

PREFACE

This research thesis in its present form has four years of research work supporting it. It comprehends and theorizes the effect of world literature in English on popular fiction in Gujarati. It focuses on the conversions of Jules Verne, Edgar Rice Burroughs, and Alistair MacLean, analysing their influence on Gujarati literature. Through an examination of these translated works, this study unveils the transformative influence of world literature on popular fiction within the Gujarati-speaking community. Employing a comprehensive approach, the research explores various aspects including narrative structure, themes, and characters. Additionally, it delves into the investigation of cultural relevance and the strategies employed in the process of translation. By doing so, this project contributes to a deeper understanding of the intricate dynamics between global and local literary influences, shedding light on the vital role of translation in enhancing and diversifying literary traditions. The findings contribute to literary studies, informing future research on cross-cultural literary exchanges and adaptations in Gujarati and other languages. In conclusion, this investigation unravels the transformative power of world literature in shaping Gujarati popular fiction.

There are six chapters in this thesis:

Chapter 1 – Introduction

The opening chapter serves as an introduction to the research topic, primary texts, and the various methodologies employed. It offers an exploration of the historical background of Gujarati literature, world literature theory, the field of popular literature, and the research objectives and questions that guide the study.

Chapter 2 - An Overview of Modern Gujarati Literature and Popular Fiction

This chapter provides a historical overview of Gujarati literature, emphasizing its significance within the Indian literary landscape. It traces the evolution of Gujarati literature from its oral tradition and pre-print culture roots to its development through English education, particularly in relation to the emergence of the novel. The chapter also highlights the presence and importance of popular fiction within the broader Gujarati literary tradition.

Chapter 3 - Genre of Science Fiction – Close readings of texts and comparative analysis

This chapter delves into the emergence of science fiction within Gujarati literature. It explores the different modes and variations of the genre, considering influential theories by Darko Suvin, Fredrick Jameson, and Istvan Csicsery-Ronay Jr. Furthermore, the chapter contextualizes the presence of science fiction within the historical and cultural context of Gujarat.

Chapter 4 - Genres of Thriller & Crime Fiction – Close readings of texts and comparative analysis

This chapter focuses on the emergence of crime fiction within Gujarati literature. It investigates how elements of crime and thriller genres were incorporated into other literary forms prior to the translation of Alistair MacLean's works in the 1960s. The chapter analyzes the impact of MacLean's novels on the genre, studying their reception and appropriation. It also explores the portrayal of crime, violence, and societal constructs in the translated texts.

Chapter 5 - Genre of Adventure Fiction – Close readings of texts and comparative analysis

This chapter centers on the emergence of adventure fiction within Gujarati literature, with a specific focus on the translations of the Tarzan books by Raman Soni. It explores the themes of adventure, survival, and morality depicted in the translated texts, and examines the

cultural implications of incorporating Western literature in post-independence Gujarat. Additionally, the chapter investigates the unique poetics and plot devices characteristic of the adventure genre.

Chapter 6 - Conclusions

In the final chapter, the research questions are summarized, and the key findings of the study are presented. Concluding remarks are offered based on the exploration of Gujarati literature and its popular fiction genres, providing a comprehensive overview of the research project.