A Critical Study of Poetic Devices in select English Translations of Tamil Classical Puram Poems

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Abstract: The present study critically analyses the issues and problems involved in translating the Tamil Classical puram poems into English. In translating an old Classic the translator faces certain unique problems. What makes poetry translations so unique is the simultaneous importance given to the form and substance of poetry. A poem either in English or Tamil may contain its Euphonic Increments. In the Tamil classical puram poem the syntactic expression ‘ஓவ்நூர்-வேள்’ is a euphonic increment (rhhpia). The translator of the older classics has to take special note of certain aspects. The translator of old classics must be aware of the large amount of information that might be packed into the small frame of the words and phrases.

Keywords: Puram poems, Cankam literature, fidelity to the original.

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