

## Translation Studies in Nitra

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### THE PAST AND PRESENT OF THE NITRA TRANSLATION STUDIES CENTRE

The history of the Translation Studies Centre in Nitra is closely connected with the work of the *Cabinet of the Literary Communication and Experimental Methodologies* (Kabinet literárnej komunikácie a experimentálnych metodík – KLKEM) at the former Teacher Training College in Nitra (now the Institute of the Literary and Artistic Communication at the Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra) as early as the 1970s and 1980s. The Institute's research method has affected translation studies research across the board in Slovakia. The research was based on an approach that takes into consideration the whole expressive quality of a text and its relevance to the reader. The method was later to become known both in Slovakia and worldwide as the Nitra School. Especially in the 1970s and early 1980s the research activities of the Institute were centred on translation. The leading figures in translation studies research were Anton Popovič and František Miko (see also Valentová 2009, p. 48–62).

From its very beginnings (in the late 1960s) the Nitra School was a unique phenomenon in literary studies and criticism as well as in translation studies in the totalitarian regime of the former Czechoslovakia. The main characteristics of the School are as follows:

1. innovative semiotic and communicative exploration of the text and its specific interpretive validity based on scholarly correctness (suppressing the then compulsory ideological aspect in the research activities of the Eastern Bloc countries);
2. an innovative methodology linking the text-centred, structural or semiotic way of critical thinking, represented mainly by Russian formalism and Czechoslovak structuralism, with semantic or information aesthetics, “new criticism”, post-war structuralism and semiological initiatives in French-speaking countries;
3. a team work and interdisciplinary approach focussed on interpretation of artistic texts, theory of the text, theory of literary communication and theory of literary metacommunication or intertextuality with special emphasis on translation and literary education. (See Plesník, 2004, pp. 265–275)

The Nitra research centre had integrated the previous period of Czech and Slovak translation studies in the 1950s and 1960s (B. Havránek, B. Ilek, K. Hausenblas, V. Kochol, J. Felix, M. Bakoš) and, building on the work of the Czech scholar Jiří Levý, developed its own concept based on the model of literary communication, expressive quality of a text and its relevance to the reader.

The general communication model of AUTHOR – TEXT – RECEIVER is applied by Popovič to translation. Under the communication-based concept he views the translation act as a communicative confrontation with the act of original creation expressed by the model:

AUTHOR1 – TEXT1 – RECEIVER1=TRANSLATOR=AUTHOR2 – TEXT2 – RECEIVER2

Basically, according to Popovič, the translation process involves the confrontation of the systems of two senders, two texts and two receivers. In describing and evaluating translation operations, Popovič draws on the work of František Miko, accompanied by thematic analysis particularly in the area of stylistics, as theoretically refined in Miko’s categorisation of expressions and brought together in Miko and Popovič’s *Production and Reception* (Tvorba a recepcia, 1978). Following his early – but in the Slovak context significant – works *Translation and Expression* (Preklad a výraz, 1968), *Poetics of Literary Translation* (Poetika umeleckého prekladu, 1971) and a number of other studies, Popovič summarises his conception in *Theory of Literary Translation* (Teória umeleckého prekladu, 1975), which became the cornerstone of the scientific study of translation in Slovakia. In this book he concentrates on general issues in translation theory, translation as a communication process, the structure of a translation text and communication in translation style, as well as on discussing issues of translation semiotics, praxeology and the teaching of translation. He views translation studies as an independent scientific discipline with its own metalanguage. He adopts a systematic approach to creating this metalanguage, culminating in the dictionary *Original/Translation. Interpretation Terminology* (Originál/Preklad. Interpretačná terminológia, 1983). The entries in the dictionary were produced by a team of authors, although the bulk of the work is Popovič’s own.

## RESPONSES TO THE NITRA SCHOOL

The contacts of the Nitra research centre worldwide (Poland, Russia, former Yugoslavia, East and West Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Belgium, Israel, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada) resulted in a number of responses abroad as early as the late 1970s and beginning of the 1980s. For example, the anthology *Poetics Today*, compiled by Gideon Toury and Itamar Even-Zohar in Israel (1981, pp. 9–27), identifies the Nitra Cabinet of Literary Communication and Experimental Methodology as an important centre of research on translation theory.

