



## **THE INFLUENCE OF TRANSLATED BENGALI NOVELS ON MARATHI NOVEL IN NINETEENTH CENTURY**

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### **Abstract**

*Translations play very important role in literary field. It is beneficial for the target language. It has been proved that translations influenced and shaped the literature across the regions and countries. The influence of Bengali novel played an important role in shaping and developing Marathi novel. The influence of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee is felt more on the Marathi novel. His novels portray the themes of social reformation, historical events, social and domestic scenario. The indirect influence of Ishwar Chandra Sencan be observed on the Marathi literature. Therefore, it can be said that Bengali novel gave inspiration to early Marathi novel. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's 'Kapalkundal' is a romantic and fascinating type of novel translated by N. V. Bapat. Afterwards, domestic novels, the novels based on historical period, politics were translated. In these novels, history, society and romances are confluenced together. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee started to write domestic and the novels based on historical period. The series of 'Vadhudarpanmala' appeared for women education and orientation in the nineteenth century. The idea of model of an ideal daughter-in-law is the central theme of 'Saddguni Soon.' An image of an ideal and virtuous daughter-in-law is portrayed through the character of Ramabai. She is a hard worker, polite, self-restrained, virtuous and nurses her both mother and father-in-laws. The writer tried to educate and orient the people through this novel. Maharashtra and Bengal were on more leading front in the fields of literature, social and political movements during the nineteenth century. Besides, there is a reciprocal response and influence on each other of these two states.*

**Keywords:** *translation, novel, Bengali, Marathi, influence*

Literature is a mirror held upon society. Whatever happens in society reflects in literature. In a way, society is a source of literature. Society is a shaping and molding force of literature. With this some other factors influence the literature. One among them is translation. Translation also plays vital role in influencing and shaping the literature of target language. Translations had a great influence on early Marathi novel. Translations of English novels into Marathi helped Marathi novels to explore new fields of writings. Next to the English novel, Bengali novel influenced Marathi novel. The Bengali writers like Rabindranath Tagore, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, RomeshChunderDutt, Sanjeev Chandra Chatterjee, Swarnkumari, a sister of Rabindranath, and other writers in Bengali literature influenced the Marathi novel during the nineteenth century. The influence of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee is

felt more on the Marathi novel as compared to the other Bengali writers. A difference can be shown regarding the translation into Marathi before nineteenth century and after nineteenth century about Bengali novel, especially of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's novels.

Mama ViththalVarekar did important work of translating all the Bengali novels of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee into Marathi in the early twentieth century. He accomplished the work of translating Bakimchandra's work into Marathi. He brought a set of fourteen novels of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee into Marathi with the help of Navbharat Publication, Mumbai. However, all these novels have been published in a shortened and concise form. They are – (1) Durgeshnandini, (2) Kapalkundala, (3) Mrinalini, (4) Vishvruksha, (5) Indira, (6) Chandrashekhar, (7) Rajani, (8) KrushnakantacheMrutyupatra, (9) Rajasigh (First Half), (10) Rajasigh (Second Half), (11) Anandmath, (12) Devi Chaudhurani, (13) Sitaram (First Half), (14) Sitaram (Second Half). Varekar had a command and proficiency on both source language and target language i. e. Bengali languages and Marathi, so he could accomplish this big task easily. However, at present, we need to consider Bengali novels translated into Marathi during the nineteenth century. Almost all above novels had been translated into Marathi before Varekar in the nineteenth century. The nature of this translation can be explored here. Instead of discussing the nature of the influence on Marathi novel at first, it is necessary to know something about Bankim Chandra Chatterjee who influenced the Marathi novel, and why it happened so.

SukumarSen writes about the whole literature of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee:

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee was a great story writer and he was an expert in writing love stories. Even though his attitude towards life was not profound and extensive enough and even plot is not extensive, still he is a great novelist. He is not only a great novelist but at the same time he is a guide and a paver of the new way. Chatterjee is a representative of Bengali wayfarer who has enough available resources for livelihood, leading a sophisticated, comfortable life, having English education and confronting Western development. (tr.)

