Abstract

Characteristics of Polish to Czech Translation of Academic Papers about the 20th-Century History of Poland

Key words: academic translation, Polish-Czech translation, history in translation, translation criticism, translator, sociology of translation, translation of culture-bound items, translation policy

The dissertation studies the translation of academic texts about the 20th-century history of Poland translated into Czech and published throughout the years 1975-2016. Its introduction and the introductory chapter explain the choice of the target texts, outline the structure of the thesis as well as provides the general theoretical framework and methodology.

The first chapter gives a brief literature review. It presents non-literary texts in the light of Slovak, Czech, Polish and so called Western translation theories. It attempts to define the main features of the academic discourse, scientific translation, as well as specialised academic translation.

The second chapter traces the selection processes in the case of the analysed translations, especially in the context of the polysystem theory and the sociology of translation. It attempts to trace the translation policy and shows the analysed texts in the context of international cultural exchange.

The third chapter describes the paratextual elements of the analysed target texts. Its aim is to determine to what extent these elements contextualise the translations in the target culture. The second part of the chapter examines such issues as paratext and ideology, paratext and censorship as well as paratext and stereotypes.

The fourth chapter concerns the cultural differences in academic discourses, especially in the Polish-Czech context. The chapter gives a short overview of the main features of academic writings concerning the Czech history focusing on so called parallel texts. The aim is to determine the similarities and differences in both academic discourses as well as their implications for the translation.

The fifth chapter, the central analytical one in the dissertation, provides translation criticism of the analysed academic translations. Its first part discusses the translator’s
invisibility, translators in the contact with editors and publishing houses as well as their discussions on the final version of translation. The second part, mostly based on Antoine Berman’s methodology, attempts to trace general translators' preferences with regard to the author’s style and so called culture-bound items. Besides, it is supposed to identify the translators' biographical and socio-historical backgrounds as well as put forward the evaluation of their translation projects.

The conclusion sums up the principal problems of translating the analysed Polish source texts into Czech which emerged from the study of the existing target texts. It closes with a brief overview of the impact of the unequal culture exchange in the Polish-Czech context.