Translations in 1980 of Popovič's monograph *Theory of Literary Translation* (Teória umeleckého prekladu) into Hungarian (by Zsilka) and Russian (by Bernštejnová and Čerňanskaja) attracted further reactions in specialist journals not only in Slovakia, but mainly abroad. Toper (1980, pp. 5–12), Vaseva (1981, pp. 385–388), Szerdahelyi (1982, pp. 1252–1254), Weisstein (1981, pp. 218) and Harpáň (1982, pp. 193–199) refer to Popovič as a significant figure in Slovak comparative literary studies and literary translation theory.

Reaction to Popovič's work abroad was considerable. This is also thanks to the fact that some of his works had been translated into major languages, in particular English. Popovič's dictionary of terms for analysing literary translation was published in Canada as *Dictionary for the Analysis of Literary Translation* (1976). This may be viewed as a significant achievement since, as stated by the important British translation theorist Susan Bassnett-McGuire in her monograph *Translation Studies* (1980, p. 5), this dictionary was at the time [and up until the mid 1990s most definitely remained] the only terminological dictionary of translation studies published in English. Elsewhere in her monograph Bassnett-McGuire compares Popovič's theory with the theories of other major exponents of translation studies, such as Nida, Neubert, Mounin and Catford. She notes in particular Popovič's system of expressive shifts, his understanding of equivalence and the invariant in translation and the problem of untranslatability. She highlights his conception based on literary communication theory.

An example of the response to the Nitra School abroad is M. Shuttleworth and M. Cowie's *Dictionary of Translation Studies* (1997). It contains basic translation study terms, as well as brief descriptions of different schools of translation theory. From the point of view of Slovak translation theory, it is significant that the dictionary includes terms from the Nitra School. The Nitra School even has its own entry in the dictionary, where it is described as "...a group of Slovak scholars originally based at the Nitra Pedagogical Faculty in former Czechoslovakia..." (Shuttleworth, M. – Cowie, M., 1997, p. 112). However, the authors did not get things quite right when they included Levý in the Nitra School, since he was no longer alive at the time when it was formed. Nevertheless, Levý seemed to be a trigger of Popovič's research work.

The Nitra School is classified in the dictionary as one strand in translation theory, alongside the Leipzig School, the Manipulation School and the Paris School. The entry in the dictionary was based on the exegetical works of Hermans (1995, p. 217) and Gentzler (1993). According to them, the theoretical foundations of the Nitra School in researching certain aspects of literary translation were the Russian formalists and the Prague Linguistic Circle (Czech structuralism). They see the continuation of this

school in the work of the Manipulation School, also known as the Low Countries Group, which brings together researchers from Belgium, the Netherlands, the former Czechoslovakia and Israel. They stress the descriptive, functional and systematic approach to literary translation with the emphasis on the target language (Hermans, 1985, pp. 10–11). In addition to this key entry, in terms of situating Slovak translation theory in the broader context of theoretical trends elsewhere in the world, the dictionary also contains other entries referring to Slovak translation theory initiatives in the 1970s and 1980s. Terms like **expressive shift**, **prototext** and **stylistic equivalence** have penetrated the conscience of translation theorists and become part of the terminological foundation of translation studies (Shuttleworth, M. – Cowie, M., 1997, p. 112).

Responses to the work of Miko, Popovič as well as other Slovak researchers in the field of translation studies, such as Vilikovský and Hochel, can also be found in what may be the most important survey of the current state of translation studies as a scholarly discipline, the *Routledge Encyclopaedia of Translation Studies* (M. Baker, ed., 1998). The theoretical findings of, in particular, Miko and Popovič feature in the Encyclopaedia and thereby gain a place in the history of translation theory research worldwide. However, it must be said that the space devoted to Slovak translation theory by the *Encyclopaedia* is not commensurate with its importance.

