

Translation and the Indian Social Sciences

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Abstract

The structural asymmetry between English and the regional languages has had a crucial bearing on the shifting relationship between the academic and vernacular realms in our contexts. The historical antecedents of the Indian social sciences lie in the vernacular public domain/s and the rise of the 'region' as a political, linguistic and cultural formation as these emerged from the early decades of the nineteenth century. Acknowledging this, and drawing on historical materials, this paper foregrounds colonial bilingualism and translation as fundamental to the imagination of the social science enterprise in India.