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साहित्य अकादेमी
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संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
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PRESS RELEASE
Symposium on "Celebrating Rabindranath Tagore in Translations"

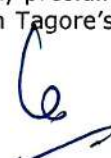
To coincide with Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's 162nd Birth Anniversary, Sahitya Akademi organized a Symposium on "**Celebrating Rabindranath Tagore in Translations**" at 4.00 p.m. today at Akademi's Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi in which five eminent writers and scholars –Sri Prayag Shukla (Hindi), Prof. Radha Chakravarty (English), Dr. Mohanjit (Punjabi), Sri Fay Seen Ejaz (Urdu) and Prof. H.S. Shivaprakash (Kannada) participated. The programme was chaired by Prof. Malashri Lal, eminent writer and scholar in English and the Convener of Sahitya Akademi's English Advisory Board.

At the outset, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed all the guest speakers with the angvastram. In his welcome address, he said that Rabindranath Tagore was a prophetic humanist and his writings were universal. Sahitya Akademi has made available the translations of many of his works in various Indian languages.

Sri Fay Seen Ejaz narrated his own experience while translating Tagore. He said that Tagore kept himself live, particularly, in his songs. Tagore has written around 2500 songs and it is extremely difficult to translate them. Prof. H.S. Shivaprakash spoke about the translation of Tagore's works with special reference to Kannada. He talked about the influence of Tagore on other writers and said that the number of translations of Tagore's works must be increased in many more Indian languages. When it comes to translation of Tagore's works into Kannada, most of them have been translated into Kannada through English. He also recited a couple of Tagore's songs in Kannada. It is very important to bring word and spirit into translations which is a challenge for the translators, he further said.

Sri Mohanjit expressed his view on language, politics, myth, philosophy and spirituality in Tagore's works. He said that Tagore was greatly influenced by Sikh Gurus and scholars, particularly Guru Nanak, Banda Bahadur and Bhai Taru Singh. Sri Prayag Shukla spoke on his childhood days spent in Kolkata and how he began translation of Tagore's literature into Hindi which he greatly enjoyed. Several prominent writers have translated books of Tagore into their languages.

Prof. Radha Chakravarty recited some of Tagore's songs in English translation. In her paper, she said that Tagore's poems recognizes power of words and his translations crosses different language barriers and hailed him as Asia's first nobel laureate. Prof. Malashri Lal, presiding over the programme, thanked everyone and presented the translation of Rabindranath Tagore's story, Moh Maya. Several eminent writers were also present in the programme.


(K. Sreenivasarao)