, the studies related to translation mainly began. In the nineteenth century, poetry and prose work developed a lot. The classical texts, translations, retellings, epitomes, interpretations, and adaptations grew immensely. A translation that would not disturb the original emotions of the source work needed to be generated (Snyder, 2019.). This appeared to be a tough job since it included a language change from English to Hindi or any other language. The translation is a tradition in India's brahmins and traditional canonical groups.

According to these groups, translation is simply a method of sharing experiences, forging solidarities, and spreading knowledge in a few cases (Bratchell, 2019). The Chhayavaad movement had Harivansh Rai Bachchan as the frontier person of Hindi literature in it. Harivansh led this movement with the help of his words. The poems given or written by him were the basis of today's Hindi poetry. The complexity of the language of Shakespeare compelled Harivansh to transform the plays into the Hindi language without changing the emotions of the play (Bayley, 2021). The works of Bachchan were in context to the plays of Shakespeare, and they provided tight allegiance to the source text.

1.3.Research rationale

A research rationale is a group or several reasons behind conducting a particular study. A research rationale gives the background on which a study is structured. It is important to clearly state a cause for research before starting research since it is the justification for the study. This research is conducted to express thoughts and imaginations as well as the concepts of Shakespeare portrayed in his plays and theatrical dramas (Perry, 2020). The common civilians across India are well acquainted with the Hindi language but less aware of English. The translation of the works of Shakespeares, mainly the tragedies, is beneficial for Hindi-speaking people. After the translation of the work, these people can understand the genuine emotions and concepts portrayed by the English poet William Shakespeare. This study aims to convey to the readers how Harivanshi Rai Bachchan successfully preserved the true feelings of the Shakespearian tragedies in his translated works. Due to his translation works, he is now known as the king of "modern poetry" (Whipday, 2019). This study aims to simplify the complex contents of Shakespearian

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literature into simple language understandable by ordinary people keen on novels and literature.

1.4. Aims and Objectives

Though there is a fine line of difference between a research aim and objectives, it is being clubbed together in this section. The term research aim states the common purpose of the project in concern. It is generally written in the section before the objectives of the research. On the other hand, research objectives are specific purposes that the researcher has to accomplish while conducting the study (Azimi and Moosavi, 2019.). The points below are the main aim and objectives of the current study on Harivansh Rai Bachchan's translation work on Shakespearian tragedies. This study is conducted

- To gain more knowledge about the works of Harivansh Rai Bachchan.
- To acquire knowledge about the template or the literary style followed by him translating the poetry and prose.
- To understand the contribution of Harivansh Rai Bachchan in translating the greatest tragedies of Shakespeare.
- To critically evaluate the style of writing of the original text by Shakespeare and the style of writing adopted by Harivansh rai Bachchan while translating it into the Hindi language.
- To understand the contribution of Harivanshi Rai Bachchan towards Indian and global literature.
- To generate extraordinary comparison research in the sector of literature.

1.5 Research Significance

The amount or quantity of contribution of a particular research or study toward society is termed the significance of a study or research. The benefits that can be gathered from a specific study come under the research significance section., it can be stated as the importance of the study (Yusupova and Odilova, 2022). The purpose of conducting a study and the ways to gather information are very beneficial since they contribute to developing knowledge in the study field. This study is important to make readers across India more aware of the works of Harivansh Rai Bachchan, especially his works related to the translation of English literature into standard Hindi or Awadhi dialects. This study is conducted to make the readers aware of the emotions portrayed by Shakespeare in his

greatest dramatic tragedies, which familiar Indian people do not read due to the usage of adamant English (Zayniddinovna, 2022). The study addresses the different literary styles and templates used to design the translated version of Shakespearean tragedies.

