

The Why and How of Authorial Involvement During Translation: Voices and Experiences of Nepali-English Literary Translators

Bal Ram Adhikari

Department of English Education, Mahendra Ratna Campus,
Tribhuvan University, NEPAL

Email: balaramadhikari77@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to explore author-translator interaction enacted in the translation of literary texts. Set against the poststructuralist approach to authorship and its implied plea for the emancipation of the translator as a reader from an authorial injunction, the paper presents literary translators' voices and experiences of consulting their authors during translation. The qualitative data collected from Nepali-English literary translators through semi-structured interviews were analyzed thematically. Findings reveal a discrepancy between the theoretical questioning of authorship and translation practitioners' desire and necessity to get connected with their authors. Accepting the author's centrality to the text, literary translators seek authorial involvement as a last semantic resort to resolve an interpretive crisis during translation. In accepting authorial authority, translators are equally aware of their translatorial agency. Authors are called upon to play a supportive, rather than a domineering, role to accomplish the translatorial goal.

KEYWORDS: authorship, author-translator interaction, interpretation, literary translation