

## UMESH KUMAR

(उमेश कुमार)

MA (Pune); PhD (EFL-U Hyderabad)

Assistant Professor

Department of English | Banaras Hindu University | INDIA | 221005

British Council's Charles Wallace Visiting Fellow | University of Edinburgh | 2019-20

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### BIOGRAPHY

Dr Umesh Kumar is with the Department of English, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), India, since 2015. Apart from teaching canonical courses in British literature, he is a practicing translator and works with the following language pairs: Hindi: English: Marathi; either way. He has been trained at leading translation schools of the world; notable among them are: the NIDA School of Translation Studies, Italy and the British Centre for Literary Translation, the University of East Anglia, the UK. He identifies himself a 'committed' translator.

For 2019-20, he was British Council's Charles Wallace Visiting Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, the UK.

His essays and translations have appeared in *Sahitya Akademi*, *Translation Today*, *Contemporary Voice of Dalit (Sage)*, *The Book Review*, *Indian Literature*, *Vani Prakashan*, *The Hindu*, *The Wire*, among others.



Dr Kumar holds postgraduate degree in English from the University of Pune and was awarded a PhD in English (Cultural Studies) by the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. His PhD project examined the phenomenon of 'Honour Killings' in rural north-India; foregrounding its cultural and literary representations.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS |

- Translation Studies, Indian Literatures, Cultural Studies, Children's Literature.

## EDUCATION |

- PhD in English (Cultural Studies) (2010-15): The English and Foreign Languages University (EFL-U), Hyderabad. PhD Advisor: Prof. Maya Pandit
- M.A. in English (2008-10): Department of English, University of Pune (UoP), Pune.

## WORK HISTORY |

- Oct 2015 – onwards: Department of English, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- Consulting Faculty for M.A. English Programme (MEG), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Varanasi Study Centre. Oct 2017 –onwards.
- Adjunct Faculty for UGC-Innovative Programme in Translation Studies, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University: 2017, 2018.

## VISITING FELLOWSHIPS: ABROAD |

2021

- Associate Fellow (Funded by British Council): British Centre for Literary Translation, the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom.

2019

- British Council's Charles Wallace Visiting Fellow: Jointly held at the Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) and Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS), The University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

2018

- Associate Fellow: NIDA School of Translation Studies, Italy.

## AWARDS, HONOURS AND FELLOWSHIPS: INDIA (SELECT) |

2021-24

- Institute of Eminence (IoE) Award for Senior Faculty: GoI/UGC/BHU

2016-17

- UGC sponsored Start-up Grant for New Faculty Members (Awarding Agency: UGC/Banaras Hindu University)

2012- 15

- Junior/Senior Research Fellow for Ph.D. (Awarding Agency: UGC New Delhi)

## PUBLICATIONS (SELECT/RECENT) |

### Books

- The Laughing Flames and Other Poems. (English translation of Ramdarsh Mishra's *Aag Ki Hansi/आग की हँसी* (Sahitya Akademi Awarded Collection). New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2021.

- *किस्सों की दुनिया* (The Landscape of Tales: Selections from Marathi Children's Stories) Co-translated and Edited with Pramod Padwal. New Delhi: Vani Prakashan, 2019.