1.6 Research structure

Research provides a structure that helps the readers stay connected to the study. It prevents the readers from getting lost while reading a particular research work. This study is designed so that the readers are first introduced to the topic. Then the study is divided into two parts. The first part is the introduction section, and the second is the literature review section. The introduction section deals with the background of the research (Boiko and Nikonova, 2021). It briefly states the background of translation studies and a few pieces of information about Harivansh Rai Bachchan. It also contains a rationale section that predicts the plausible reason for conducting a study in translation. The following section defines the objectives as well as the aim of the study. The further sections, like the research significance section, tell about the importance of the study (LaPerle, 2019). The literature review section gives an overview of the work of Harivansh Rai Bachchan, his contribution to Indian and world literature, and a comparison between his and Shakespeare's work. The research structure, therefore, gives an overview of the sections included in this study.

1.7Summary

The translations done by Harivansh Rai Bachchan are ever-lasting in nature. He achieved many awards and honorary positions due to his translation work in poetry and prose and the translation of the tragedies of Shakespeare into prose form that too in the Hindi language. To date, the poetry and prose of Harivansh, which he translated, are being read by various readers in the Indian Subcontinent. The plays translated into the Hindi language by him have helped Hindispeaking people understand the importance of Shakespeare in literature. Harivansh Rai Bachchan proved to be an effective translator in conveying the expressions and emotions in Shakespeare's work without any modifications. Harivansh Srivastava was born in a region named Babupatti in Agra in the year 1907. He had his family name as Srivastav but used Bachchan while writing Hindi poetry instead.

Bachchan means child in Hindi. Bachchan had a grasp of the Awadhi dialect and the standard Hindustani language. Harivansh has significantly influenced Urdu poetry as well as Persian poetry. This study mainly focuses on the translation works of Harivansh Rai Bachchan, which were based on the tragedies or plays clubbed under the term tragedies by Shakespeare. This is a study of translation work. The introduction chapter briefly details the background of the renowned author Harivansh Rai Bachchan and the kinds of works he is associated with. Then this chapter focuses on the emergence of translation studies in the modern era and the need or importance of it in the new generation. Then this section focussed on the rationale for conducting this study. After that, it was said what the aims as well as objectives of this particular study were. This section concluded by stating the research structure, significance, and summary of this section, as well as the analysis.

2.LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1Introduction

A literature review is written with the help of taking information from the writings and other significant sources, taking into account the topic that has been selected. The sources that must be collected will include sources from journal articles and different studies from scholarly. A literature review consists of the summary, evaluation, and description of the sources that can be gathered from the other literaturebased articles. The literature review's primary purpose and significance are to collect relevant articles that align with the topic. Then it should be summarized into a cohesive summary with the knowledge already in that field. Then the individual doing the literature review gets to know the full knowledge of the topic and then can create their augments from the knowledge they have gathered by conducting original research. This chapter will discuss how a well-known Indian poet by the name of Harivansh Srivastava began writing under the pen name "Bachchan." He transformed four separate tragedies by William Shakespeare into poetry. He used to translate the dialogues of prose into prose format in his real context keeping it original. In this chapter, the overview of Harivansh Rai Bachan's translation of Shakespeare, the significance of the translation of Shakespeare's tragedies into Hindi, the prophecy of Harivansh Rai

Bachchan's translation work, the contribution of these to modern Hindi literature, a perspective from reader's view and a comprehensive summarization will be mentioned.

2.2 Overview of Harivansh Rai Bachan's translation of Shakespeare

Harivansh Rai Bachchan was a renowned Hindi poet. He was known to be one of the first people to translate Shakespeare's tragedies in Hindi. Harivansh Srivastava began writing under the pen name "Bachchan.". He transformed four separate tragedies by William Shakespeare into poetry. He used to translate the dialogues of prose into prose format in his real context keeping it relational (PRASAD, 2019). As he translated the context into his format, he made sure that that context was different from the original context. He pondered his translation theories and later started to discuss them in the prefaces he provided in his works of translation.

