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साहित्य अकादेमी
(राष्ट्रीय साहित्य संस्थान)
संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
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PRESS RELEASE

International Translation Day 2020

Sahitya Akademi, India's premiere literary institution, organized a panel discussion on the "Role of Translation in the Acquisition of Knowledge" online on Wednesday, 30 September 2020, to commemorate the International Translation Day. Every year, the Akademi organizes a literary programme to mark the International Translation Day in different cities and this year due to Corona Pandemic, Akademi organized the programme online. Distinguished academicians, scholars and translators, Dr Bikram K. Das, Prof Surabhi Banerjee, Ms. Mini Krishnan, Prof Deo Shankar Navin, Prof Dipak Kumar Sharma and Ms. Subashree Krishnaswamy participated in the discussion. Dr Bikram Das observed that while translation does provide avenues when it comes to intuitive knowledge and also facilitates one to discover one's cultural roots as in his own case, the same cannot be said about scientific knowledge etc. Prof Surabhi Banerjee stated that while translation does play affirmative role in the acquisition of knowledge but knowledge is a multi-layered concept and so is translation. Ms. Mini Krishnan said contact of cultures always brought about change and progress and in this context translation did, does and will do have a huge role in the transfer of knowledge in many fields including culture. Prof Deo Shankar Navin said that translation is indeed one of the avenues to gain knowledge as knowledge is of many types and if one observes closely one can find that translation did play a huge role in a multilingual society like India from the Vedic times to the present. He added that if today we are able to read literature from Tamil or Telugu or Bangla easily and get to know about various cultures and literatures it is only through translation. Prof Dipak Kumar Sharma stated that he is from the Northeast where there are about 272 languages and in such a society translation does play a very important role in the generation and dissemination of knowledge and he added that translation plays a vital role in understanding and reassessing our past. Ms. Subashree Krishnaswamy stated that translation is a meeting point where cultures meet, where an idea from one culture makes its way into another. The discussion went on to cover translatability or portability of culture, fidelity to the original, role of translation in educational and children's literature etc. All the participants thanked Sahitya Akademi for organizing wonderful literary events every year to commemorate International Translation Day.

(K. Sreenivasarao)