

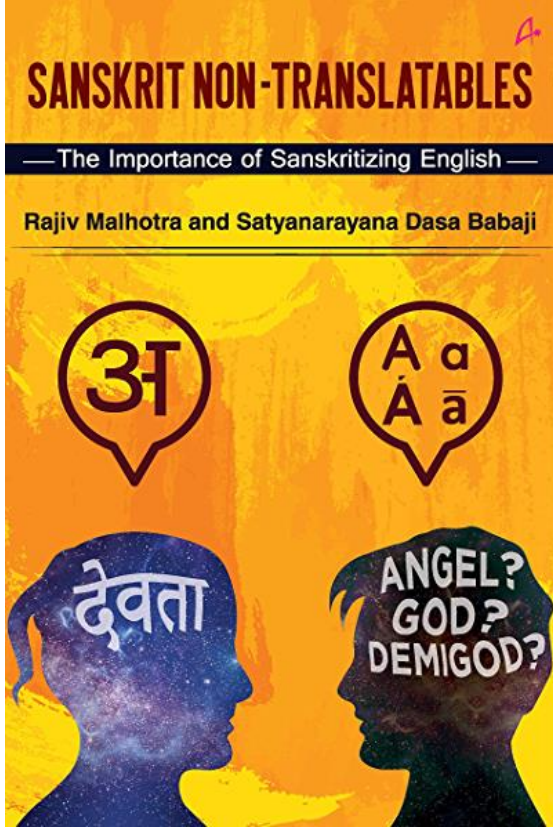


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NEWSLETTER

OCT-DEC 2020

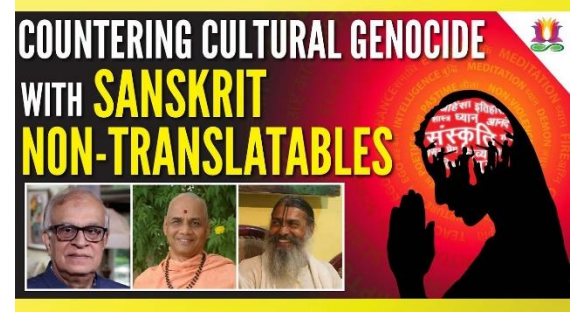
Sanskrit Non-Translatables (SNT)



This quarter saw the launch of a path-breaking new book called “**Sanskrit Non-Translatables: The Importance of Sanskritizing English**” by Rajiv Malhotra and co-authored by Satyanarayana Dasa Babaji. It expands on the original and innovative idea, introduced in the book “Being Different” that Sanskrit is difficult and at times impossible to translate into English because the underlying thought, expression, perception and experience is absent in western thought. The book offers English speakers the knowledge confidently introduce a list of 54 Sanskrit words (across subject areas) into their daily speech.

SNT Book Launch Event

The book launch event was attended by luminaries from different fields. Everyone shared their enthusiasm for the path breaking work that would allow us to present our core concepts in the way that they truly are and not water them down with translations that don't convey their true meaning. Full book launch video is available [here](#).



Swami Govind Dev Giriji endorsed the book enthusiastically explaining that such books would solve the difficulties that gurus like him faced when trying to convey the meaning of Sanskrit words in English discourses on shastras. He said that this was an important first step to stand up against the cultural genocide of Hindus. [Video](#)



Dr. Subramanian Swamy talked about the book in the context of the cultural renaissance



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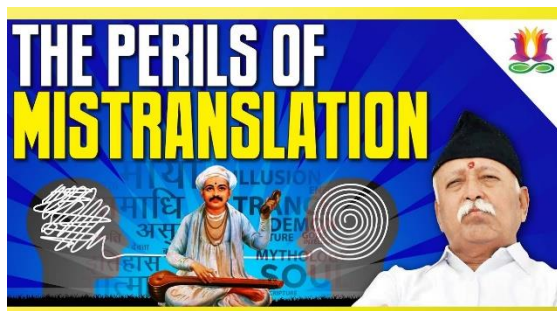
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of India through the development of a modern Indian mindset that is rooted in the past but ready to innovate for the future. [Video](#)



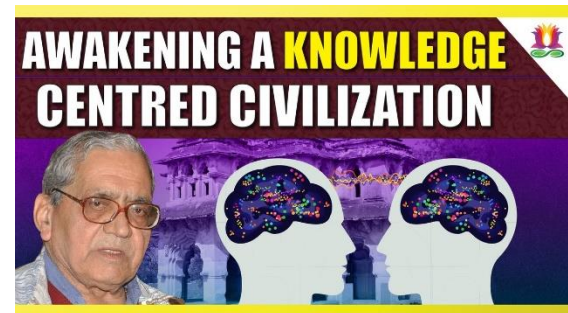
Dr. Vijay Bhatkar said that given his Vedanta training under a qualified guru, he was aware of the inadequacy of English translations in communicating the meaning of Sanskrit words. He welcomed the fact that it was an English book that was loyal to the tradition. He said that the book would help not only foreigners but also insiders to the tradition. [Video](#)



Mohan Bhagwat said that it was the misunderstanding of words that resulted in conflicts that Sants reincarnated to resolve. So the “gyan” and “vichar” behind the use of words are important. By reading words that the British mistranslated, we are misinterpreting our own history and heritage. The book can help us present ourselves correctly. [Video](#)

Dr. Kapil Kapoor highlights how the destruction of a culture can be perpetrated by the alteration of its language, because the entire

knowledge system of that culture is represented in its language.



