

Translation Studies in the 21st Century: Indian Languages & Beyond

23 March 2026

Rabindra Bharati University, Centre for Distance and Online Education

Department of English

in collaboration with I.Q.A.C., Rabindra Bharati University

The Department of English, Rabindra Bharati University (RBU) Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), organised a one-day National Seminar on "Translation Studies in the 21st Century: Indian Languages and Beyond," on 23rd March 2026, in collaboration with I.Q.A.C, RBU. This event was held at CDOE, Rabindra Bhavan, Salt Lake. The seminar was inaugurated by offering flowers of tribute to Rabindranath Tagore by Dr K.S. Chakraborty, Director, CDOE RBU, Sri Ramkrishna Mal, OSD (Finance), and the speakers, Professor Sayantan Dasgupta, Dr Mrinmoy Pramanick, and Dr Mallika Ghosh Sarbadhikary. Flowers of tribute were also offered by Dr Arindam Mridha (Chairperson) and Professor Soma Banerjee, Dean of Arts, RBU. The dignitaries were then felicitated.



RABINDRA BHARATI UNIVERSITY
Centre for Distance and Online Education
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

in collaboration with
IQAC, Rabindra Bharati University

**TRANSLATION STUDIES
IN THE
21ST CENTURY**
INDIAN LANGUAGES & BEYOND

A ONE-DAY
NATIONAL SEMINAR

**23
MARCH
2026**
ROOM 604

Venue: EE 9 & 10, Sector II, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700091

PLENARY SPEAKERS

DR SAYANTAN DASGUPTA
PROFESSOR
DEPT. OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY

**DR MALLIKA GHOSH
SARBADHIKARY**
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & HEAD
DEPT. OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
IEST SHIBPUR

DR MRINMOY PRAMANICK
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
CENTRE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND
CULTURE STUDIES
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

CHAIRPERSON

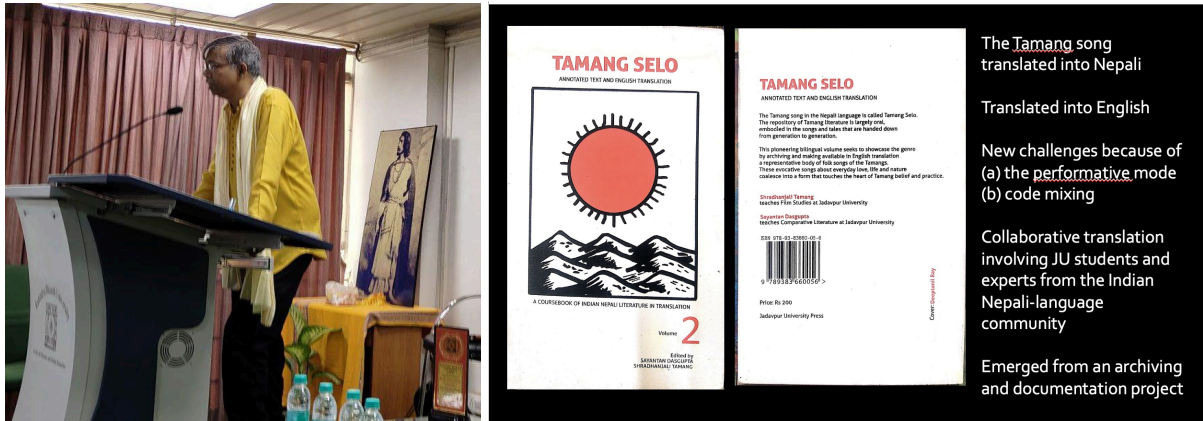
DR ARINDAM MRIDHA
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & HEAD
DEPT. OF ENGLISH
RABINDRA BHARATI UNIVERSITY