### THE NITRA SCHOOL'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSLATION STUDIES

The Nitra School's communication-based and semiotic conception of translation has contributed to the development of modern translation studies in Slovakia and worldwide. What we would like to stress is the pioneering formulation of the semiotic nature of translation as early as the late 1960s (Popovič, 1968), well ahead of its time, introducing terms like **the interspatial factor in translation** (Popovič, 1976, p. 11), **the factor of culture in translation** (ibid. p. 8), **intertemporal factor in translation** (ibid., p. 11), **exoticism in translation** (ibid. p. 6), **domestic culture in translation** (ibid., p. 4), **foreign culture in translation** (ibid., p. 4), **creolisation of culture in translation** (ibid., p. 3). Popovič makes use of semiotics and semiotic terms introduced by the Russian semiotician Lotman. He applies them to the literary communication model, where **the mutual relationship between two cultural systems** is seen as the decisive factor in literary communication alongside re-coding and translationality (ibid., p. 22). In line with the Russian school of semiotics Popovič expresses the mutual relationship as the "creolisation" of the two cultures in translation, which also involves the combination of two structures at the social level (1971, p. 30). He develops this theory further (ibid., p. 106) in the section on the interspatial factor in translation where, using Lotman's typology, he distinguishes three positions on the relationship between the culture of the original and the culture of the translation as follows: (a) the activity of the external environment is stronger than the activity of the internal environment; (b) the activity of the internal environment is stronger than the activity of the external environment; and (c) the tension between the external and internal environments is balanced. Internal environment refers to the situation of the recipient, his cultural code and ability to situate the fact of translation in the home

context. External environment refers to the identification of facts beyond the internal environment, the relationship of the communication product to the foreign environment. The task of the translator is to resolve this tension.

An important element in Popovič's thinking was the conception of the **experiential complex of the translator and the receiver** and their cultural determination, which is a matter of cultural anthropology. Cultural anthropology aims to resolve the antinomy of the translatability and untranslatability of art. It thereby relies on research by Miko showing that the experiential complex is reflected in the text in connection with the communicative circumstances, also referred to as the **communicative stance**. The translation strategy and translation operations depend on this stance (Popovič, 1975, p. 37). In this connection Mlacek (2005:77–8) points out that Popovič's and Miko's model of translation based on communication and stylistics is a progressive concept corresponding to new methodological trends in linguistics (trends based on communication and pragmatics and text theory) and in language-related scholarship in general.

The culture factor in translation, expressed in the translation principles of naturalisation and exoticism, was formulated later also by Ján Vilikovský in his monograph *Translation as Creation* (Preklad ako tvorba, 1984) and by Braňo Hochel in his monograph *Translation as Communication* (Preklad ako komunikácia, 1990). These terms are significant also for the shift towards culture in translation studies in “western translation theories” in the 1980s and 1990s (see e.g. Snell-Hornby 1988, Toury 1986, Venuti 1995).

These terms proved to be central in translation theory research in Slovakia in the years that followed and were further developed, particularly in the study of the history of translation of literary texts at the Slovak Academy of Sciences' Institute of World Literature in Bratislava (M. Kusá, K. Bednárová, B. Suwara, L. Vajdová, and others). The terms ‘exoticism’, ‘naturalisation’ and ‘creolisation’ continue to be used as basic concepts in Slovak translation studies to this day (see the work of Vilikovský, Hochel, Koli, Vajdová, Kusá, Rakšányiová, Zambor, Valcerová, Andričík, Keníž, Gromová, Mügllová and others).

The contribution of the Nitra School can also be seen in the breaking down of barriers between academic disciplines, which had been an obstacle to the development of translation studies. As early as the 1970s Popovič and the people working with him realised that, without contact with other disciplines, translation studies would not be capable of examining the multidimensional phenomenon that translation unquestionably is. An example of this is Popovič's comment on the terms used in translation studies in his book *Teória umeleckého prekladu* (1975, p. 273): “it [the register of terms] contains terms used for the systematic understanding of the problems of the translation process and the text. Some of the terms were born out of translation theory, some in the context of interdisciplinary study of translation issues. In such cases the terms taken from related disciplines were transplanted into translation theory and acquired a special classification” (Popovič 1975, p. 273).

A further contribution made by Popovič and the Nitra School is that they bridged the scientific knowledge gap between East and West. By “scientific knowledge gap” we mean the impossibility of actual exchanges of knowledge and experience between

East and West for political or ideological reasons. In the East-West direction there was a political embargo on information, whereas in the West-East direction it was more of a natural embargo due to the language barrier. Eastern Bloc authors did not get published in English, German or French (with very few exceptions, including certain works by Slovak scholars, in particular Popovič and Miko, for example in *The Nature of Translation*, 1970), which made it difficult for Western scholars to learn about their research results.