So, since the Sanskrit language is the keeper of our cultural heritage, its misinterpretation or misrepresentation would lead to the destruction of our culture. [Video](#)

Madhu Kishwar explains how Rajiv Malhotra single-handedly took on the western academia that had pushed Sanskrit into the category of a “dead” language while continuing to digest its treasures. She compares Rajiv’s fight with India’s well-entrenched enemies to Guru Govind Singh’s resolve in his very unequal battle against the Mughals. [Video](#).

SNT Terms



Guru ≠ Teacher

This video addresses the common mistranslation of guru as teacher. A teacher is somebody who instructs as a profession in return for monetary compensation. The guru is one who removes ignorance, whether in mundane subjects or spirituality. Guru



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considered is a personification of the devatas.
Videos – [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

Hanuman ≠ Monkey God

Hanuman is frivolously translated in English as “Monkey God” by many scholars. Highly revered as an avatara of Shiva and as a devotee of Rama, Hanuman is an accomplished scholar in his own right, widely acclaimed for his knowledge of the Vedas and Vyakarana.



He bestows strength, wisdom and knowledge on His devotees. Translating Hanuman as “monkey God” is an insult to the all that Hanuman embodies. Videos – [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

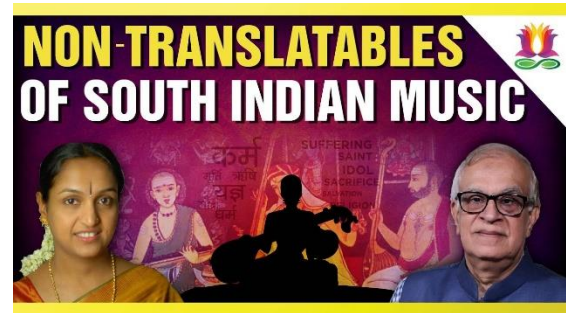
Other SNT Terms

- Dasa ≠ Slave - [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)
- Seva ≠ Service - [1](#), [2](#)
- [Sanskriti ≠ Culture](#)
- [Naga ≠ Naked](#)
- [Shraddha ≠ Faith](#)
- [Agama ≠ Ritual Text](#)
- [Devata-s ≠ gods or Angels](#)
- [Asura ≠ Demon](#)
- [Svarga ≠ Heaven and Naraka ≠ Hell](#)
- [Loka ≠ Planet](#)
- [Shastra ≠ Scripture](#)
- [Shruti ≠ 'That which is heard'](#)

Non-translatables of (South) Indian Music

Noted Carnatic vocalist Vrinda Acharya explains how Carnatic musicians and many noted musicologists are compromising on the

core values of the tradition by loosely translating musical terms for the benefit of people outside the tradition. [Video](#)

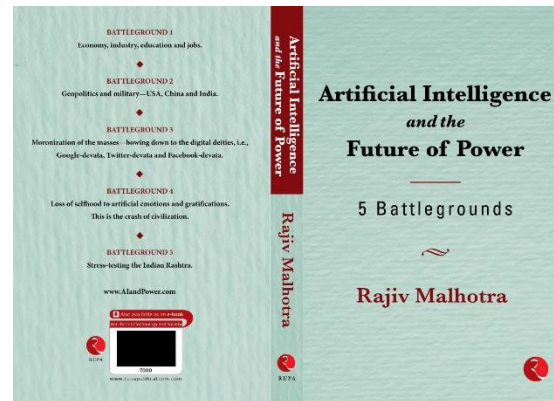


She also explains the significance and philosophical dimension of the term 'Nada' in the Indian musical tradition, distinguishing it from 'Sound'. [Video](#)

Non-translatables in Ayurveda

- [Vaidya ≠ doctor](#)
- [Doshā ≠ Humour](#)
- [Non-Translatable Ayurvedic Words](#)

Major Upcoming Book



Rajiv Malhotra's major upcoming book “Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Power” argues that the current AI-driven revolution will have an unequal impact on different segments of humanity. There will be new winners and losers, new haves and have-nots, resulting in an unprecedented concentration of wealth and power. After analyzing society's vulnerabilities to the



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impending tsunami, the book raises troubling questions that provoke immediate debate: is the world headed toward digital colonization by USA and China? Will depopulation become eventually unavoidable? The book is a wakeup call to action, compelling public intellectuals to be better informed and more engaged. Please visit aiandpower.com for more details.

Popular Articles of Rajiv Malhotra

Top 5 articles in this quarter are:

- [How 'Gandhara' Became 'Kandahar'](#)
- [Sanskrit Non-Translatables](#)
- [Why Sheldon Pollock is a very important Indologist to engage](#)
- [The Root Of India-Pakistan Conflicts](#)
- [Breaking India](#)

Intellectual Kshatriya

Top 5 articles in this quarter are:

- [The "Absolute" Idiocy of Devdutt Pattanaik : #AdvaitIdiocy](#) by Varun Raghav
- [DeraciNadu: Revisiting the Dravidian Faultline](#) by Karthik Satyam
- [The Axis of Neo-Colonialism](#) by Rajiv Malhotra
- [ThiruMayilai : The Itihasa of Mylapore](#) by Sharda Narayanan
- [We need an Alternative To History](#) by Subhodeep Mukhopadhyay

The Ex-Christian Show: Esther Dhanraj

The top 3 videos this quarter have been:

- [Exposing Evangelical Greed](#)
- [Joshua Daniel: Pastor from the Grave](#)
- [Is Bible God's Word | Contradictions in the Bible](#)

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