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FANTASY LITERATURE: RINGS IN TRANSLATION

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Abstract

The present research focuses on the underexplored genre of Greek translated fantasy literature. More specifically, it accounts for translation variation between the two Greek versions of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic fantasy saga *The Lord of the Rings* (1954) (ST), published in 1985 (TTa) and 2001 (TTb) by the same publishing company and the same translator, attempting to unveil the mechanisms behind specific options in translation, their causes, significance and deeper meaning. A contrastive analysis of selected chapters of the ST and TTs pertaining to diachronically important narratives (Somers 1992; 1997; Somers and Gibson 1994; M. Baker 2005; 2006a & b; 2007), (perception of time, environment awareness, social exclusion and marginality, historical memory, perceptions of state authority and subjugation, the individual actor, war, gender representation, queer ideology and migration) draws upon the comparative translation model (Williams and Chesterman 2002) with a view to observing whether fundamental notions have been treated differently in the two Greek translations, or between the source text and the target versions. The materials were arranged in three chapters, each one of which focusing on Stuart Hall's cultural studies (1990/1992) and its tripartite substantiation (textuality, historical events and politics). Findings, which demonstrate that translation is shown to be able to reconstruct socially sensitive issues in renegotiating the 'fantastic' over the years, establish themselves as significant to the extent that they point to translation as a process contingent on the multifaceted needs of a changing society rather than being the result of a random activity.