### Essays and Translations

- 2021: "Reconsidering the Everyday Ambedkar: Notes Towards an Alternative Hero Worship." *Contemporary Voice of Dalit* (SAGE), Volume 14, No. 1 (E-pub ahead of print).
- 2021: "Alternative Readings of Sita Story." *The Book Review*, Volume XLV, No. August 2021
- 2021: "A Refreshing Word-view." *Indian Literature (Sahitya Akademi)*, Volume. LXV No. 1, No. 321: January/February (2021): 201-203.
- 2020: "Quarantine: Rajinder Singh Bedi" Co-translated into English with Priyanka Tripathi. *Indian Literature (Sahitya Akademi)*, Volume. LXIV No. 5, No. 319: September/October (2020): 30-39.
- 2020: "An Interview with Dipti Ranjan Pattanaik." *Translation Today*. Volume 14, Issue 2 (2020): 201-210.
- 2020: "An Interview with Maya Pandit." *Translation Today*. Volume 14, Issue 1 (2020): 111-122.
- 2020: "The Question of Regional Indian Languages in the English Classroom: Towards a Heterographic Pedagogy of Translation." *Translation, Nation and Knowledge Society* (In the Special Issue of *Translation Today*): 43-55.
- 2019: "Ramnika Gupta (1930-2019): In Memoriam." *Indian Literature (Sahitya Akademi)* Volume. LXIII, No. 313, Issue 5 (2019): 12-18.
- 2019: "The Funeral of Truth." *Indian Literature (Sahitya Akademi)* Volume. LXIII, No. 313, Issue 5(2019): 19-35.
- 2020: "Two Marathi Children's Stories in Translation: Gachak Andhari and Deenu's Bill." *Translation Today*. Volume 13, Issue 2 (2019): 2020-233.
- 2019: "Green Blood versus Pink Guavas." *The Hindu*. May 19, 2019: 16.
- 2019: "More Than a Reformer Jyotirao Phule Was an Architect of Ideas." *The Wire*. April 11, 2019: Web Publication.
- 2019: "The Bond of Slavery." *Translation Today*. Volume 12, Issue 2 (2019): 129-140.
- 2019: "In Lieu of an Autobiography: B.R. Ambedkar and His 'Waiting for Visa'." *The Round Table India*. December 6, 2019: Web Publication.
- 2019: "Reading Vijay Tendulkar's Kanyadaan in/for Our Times." *New Academia*. Volume 8, Issue 2 (2019): 183-195.
- 2018: "Concerns For feminism in Shivmurti's Tiriya Charittar." *Muse India*. Issue 78 (Mar-Apr 2018): Web Publication.

**INVITED LECTURES, TALKS & KEYNOTES (SELECT) |****Abroad**

- 2021: Translation Issues in Shiv Murti's *Triya Charittar*: British Centre for Literary Translation, the University of East Anglia, U.K., July 24, 2021.
- 2019: Immoral Daughters in the Land of Honour (Resource Person for the Film Discussion): Department of Translation Studies, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, December 11, 2019.
- 2019: Translating Gender-Based Violence into English: Some Reflections: Centre for South Asian Studies, School of Political and Social Science, the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, December 06, 2019.
- 2019: Landscapes of 'Honour': Contextualizing the Literary Response to 'Honour Killings' Through Translation: Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities, the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, November 21, 2019.
- 2019: Instances of Gender-Based Violence from South Asia (The talk was part of a Panel discussion titled *Calling Time on Gender-Based Violence Around the World*: School of Advanced Study, University of London, November 14, 2019.
- 2018: The Question of Indian 'Vernaculars' and the Role of Translation: Pedagogical and Subjective Reflections from an Indian Classroom: NIDA School of Translation Studies, Misano Adriatico, Italy, May 21, 2018.

**India**

- 2020: Contemporary Translation Scene in India: Some Notes on Translation Practice: Department of Higher Education, Government of Jammu and Kashmir (UT), August 08-12, 2020.
- 2020: Translating from 'Below': Some Reflections on Translating Children's Literature in India: Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Patna, February 22, 2020.
- 2019: Translation Studies in India: A Beginner's Introduction, National Translation Mission (Central Institute of Indian Languages), Mysore, February 14, 2019.
- 2019: Translating Children's Literature in India: Prospects and Challenges, National Translation Mission (Central Institute of Indian Languages), Mysore, February 15, 2019.
- 2018: Translation Studies in India: Possible Areas of Research, National Translation Mission (Central Institute of Indian Languages), Mysore, December 29, 2018.

- 2018: Translating Children’s Literature in India: Some Methodological Notes, National Translation Mission (Central Institute of Indian Languages), Mysore, December 31, 2018.
- 2018: Translation Studies in India: Auditing an Emerging Field/Mode of Enquiry, National Translation Mission (Central Institute of Indian Languages), Mysore, August 9, 2018.
- 2018: India in Translation: Some Notes Towards and Alternative Understanding of/for Our Times, National Translation Mission (Central Institute of Indian Languages), Mysore, August 10, 2018.

### **PRESENTATIONS IN CONFERENCES, SEMINARS |**

Quite a few; both in India and abroad.

### **OTHER ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES |**

Research Guidance: Yes

No. of Doctoral Students: 03 (ongoing)

Member of the Editorial Board

- *Research and Criticism*: Journal of the Department of English, BHU (2016).

Conferences/Seminars organized

- 2018: International Conference on “The Future of Humanities: Challenges and Prospects, March 30-31, 2018.

Membership of Professional Bodies

- History and Translation Network.
- National Translation Mission, India.

Reviewer/ Consultancy Work

- Oxford Journals
- Orient BlackSwan
- Sage Publications
- Maulana Azad National Urdu University

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