

# Re-translating a phallotranslation to Brazilian Portuguese: a feminist approach to *La Casa de los Espíritus*, by Isabel Allende

**Pamela Berton Costa**

*Sao Paulo State University*

From the (in)famous Canadian translators of the 70s and 80s to the most recent texts on gender, power relations, postcolonialism, and translocal theories, much have been said and done about feminist translation practices in the past few decades. As translation is inevitably an act of transformation, translators need to think carefully about the choices made because, as Henitiuk (1999) points out, non-attentive translators — *phallotranslators* — write biased texts that un/consciously subscribe to a dominant and sexist ideology. One of the contributions of this feminist translation agenda is to uncover those phallogocentric practices, bringing out aspects of a text that had been overlooked or suppressed (Massardier-Kenney, 1997). In this context, we analyzed a (*phallo*)translation to Brazilian Portuguese of the book written by Chilean author Isabel Allende, *La Casa de los Espíritus* (1985a), which is one of the most important novels of the Post-Boom, a Latin American literary movement that sought to give voice to viewpoints formerly marginalized or absent, such as women's (Shaw, 1995). We concluded that the translator mitigated the criticism to misogyny and feminine presence in the text. In order to enrich the debate about feminist literary translation nowadays, in this presentation we will discuss possibilities of feminist translation of the analysed text, for phallotranslations should no longer be accepted as valid. In the words of Costa and Alvarez (2014, p. 558), we need “to confront the mistranslations or bad translations that have fueled misunderstandings and obstructed feminist alliances” — especially, in this case, the phallotranslation of a book that is part of a movement seeking to give voice to women. As translations are so easy to criticize and so hard to do, this study reflects upon the role of the feminist translator, but it does not intend to suggest “more beautiful, smoother and truer” (Flotow, 2009) options.

**Keywords:** Feminist Translation, Brazilian Portuguese, Post-Boom, Latin America.

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