

Translators' Portraits and the Visibility of Translators

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Presenting the project “Translators’ portraits” with more than 70 interviews of renowned Greek literary translators shot during the last three years as well as recent related projects worldwide, we take a closer look to the people behind the translated texts. They reveal their professional background, share their often quite different views on the process of translation and the role of translators, and comment on their relations with editors, literary agents, publishers and the reading audience. This sociological approach reveals thus on the one hand the power constellations between the different agents within the literary and translation field (Bourdieu 1983, Bachleitner & Wolf 2010), especially regarding translations from often major languages to minor ones, such as Greek, in a time of financial crisis. On the other hand, taking professional translators out of their invisibility, which is so often being misinterpreted as the text’s fluency (Venuti 1995), leads not only to a paradigm shift, empowering translators towards professionalization and gradual social recognition, but also to the emancipation of the readers themselves.

References

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