

UMESH KUMAR, PhD

(उमेश कुमार, पीएचडी)

Assistant Professor

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Google Scholar Profile:

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=MGUNCjsAAAAI&hl=en>

Brief Bio |

Dr Umesh Kumar teaches English and Translation Studies at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), where he has been a faculty member since 2015. He is a literary translator with a focus on modern Hindi and Marathi literature. He works with both Hindi-English and Marathi-English language pairs, translating in both directions.

Umesh received his education and training from some of the leading institutions in India and abroad, including the University of Pune, the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad, Ahmedabad University, and the NIDA School of Translation Studies in Italy. In 2019–20, he was the British Council’s Charles Wallace Visiting Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. Beginning in November 2025, he will return to the University of Edinburgh as a Visiting Scholar at the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures for a full academic year under BHU’s *Global Exchange for Faculty Programme*.

Over the past six years, Umesh has actively contributed to the wider understanding of Hindi and Marathi literature in English. His translations and essays have appeared in journals and platforms such as *Translation Today*, *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*,



The Book Review, Indian Literature (Sahitya Akademi), *The Hindu*, and through publishers like Routledge, Sage, and Vani Prakashan.

He is a committed and much-revered teacher, known among his students for his passion, clarity, and dedication. He believes deeply in the transformative power of the classroom and encourages students to explore the rich intersections of language, literature, and translation.

Outside academia, Umesh finds joy in caring for plants—a quiet, lifelong habit that has become a grounding part of his daily life. He is also the co-founder of *The Neem*, a literary and cultural society based in Varanasi.

RESEARCH INTERESTS |

- Translation Studies, Modern Hindi and Marathi Literature (Fiction), Indian Children's Literature

EDUCATION |

- PhD in English (Cultural Studies) (2010-15): The English and Foreign Languages University (EFL-U), Hyderabad. Ph.D. Advisor: Prof. Maya Pandit
- MA in English (2008-10): Department of English, University of Pune (UoP), Pune.
- Diploma in Literary Translation: One Year: 2023: Ahmedabad University
Mentor: Prof. Tejaswini Niranjana

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.

Academic Administration

- 2022-23: Warden: The New International Boys' Hostel (Single term)
- 2022 - till date: University Representative and Coordinator: Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute [SICI], BHU Chapter
- 2023: Member: Central Admission Committee, BHU
- 2024: Member: Deendayal Upadhyaya Chair, BHU

VISITING FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS: INTERNATIONAL |

2025-2026

- BHU Global Exchange for Faculty Programme Visiting Scholar: School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Mentor: Professor Hephzibah Israel

2024

- Nominated Fellow: Institute of Advanced Studies in Humanities, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

2022

- Emerging Translator Mentorship [Runner-up] (Funded by British Council): British Centre for Literary Translation, the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom. Mentor: Ros Schwartz.

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) |

2024

- Institute of Eminence (IoE): Additional Incentive Grant for Senior Faculty

2023

- Institute of Eminence (IoE): Transdisciplinary Grant

2022

- JCB Foundation for Literature Fellowship (For Literary Translation) at Centre For Learning Futures, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad.

2021

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

2016

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

2011

- Junior/Senior Research Fellow for PhD (Awarding Agency: UGC New Delhi)

PUBLICATIONS (SELECT) |

Books

- *Introductory Topics in Translation Studies: An Indian Perspective*. Editors: Umesh Kumar and Tariq Khan. Mysuru: National Translation Mission. (Forthcoming).
- *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.

Translations

- 2025: *Naya Mod: A New Turn* by Kusum Khemani [Short Story: Translated from Hindi into English]: Orient BlackSwan: Forthcoming
- 2025: *Teesari Aankh* (The Third Eye) by Kiran Yele [Short Story: Translated from Marathi into Hindi with Pramod Padwal]: Samkaleen Bharatiya Sahitya (Sahitya Akademi): Forthcoming
- 2025: *Aapki Chhoti Ladki* (The Younger Girl) by Mamta Kalia [Short Story: Translated from Hindi into English]: MS under revision.
- 2020: *Quarantine* by Rajinder Singh Bedi [Short Story: Co-translated from Urdu into English with Priyanka Tripathi: *Indian Literature (Sahitya Akademi)*, Volume. LXIV No. 5, No. 319: September/October (2020): 30-39.
- 2020: *Gachak Andhari* and *Deenu's Bill* [Two Short Stories: Translated from Marathi into English: *Translation Today*. Volume 13, Issue 2 (2019): 220-233
- 2019: *Daag Diya Sach* (The Funeral of Truth) by Ramnika Gupta [Short Story: Translated from Hindi into English: *Indian Literature (Sahitya Akademi)* Volume. LXIII, No. 313, Issue 5(2019): 19-35.
- 2019: *Sawa Ser Gehun* (The Bond of Slavery) by Munshi Premchand [Short Story: Translated from Hindi into English: *Translation Today*. Volume 12, Issue 2 (2019): 129-140.

Noted Literary Criticism/Essays

- 2024: "Travails of a Novel in a Naxal Country". *The Book Review*. Volume XLVIII, Number 12, December 2024.
- 2024: "A Kingdom for Women". *The Book Review*. Volume XLVIII, Number 9, September 2024.
- 2024: "How Nirala Became *Nirala*". *The Book Review*. Volume XLVIII, Number 8, August 2024.
- 2023: "Translating Displacement, Translating Devastation". *The Book Review*. Volume XLVII, Number 9, September 2023.
- 2022: "Translation as Transformation: A Writer-Translator's Reflections". *The Book Review*, Volume XLVI, No. 9, Feb 2022.
- 2022: "Of Her Time, and Ours Too: Mannu Bhandari's Fiction". *The Book Review*, Volume XLVI, No. 2, February 2022.
- 2021: "The Alternative Readings of Sita Story". *The Book Review*. Volume XLV, No. 8, August 2021
- 2021: "A Refreshing Word-view." *Indian Literature (Sahitya Akademi)*, Volume. LXV No. 1, No. 321: Jan/Feb, 2021.

