

Starting Points for the Project *Dictionary of Translators in Slovakia* as a Result of the History-Based Translatological Research

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Reception studies at the Institute of World Literature of the Slovak Academy of sciences (USvL SAV) shows, as it was mentioned in the contribution above, that every receiving space articulates for itself its own idea of its cultural environment, be it the world literature or some foreign literatures. Moreover, in every reflection alongside a certain global idea of world literature or of individual national literatures in a particular cultural space as a summarisation of individual ideas, into the game also enter the translator and the recipient as factors in a translation process. These factors get projected both to the formulation of a translation strategy based on the perception of the place of a translated text in the translator's idea of world literature, and (in case of readers-recipients) to the inclusion of translation to their ideas of world literature.

Based the experience of reception research of the 1970s and 1980s, and the Ďurišin's actualisation of comparative research towards interliterariness, the researchers often bring also problematic methodological impulses for a scholarly reflection of the perception of translation as a communication among nations and cultures. It is especially L. Vajdová (Vajdová, L.: *Romanian Literature in the Slovak Culture. 1890–1990*, Rumunská literatúra v slovenskej kultúre 1890–1990. Bratislava 2000) and J. Koška whose monograph *Reception as the Creation. The Slovak-Bulgarian Literary Relations (1826–1989)* (Recepcia ako tvorba. Slovensko-bulharské literárne vzťahy (1826–1989), Bratislava 2003) threw some light on the form of the received in the accepting culture, when reception and production were not juxtaposed, but emphasised a possibility of their functional identity. As L. Vajdová has pointed out in the “Romanian” volume of *A Brief History of Artistic Translation in Slovakia* (Stručné dejiny umeleckého prekladu), even individual cultural spaces and reception environments do not represent a homogeneous and continual reception, and thus also ideas of world literature in them have a rather fragmentary, heterogeneous, often accidental character. In this respect Vajdová emphasises also extra-literary circumstances and relationships as parts of a continually constituted reception tradition.

Drawing on the quoted experience and being aware of a significant position of translation in the Slovak cultural milieu, the orientation on two factors of translation as a process, i.e. the translator and the addressee/recipient, has become a natural con-

tinuation of culturally-historically based research. The project of *Dictionary of Translators in Slovakia* must, as a matter of fact, naturally accept all those circumstances of the given factors which were modelled by the already mentioned systems (national-political, socio-cultural, and literary); its ambition is to plastically show, by means of identification of the nature of their operation in the translation activities of particular translators, the “Slovak story” of translation in modern times, i.e. especially from the times when the Slovak ethnicity constituted itself as a modern nation in the 19th century up to the turn of the millennia.

It may be expected that such project may, through its survey of the results of the efforts of translators from individual literatures, show certain facts, phenomena, or regularities which do not get so clearly manifested during a “historical” approach from this or that literature.

As in the case of every dictionary, also here the most important task was to prepare a subject heading system which would have a potential to prove the above mentioned facts, phenomena and regularities and, at the same time, it would not deform the shape of the changes of cultural activity, especially in the complicated twentieth century. In the initial stages of the preparation of the subject heading system we approached the representatives of a professional organisation – the Slovak Society of Artistic Literature – also through a questionnaire. Its return, however, did not bring an expected effect. Therefore the creation of the subject heading system was based on the selection of experts for individual language areas, drawing on bibliographies of the published translated texts.

The criteria of the selection of relevant translators logically differ in individual periodization stages, exactly because of the fact that changing coordinates of the Slovak cultural milieu were determined by the circumstances of the already mentioned three systems. In essence, however, the most important principles for the inclusion of individual translators into the subject heading system and their consequent categorization are taken to be the contemporary as well as universal meaning and effect of the translated texts and their quality level.

In such way we gradually constituted a subject heading system which contains over 600 entries. If they are to provide all the mentioned information, they have to characterise, in addition to basic information contained in the entry’s core, culturally relevant translations of a given personality, their functions or meaning, and in the bibliographic part of the entry, to provide such bibliographic data which would also allow a backward identification of the translated texts’ originals. The bibliographic part also contains an information about potential texts reflecting the mentioned translating activities. With respect to the fact that the *Dictionary* is intended for a wider spectrum of users, it will contain a study interpreting the determined facts and specific phenomena – as a pars pro toto one can mention several significant specificities: in the traditions of Slovak cultural milieu the translation of poetry by poets is a transposition of poetic language, a specific position in translating activities is assumed by translations from close languages, the post 1968 normalisation period brought, again, a phenomenon of the so-called lending of the names to the translations of persons who were in the 1970s and 1980s, because of their political opinions, “expelled” from the official literary activities, and so on.

To secure the availability of the authors for the project, which is expected to come out in a printing as well as electronic form, we activated an extensive team of academic staff, from the Institute of World Literature as well as from the university

workplaces in Bratislava, Nitra, and Banská Bystrica, and therefore we believe that the project is going to be completed by 2011.

Translated by Anton Pokrivčák

VÝCHODISKÁ PROJEKTU SLOVNÍK SLOVENSKÝCH PREKLADATEĽOV

Dejiny translatológie. Reflexia východísk. Diferenciácia predmetu výskumu. Centrá výskumu prekladu. Literárny preklad. Odborný preklad. Inštitúcie. Preklad v médiách. Publikácie. Konferencie.

Od 60. rokov 20. storočia možno v bývalom Československu konštatovať zvýšený záujem o problematiku reflexie prekladu, v prvom rade prekladu literárnych textov. Táto stať predstavuje krátke „putovanie“ ďalšími osudmi slovenského uvažovania o preklade až do súčasnosti.

Štúdia je rozdelená do dvoch častí: v prvej Charakteristika prístupov k slovenským „dejinám translatológie“ sa nastoľuje úvodná hypotéza, že diferenciačným príznakom rôznorodých translatologických aktivít v slovenskom kultúrnom priestore môže byť vymedzenie predmetu skúmania. V druhej časti K vymedzovaniu predmetu výskumu súčasných slovenských translatologických úsilí čitateľ podstúpi krátke putovanie po cestách slovenskej translatológie posledných desaťročí a v horizonte jej dnešných obrysov. Slovenská translatológia sa celkom prirodzene usiluje zapíňať svoje nepopísané stránky, či už z hľadiska formulovania si predmetu ako prekladu v širšom zmysle – teda nie výlučne (ale aj) umeleckých textov (UKF Nitra, UMB Banská Bystrica), definovania si predmetu v zmysle dejín translatologických, prekladateľských a recepčných aktivít (ÚSvL SAV, resp. FiF UK Bratislava), alebo ako „prekladu ako umenia“ – napríklad v oblasti prekladania básnických textov (Zambor). Takto artikulované predmety bádania dopĺňajú postupne v jednotlivých slovenských translatologických centrách celkom pochopiteľne aj skúmania takých súčastí slovesnosti, ktoré doteraz slovenskej translatológii z rozličných dôvodov „unikali“, tam, popri iných, na jednej strane spektra „vidno“ napr. skúmanie otázok prekladu nesvetenských, náboženských, biblických, sakrálnych textov, na druhej strane škály sú to úsilia opísať a skúmať preklady a prekladanie textov „dnešnej každodennosti“ – tzv. európskych (legislatíva), administratívnych, reklamných, ale i textov súvisiacich primárne s vizuálnymi médiami.

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