Such a great novelist influenced greatly early Marathi novel. Especially, his novels portray reformation in historical, social and domestic scenario. Ishwar Chandra Sen, the contemporary supporter and champion of social reformer in Bengal, influenced Bengali literature. The same influence was on Bankim Chandra also. So Bankim Chandra started his literary career by following the path of Ishwar Chandra Sen. The indirect influence of all these things can be observed on the Marathi literature. Therefore, it can be said that Bengali novel gave inspiration to early Marathi novel. The influence of Bengali novel played an

important role in shaping and developing Marathi novel. The detailed analysis of this can be possible with the help of some novelists and their novels.

The first printed novel of Bankim Chandra is 'Rajmohan's Wife' and it was written in English. "Strangely enough, Bengal's first great novelist, like Bengal's first great modern poet, made his debut in the field of literature in the English language. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee was only twenty-seven when he won a permanent place in the history of Bengali literature with his first novel in his mother tongue, *Durgesh-Nandini*, published in 1865. Two years before that he had completed a novel in English. This was entitled Rajmohan's Wife and was published as a serial in 1864 in the weekly periodical, the Indian Field, edited by Kishori Chand Mitra." However, '*Durgesh-Nandini*' is considered as his first Bengali novel. The plot of the novel deals with the daughter of a baron in the Middle Age. ShivramGovindFalakeTryambakrao translated it into Marathi and it was published by DamodarSavalaram and Co. Badode in 1898.

His second novel is '*Kapalkundal*' written in 1866. N. V. Bapat translated this novel into Marathi and published by SurasGaranthamalaPrakashan, Solapur. This is a romantic and fascinating type of novel. The novel presents the life struggle of the hero NandkuvarPurushottamroy and the heroine Padmavati. The novel shows the development of plot through hardships and difficulties like separation from relatives, resulting pains, unhappiness and ultimately happiness in the life of the hero and heroine. In 1869, Bakim Chandra wrote the novel '*Mrinalini*.' The novel shows love story on the historical background. Mrs. Knight wrote on the basis of Bengali novel of Bakim Chandra '*Vishvruksha*'. Vishnu SitaramDev translated this novel into Marathi in 1884. The central theme of the novel is the description of adverse effects poisonous tree of lust. The hero of the novel, NagendraDatta is a famous landlord. His domestic life destroys and becomes miserable because of excessive sexual desire. Ultimately, he realizes that his behavior is responsible for his miserable condition. In the end, he becomes regretful for whatever is happened. Again his domestic life restores and happiness returns. The novelist teaches and orients the readers through this novel. The very special characteristics of the novel are the use of procession, and letters. AtmaramAppajiPandey translated Bakimchandra's historical novel '*Rajsingh*' in 1896. It is entitled as '*MaharanaRajsingh*'. The novel is based on the references of the historical period of monarch Aurangjeb. Rupnagar is an imaginative Kingdom in the novel. It is in the hilly area of Rajputanya. Chanchalkumari is the princess of this Kingdom. The novel portrays the life of Chanchalkumari and the prince of Udepur, MaharanaRajsingh. The valour and deeds of MaharanaRajsingh are the central themes of the novel. Some special

characteristics of the novel are – the use of Hindi language, the use of letters, the use of footnotes. Haribhau Apate also translated the same novel of Bakinchandra, 'Rajasingh'. He translated this novel into Marathi as '*Rupnagarchi Rajkanya*.'

Bhangale Jagannath Dhondhu translated '*Dillivar Halla*' into Marathi from Gujarathi novel. However, this novel was originally written in Bengali and its writer is unknown, then it is translated into Hindi then Gujarathi and at the end into Marathi. This novel needs to be grouped in the novels from Bengali translation. The theme of the novel is a battle between Prithviraj Chauhan and Muhammad Ghori. The use of Hindi Language and the use of footnotes are profuse in the novel.

