

Heterolingualism in the Finnish translations of Anglophone Caribbean fiction

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A large part of the literature coming from the Caribbean region today is published in European languages, especially in English. However, many of the texts are heterolingual in that the English narrative is embedded with various other local languages, such as French, Spanish, and different creole languages spoken in the communities. Thus, in Anglophone Caribbean literatures, various forms of code-switching are frequently used to portray the local cultures as well as to represent the inherently multilingual nature of the language communities. In addition to interlingual switches to the above-mentioned languages, among others, switches can also occur between different varieties of English. Spoken varieties of English are, for example, used as an approximation of a spoken creole language in dialogue. Due to these forms of language being both geographically and culturally bound, translating a heterolingual text can be challenging, especially when the source and target cultures are far removed from one another.

My paper presents the results of my PhD thesis, the topic of which is heterolingualism in Anglophone Caribbean novels and their Finnish translations. The study maps the strategies translators employ in solving issues related to heterolingualism. What kinds of developments can be seen in the translation strategies used by translators in transferring geographically and culturally bound varieties into another language? My main interest is in analysing the way in which the translations portray foreign cultures to Finnish readers – to what extent do the translations retain what I call *cultural integrity*, which involves the ethics of respecting the cultural elements present in the source text. The analysis is based on a selection of 10 novels and their translations as well as interviews conducted with the Finnish translators.