Place of "Panchatantra" in the World of Literatures

1. Prof. Dr. Salahuddin Mohd. Shamsuddin
   Dept. of Arabic & Middle Eastern Languages,
   Faculty of Languages and Linguistics,
   University of Malaya,
   50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
   E-mail: azieee@hotmail.com
   Tel: +60123824357

3. Dr. Mohd. Zaki b. Abd Rahman
   Dept. of Arabic & Middle Eastern Languages,
   Faculty of Languages and Linguistics,
   University of Malaya,
   50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
   Email: mzakirah@um.edu.my
   Tel: +60193580320

2. Prof. Dr. Zuraidah Mohd. Don
   Faculty of Languages and Linguistics,
   University of Malaya,
   50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
   E-Mail: zuraidah@um.edu.my
   Tel: +6012-9135556

4. Dr. Sheena Kaur
   Faculty of Languages and Linguistics,
   University of Malaya,
   50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
   Email: sheena@um.edu.my
   Tel: +6012-3094073

Abstract
This article represents an effort to interpret Panchatantra, a classical Sanskrit book and its importance in the world of literatures. Its initial journey through the translation began when a Persian physician in the reign of king Khosrau Anoshirvān found a copy of an Indian book known Panchatantra and translated it into Pahlavi, classical Persian. Then it was translated by Ibn al-Muqaffa’ into Arabic. Many tales on the tongue of animals were appeared, but all of them were influenced in their artistic dimensions by the Indian elements taken from Panchatantra. Nevertheless, these tales did not lose their authenticity and effectiveness thus far. Some of these stories can also be used as a means of social and political criticism in the modern era, as it was used by "La Fontaine". He took many of his themes from his predecessors, especially from Greeks and Latinos, but he reached the perfection of art by following the artistic foundations of this genre that were developed by his predecessors and then completed those technical rules and excelled until he became an example for those who simulated him in all literatures. This paper thus highlights its origins that cut across the boundaries of cultures, languages and literatures.

Keywords: Tales on the tongue of animals; Original texts: Panchatantra; Translations and Imitations; Impact of Panchatantra on the world literature

1. Historical Background:

(The story on the tongue of animals as a Literary Genre in Western Literature)
The literary genre "the story on the tongue of the animal" had found first in the Western Literature in the form of the prose, then quickly became a poem dominated the character of the poetry. This genre had been known to Greece before "Aessops", but he was the best known in Greek literature had authored his tales in the form of the prose. It had also a great value in Greece in the time of "Aristotle." It was often cited by the speakers in judicial proceedings. After "Aessops" Babrius came (in the first century AD) and wrote hundred and twenty-three tales in the form of the poetry cited from the tales of "Aessops".

© 2013 British Journals ISSN 2048-1268