Translating Ashokamitran’s words — and his silences

Recent English Translations Help Non-Tamils Access The Works Of Leading Tamil Writer

Harsidh Narayanan

Our prominent Tamil writer, Ashokamitran, is one of the most prolific authors, in English and Tamil, in the South Indian literary scene. He is the author of over 100 books, including the Sahitya Akademi award-winning novel, ‘Kanaiyazhi’ (1969). His work, which has been translated into several languages, has enthralled readers across the globe. However, until now, his work has largely been accessible only to Tamil readers.

Ashokamitran's work is a masterclass in depicting the subtleties of human emotions and experiences. His stories are a stark contrast to the usual melodrama and sensationalism found in Tamil literature. They are characterized by a quiet intensity, a profound understanding of the human psyche, and a deft use of figurative language.

His work has been translated into English, but this has often been a challenge. The language barrier has made it difficult for readers outside the Tamil-speaking world to access his work. However, recent English translations have helped non-Tamils to appreciate the unique qualities of Ashokamitran's writing.

His stories are a testament to the power of translation. They bridge the gap between cultures, allowing readers to connect with the themes and experiences they represent. This is why it is crucial that we support translation efforts.

In his recent English translation, ‘Kalyan Raman for Penguin Books: The Works Of Ashokamitran’, the author, Kalyan Raman, has done a remarkable job of capturing the essence of Ashokamitran's work.

The translator has been careful to maintain the original tone and style of the stories, while also ensuring that they are accessible to a non-Tamil-speaking audience. This is a significant achievement, given the challenges of translating a language that has a rich cultural and historical context.

The translation process is not just about converting words from one language to another. It is about preserving the essence of the original work, while also making it understandable to readers who are not familiar with the linguistic and cultural contexts.

The translator has worked closely with the author, ensuring that the translation accurately captures the meaning and nuances of the original text. This has required a deep understanding of both Tamil and English literature, as well as a sensitivity to the cultural and historical contexts in which the stories are set.

In conclusion, the recent English translations of Ashokamitran's work are a testament to the power of translation. They have opened up a new world of reading for non-Tamils, allowing them to access the unique qualities of Ashokamitran's writing. This is a significant achievement, and it is one that we should all celebrate.

For more information, please visit: magicbricks.com

Announcement of Online Common Entrance Test (CET) for August 2016 Batch of M.B.A. PROGRAMMES

Online registration is open from 1st April 2016

Last date for Online Registration: 13th May 2016

Date of CET: 04 June 2016 from 2 PM to 5 PM

For further details, please go through our Academic Brochure for 2016-17 available on our website www.imu.edu.in

When it is a seller or buying a home, India trusts magicbricks the most. Our relevant and innovative products give the right platform to sell or buy properties. No wonder, magicbricks is India’s No.1 Property site with the highest number of buyers, sellers and unique visits.