Looking at translation studies from the East-West perspective, it would appear that in the East we have recently been seeing an interest in and adoption of “Western” theories at the expense of re-evaluating and responding to our own theories in the light of current trends. Having said that, in certain respects, particularly as regards the cultural and sociological orientation of present-day translation studies in the West (see Jettmarová 2007, pp. 56–82 and Stecconi 2007, pp. 173–177), today’s Western translation theories are discovering what our translation studies had identified as far back as the 1970s. In Slovak translation theory the signs of the cultural studies and (most recently) sociological shift in translation studies were already apparent in the work of Popovič, whose communication-based model of translation (essentially a model of translation actions) introduces a cultural studies and sociological dimension (see 1975). Apart from terms such as **factor of culture in translation**, **exoticism**, **naturalisation**, **creolisation**, Popovič also introduces the concept of the **sociology of translation**, which he views as the “research of the genesis and functioning of translation in the social context. Sociology is concerned with translation as a manifestation of social communication. It studies translation as a fact of social and cultural conscience within the sphere of operation of institutions and the individual (publishing policy, cultural relations etc.)” (Popovič, 1975, p. 287).

The innovativeness and originality of Popovič’s research approach to translation issues is brought out by Ubaldo Stecconi in his review of the 2006 Italian translation of Popovič’s *Theory of Literary Translation* (Teória umeleckého prekladu) in the journal *Target* (2007, pp. 173–177), where he praises the book and regrets that it has not been published in English, which would have a greater impact on the translation studies community. He states that in spite of the fact that “... it appears 31 years after the Slovak original and 26 after the 1980 translation into Russian, on which it is also based, many positions and insights still read fresh and provocative. How can it be that the book does not show its age? I can think of two reasons: either Popovič was a Leonardo-like genius way ahead of his time, or Translation Studies has been running out of steam lately” (ibid. p. 174).

To sum up, the Nitra School is classified as a trend in translation theory, studying translation and the translation process from the point of view of semiotics and communication, while emphasising the preservation of the literary quality of a work by maintaining the expressive properties of the text, introducing the term ‘functional shift’ and addressing translation in the context of the broader term ‘metatext’. From the perspective of semiotics the work of the Nitra School also developed the temporal and spatial factor in translation that substantially affects the translator’s decision-making process. More broadly speaking, the Nitra research centre in the 1970s and 1980s paved the way for modern thinking on translation.

**PROFILES OF THE MAIN PERSONALITIES  
OF THE NITRA TRANSLATION STUDIES RESEARCH  
ANTON POPOVIČ AND FRANTIŠEK MIKO**

Anton Popovič

Prof., PhDr., DrSc.

Born 27 July 1933 in Prešov

Died 24 June 1984 in Bratislava

*Research and teaching activity: a founding personality of the internationally renowned Cabinet of Literary Communication, now the Institute of Literary and Artistic Communication at the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University; the author of communication translation theory applying Miko's expressional conception of style (the expressional system) and the communication model of the text which constitute the basis of the Nitra School's unique methodology.*

In 1951–1954 he studied at the Higher School of Pedagogy in Prešov, in 1954–1956 at the Faculty of Arts, Comenius University, Bratislava, in 1955 - 1956 he was an assistant at the same faculty, in 1956 - 1960 a research worker of the Institute of Slavic Studies of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Brno, in 1960 - 1964 a member of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Institute of the Slovak Academy of Science, in 1964–1973 at the Institute of World Literature and Languages of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, in 1973–1976 head of the Cabinet of Literary Communication in Nitra and in 1976 – 1981 head of the Department of Slovak Language and Literature at the Pedagogical Faculty in Nitra. His research area was Slavic studies, theory and history of literary translation, comparative studies and literary communication. In the first period of his research activities he studied Slovak-Russian and Ukrainian literary relations and in 1961 he published his monograph *Russian Literature in Slovakia 1863–1875* (Ruská literatúra na Slovensku 1863–1875). His research activities in translation studies resulted in the books *Translation and Expression* (Preklad a výraz) in 1968, *Poetics of Literary Translation* (Poetika umeleckého prekladu) in 1971, *Literary Translation in Czechoslovakia* (Umelecký preklad v ČSSR) in 1974 and *Theory of Literary Translation* (Teória umeleckého prekladu) in 1975. His research also focused on the methodological problems of literary studies, semiology, versification, literary scholarship. He devoted his research activities also to literary metacommunication in the books *Problems of Literary Metacommunication* (Problémy literárnej metakomunikácie), 1975 and *Production and Reception* (Tvorba a recepcia) with F. Miko (1978). He also concentrated on these topics as editor-in-chief of the journal *Slavica Slovaca* (1972–1977). He also paid attention to organising research as well as teaching at the Teacher Training College in Nitra where in 1976–1981 he acted as editor of the series *On the Interpretation of an Artistic Text* (O interpretácii umeleckého textu). He participated in several FIT and ICLA congresses and conferences and was a member of the ICLA Executive Board in 1974–1979. In 1976 he worked as a visiting professor in the Department of Comparative Literature, at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada where he published the first dictionary of translation studies terms entitled *Dictionary for the Analysis of Literary Translation* (1976). (Based on Maňovčík, A. et al.: *Slovak Biographical Dictionary*, 2002, 292–293.)