The translation theory of Bachhan was unique because it had some uniqueness in terms of content and form. During the translation of the "source language text" into a "target language text", it is expected to undergo a transformational process (Trivedi, 2020). This is because the context which explains the content and form eventually varies and differs from one culture concerning another cultures. Bachchan has taken many solid decisions and also evaluated them. At the same time, he did his translation in an equivalent form, and the content is taken from his culture, keeping with the original context. In the tragedies written by Shakespeare, the major themes were based on the conflict between the protagonist and time (Thakur, 2021). This fight also brings up the idea of aging and the battle between youth and old age. Bachhan's translation theory was highly distinctive because it was both content and formal unique. The "source language text" must go through a transformational process to become a "target language text." While translating equivalently and using content from his own culture while keeping the original context in mind, Bachchan made several important decisions and evaluated them. This is because the context, which ultimately explains the content and form, fluctuates and varies from one culture to another.



Figure 1: Harivansh Rai Bachchan (Source: leverageedu.com)

2.3 Importance of translating Shakespeare's tragedies into Hindi

When it comes to the significance of the translation of Shakespeare's tragedies into Hindi by Harivansh Rai Bachan, Shakespeare has diversely influenced the theatrical traditions in India. Shakespeare translated plays have travelled around the whole of India. It isn't easy to count the numerous production of Parsi, which is either established entirely or partially in the play of Shakespeare(Sharma et al., 2022). The theatre of Parsi operated Hindustani for the translation performances. Still, the theatre per se disaffected itself from the theatre for its crudity, commercialism, and vulgarity from the very initial period. The Shakespeare tragedies that were ever produced are uncertain as no evidence is available in its documentary. In the scarcity of theatrical activity regularly, Shakespeare translations by Harivansh Rai Bachan were mainly limited to the literacy circle. Thus, almost every Translation of Shakespeare in Hindi earlier to Independence was done as an exercise of literacy rather than for the stage. There are "faithful literary translations" (Nikumb et al.,2019). As Harivansh Rai Bachan did not have to feed viewers as in the famous theatre of Parsi, Harivansh Rai Bachan did not transcreate the plays in English as the proportion of Marathi or Parsi theatres did. Harivansh Rai Bachan's career lasted more than 50 years; Harivansh Rai Bachchan was known for "Madhushala" and is one of the collections of 30 poems. Many followed his four-volume autobiography as a literary masterwork(Kumar et al., 2022). His translations of Shakespeare's tragedy follow the play, which is initially close to balancing the "depressed influence upon the reader's mind"

created by the creations of romance which is vernacular. As Shakespeare's plays history are drowned in the history of English, it was very challenging for the translator of India to "Indianize" them. The work of translation is too faithful; it evolves into a mere record of "historical facts" and has some attraction to a reader.

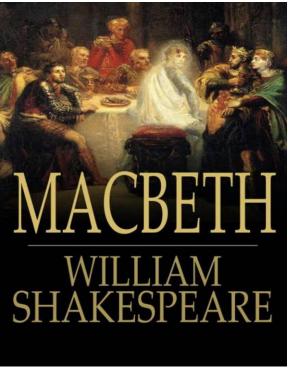


Figure 2: Macbeth of Shakespeare (Source: www.kobo.com)

Most of his translations of Shakespeare's tragedy were so famous that they went through various editions in the "course of a few years". As an influential poet, Harivansh Rai Bachan could translate Shakespeare's tragedy plays into verse, a rare feat performed in the translation that is in of Hindi Shakespeare. The victory of the translations is evident in the fact that it has flourished on the stage. The subject impact of Shakespeare in Hindi has drawn chiefly the attention of most scholars. Harivansh Rai Bachchan used the "roll" template for his translation to show the play to fit the character(Ober et al., 2019). Thus it can be seen that the Hindi reactions to Shakespeare have appeared differently at various times. This is true that creating Shakespeare into the tradition and folk of Indian patterns makes such creative pieces defamiliarize. Shakespeare ultimately makes Shakespeare culturally and contemporarily more suitable for the reader and viewers of India.

