

The Notion of Culture in the Process of Translation with Special Reference to the Short Story *Chevvanthi* Translated by S. Pathmanathan

A. Muthulingam^{1*}

Translation is an intuitive process that is based on the translator's capability. Literal translation is really a challenge. Translation is more a process of explanation, interpretation and reformulation of ideas rather than a transformation of words. The translator should be proficient in languages, source language and the target language. In this process the notion of culture plays a major role in the process of translation. Translator could hardly find a correspondent word because words in certain language are initiatively created as its cultural tradition or experience. It is difficult to translate, particularly when the target language insists on a different epistemology. The slightest detail in the original has a resonance that escapes the unfamiliar reader. This study discusses the challenges faced by the translator when he is about to translate the cultural aspects of a Tamil society into English with special reference to the short story 'Chevvanthi' translated by S. Pathmanathan. Translating culture-specific concepts in general and allusions in particular seem to be one of the most challenging tasks to be performed by a translator. The short story 'Chevvanthi' can be considered as a communicative translation, which attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original. The conclusion of the analysis is that the translated text provides a window to the Western readers the world of Sri Lankan Tamils.

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¹ Department of Linguistics and English, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka.
arivarasy13@gmail.com