

Peer Translation Within Russian Immigrant Communities in Finland

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With over 77,000 members, Russian-speaking immigrants constitute the largest immigrant group in Finland today (Statistics Finland). Despite this, translation practices within these immigrant communities have still not been properly examined. Apart from community (public service) interpreting and translation, peer translation among immigrants often occurs on a voluntary, ad hoc, non-professional basis.

In this paper, I approach this subject through three different digital translation venues within Russian immigrant communities.

The first is the literary journal 'LiteraruS' (<http://www.literarus.org/>), published in Russian and partly in Finnish. The journal's aims are twofold: to preserve Russian language and culture abroad by publishing the literary works of Russian immigrants, while also acquainting Russian readers with Finnish literature by publishing Russian translations of Finnish literary works. Both professional and non-professional translators contribute their translations free of charge.

The second venue is a non-profit organization called 'Russian Speakers of Finland' (<http://www.svkeskus.fi/>). This organization aims at both uniting Finland's Russian speakers and integrating them into Finnish society. Towards the latter, the organization provides information in Russian concerning different areas of life in Finland, and volunteers translate different Finnish authorities' (blank) forms into Russian.

Two different Facebook groups of Russian immigrants in Finland comprise the third study venue, and I analyse how translation manifests itself in their discussions.

Translation in these three venues fulfils the various needs of these immigrants. The literary journal fulfils their aesthetic and self-expression needs. The non-profit organization enhances their social and economic integration by providing translation. The Facebook groups provide a forum for discussing translational matters that immigrants encounter in their everyday lives.