

# Translation of Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* (1906) in the diaspora and in Lithuania: ideological differences

**Nijole Maskaliuniene**

*Vilnius University*

The presentation deals with the translations into Lithuanian of Upton Sinclair's novel *The Jungle*, which first appeared in a periodical magazine *Appeal to Reason* (1905) and was published as a separate book in 1906. When it was translated into Lithuanian two years later, it must have already been known to the limited intellectual community of Lithuanians in the US who could read it in the original and must have developed their opinions even before its translation became available.

The fact that two, rather than one, translations of the book were delivered almost simultaneously in Lithuania and in Chicago, US, singles this book out of other literary works of the time, since in general translations into Lithuanian from the English were still a novelty. The reason apparently was that its main protagonists were a couple of Lithuanian immigrants working in a slaughterhouse in Chicago. Descriptions of their life, work and feelings occupy a significant part of the book. These episodes seem to have stirred particular attention among Lithuanian nationals.

Even a cursory glance at the two translations clearly showed differences between them in terms of syntax and the vocabulary. A further reading disclosed other variations revealing differences in the approach in general, the American version testifying foreignization while the Lithuanian one being based on the strategy of domestication. As a result, there appeared two different versions of the novel for the Lithuanians living on the opposite sides of the Atlantic. The analysis has shown that the reasons for such different interpretations may be ideological, as the image of Lithuanian immigrants created by the author was unacceptable to the Lithuanians in their home country and equally painful for the diaspora, although for different reasons.

## References

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