



TRANSLATION AS TRANSFER OF CULTURAL IMAGES

Abstracts and bio notes

Paola Gentile (University of Trieste & University of Tartu)

*The transfer of images from the Low Countries to Italy.
A glance at Dutch-language fiction translated into Italian*

This contribution focuses on the literary and imagological transfer between two cultural peripheries: the Low Countries and Italy. Drawing on recent research (van Doorslaer et al., 2016; Ross & Gentile, 2020; Gentile, 2021) which has explored the fruitful cross-pollination between Translation Studies and Imagology, I will delve deeper into the way in which these two research fields can be successfully integrated at theoretical and methodological level.

At theoretical level, I will explore the way in which the transnational circulation of literature (Sapiro, 2016; Heilbron & Sapiro, 2018) contributes to the dissemination and to the creation of images. Particularly, the analysis of the interconnections among the various actors (translators, publishers, state-sponsored institutions, literary agents) at transnational level will provide insights into the selection, reception and translation of Dutch-language works into Italian. In this way, I will seek to explore how cultural images can be sometimes crucial for the (non-)selection and reception of literary works.

At methodological level, the macro-level of the literary transfer and the micro-textual level will be combined in a method developed expressly for this research. In this model, the transnational dimension of literary circulation will be strengthened by the analysis of reception documents (mostly paratexts) and by the textual analysis of 50 Dutch-language novels translated into Italian from 2000 to 2020.

References

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- van Doorslaer, L., Flynn, P., & Leerssen, J. (Eds.). (2016). *Interconnecting Translation Studies and Imagology*. John Benjamins.

Paola Gentile is a postdoctoral researcher and adjunct professor of Dutch at the University of Trieste. She was a post-doctoral researcher from 2016 to 2019 at KU Leuven with a project on the selection, reception and image building of Dutch-language literature translated into Italian. Since 2019, she has been working on the project *The imagological importance of translation policy: The transfer of Estonian images through translation*, coordinated by Prof. Luc van Doorslaer at the University of Tartu. She is currently principal co-investigator of the project “Cultural policy, International publishers and the circulation of Dutch-literature in translation”. She is review editor of the new journal *Translation in Society*. Her research interests are: the reception of Dutch-language literature in Italy, translation policy, imagology and the sociology of translation. She also works as a freelance interpreter and translator with English, Spanish and Dutch.

Anne O'Connor (NUI Galway)

*Viral Imagology?
National self-image on the move in the nineteenth century*

In 2011 Leerssen described a phenomenon of romantic intellectuals on the move in nineteenth-century Europe; he termed this viral nationalism. Nationalist self-images were also on the move at this time across European languages, a viral imagology which was enabled by translation activity. Using examples from Irish cultural nationalists, this paper will discuss the nationalist and cultural images which were “re-written” in nineteenth-century Ireland. Particular attention will be paid to the framing strategies which constructed the images in the paratextual apparatus. This is particularly important in the Irish context where filtering and ethnotyping created a specific imagery which, although expressed in the English language, nonetheless constructed an Irish nationalist self-image. The viral transfer of the nationalist imagology throughout Europe will be shown as facilitated by literary translation activity, but also, crucially, framed with paratextual commentary in the contemporary press.

Reference

Leerssen, Joep. 2011. “Viral Nationalism: Romantic Intellectuals on the Move in Nineteenth-Century Europe”. *Nations and Nationalism* 17(2): 257-271.

Anne O'Connor is Senior Lecturer and Co-Director of the Emily Anderson Centre for Translation Research and Practice in the National University of Ireland, Galway. She is the author of *Translation and Language in Nineteenth-Century Ireland: A European Perspective* (Palgrave 2017) and is PI on the ERC-funded project Pietra: Religious Translation, the Catholic Church and Global Media: a study of the products and processes of multilingual dissemination. Her research interests include translation history, nineteenth-century literature and culture, religious translation and material culture. Recent publications include articles on translation in periodicals and translations of popular devotional literature. She is the editor and translator of *The Italian Correspondence of Cardinal Paul Cullen* and has recently guest-edited a special issue of *Comparative Critical Studies* entitled “Translation meets Book History: Intersections: 1700–1950” and a special issue of *Translation Studies* entitled “Translation in Ireland: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives”.