Some more novels can be mentioned here which are written by Bakim Chandra in Bengali and translated into Marathi. Madhavanuj translated Bakim Chandra's Bengali novel '*Krushnakanter Will*' into Marathi as '*Krushnakantache Mrutupatra*.' This novel was published by Chitale and Co. Wai, in 1900. Bakim Chandra wrote famous novel '*Anandmath*' in 1882. This novel is mentioned as a novel on an inadequate plot based on a politics. Above novels are required to be mentioned as the novels translated into Marathi in the nineteenth century. In these novels, we see history, society and romance novels are confluence together.

Next to Bakim Chandra Chatterjee, the novels of Romesh Chandra Datta have been translated into Marathi. He had been the president of 'Indian National Congress' and a Member of Indian Civil Services. He started to write historical and domestic novels and stories in accordance to Bakim Chandra Chatterjee. The two novels of Romesh Chandra have been translated into Marathi. His novel '*Madhavi Kankan*' was published in Bengali in 1877. This novel is based on historical times of Shahajan. Atmaram Appaji Pandey roughly translated this novel into Marathi as '*Madhavi Kankan*.' This novel is published into Marathi in 1900. In 1887, Rameshchandra Datta wrote a novel '*Maharashtra Jeevanprabhat*.' This novel portrays a struggle between Chatrapati Shivaji and Aurangzeb and describes how Maratha Empire rose and widened in India. This novel is considered as a one of the best historical novels. Shivram Govind Falke translated this novel into Marathi, and the first edition of this novel is published in 1893 entitled as '*Shre Shiv Chhatrapati*.' Shri. Shivnath Shastri Agnihotri and Shri. Dwarkanath Gangopadhyay were also famous Bengali novelists and their novels have also been translated into Marathi.

The series of '*Vadhudarpanmala*' appeared for women education and orientation in the nineteenth century. Through these series, Bhanu Keshav Gaangnaik wrote two novels. He translated Shivnath Shastri Agnihotri's original Bengali novel into Marathi and entitled as '*Saddguni Soon*,' and this novel is published in 1885. Another novel based on Bengali novel

of Shri. DwarkanathGangopadhyay translated into Marathi and published in 1885 entitled as 'Aanandibai' The idea of model of an ideal daughter-in-law is the central theme of 'Saddguni Soon.' An image of an ideal and virtuous daughter-in-law is portrayed through the character of Ramabai. She is a hard worker, polite, self-restrained, virtuous and nurses her both mother and father-in-laws. The writer tried to educate and orient the people through this novel. The use of letters is one of the characteristics of the novel. 'Aanandibai' is another novel of Gaanganaik. The plot of this novel is set on the background of Mumbai city. Aanandibai does not keep a maid-servant like others even though she is rich enough to afford the same. She does all her home-works and saves money. In a way, she is an economical woman. For sometimes, she herself goes to market for shopping. Such incidents appear in the novel for the orientation of contemporary women. Some writing techniques like use of letters, character narration are used there in the novel.

Mrs. Hana Catherine Mullens is credited with having written the first novel in the Bengali language, *Phulmani O KarunarBibaran* (Description of Phulmani and Karuna), in 1852. She translated her own Bengali novel into Marathi entitled as '*Fulmani and Karuna*'. The first edition of this novel is published in 1859.

The elder sister of Rabindranath Tagore, Swarnakumari Devi is the first all-round Bengali writer. Her first novel '*Dipnirvan*' was published in 1876. This novel is based on the historical references of PrithvirajChauhan. BapuNarshinghBhave translated this novel into Marathi as the same title '*Dipnirvan*'.

Maharashtra and Bengal were on more leading front in the fields of literature, social and political movements during the nineteenth century. Besides, there is a reciprocal response and influence on each other of these two states. Bengal is known as the capital of British during earlier period. Therefore, Bengali people and society were exposed to English language for a long period of time. Because of this fact, many episodes took place there. In due course of time, its influence is felt on Maharashtra also. The translations played an important role of shaping and developing Marathi novel in the nineteenth century. Marathi novel made its way by the translations. The nature of the influence on literature is described in this way.

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