František Miko  
 Prof., PhDr., DrSc.  
 Born 13 April 1920 in Lipany

*Institute of Literary and Artistic Communication – Professor Emeritus – research and teaching activity: a founding personality of the internationally renowned Cabinet of Literary Communication, now the Institute of Literary and Artistic Communication at the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University; the author of the expressional conception of style (the expressional system) and of the communication model of the text which constitute the basis of the Nitra School’s unique methodology.*

He attended secondary school in Prešov (1931–1939). In 1939–1943 he studied philosophy and Slovak language at the Faculty of Arts of the then Slovak University in Bratislava. In 1956–1969 he worked at an office of the Institute of Slovak Language of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Košice, where in 1959 he received the degree of CSc. (candidatus scientiarum – equivalent of PhD). He also used to give lectures on a part time basis – since 1964 as a “docent” (assistant professor) – at the Faculty of Arts in Prešov. In 1969–1970 he was involved in organising the Institute of Translation and Interpreting at the Bratislava branch of the University of 17 November (in his capacity as vice-rector and the head of the Slovak language department). Then he moved to the Institute of World Literature and Languages of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. In 1970 he received his DrSc. degree in art theories (doctor scientiarum) and in 1980 was awarded the professorship. In 1973–1986 he was a research worker in the Institute of Literary Studies at the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava where he headed the literary theory section. Alongside this, starting in 1968 he gave lectures on a part-time basis at the Pedagogical Faculty in Nitra, where in the same year, together with Professor Anton Popovič and Professor Ján Kopál, he founded and built a unique academic centre concerned with the study of literature the Cabinet of Literary Communication, now the Institute of Literary and Artistic Communication. In 1986–1989 he was the head of the Institute. In 1989 František Miko retired, but has remained in an everyday professional contact with the Institute, devoting his extraordinary scientific and human energies especially to the scholarly training of young doctoral students and young research staff. In 2008 the Scientific Board of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra awarded František Miko the degree of Professor Emeritus.

As an outstanding Slovak literary theoretician, linguist and philosopher who has extraordinary authority within both the domestic and international professional community, Miko is especially remarkable for the fact that in the past he was one of the very few Slovak scholars who managed to built their own school of literary theory or semiotics, despite the adversity, at the time, towards independent and original scientific acts in the humanities. Since most of his research and teaching activities were carried out at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, the school has been called the *Nitra School*. Its methodological platform is made up by the conception of literary, or artistic, communication and, associated with it, a unique interpretation of an artwork.

He authored or co-authored over 30 monographs (3 of them published abroad). The most important ones include: *Aesthetics of Expression* (Estetika výrazu, 1968), *Text and Style* (Text a štýl, 1970), *From the Epics to the Lyrics* (Od epiky k lyrike, 1973), *Production and Reception* (Tvorba a recepcia, 1978) – with A. Popovič as the co-author, *Hodnoty a literárny proces* (Values and the Literary Process, 1982), *The Analysis of a Work of Art* (Analýza literárneho diela, 1987), *The Art of the Lyric* (Umenie lyriky, 1988), and *Meaning, Language, Semiosis* (Význam, jazyk, semióza, 1994).

František Miko has published over 500 literary theoretical and linguistic essays and articles. His works has been translated into approximately 10 foreign languages. He has also taken part in many academic events in Slovakia and abroad and several foreign lecturing visits, for example in Germany, Russia, Cuba, Poland and Hungary. He has been a member of Slovak and foreign scientific institutions. In 1995 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the International Semiotic Association for his contribution to the development of European semiotics. In addition to this, he was also awarded the Gold Medal of the Presidency of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (1980), the Gold Medal of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (2000), and the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa by the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (1995).

