

**TRANSLATABILITY OF URDU POETRY
INTO ENGLISH: A STUDY OF FAIZ POEMS
TRANSLATED BY VICTOR KIERNAN**



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DEDICATION

Dedicated to the fulfilled and enriched years spent at my home in Gojra.

The comforts of childhood, the madness of youth, two guava trees perfecting the summer breeze, and then our literary endeavours, debating and poetry recitations, and unparalleled sharing and caring! There was a meaning in everything.

Immense beauty in the togetherness shared by four of us!

&

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ABSTRACT

This research investigates whether or not the poetry of Faiz translated by Victor Kiernan provides the evidence for the translatability of Urdu Poetry into English. Fidelity with the original poetry and translation of socio-cultural aspects are also explored. The *modus operandi* of this research is based on qualitative paradigm for textual analysis and extra textual analysis. The theoretical foundations of the study are laid on the existing literature on literary translation (more specifically, poetry translation). The study holds the assumption that a literary translator has a constrained autonomy and many of the effects that are created in Urdu language by Faiz cannot be maintained in English language with the same force but quality of translations, their level of success and finally the notion of translatability can be systematically evaluated. Unit of data analysis consists of two 'nazms' and one 'ghazal' that are selected from *Poems by Faiz* translated by Victor Kiernan. To carry out the comparative and contrastive analysis, factors such as formal features, rhyme pattern, word/phrases, tone, content, sense and style have been studied. The analysis shows that Kiernan has successfully preserved the cultural elements along with the semantic and pragmatic features of a poem and produced a faithful word-for-word translation of Faiz's poetry. The formal features are not fully preserved because of different structural gradation of both languages. Keeping in view the structural pattern and logic of imagination of both languages, this project has revealed that Urdu poetry is translatable into English.

Keywords: *Translatability, Poetry Translation, Fidelity, Faiz, Kiernan, Socio-Cultural Elements, Source Text's Locality, Formal Poetic Features, poetic sense*