

Translation and interpreting studies (TIS), as a dynamic area of study, is constantly evolving both methodologically and theoretically in order to examine and explain new tendencies in the field. The volume under review contains a selection of contributions to the conference “Translation, Interpreting and Culture: Old Dogmas, New Approaches” held in Nitra, Slovakia, in September 2018 and offers a closer look at the issues, developments and challenges related to translation and interpreting practices and theories from the cultural point of view. It includes twelve studies by TIS experts from various institutional and linguistic backgrounds and offers a multifaceted array of approaches through which to study culturally-embedded interlingual exchanges.

As mentioned in the introduction by the editors, the contributions aim to address four main areas of TIS-related phenomena, namely (a) “geographical, sociocultural and political potential and limitations of translation theory, history and criticism” (13), (b) research related to the current “professional performance and status of interpreters” (14), (c) “translation of texts that transcend genre, text type and media borders” (15), and (d) issues concerning “improvement and further potential with regard to the translation and interpreting profession” (15).

The first article, “Translators and Publishers in Czechoslovakia (1968–1989): Following and Subverting the Ideology”, by Marianna Bachledová, describes how publishing activity was determined by political factors during the normalization period. On the basis of theoretical and historical sources, the author describes the way totalitarian tendencies of censorship and self-censorship practices in literary translation served to impose political values. The analysis shows that

more than a third of the paratextual materials were explicit ideologically tinged and that the shifts in the political atmosphere between liberalization and renewed repression rarely affected the degree of ideologization observed in the corpus.

Marie Krappmann’s chapter “The Translation of Yiddish Literature into Czech in Jewish Periodicals: The Impact of the Medium and the Genre of the Source Text on the Choice of Translation Strategies” focuses on the detailed investigation of applied translation strategies. Her corpus is composed of materials in periodicals (*Židovská ročenka* [Jewish almanac], *Věstník židovských náboženských obcí v Československu* [Bulletin of Jewish religious communities in Czechoslovakia]), since these were almost the only spaces for the publication of Yiddish literature in Czech translation before the fall of state socialism. Because the study is based on close reading of a few selected texts, its conclusions are limited to observing such tendencies as individual translators’ consistency in domesticating culture-bound and religious terms or generalizing idiomatic Yiddish phrases. However, since the material is itself highly fragmentary (Yiddish literature holds a peripheral place in the field of Czech literary translation), the study is a solid starting ground for further research into the topic.

In “Hybridity and (Re)Contextuality as a Conceptual Tool in Selma Ekrem’s *Unveiled* and Its Turkish Translation”, Büşra Yaman deals with the mixing of Eastern and Western elements in the autobiography *Unveiled* (1930) by Selma Ekrem and its Turkish translation *Peçeye İsyân: Namık Kemal’in Torununun Anıları* (Rebellion against the veil: Memoirs of Namık Kemal’s granddaughter, 1998) by Gül Çağalı

Güven. The source text, originally written in English, is itself a self-translation, and, as Yaman asserts, it provided the author/self-translator with “practical means to construct a new identity for herself, a gateway to resistance against Western stereotypes and standardizing codes and, at the same time, a vehicle to meet the Orientalist expectations to some degree” (162). Yaman’s literature overview positions the concept of hybridity within the framework of translation studies on the agential and textual level. In her self-translation, Yaman asserts, Ekrem expresses her hybrid identity mostly through transliteration, explicitation and literal translation. In the Turkish translation, agential hybridity concerns two responsible actors: Mehmet Atay’s publishing house Anahtar Kitaplar promotes leftist values, while the translator Güven, although herself a historian, generally prefers literal translation with brief explanations, but relies on historicizing when it comes to key terms in Ottoman administration.

The remaining studies are highly context-bound and culturally embedded. Ludmila Lambeinová’s “Paratexts of Academic Texts: Polish History from a Czech Perspective” is mainly based on the reception of Polish history and culture and emphasizes the importance of researching paratextual elements in the field of translation history.

Other contributions focus on translator training and on the translation profession. “Quality in Translation Crowdsourcing: A Case Study with Professional and Non-Professional Translators” by Maria Stasimioti, Vilemini Sisoni and Katia Lida Kermanidis investigates the quality level of translations created by experienced professionals and those without specialized training who “either work for free or for a small fee” (169) on crowdsourcing platforms. Marián Kabát’s “Toward a Context-Based Definition of Localization” proposes a definition of localization “that would encompass both translation and culture” (205) and would help to create a link between translation studies and

the localization industry. In “Training Future Professionals in Slovakia: Contexts, Changes and Challenges in Translator Training”, Martin Djovčoš and Emília Perez reflect on current developments of the translation market and profession in the country, pointing out both positive aspects of university training and issues that need improvement. “Students’ Motivation and Their Subjective Readiness to Enter the Translation Profession: A Survey of Four Different Universities in One Country” by Pavol Šveda examines the studies and career plans of 4th-year students, emphasizing a close link between their motivation and future perspectives of their programs.

Additional chapters in the volume focus on interpreting studies and interpreter training. In “The Factors Influencing the Role of Sign Language Interpreters: The Case of Turkey”, İmren Gökce Vaz De Carvalho specifies the role of the sign language interpreter (SLI) in Turkey. She asserts that Turkish SLIs lack the proper awareness of adequate strategies and professional ethics, which is rooted in the lack of interpreting-related training and the absence of university degree programs. Antony Hoyte-West’s “A League of Their Own? Conference Interpreters Viewed Through the Prism of Elite Sociology” examines the contemporary status of conference interpreting as a field that has not yet been thoroughly researched. Mária Bakti’s “Fluency and Delivery in the Evaluation of Interpreter Performance: Evidence from Evaluations from Trainers and the Target Audience” calls for more attention to be paid to the delivery skills of the students in the training of interpreting. Soňa Hodáková’s “To Be or Not to Be an Interpreter? Should Interpreter’s Training Change the Personality or Subordinate Itself to It?” focuses on the importance of the motivational factors in interpreting, and reflects on how students’ levels of motivation and personality traits affect their performance as interpreters.

The volume *Translation, Interpreting and Culture: Old Dogmas, New Approaches*, although heterogeneous in topics and research

methods, provides a collection of insightful, informative and inspiring contributions. It represents an array of options in which translation, interpreting and culture can be interconnected, in the sense of how they can be affected by the social and cultural environment. Furthermore, the studies explore the roles of translators and interpreters in terms of their own perception of their profession and their work environment, while taking into consideration how university preparation of future translators and interpreters can form their attitude towards the practice of their profession. The collection brings together the results of contemporary research in TIC, including some valuable observations on literary translation which could be significant for further research in the field.

LENKA POLAKOVÁ

University of Prešov in Prešov

Slovak Republic

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7595-4325>