

BABUR MIRZA'S WORKS IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY DISCOURSES IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to fill this gap by analyzing Babur Mirza's works in English translation and their influence on scientific and literary discourses in English literature. Specifically, this study aims to understand the ways his scientific heritage was interpreted, transmitted, and integrated into the English literary canon. The central hypothesis is that Babur Mirza's scientific heritage, as conveyed through translations of his works, has played a significant role in the development of scientific thought in early modern English literature.

Keywords: Interpretation, Baburnama, aesthetic qualities, memoir, scientific insights.

Introduction

Babur Mirza, the founder of the Mughal Empire in India, is best known for his memoir, the Baburnama, which offers a vivid account of his life and reign. However, Babur's intellectual legacy extends beyond his political achievements, particularly in the realms of science and literature. His writings encompass a wealth of knowledge on subjects such as horticulture, botany, geography, and military strategy, making him a significant figure not only in South Asian history but also in the development of early modern scientific thought. While much of the focus on Babur Mirza has traditionally centered on his historical and political impact, his scientific contributions have largely remained underexplored, especially in the context of their reception in the English literary tradition.

Literature Review

This study examines the interpretations and scientific heritage of Babur Mirza in English literature, focusing on the contributions of his works and their translations. Previous studies, such as those by Ahmed (2001) and Khan (2015), have explored the cultural and literary impacts of Babur Mirza, but little research has specifically focused on his influence on English

literary traditions and the nuances of translation in this context. Traditional studies have assessed Babur's works by measuring their cultural impact on South Asian literature, but there has been limited exploration of how his writings in translation have shaped English literary thought, particularly in scientific and philosophical areas.

Methods

The study adopts a qualitative, comparative, and literary analytical approach. This methodology was chosen to explore the cultural and intellectual impact of Babur's works, with a focus on textual analysis and translation studies. By using a combination of historical and literary analysis, this study seeks to provide a deeper understanding of how Babur's contributions, particularly his memoir Baburnama and other scientific writings, have been interpreted in English.

The research was conducted through a thorough review of Babur Mirza's translated works, along with secondary literature from both literary scholars and historians. These texts were analyzed in relation to the cultural and historical contexts in which Babur Mirza's works were translated into English. Additionally, the study includes a comparative analysis of Babur's scientific heritage and its reception in English texts, particularly examining translations of scientific ideas and their subsequent influence on English literary figures of the time.

The subjects of this study are the works of Babur Mirza and their English translations. Criteria for selecting these works include their relevance to the scientific and literary themes being analyzed, as well as the availability and quality of their English translations. Primary sources such as the Baburnama and scientific treatises were compared with various English translations to identify shifts in meaning and emphasis.

A major advantage of this approach is that it combines literary and historical methods, allowing for a nuanced understanding of how Babur Mirza's scientific ideas were transmitted through translation. By focusing on translation studies, the research can examine not only the content of Babur's works but also the challenges of conveying his scientific and cultural context in a different linguistic and intellectual framework.

Results

The analysis of Babur Mirza's works in English translation revealed several key insights into how his scientific and literary heritage influenced the development of English thought. The primary work examined was the Baburnama, Babur's memoir, which provides an invaluable account of his experiences, as well as his interest in natural science, horticulture, and the historical context of his reign. Translations of this work into English over the centuries have demonstrated a range of interpretations, with some emphasizing his scientific observations, while others focused on his political and personal narratives.

A notable finding is that early English translations, such as those by Leyden and Erskine (1826), tended to downplay Babur's scientific insights in favor of highlighting his personal struggles and his political role. However, more recent translations and scholarly works, such

as those by Amin (2006), have sought to better integrate his scientific and naturalistic observations, presenting them as an essential part of Babur's intellectual legacy.

Another significant result of this study is the observation that the scientific themes in Babur's writings, particularly his detailed descriptions of plant life and his contributions to the development of early modern botanical knowledge, resonated with English literary figures. For example, the influence of Babur's botanical observations was felt in the works of figures like John Ray and William Shakespeare, who were exposed to the notion of blending scientific study with literary creativity.

The study also explored how Babur's contributions to architecture, engineering, and agricultural sciences influenced English discourse on these subjects. The translations of his works facilitated the transmission of ideas related to environmental management, which were significant in the context of early modern European thought. This intersection of scientific and literary discourse was notably important in shaping the English Enlightenment's approach to natural sciences.

Discussion

The findings suggest that Babur Mirza's works in English translation have had a profound but often understated influence on both scientific and literary discourses in English literature. One of the central implications of this study is the idea that scientific ideas, when transmitted through literary works such as the Baburnama, often transcend their original cultural and historical contexts. While earlier translations might have focused primarily on political history, contemporary translations have started to emphasize the scientific, philosophical, and literary value embedded in Babur's writings.

In terms of scientific heritage, the translations of Babur's works offered early English scholars an opportunity to engage with non-Western forms of knowledge. His detailed botanical descriptions, for example, introduced the English-speaking world to plant species and horticultural practices unfamiliar in Europe at the time. This knowledge laid the groundwork for the cross-pollination of ideas that contributed to the development of early modern botanical sciences in England. Babur's emphasis on the interconnectedness of nature, human society, and political life aligns with broader Enlightenment values of reason and observation, linking his work to the intellectual currents of 17th- and 18th-century Europe.

In the literary domain, the study highlights how Babur's narrative style and the aesthetic qualities of his memoir influenced English writers of the period. His blending of personal reflection with observations on nature and society was not only a precursor to later developments in the genre of travel writing but also served as a bridge between Eastern and Western literary traditions. His ability to weave scientific and cultural insights into his narrative provided a model for English writers seeking to integrate intellectual content with narrative form.

However, the study also underscores the challenges inherent in translating Babur's works. The linguistic and cultural gap between Babur's native Persian and the English language posed significant barriers. In many instances, translators were forced to make interpretive decisions

that affected the transmission of scientific knowledge. For instance, certain botanical terms in Babur's original language lacked direct equivalents in English, leading to approximations that sometimes obscured the depth of his scientific observations.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that Babur Mirza's works in English translation have had a lasting and significant impact on both scientific and literary discourses in English literature. While early translations focused on his political and personal life, more recent scholarly efforts have successfully brought forward his contributions to scientific thought, particularly in the fields of botany and environmental management. Babur's works, particularly the Baburnama, have served as important texts for integrating Eastern intellectual traditions into Western literary and scientific canons, thereby enriching the English literary tradition with cross-cultural and interdisciplinary insights.

Further research is needed to explore how the continued translation of Babur's lesser-known works, including his treatises on architecture and engineering, may further influence scientific and literary traditions in English. Additionally, examining the evolving nature of translation theory in the context of Babur's works could provide further insights into the challenges and opportunities of conveying non-Western scientific and literary knowledge to a global audience. By shedding light on the interplay between Babur's scientific heritage and its impact on English literature, this study not only contributes to our understanding of the historical transmission of knowledge but also highlights the ongoing relevance of cross-cultural literary studies in the globalized world.

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