

Plagiarism in literary translation and retranslation

Sabri Gürses & Mehmet Şahin***

Erciyes University, Turkey & Izmir University of Economics, Turkey

Type: Full paper

Section: Policy efforts to address issues of academic integrity

Abstract:

Literary translation is a type of translation where inventiveness and originality is probably required the most. Reflecting the style of the original author in the target language is usually the ultimate objective and translators use a range of strategies to achieve this. Yet, translators may have different perceptions of the same text and prefer to retranslate the same work using different strategies. Or sometimes the market demands these retranslations. Classics are usually the main subject of retranslations due to their popularity.

In the last two decades, we have been witnessing a gradually increasing level of retranslations and plagiarism in retranslations of literary classics. This presentation will give an overview of the causes and consequences of this phenomenon with a focus on the case of Turkey. The attempts to identify and prevent plagiarism in retranslation will also be discussed. Retranslations can be analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively with the help of a software program for document comparison and by using an analysis model based on translation solutions. This presentation will also attempt to propose an analysis model against literary translational plagiarism. A classical canon littered with plagiarized translations is a very big threat to the academic integrity, so this model will be a very useful tool for future studies.

Keywords: Canon, classic, fake, model, original, retranslation, translation, translator.