Research Articles [Only Scopus Indexed and UGC Care Listed]

Sole Authored

- 2025: "Translating Violence in India: Literary Representations and the Cartography of Gender-based Violence". *Cadernos de Tradução* (Special Issue: Vol. 45 (1): Translation in India: Theories, Policies and Practices): 1-18.
- 2025: "A Shared Habitation: Literary Modernity in Bangla and Urdu". *Economic and Political Weekly*. In Press.
- 2023: "Bangladesh: Writing on 1971, Across Borders". *Contemporary South Asia* (Routledge: Taylor and Francis). Volume 31, Issue 1. [Review Article]
- 2023: "Rewriting Mythology: Some Lessons from Volga's The Liberation of Sita". *Indian Literature: Sahitya Akademi*, Vol. 334, Mar/Apr, 2023: 146-151.
- 2022: "On Some Aspects of Translating Children's Literature in India". *Translation Today*. Volume 16, Issue 1 (2022): 49-76.
- 2022: "Imagining the Real: Select Social Issues in Ramnika Gupta's *The Funeral of Truth*". *Prajna: Journal of Banaras Hindu University*. Volume 67, Issue 1 (2022): 217-221.
- 2021: "Reconsidering the Everyday Ambedkar: Notes Towards an Alternative Hero Worship". *Contemporary Voice of Dalit* (Sage). Volume 14, Issue 1 (2021): 202-235.
- 2019: "In Memoriam: Ramnika Gupta". *Indian Literature: Sahitya Akademi*, Vol. 313, Sept/Oct, 2019: 12-18.

- 2018: “The Question of Regional Indian Languages in the English Classroom: Towards a Heterographic Pedagogy of Translation”. *Translation Today*. Special Issue (2019, Issue 1): 43-55.

Co-Authored [Mentoring of PhD Students]

[Only Scopus Indexed and UGC Care Listed]

- 2025: “Contemporary Children’s Literature in India: Shifting Paradigms” (with Upama Rani) in *Routledge Companion to Gender and Childhood* : Editor: Mary Zaborskis. Routledge (Taylor and Francis)
- 2024: “Cartographies of Silence: Mapping Silence in Agyeya’s *Sekhar Ek Jeevani*” (with Upama Rani) in *Hakara*. December 2024. (web journal).
- 2024: “The Twice Translated Tale: A Translation Evaluation of Basanti” (with Upama Rani. *Translation Today*. Volume 18, Issue 1 (2024): 108-128.
- 2024: “Retelling the Sacred: Cultural Translation and Beyond” (with Adrija Dutta). *New Voices in Translation Studies*. Volume 29, No. 1 (2024): 143-148.

Academic Interviews

- 2020: “An Interview with Maya Pandit.” *Translation Today*. Volume 14, Issue 1 (2020): 111-122.
- 2020: “An Interview with Dipti Ranjan Pattanaik.” *Translation Today*. Volume 14, Issue 2 (2020): 201-210.
- 2023: “Translating the Margins: An Interview with V. Ramaswamy” (with Utsarga Ghosh). *Translation Today*. Volume 17, Issue 1 (2023): 157-173.

Popular Articles

- 2019: “More Than a Reformer Jyotirao Phule Was an Architect of Ideas.” *The Wire*. April 11, 2019
- 2019: “Green Blood versus Pink Guavas.” *The Hindu*. May 19, 2019: 16.
- 2019: “In Lieu of an Autobiography: B.R. Ambedkar and His ‘Waiting for Visa’” *The Round Table India*. December 6, 2019

INVITED LECTURES, TALKS & KEYNOTES |

- 2023: Encountering Adhantar: Some Notes: Mittal Institute, Harvard University, October 5-6, 2023.
- 2022: Contemporary Translation Scene in India: A Practitioner’s Notes: Department of English, University of Central Florida, Orlando, USA, April 29, 2022.

- 2021: Honour Killings: Texts, Contexts and Translations: British Academy Effective Writing Workshop, Centre for South Asian Studies, UoE, UK. 6-10 December, 2021.
- 2019: Translation Issues in Shivismurti'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.

TEACHING AND PHD SUPERVISION |

Graduate and Postgraduate Teaching

- BA (Hons.): English Poetry/Fiction, New Literatures in English
- MA: Modern Fiction (Joyce), Indian Literature in Translation

Open to PhD enquiries: Yes

Areas of interest for supervision:

I welcome enquiries from potential research students interested in any of the following areas: Translation Studies (any aspect), Modern Hindi and Marathi Literature (Fiction), and Indian Children's Literature

Current PhD Students

I am currently supervising the following PhD projects:

- Ms Upama Rani: *Construction of Childhood in Select Hindi Texts: A Critical Study*
- Mr Satyam Sandeep: *An Analysis of the Portrayal of Atavistic and Degenerate Criminals in Classic Mystery Fiction*

Past PhD Students

- Dr Tanuka Chatterjee [Assistant Professor, University of Lucknow]: *Alice Munro: An Ecocritical Study of Her Fictional World*
- Dr Utsarga Ghosh [Assistant Professor, Usha Martin University]: *Translating into English: The 'Afterlife' of Subimal Mishra's Fictional Writings*
- Ms Vandana Nain [Assistant Professor, St Francis College for Women]: *Translating the Politics of Saang: A Study of the Select Writings of Lakhmichand*