Jeanette den Toonder (University of Groningen)

Migrant bodies and cultural transfer: How narratives of migration counter cultural stereotypes

Currently, Western mainstream media prominently presents the Iranian government through its foreign policy and nuclear program, and images of Iranian society focus on religious extremism and terrorism. Many of the Iranians abroad who left Iran after the Islamic Revolution of 1979, arrived in a space in which they were often related to religious fanatics and, as a result of this, lacked recognition as individuals. It seems therefore pertinent to engage with artistic and literary works that offer more nuanced pictures of Iranian migrants and present individual stories.

Since the Iranian diaspora has produced a prolific literature by women reflecting a unique perspective and voice, my talk will focus on the ways in which these writers counter stereotypes of the eroticized Oriental woman being a victim of patriarchal heritage. I am particularly interested in the ways in which their narratives translate experiences of migration through movements of contact and conflict, creating cultural encounters in which the body plays a central role. As Sara Ahmed has argued, all encounters with the other “are played out *on* the body” (Ahmed, 39); they allow for a redefinition or reinvention of the migrant body in relation to cultural stereotypes. In my analysis I will focus on the question how “received codes of gender, sexuality, family and the body” (Karpinsky, 29) can be defied through this process of contact, conflict and redefinition.

References

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- Karpinski, Eva C. *Borrowed Tongues: Life Writing, Migration, and Translation*. Waterloo (Ont.), Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2012.

Jeanette den Toonder is Assistant Professor of French and francophone literatures at the Department of European Literatures and Cultures. Her research interests include questions of identity, autobiography, journey and space in the contemporary francophone novel in Canada. She is particularly interested in migrant writing and the female voice and has published in *Voix et Images*, *Francophonies d'Amérique*, *Revue d'études canadiennes*, *Canadian literature* and *Dalhousie French Studies*. She is currently working on a research project on Iranian women's writing in Europe, examining migratory feminism from an intersectional and transnational perspective. Her current corpus includes contemporary novels published in four European countries (France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom).

Philipp Hofeneder (University of Graz)

Translation spaces: Mobility of persons vs. the circulation of objects

Cities like Dorpat or Mitau nowadays would not be related to important translatorial activities from or into Russian. Nevertheless, in the beginning of the 19th century Tartu and Jelgava (as they are called today) were significant cultural centers in the Russian Tsardom. As they were dominated by a German speaking culture, they were important places of translation in two respects. First, knowledge mainly from Central and Western Europe was transferred here into Russia. Secondly, these cities served as a point of departure for a knowledge transfer from Russia outwards.

In my presentation I would like to pursue a spatial approach towards the question of knowledge transfer. It is my aim to reconstruct a translation space which consists at least of two dimensions: patterns of mobility of relevant agents and ways of circulation of objects in translation. Based on this reconstruction I will analyze them, such as to see how they move in the natural space. Where do they live and work? Where are their works published? Is the circulation of ideas (and by that of objects) automatically connected to the mobility of persons? And who is responsible for this mobility? The same holds true for the translators and translations. What is their spatial relationship and what can this tell us about translation in general? In this respect it is not important that knowledge circulates, but rather how it disseminates beyond its initial place of origin. Several translatorial subspaces will be uncovered, the place of conceptualization, production, and later dissemination amongst others. Based on several thematic maps, which I prepared myself, I will analyze three different examples: the circulation of one translation (from Russian into German and published in Riga), the mobility of one German-speaking author (born outside Russia, worked in Tartu, and died in Jelgava), and finally the mobility of one German-speaking translator (born in Vilnius and died in St. Petersburg). By uncovering and describing relations between space and translation it will be possible to question basic (metaphoric) images of translation, such as directionality and translation as bridging linguistic and cultural differences.

Philipp Hofeneder is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Karl-Franzens-University in Graz/Austria, where he writes his habilitation. He specializes in multilingual and pluriethnic empires such as the Habsburg monarchy, the Russian tsardom and the Soviet Union and conducts research about translation culture. In his work he focuses on translation history and how to localize and visualize translation.

Recent publications:

- 2019 - „Translating the Border(s) in a Multilingual and Multiethnic Society. Antemurale Myths in Polish and Ukrainian Schoolbooks of the Habsburg Monarchy“. In *Rampart Nations Bulwark Myths of East European Multiconfessional Societies in the Age of Nationalism*, ed. by Liliya Berezhnaya and Heidi Hein-Kircher, New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 241-261.

- 2020 - „Knowledge transfer in the Soviet Union from the perspective of visual culture“. In *Translation in Knowledge, Knowledge in Translation*, ed. by Rocío G. Sumillera, Jan Surman, Katharina Kühn. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 169-186.