Innovation and Global Cooperation for Sustainability

12-14 March, 2024

A New Passage to India

Department of Germanic & Romance Studies

University of Delhi

2016 *The New Passage to India* project between the University of Delhi and The Bergische University Wuppertal was initiated by Prof. Dr. Ursula Kocher. From the Department of Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Delhi, Prof. Dr. Shaswati Mazumdar was the PI.
In this first phase of the NPI, ending in 2018 the project

1. AIMS

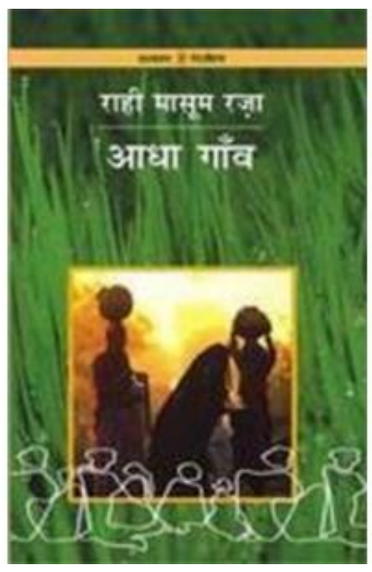
- To translate contemporary Hindi Literature i. e. Novels and Short Stories directly from Hindi into German. As a result of this, contemporary themes and changes in the genres in Hindi Literature were made accessible to a German speaking readership.
- To form a Translation Collective of Indian Students from the GRS Department and from the Bergische University Wuppertal in order to share linguistic and cultural competences in both the source and the target language.
- Every year 5 students from the Delhi University were chosen through a rigorous selection process and spent a minimum of three months at Wuppertal University along with a coordinator. They worked with students from Wuppertal University to produce the first draft of the translated text under the supervision of Prof. Ursula Kocher, in this collaborative translation work.
- Similarly, 5 students and a coordinator came to the Delhi University, and worked on the rough draft under the supervision of Prof. Shaswati Mazumdar to produce a pre publication draft.

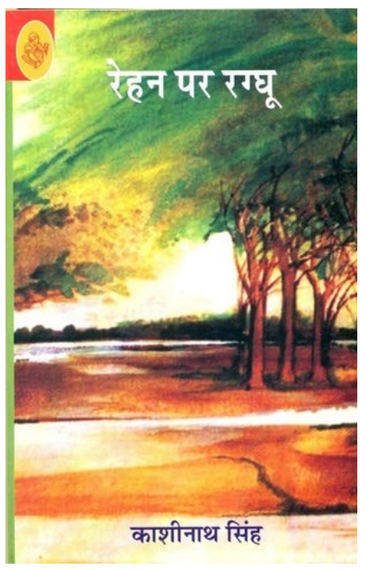
2. Outcomes

- Contemporary Hindi Novels were translated directly, without recourse to an intermediary translation into German. This was a major achievement in the field of translation studies in India and Germany.
- Young academics got an opportunity to experience intensive and direct cultural exchange by carrying out cooperative, bi-national translation work in a University setting.
- It led to an understanding about cultural specifics, similarities and differences, which became tangible through the end product of the work, i.e., the translation.
- Both the Indian and German students gained insight into the state of translation studies and cultural studies through participation in this collaborative translation project.
- The Indian and German students gained awareness of linguistic and stylistic peculiarities as well as cultural concepts through direct, intercultural dialogue.
- Most of the Indian participants of this project continued to work in the field of German Studies in India.

