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Title of the Thesis: Tagore's Translation and Reception in Hindi: A Study of Select Novels

Keywords: Tagore, Translation, Reception, Inter-Bhāṣā Translations, Bangla, Hindi

Findings

The doctoral thesis argues that Rabindranath Tagore had a significant influence on Hindi literature and public discourse, challenging the common assertion that English translations were the primary vector of his global reach.

The thesis is structured into five chapters:

1. Chapter I provides a historical overview of Bangla-Hindi translations of Tagore's works across colonial, postcolonial, and twenty-first-century periods, noting shifts in (inter-Bhāṣā) translation practices. While focusing on the Hindi translations of *Gora* and *Ghare Baire*, the chapter explores the massive translations of Tagore's other works, including poetry, plays, and non-fiction, into Hindi language.
2. Chapter II historicizes Bangla-Hindi translational cultures, arguing for deep historical, literary and linguistic roots that predate the mid-nineteenth century, a time frame often cited by other scholars. This historicization is needed to locate Tagore in the historical context of Hindi translation. The chapter particularly argues that the history of Hindi-Bangla translation has a long and deep root in the history, culture, literatures (which are often plurilingual in nature), and language(s) of India/South Asia.
3. Chapters III and IV present a comparative study of select Hindi translations of Tagore's novels *Gora* and *Ghare Baire*, respectively. The analysis reveals that many early translations were characterized by "sanitisation" or ideological framing (and there are

omissions in the translations related to nationalism, patriotism, caste and gender) much shaped by nationalistic agendas. In contrast, later translations, such as those commissioned by the Sahitya Akademi, were found to be more faithful to the original texts.

4. Chapter V analyzes the widespread but mixed reception of Tagore in the Hindi literary sphere, ranging from reverence by Tagore's contemporaries to more critical and academic approaches from the 1980s onward that highlight his nuanced views on caste oppression, nationalism, peasants' and women's rights.

The overall conclusion is that Tagore was, and remains, a contested and essential figure in Hindi literature, with a complex, multilayered reception that speaks of his enduring popularity and influence.