2.4 Prophecy of Harivansh Rai Bachchan's translation work (comparison with original works of Shakespeare)

Harivansh Rai Bachchan has written over 30 anthologies of respectable poetry and was the first Indian to achieve "A PhD in English Literature from Cambridge University". He was also a good translator and was well-known for the translation and melody of his poems. Madhushala is one of his most famous poems, and it is a perfect description of his translations. The poem utilizes wine to represent belief, life, love, death, and artistic expressions while translating to "House of Wine" (Dhara et al., 2022). Harivansh Rai Bachan's take on "god' is closer to Sufi ideals". As Harivarsh Rai Bachan digs into the artist's mind naming himself the serf of his creation, the poem also connects to "lover's anguish". He is famous for his poem's lyricism, and his verse has some rebellious hints. Harivansh rai Bachan is believed to be a frontier person of "Hindi romantic poetry"; he also wrote on numerous problems, including philosophy and politics. Harivansh Rai Bachan also translated Shakespeare's Othello and Macbeth into Hindi.

Along with the British, Shakespeare and the concept of translations came to India. The query of Shakespeare's translations and translations is also fascinating (Shet et al., 2022). "Who needs to read Shakespeare in translation". Often translations are judged and viewed by individuals who are well known to the original version. Every translation, and even the many faithful of translations, depart from the texts which are original as the sense of each language is diverse(Alfahady et al., 2021). Harivansh Rai Bachchan stated in the introduction to one of his Shakespeare tragedies translations that a speech that does not have Shakespeare translations in the language could not be named as a grown language. Shakespeare's translation is one of the signs of the abundance of a language that the language should have sufficient sources to be capable of translating Shakespeare satisfactorily and is a fine example. When there is a talk about Shakespeare's translation into an Indian language, particularly when it began in the nineteenth century when Harivansh Rai Bachan translated Shakespeare in his mind, he had more than Shakespeare. In the 1930s, Harivansh Rai Bachchan was an immensely famous romantic poet. In his poem of Shakespeare's translations, specific minor cultural problems appear, which are of great curiosity. Interest. Take for an example that is a bombshell is Harivansh Rai Bachan's translation, not to be or to be that is the query(Viktorivna *et al.*, 2021). The verdict arrives in an ungrammatical form: What is to be? The question arises as "be" a "transitive verb or an intransitive one?" until and unless there is an entity, how can be figured out the means like to be wrong, to be dead, to be alive and to be good? This all means it makes the usage of ungrammatical immortal lines Shakespeare (Brechin *et al.*, 2020). The poems will be forgotten without the use of aberrations.

2.5 Contribution of these to modern Hindi literature The study of translation started later in the 1970s. Indian literature in the nineteenth century was mainly a tale of developments of classical texts, creative translations, epitomes, retellings, adaptations, and interpretations. The translation is necessary to convey the importance of a language into another language bothering the initially touched emotions(Boiko et al., 2021). The language in India ought to be examined from a caste viewpoint. Also, in India, caste is the "in thing" in the environment of India. A translation lives in Brahmanical and canonical traditions differently as means of forging solidarities, sharing experiences, and spreading knowledge in some instances. "Chhayavaad movement" in the earlier 20th century as a frontiersperson of Hindi literature, Harivansh Rai Bachchan had a path with his words. His poetry is stated to have formed "modern Hindi poetry". Harivansh Rai Bachan's translations were important in times of merits in literature and in times of impact in culture. The translations by Bachan enabled him to convey the piece of Shakespeare to new readers and viewers and presented Hindi-speaking viewers and readers with the world of Elizabethan drama(Yuldashevna et al., 2019). Translations by Bachchan of Shakespeare's tragedies were famous for their tight allegiance to the original text. His contributions to Hindi literature were identified throughout his lifetime. He also acquired numerous honours and awards for his translation work. The translations by Harivansh Rai Bachchan of Shakespeare's tragedies had an ever-lasting impact on Indian culture. His translations were widely admired and read by many readers and viewers; still, it is performed and studied. His poetry is still admired and studied by many poets and readers. He was

conscientious about maintaining the originality of the meaning and structure of the poems and plays while still making the poem and play accessible to Hindispeaking readers. In addition to his translations of Shakespeare's, he was a very creative poet in his own right(Saini *et al.*,2022). His translation allowed him to present Hindi-speaking readers with the work of Shakespeare and established Shakespeare as having a significant impact on Hindi literature.