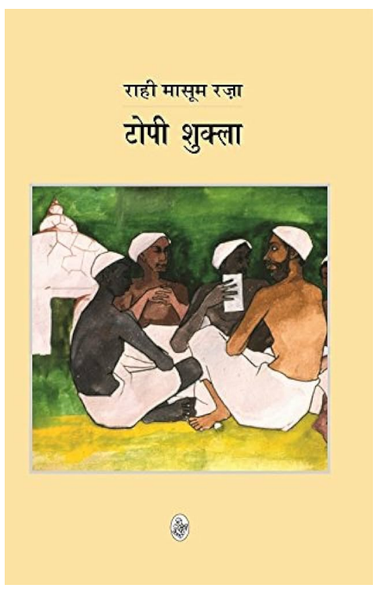
Books Translated

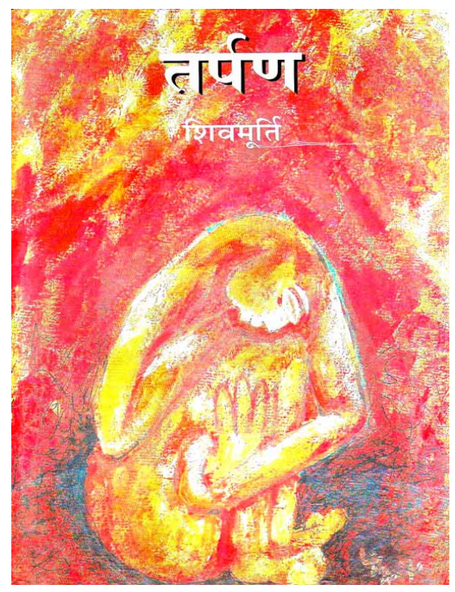
- Aadha Gaon by Rahi Masoom Raza
- Rehan Per Raghu by Kashinath Singh



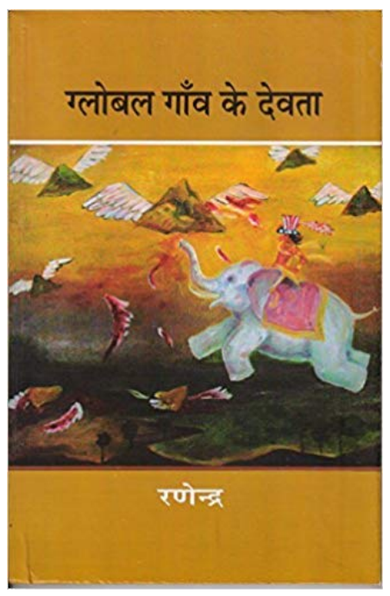


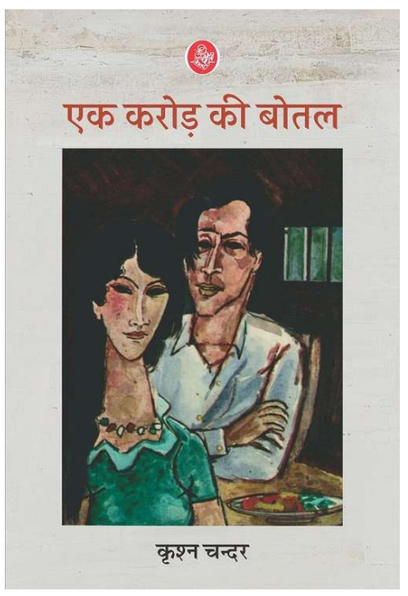
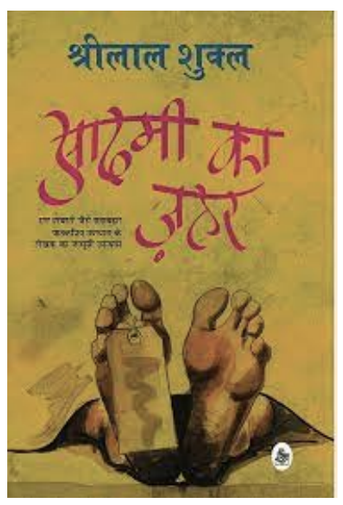
- Topi Shukla by Rahi Masoom Raza
- Tarpan by Shivmurti





- Global Gaon Ke Devta by Ranendra
- Ek Karore Ki Botal by Krishan Chandra





- Aadmi Ka Zahar by Shrilal Shukla