Miko's account of individual parts of the literary system is characterised by his effort to overcome the methodological shortcomings of structuralism in art theories. Attention to the circumstances of communication allowed him to present artistic events as values in life's existential nature. Moreover, this led him to upgrade the status of the recipient of a work - as the agent who has a substantial influence on the existence of the artwork itself.

His understanding that the work is a fact of consciousness has led him to an original thesis about the being of a work in terms of communication and reception.

After 1989, Miko was involved in several research projects, as for instance:

1. Communicativeness and Translationality in Language Teaching, 1991–1993.
2. Reception Poetics and Pragmatic Aesthetics, 1994–1996.
3. Morphology of Literature and Art in a Pragmatic Range, 1997–1999.
4. Pragmatic Aesthetics at Elementary School, 2000–2001.
5. Dictionary of Aesthetic Expressional Categories I, 2003.
6. The State Research and Development Programme: Civilisational and Cultural Processes in Slovakia's Changing Society", 2003–2006.
7. The Dictionary of Aesthetic Expressional Categories II, 2004. (Based on Tučná, E. (ed.) *Honorabilis 1*, 2009, p. 96–97)

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## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSLATION STUDIES: FACTS AND FIGURES**

**Department of Translation Studies**  
**Faculty of Arts**  
**Constantine the Philosopher University**  
**Nitra**  
**Slovakia**

### ***ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT***

The Department of Translation Studies was created in 2002 within the Department of English and American Studies at the Faculty of Arts, University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra. It provides undergraduate and postgraduate translator and interpreter training. In the BA (Bc.) and MA (Mgr.) study programmes, there are about 280 students and about 25 in the PhD. study programme.

### ***STUDY PROGRAMMES***

#### **Course profile for translation and interpreting:**

Slovak Language (A language), Introduction to Translation Theory, Methodology in Translation, Foreign Languages (B and C language), Cultural and Area Studies, Comparative Linguistic Studies, Translating and Interpreting Seminars, LSP Translation, Terminology Management, Translation Tools and Techniques

- 3-year BA (Bc.) in Translation and Interpreting (full-time courses only)
  - English language and culture – German language and culture
  - English language and culture – Russian language and culture
  - German language and culture – Russian language and culture
  - English language and culture – Slovak language and culture
  - German language and culture – Slovak language and culture
  - Russian language and culture – Slovak language and culture
- 2-year MA (Mgr.) in Translation and Interpreting (full-time courses only)

English language and culture – German language and culture

English language and culture – Russian language and culture

German language and culture – Russian language and culture

English language and culture – Slovak language and culture

German language and culture – Slovak language and culture

Russian language and culture – Slovak language and culture

- Ph.D. programme in Translation Studies (full-time and part-time courses)

### **Courses within life-long education:**

- 2-year part-time postgraduate course in the translation of non-literary texts (in the fields of economics, law, science, technology, and EU institutions)

Within the Faculty of Arts there is also a specialised centre, **the Institute of Interpreting** (director: Professor Gabriela Miššíková) with a licence from the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic to set the national translation and/or interpreting exams for certified translators and interpreters.

### **TEACHING STAFF**

The staff providing translator and interpreter training are from the following departments: Department of Translation Studies, Department of English and American Studies, Department of German Studies, Department of Russian Studies, Department of Slovak Language, Department of Slovak Literature, Institute of Literary and Artistic Communication, Department of Philosophy, Department of Cultural Studies and Department of Political Science and European Studies. The Department of Translation Studies is headed by Professor Edita Gromová.

### **Research activities in Translation Studies since the 1990s**

The Department of Translation Studies and the other departments collaborating in research activities in translation studies follow the tradition of theoretical research in translation studies in Nitra going back to the 1970s and 1980s. The research was initiated by the Institute of Literary and Artistic Communication at the former Pedagogical Faculty in Nitra, supervised by the leading figure in Slovak translation, Professor Anton Popovič. The impact of Popovič's scheme after his death in 1984, combined with an attempt to reassess his views and create a qualitatively superior synthesis in theoretical thinking on translation, can be seen in Nitra translation studies research activities in the 1990s. More recent additions and critical stances on Popovič's communicative conception of translation are provided in *Metatext a preklad (Metatext and Translation)* published in 1993, a collection of research papers from the Institute of Literary and Artistic Communication, Faculty of Arts, University of Constantine the Philosopher, Nitra. The collection was a product of a research seminar held 9 years after Popovič's untimely death (1984), commemorating what would have been his 60th birthday. The seminar was organised by the place where he had worked, the Institute of Language and Literary Communication in Nitra founded by Popovič in 1968 together with František Miko, Ján Kópál, Pavol Plutko and others.