2.6 Perspective from a reader's view

Harivansh Rai Bachchan captures the essence of these plays in a poetic and understandable way for Hindi readers. By faithfully conveying these classic works' characters, emotions, and motifs, Harivansh Rai Bachchan has allowed readers to experience and appreciate these great works in a new way. His translation is a testament to his skill as a poet and his deep appreciation for the beauty of Shakespeare's language. His translations of plays such as Macbeth, Romeo and Hamlet, and King Lear are said to be some of the most successful translations of Shakespeare into any language. Bachchan's translation of the tragedies brought a newfound appreciation and understanding of Shakespeare to many readers, making his works accessible to a much wider audience. He was also impressed by how Shakespeare was able to explore themes such as love, death, and betrayal in his works. He wrote that Shakespeare was a master of the English language and that his works had a lasting impact on the world. Bachchan's translations remain widely read and admired for their lyrical beauty and fidelity to the original works. He managed to capture the mood and emotions of the source texts, and his translations remain some of the most popular Hindi-language versions of Shakespeare's works. The translation of Shakespeare's tragedies by Harivansh Rai Bachchan is a literary treasure. His translation of some of the greatest tragedies, like Hamlet, Macbeth, and King Lear, into Hindi is genuinely remarkable. From the reader's perspective, Harivansh Rai Bachan's translations of Shakespeare's tragedies played an essential part in presenting the work of Shakespeare to Hindi-speaking viewers and readers. He also helped to introduce Shakespeare's literature in modern Hindi literature(Lasley et al., 2022).

The translation theory of Bachhan was unique because it had some uniqueness in terms of content and form. According to the reader's perspective, during the

translation of the "source language text" into a "target language text", it is expected to undergo a transformational process. Also, his translations are prolific in his own right, and his poems are well known for their lyrical beauty and intense emotions. In his translations, he is very careful to maintain the originality of the meaning and structure of the plays and poems while still making them accessible to Hindi-speaking readers. According to the reader's perspective, Bachan's ability to convey the essence of the play while making it understandable to a Hindispeaking audience is a testament to his skill as a translator. Bachan's first translation of Shakespeare's play was Hamlet in 1951. This translation is important not only in terms of literary merit but also terms of cultural impact. That also helped to bring the work of Shakespeare to a new audience and introduce Hindispeaking readers to the world of Elizabethan drama.

2.7 Summarization

The author of the translations of Shakespeare's tragedies is an Indian poet. He did not use his real name, Harivansh Srivastava. Instead, he used the pen name "Bachchan" to write his poetry and prose. He used to translate poetry and prose and did his best to keep the contents original and different from the source (Greenhalgh, 2022). He was among the first to perform translations of the English language Shakespeare into the Hindi language. He provided theories, created his own and termed them his translation theories (Kesgin and Hashemipour, 2020). He applied these theories and wrote prose and poetry. He even started discussing his self-made translation theories before every novel or book in the preface section. He gave his best to make the translation and the ideas related to it unique. He kept some relations from the source to hold the content equivalent. Shakespeare's tragedies were mainly based on wars and conflicts between protagonists and time. India has Shakespeare's translated works, one of which is Harivanshi Bachchan's (Kihney and Lamzina, 2020). The various products of Parsi are there in the plays of Shakespeare and are depicted wholly or partially. The tragedies of Shakespeare known worldwide are Julius Caesar, Othello, Hamlet, Romeo & Juliet, Macbeth, King Lear, Coriolanus, Antony and Cleopatra. These are the nine tragedies of Shakespeare's plays (Karim and Mondal, 2020).

