

Methods and strategies of a new approach to the historiography of translation from the Ottoman period to the present¹

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Studies in the field of translation history (Chesterman 1968; Pym 1998, 2009; D'Hulst 2001, 2010; Barnstone 1993; Bassnet/Lefevre 1990; Bastin/Bandia 2006; Malena 2011; Munday 2014; Lewis 2008; O'Sullivan 2012) using methods specific to (translation) sociology (Prunč 2007; Wolf 2012; Woodsworth/Delisle 1995/2012; Tahir-Gürçağlar 2008) and methods of history (Rundle 2011, 2012; 2014) to other disciplines are of importance as Translation Studies is interdisciplinary by nature. Thus, translation history is driven by an enormous amount of data mining; analysing, interpreting and imagining the data in question.

Creating a historiography of the image of translation during a large period of time (800 years, in this case) is not possible from a single perspective but rather a multilateral methodology which includes interpretative, visual data analysing and illustrative methods in a systematically way (Hitzel 1995; Kayaoğlu 1998; Paker 2009; Eruz 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016; Demez 2007; Diriker 2015). In the preparation stage of a translation history 'exhibition', a new academic approach in translation historiography (Eruz 2009–2018 exhibitions), the symbiotic relationship among different disciplines like history, literature, sociology, political science are taken into consideration and indispensable disciplines like art history and graphic design are used to visualize the story.

A Turkish Translation Studies scholar (Eruz) has been researching in the area since 1999, with her main focus on the Ottoman and the Turkish Republic periods, collecting visual material such as illustrations, pictures, paintings and photographs using which she opened 16 different exhibitions in the last 10 years, both in Turkey and Europe. The posters of the exhibitions serve as useful didactic material for the translation history classes conducted by her at various universities until 2018. Eruz is the author of several publications on the subject and aims to create new perspectives for her students and researchers.

This paper aims to describe and analyse the methodology and systematics of Eruz's new approach towards translation history which seems to pave the way for a comparison among the agents of translation, namely, the translators/interpreters and the structures of patronage of the past and present.

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