Since 1990 Nitra research activities in translation studies have seen a re-appraisal of the research results achieved in translation studies, which is due not only to a certain development in thinking on translation in Slovakia, but also to the new circumstances, since the geopolitical changes in Europe and the collapse of the totalitarian

regime have facilitated more open and intense communication with the West. The research in the area of translation studies continued to develop during the 1990s and 2000s, as part of successful national and international projects. Altogether the researchers from the Department and collaborating departments have taken part in 8 national and 5 international research or educational projects.

In the 1990s, activities in the field of translation studies were still concentrated at the Institute of Literary and Artistic Communication, although they were an additional activity alongside the Institute's main activities based on the aesthetic qualities of artistic texts and the reception of the reader. There are, however, several research projects devoted also to translation, the members of the research team being from other, mostly language, departments (Gromová, Müglová, Koli, Preložníková). The projects are as follows:

1. *Komunikatívnosť a prekladovosť vo vyučovaní cudzích jazykov (Communicativeness and translationality in Teaching Foreign languages) (1990-1993)*. The main coordinator: M. Malíková.

2. *Recepcia moderny a postmoderny (originál-preklad) (The reception of modern and postmodern literature (original-translation))*. (1994-1996). Main coordinator: T. Žilka. Evaluated by the Board of the Slovak Academy of Sciences as a project with excellent results.

3. *Intertextualita v modernom a postmodernom umení (Intertextuality in modern and postmodern art)*. 1997–1999. Main coordinator: T. Žilka.

Within the above-mentioned projects two monographs on translation appeared – *Interpretácia v procese prekladu (Interpretation in the Translation Process)* by Edita Gromová (1996) and *Preklad v teórii a praxi vyučovania cudzích jazykov (Translation in the Theory and Practice of Foreign Language Teaching)* by Daniela Müglová (1996).

1. Applied research has been carried out in the teaching of translation and interpreting as part of the international projects **Innovation of Translation Teaching at Slovak Universities** (1998 – 2000). This was organised in cooperation with the University of Marc Bloch in Strasbourg as well as with the universities of Leipzig and Edinburgh. As a result of this cooperation, a two-year part-time postgraduate course in the translation of non-literary texts was established in 1999.

Since 2002, the year when the Department of Translation Studies was established, research activities in translation studies have been concentrated in the Department and the collaborating language departments. Moreover, the Department closely collaborates with numerous institutions worldwide. Research has centred on general problems of translation and its status and history under three projects in collaboration with the Institute of World Literature of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava (SAV). This research is closely connected with the research activities of the Institute of World Literature. The joint research projects are as follows:

1. *Theoretical and Literary Historical Aspects of Translation, Translating Activities and Reception of Literary Texts (Teoretické a literárnohistorické aspekty prekladu, prekladateľstva a recepcie literárnych textov)*. 2001-2004. Main coordinator: Professor Mária Kusá, the Institute of World Literature of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. Coordinator for the Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher Uni-

versity in Nitra: Professor Edita Gromová.

2. *Translation and National Culture. Circumstances, Relationships and Connections, Personalities, Notions* (Preklad a národná kultúra. Okolnosti, vzťahy a súvislosti, osobnosti, pojmy). 2005-2007. Main coordinator: Professor Mária Kusá, the Institute of World Literature of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. Coordinator for the Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra: Professor Edita Gromová.

3. *Translation, History, Status of Translation, Its Transformations and Scientific Reflection in Time* (Preklad, dejiny, kultúra. Status prekladu, transformácie jeho podôb a vedeckej reflexie v čase). 2008-2010. Main coordinator: M. Kusá, the Institute of World Literature of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. Coordinator for the Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra: E. Gromová.