However, three can be added, and the number can be increased to twelve. The three historical plays are Richard II, Richard III, and Timons of Athens. The inclusion of the last one falls under the questionable category. Harivanshi Bachchan has selected four tragedies among the twelve and has successfully translated them into the Hindi version of the text. Putting any work of Shakespeare under the category of "Tragedy" is very difficult. Modern studies consider every piece of Shakespeare to have a different tragedy and eliminate all possibility of uniting them or grouping them under a particular group. The critics say that every work of Shakespeare is unique and should not be clubbed under a universal term of tragedy or comedy (Bradley, 2020). This would eliminate people's ability or correct to have their unique views on the plays, whether they are tragedies or comedies. Harivanshi Rai Bachchan's aim was not to recreate the English versions of the plays since he did not decide to present them in the theatre compared to the Marathi and the Parsi works. Harivansh Rai Bachchan's popularity mainly came from his work "Madhushala", written by him. Madhushala is a collection of thirty poems (Zentner, 2022). Also, the autobiography of Harivanshi Rai Bachchan was considered by many people as one of the masterpieces provided by the renowned person. His translations of Shakespeare's tragedy follow the play, which is originally closely to balance the "depress influence on the minds of readers" made by the creations of romance which is stated under the vernacular category. It was a challenge for Harivanshi Rai Bachchan to translate romance works into English and make them Indian or instead simply to Indianize them. Harivanshi finally proved to be a capable translator of the tragedies of Shakespeare. He translated the plays into verse. The translation was done entirely from English to Hindi correctly. The template used by Harivanshi in his work was the "rola" template. This template allowed the author or the translator to fit the character in the translated version of the play. It made the plays of Shakespeare more readable for readers across the Indian Subcontinent who are familiar with the Hindi language. Hariyanshi Rai Bachchan has allowed the readers to understand the plays, which was difficult since Indian people are less familiar with the creative and ornamented English language (Saleem and Pandit, 2020). The translation work of Harivanshi preserved the motifs, the characters, and the emotions in the original play and succeeded in bringing a sense of understanding to the job. The works of Harivanshi Rai Bachchan have fidelity to the actual works and are known for their lyrical beauty.

2.8 Conclusion

In this study of Harivansh Rai Bachchan's translations of Shakespeare's tragedies, there is a discussion about the literature review that helped to take information from the significant sources and writings, taking into account the topic. Bachan transformed four separate tragedies by William Shakespeare into poetry. He used to translate the dialogues of prose into prose format in his real context keeping it original. Bachchan has taken many strong decisions and also evaluated them. At the same time, he did his translation in an equivalent form, and the content is taken from his own culture keeping the original context. There is also a discussion about the importance of translating Shakespeare's tragedies into Hindi. Almost every Translation of Shakespeare in Hindi earlier to Independence was done as an exercise of literacy rather than for the stage. As an influential poet, Harivansh Rai Bachan could translate Shakespeare's tragedy plays into verse, a rare feat performed in the translation that is in of Hindi Shakespeare. There is also a discussion about the prophecy of Harivansh Rai Bachchan's translation work in comparison with the original works of Shakespeare. The query of Shakespeare's translations and translations is also fascinating. "Who needs to read Shakespeare in translation". Often translations are judged and viewed by individuals who are well known to the original version. Every translation, and even the many faithful translations, depart from the original texts as the sense of each language is diverse. In this study, there is also a discussion about the contribution of literature by Harivansh Rai Bachan to modern Hindi literature. The translation is necessary to convey the importance of a language into another language without bothering the initially touched emotions of the poem. His contributions to Hindi literature were identified throughout his lifetime. He also acquired numerous honours and awards for his translation work. Harivansh Rai Bachchan captures the essence of these plays poetically and understandably for Hindi readers. The translations by Harivansh Rai Bachchan of Shakespeare's tragedies had an ever-lasting impact on Indian culture. His translations were widely admired

and read by many readers and viewers, and still, it is performed and studied.

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