

Cipriánová, E., Miššiková, G., Ruda, O. (2016) *Translating Slovak Literature into English: Approaches and Implications*. Nitra: Univerzita Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre. 84 pp.

Translation is often seen as a rewriting of an original text. All rewritings, regardless of their intention, reflect a certain ideology and poetics and as such manipulate literature to function in a given society in a particular way. It is also an activity of great importance in the modern world. Many books and articles on translation have been written by specialists not only from the fields of linguistics or professional translation but also mathematics, cognitive science and others. Translation studies have become an increasingly interdisciplinary field and theories of translation have multiplied. However, a shared interest in a topic does not guarantee that one approach or theory will satisfy the requirements of a theory in other fields. The reviewed monograph provides certain intriguing insights into translation theory and practice with the aim of implementing a range of methodologies from pragmatics as well as cognitive, linguistic and literary approaches.

Metaphors and metonymies often pose a challenge to translators both in theory and practice but are considered an important area of everyday language. In the first chapter the authors aim to explore the cognitive mechanisms behind metaphors and metonymies and their significance in the translation process. The theoretical part of this chapter covers the overview of approaches to the translation of metaphors and metonymies, the current approaches to translation and the problems that translators have to face when translating metonymy and metaphors.

For the comparative analysis the authors used examples of Slovak figurative expressions and their English translations from the novel *Rivers of Babylon 1* by Peter Pišťanek. In their analysis the authors recognize four common strategies for translating metaphors and metonymy. The first uses near-identical equivalents with the same meanings while the next uses expressions with the same meaning but which are realized by different linguistic forms. In the third strategy the translator replaces the metaphor with a different metaphor or metonymy, and in the last they paraphrase the metaphor or metonymy in their literal meaning. Their analysis concludes that the differences tend to be mostly related to “language-specific mappings, degree of metaphorical elaboration and conventionalization” (p. 28).

This work contributes to studies in cognitive linguistics through providing more insight into the implications of translators’ work through cognitive processes and cultural variation.

In the second chapter of this book the authors focus on the pragmatic approach to translation, the application of pragmatic principles to the study of style in translation analysis and exploring stylistic features through pragmatic principles and categories. It also demonstrates how pragmatics can help to discuss and explore the meaning inferences in a text.

The theoretical framework includes the style and speaker meaning in translation, for example, “the ways readers understand explicit and implicit messages, decode stylistic devices, decipher implications and make inferences” (p. 30). The authors come up with an interesting idea that the pragmatic approach is about translators making inferences “based on the linguistic and non-linguistic qualities of the text” (p. 32).

The chapter concludes with an interesting in-depth analysis of the translation of the novel *Samko Tále* by Daniela Kapitáňová and compares the characteristic features of the source text as well as aspects and style of language, narrator’s style and implicatures in utterances. In their analysis the authors explored various stylistic features (ambiguity, redundancy, semantic controversy) by comparing the examples from the translated text with their originals. The authors argue in favour of the benefits of pragmatic and stylistic interfaces in translation studies and that the translator should use various techniques of pragmatic adaptation to make the translated text more accessible to the reader and that the inferential approach to translation can be beneficial when translating specific cultural phenomena. In this chapter, the authors provide a tantalizing glimpse into pragmatics and its use as a technique for translation. However, there are more questions and problems to be explored. Further study should be done on how the inferential processes could contribute to better translation and how they affect the understanding of the translated text.

The final chapter provides an overview of literature translated from Slovak language into English during the 2000-2016 period. For their data the authors chose a list of publications of Slovak literature in English translation, compiled by Julia Sherwood. The data was analyzed into two major categories: by geographical data (published in European or non-European territories) and divided into genres (e.g. fiction, poetry, children’s literature, anthologies).

The authors were successful in showing the current state of publications made by Slovak authors translated into the English language in European and non-European territories and the tendencies of prevailing Anglo-American literature. Their research has shown that mainly the Slovak classics have been published in English. The range of translated authors has been quite uneven, however, the current trend is two to three publications translated per year. This approach to data has provided us with an interesting trend, which is a larger number of translations

published in European countries. The authors suggest that “the reason can be justified by the historical and political development of the Slovak Republic. These realities determined the character of language translations performed in Slovakia and neighboring countries” (p. 55).

Through this research the authors have attempted to catalogue interesting literary events and publications of Slovak-English literary translation and provided us with an intriguing insight into the current trends in Slovak-to-English translation and publication.

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