

“The Concept Note”

Telling the Tale across Mediums: The Teleology of Multiple Lives of a Work

In a multilingual context like India, even after the inception of the print culture, there had been a consistent adherence to the music, songs, folktales, and performance when it came to retelling/ reproducing a particular tale/story. A tale just went on to live several lives in different times. Popular tales such as *TotaKahani*, *Gul Bakawali*, *Bagh-O-Bahar*, *PremSagar*, and *Baital Pacchisi* have been **performed** and **reproduced** in different mediums at different points of time. The terms such as **dastan**, **kissa**, **fasana**, **kahani** are the popular terms employed in Hindi/Urdu to designate the long literary tradition of tales.

Researchers have focused on how very often the studies on these works, generally categorized as part of ‘oral literature’, have offered significant insights into understanding and constructing the alternative histories and traditions. In the oral narratives in the past, and even today in some restricted sense, “**diffusion**” and “**borrowing**” have been an integral part of **the travel of a tale** across cultures. However, when we shift our focus from ‘traditional’ to more ‘contemporary’ literary genres such as short story or fiction, one can count innumerable instances where one text continues to travel, more often than not, from one medium to another.

Hence, **the translations, adaptations, and remakes** have become significant to our understanding of **how short stories / fictions travel across the boundaries of time, culture and medium**. Some of the pertinent question to ask here would be:

- **What happens to a text / tale when it travels across the mediums /cultures?**
- **If it undergoes any changes, then what are the determining factors behind those changes?**
- **Why is a particular text / tale more popular in the ‘source culture’ and not in the ‘target culture’? or vice versa.**

It is the rubric of these questions that this issue, the 3rd Volume of December 2018 Edition of the journal aims to engage itself with. **It is also hoped that the study of tales/short stories will encourage new and creative translations of folk-narratives and short stories from various languages and dialects given the dynamic nature of these oral repertoires.**

We invite papers that address **the relationship** *between* **folktales, short stories** and **their visual adaptations** from *a range of perspectives* that might include but are not limited to:

- ***Folklores and their modern adaptations***
- ***Contemporary modern fiction into film adaptations***
- ***Folklores and the making of national /regional consciousness***
- ***Issues in translating the tales /short stories***
- ***Popular fiction in remakes***
- ***Politics of translation in modern fiction and folktales***
- ***Folktales and historiography***
- ***Narrative techniques in folktales /short stories***
- ***Folk communities and performances***
- ***Politics of appropriation and tales /short stories***
- ***Early oral narratives and colonial pedagogy***
- ***Contemporary uses of folktales /folk narratives***
- ***Short stories and Folktales in visual arts***