

**Dept of Germanic and Romance Studies**  
**University of Delhi**

TRANSLATION PROJECT

**Creative Resistance: Writers in the face of Fascism and War**

Publication of an anthology of writings to be translated  
from French / German / Italian / Portuguese / Spanish into Hindi

The proposed anthology will bring together translations of texts – fictional, essayistic, autobiographical, testimonial – from each of the above mentioned languages into Hindi that reflect on the experience of fascism and the ravages of war in Europe. The inter-war period was marked by the rise of fascist, authoritarian regimes in many parts of Europe including the countries where the above-mentioned languages are spoken. Writers and intellectuals who were witness to the events were drawn to resist and developed a wide variety of literary forms in pursuit of their objective. The translations will be carried out by faculty members of the Department of Germanic and Romance Studies, where all these five languages are taught.

Most of the writers chosen for the anthology were born at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century or in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The selection of texts from different languages reflects on one hand the different forms in which writers sought to capture and engage with various aspects of the events they were witness to. It also reflects the specific political and cultural contexts in which they were written. This would provide the Hindi reader an opportunity to understand each context while also making sense of the whole.

The anthology will introduce around twentyfive European writers to the Hindi reader. It would be a first of its kind as it will bring together writers like Bertolt Brecht, Jean Paul Sartre and Italo Calvino who are not unfamiliar to the Indian reader as well those who are largely unknown in this country. None of the texts chosen for this collection have been translated into Hindi before.

At the same time, the project aims at establishing the idea of translation as a collective endeavor that will bring together linguistic expertise and intellectual resources from these five European languages as well as from Hindi. To this end, workshops have been organized that will bring together experts with experience of translation, those with a wide knowledge of Hindi literature and the actual translators so that the idea of translation as a dialogue between languages and cultures can bear fruit. The specific issues concerning the problems of translating from these languages into Hindi will be discussed so that collective solutions could be arrived at.