

Language and Translation in G.U. Pope's Thirukkural -A Study

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Abstract

When language and literature come together, we may learn more about how society was formed in the past, present, and future. Language is a tool for communication, and literature is a reflection of human existence. Language is essential to society for educating people and advancing their level of knowledge. It is also essential to everyone's ability to survive in the world.

Literature depicts historical societies' way of life, including both way of life and the psychological aspects of human behavior. A person's lifestyle is shaped by their culture, as they were raised with the moral standards that society has instilled in them.

Language, literature, and culture come together to form a beautiful bundle of moral principles. The fact that a large number of individuals overlooked those items indicates that fashion, not moral principles, will drive modernization. Translators invariably take chances without realizing it, bringing words, syntax, and structure from the source language into the target language. Literature depicts historical societies' way of life, including both way of life and the psychological aspects of human behavior. The fact that a large number of individuals overlooked those items indicates that fashion, not moral principles, will drive modernization.

Keywords: Modernization, Psychological, Behavior, Predicts Lifestyle.

Introduction

Thiruvalluvar, often referred to as Valluvar, was a Tamil poet, philosopher, and sage who was able to raise someone from poverty to great wealth. More precisely, he lived in the Sangam period, which is known as the Sangam age in Tamil culture. Despite having been born about 2,000 years ago, his writings, wisdom, and insights are still highly valued today. Valluvar has spoken widely on a variety of subjective human subjects, including life, justice, love, good vs evil, and wisdom. Let's examine the poet's childhood and personal life on Thiruvalluvar Day, along with a few must-read literary works.

A Tamil scholar and Anglican Christian missionary, George Uglow Pope (24 April 1820 – 11 February 1908) spent 40 years in Tamil Nadu and translated numerous Tamil works into English. Thirukkural and Thiruvasagam were two of his well-known translations. After a while, he turned to teaching and took up the position of principal of the Bishop Cotton Boys' School in Bangalore. Upon his return to England, he served as a lecturer at

Oxford's Balliol College. He is honored for his contributions to the propagation and knowledge of Tamil language by a statue on the beach in Chennai. Pope for translating with the imperial goal of demeaning Indian spiritual wisdom, leading to a despiritualized rendition of Thirukural.

Translation

The Latin word translation, which is derived from trans “across” + ferre, “to carry” or “to bring,” is where the English word “translation” originates. Translation, thus, is the “carrying across” or “bringing across” of a text from one language to another in this context. The process of conveying a text's meaning from its original language into a text in its target language is called translation. According to the terminological distinction made by the English language between translating and interpreting, translation can only start once writing within a linguistic community has emerged. Whereas translatio Russian and the South Slavic languages adopted the traductio pattern, the West and East Slavic languages adopted the pattern. Because they were directly derived from Latin, the Romance languages did not need to calque their parallel terms for “translation”; instead, they just used traductio, the second of the two possible Latin words.

‘Translation is a phenomenon that has a huge effect on everyday life’

Thiruvalluvar

Thiruvalluvar, an Indian poet and philosopher, was also known by his stage name Valluvar. He is well-known for writing the Thirukural, a compilation of couplets discussing love, politics, and economics, as well as ethics. The book is regarded as a remarkable and widely loved piece of Tamil literature.

Valluvar, a state scholar of Tamil literature, is not well-versed in the literature. Several biographers have drawn different conclusions about his life and probable upbringing from his literary works. Valluvar's life has been the subject of spurious hagiographic and mythical stories; all the main Indian religions, along with Christian missionaries of the nineteenth century, have attempted to claim Valluvar as a secret inspiration or as an ancestor of their own. Regarding his birthplace, religious affiliation, and family history, little is known with absolute clarity. Based on conventional narratives and linguistic examinations of his writings, his legacy is variously dated from the early fifth century CE to the fourth century BCE. He is thought to have resided at least in the Chennai town of Mylapore.

GU Pope

When George Uglow Pope performed a Tamil speech while on board a ship on route to Madras in 1839, he was dubbed a “pandit.” He was just 19 years old. Despite without any formal education or theological training, he was destined to serve as a missionary in South India through the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society. Over the next forty years, Tamizhagam was to learn just how fitting the nickname given to him was.

After I mentioned Pope in relation to the Tamil Lexicon and Sawyerpuram, Dr. D.B. James sent me a brief biography of him. It provides a lot of insight into this extraordinary scholar of Tamil who fell in love with the language's sound when he overheard a missionary on leave from a Madras Presidency posting speak a few words of Tamil to the 17-year-old Pope and other schoolboys in Oldham, United Kingdom. Based on his subsequent profession, it seems that Pope was more motivated by the language than the mission when he chose to become a missionary and look for

a posting in the southern region of India. He definitely started studying Tamil with the Wesleyan missionaries as soon as he made up his choice, even before he left the United Kingdom. He would subsequently admit that Tamil was the only language he studied in college.

About Kural

The Tirukkural, sometimes referred to as the Kural, is a traditional Tamil sangam manual on life philosophy. With 1330 couplets, or kurals, it spans 133 chapters and discusses the daily virtues of a person. It is hailed for its universality and non-denominational nature and is regarded as one of the best writings on ethics and morality ever produced. Valluvar wrote it sometime between the first century BCE and the fifth century CE. Thirukkural, a book of wisdom written by Thiruvalluvar and composed of 1330 couplets called Kurals, is considered the finest classic in Tamil language history and a distillation of the fundamental brilliance of Tamil Nadu.

Learning Authority

1. So learn that you may full and faultless learning gain,
Then in obedience meet to lessons learnt remain.(391)

Meaning - Let a man learn thoroughly whatever he may learn, and let his conduct be worthy of his learning.

2. The twain that love of numbers and of letters give ,
Are eyes,the wise declare,to all on earth that live.(392)

Meaning -Letters are numbers are the two eyes of man.

3. Men who learning gain have to eyes, men say,
Blackheads faces pairs of sores display.(393)

Meaning - The learned are said to have eyes, but the unlearned have two sores in their face.

4. The man who store of learning gains,
In one ,through seven worlds, bliss attains.(398)

Meaning -The learning which a man has acquired in one birth ,will yield him pleasure during seven births.

5. Learning is excellence of wealth that none destroy;
to man naught else affords reality of joy.(400)

Meaning -Learning is the true imperishable riches, all other things are not riches.

Summing Up

Its themes are timeless, transcendent, universal, and secular, meaning they can be applied to people from all walks of life. Tamil people have taken great satisfaction in Thirukkural for many years because of its secular, universal, and eternal qualities as well as its literary appeal and conciseness.

The renowned sage Tiruvalluvar has expressed his ideas in incredibly delicate and beautiful poetry. It is ageless, applicable to individuals worldwide, and has a nation of ideas, language, and meter all its own. This article contains translations of all the verses from the original Tamil.

All translators have acknowledged that they are unable to adequately convey in language the beauty and grace of Tiruvalluvar's exquisite style and rhythm. At most, it can be a faint replica of the original piece. For many years, the Tamil people have held his teachings in high regard and incorporated them into their daily lives and culture. They have loved, treasured, and revered the saint even though they haven't always obeyed him. Here are a few tributes paid in Thirukkural's honor.

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