CONVENORS: ARITRA BASU & RISHIRAJ PAL

THE POSTER FOR THE EVENT

Following the welcome address and the felicitations, the talks of the seminar began. The first Plenary talk was given by Professor Sayantan Dasgupta, Professor of the Department of Comparative Literature at Jadavpur University (pictured below). The talk examined the conceptual, historical, and institutional challenges of Translation Studies, with particular emphasis on India. It began by distinguishing between translation as a practice and Translation Studies as a discipline, drawing on James Holmes’s foundational definition and noting the field’s rapid theoretical expansion through engagements with gender studies, postcolonial theory, and cultural studies. The discussion highlighted the historically low visibility of translators in India, marked by the absence of bylines, contracts, and standardised remuneration. Although recent developments—such as institutional recognition, awards, and increased publication platforms—had improved visibility, structural limitations persisted. The presentation also underscored the dominance of Euro-American theoretical frameworks and the politics of English as the target language, while simultaneously acknowledging the growing importance of Indian *bhasa* traditions and Asian influences. The presentation further emphasised the future of Translation Studies through collaborative models, translator training, and the incorporation of digital tools such as AI. Case studies of collaborative translation projects demonstrated how interdisciplinary and community-based approaches could facilitate the translation of

marginalised languages and oral literatures. Ultimately, the presentation advocated for a more inclusive, decentralised, and culturally grounded approach to Translation Studies in India.



After Professor Dasgupta’s talk, it was the turn of Dr Mallika Ghosh Sarbadhikary, Associate Professor & Head of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIST Shibpur



(pictured left). The presentation, *Poetics and Politics: Translation and Women’s Writing* by Dr Mallika Ghosh Sarbadhikary, examines the historical, ideological, and feminist dimensions of translation, especially in relation to women’s writing. It began by tracing early conceptualisations of translation, where it was metaphorically feminised and often devalued. Thinkers like John Florio described translations as “defective,” while later

critics such as Jouve positioned the translator in a culturally “female” role—secondary, derivative, and subordinate. The notion of *les belles infidèles* further reinforced the binary that translations, like women, must be either “beautiful” or “faithful,” but never both. The presentation then explored how translation has been framed as an act of domination. Finally, it highlights feminist translation strategies like supplementing, prefacing, footnoting, and

“hijacking,” which actively intervene in texts to foreground women’s voices. The first two sessions were chaired by Professor Soma Banerjee, Dean of Arts, RBU.

After Dr Sarbadhikary, it was the turn for the final speaker of the day, Dr Mrinmoy Pramanick. The lecture delivered by Dr Mrinmoy Pramanick examined the evolving contours of Translation Studies in the twenty-first century, with particular emphasis on the Indian context (picture below). It began by delineating the distinction between translation as a pervasive practice and Translation Studies as a formal academic discipline. While translation had long been embedded in everyday life, the institutional and pedagogical development of Translation Studies in India had remained limited. The lecture highlighted that, although translation had historically constituted a foundational element of Indian literary traditions, the theoretical discourse surrounding it had emerged relatively recently and had been predominantly shaped by European paradigms. The lecture also stressed the importance of interpreting literary and cultural history through the lens of translation, while acknowledging earlier, often unrecognised, translation practices. In the contemporary digital milieu, translation has facilitated unprecedented access to global literatures. The focus of Translation Studies, the lecture argued, had shifted increasingly toward technical and knowledge-based translation, supported by institutional initiatives, thereby necessitating a broader disciplinary framework.



Following the talks, the deliberations by the chairperson, Dr Arindam Mridha, Head of the Department of English, RBU, began (picture below). He addressed Dr Pramanick’s talk and added important insights on the matter at hand. He also opened the floor for questions and

comments from the audience. A few members from the audience asked insightful questions, and the speakers responded to them appropriately.



The seminar was convened by Aritra Basu and Rishiraj Pal, Assistant Professors of English, CDOE, RBU. Their interactions with the speakers enriched them in many ways. In the picture on the right, they are seen with all three speakers and the Director of RBU-CDOE in a post-talk interaction.



The seminar ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Aritra Basu. The image above was clicked after the event was over, with all the participants and the dignitaries.