In 2003-2006 the Department of Translation Studies also cooperated with the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ostrava (Czech Republic) on the project **Foreign Language Communication in Business** (an English-Czech, German-Russian project). This project dealt with translation and interpreting in the context of communication.

In 2003-2006 translation research became part of The State Research and Development Programme entitled *Civilisational and Cultural Processes in Slovakia's Changing Society* (Civilizačno-kultúrne procesy v transformujúcej sa slovenskej spoločnosti) and coordinated by the Institute of Literary and Artistic Communication in Nitra. Apart from the researchers from the Institute, the project included researchers from other departments of the Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra as well as other research centres on humanities from Bratislava. The project brought together 45 researchers from the Institute of Literary and Artistic Communication and other departments of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra as well as other research centres on humanities from Bratislava. Duration: 2003-2006. The main coordinator: L. Plesník, for the section on translation: E. Gromová.

The research activities in translation studies within this project resulted in a monograph *Culture – Interculturality – Translation* (Kultúra – Interkulturalita – Translácia) by E. Gromová and D. Müglová, published in 2005. The book gives a multidimensional view of translation as a phenomenon of a cultural, psychological and cognitive nature.

In addition, in 2005-2007 the Department of Translation Studies in Nitra collaborated with the Philological Faculty of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica on the project *Insights into the Current State of Translation and Translating in Slovakia aimed at Socio-Cultural Aspects – Globalisation, Integration, Pluralisation, Multiculturalisation* (Sondy do súčasného stavu prekladu na Slovensku so zameraním na sociokultúrne aspekty - globalizácia, integrácia, pluralizácia, multikulturalizácia). The main Coordinator: J. Vilikovský, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, the Deputy coordinator: E. Gromová, Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra.

The design of translation and interpreting teaching and study programmes is covered by the research project *New Conception of University Translation and Interpreting Teaching in Slovakia – Translation and Interpreting in an Integrated and Internationalised Europe* (Nová koncepcia univerzitného vzdelávania prekladateľov a tlmočníkov na Slovensku - preklad a tlmočenie v reláciách zjednotenej Európy a internacionalizačných procesov). 2008-2010. Main coordinator: E. Dekanová.

The Department of Translation Studies is also active in organising conferences and seminars on translation and interpreting under the title *Translation and Culture* (Preklad a kultúra). The events were held in 2003, 2006, and 2009. The proceedings were published in 2004 entitled *Translation and Culture*, in 2007 entitled *Translation and Culture 2*, and in 2009 (forthcoming) entitled *Translation and Culture 3* (Preklad a kultúra 1, 2, 3).

Alongside the research on literary and non-literary translation, monographs that have appeared recently aim to provide a more comprehensive perspective on problems – hitherto addressed only marginally – of translation teaching, a discipline that is important from the point of view of translator training and has long been a focus of attention outside Slovakia. Examples of publications dealing with the teaching of translation are E. Gromová's publications *Theory and Didactics of Translation* (Teória a didaktika prekladu) published in 2003 and *Introduction to Translation Studies* (Úvod do translatológie) (forthcoming).

Another very recent and interesting book that aims to look at translation and mainly interpreting activities in a non-traditional way is *Communication, Interpreting, Translation or Why did the Tower of Babel Collapse?* (Komunikácia, tlmočenie, preklad alebo prečo spadla Babylonská veža?) by D. Müglová, published in 2009.

Publications on translation have recently appeared in the research activities of collaborating language departments aiming to provide a new interdisciplinary perspective on the problems of translation. One of them is G. Miššíková's *Analysing Translation as Text and Discourse* (2008). This book attempts to bring some coherence to a highly interdisciplinary area of translation studies, situating different views and approaches to translation within recent trends in stylistics, pragmatics and discourse studies. The approach presented brings new methods to working with translation. In addition to aspects of text and style, attention is also paid to the pragmatics of translation in general. Throughout the book, Miššíková considers how insights into the nature of text and discourse might affect actual translation of literary and non-literary texts.

Another book on translation is *Adjectivalia in the Translation Process* (Adjektivália v translačnom procese) by E. Dekanová published in 2006. It discusses theoretical and pragmatic linguistic issues of translating, especially those of translating participles from Russian into Slovak. In 2009 she published *Chapters from the Theory and Didactics of Translating Non-literary Texts* (Kapitoly z teórie a didaktiky prekladu odborných textov).

Translation and interpreting research is also apparent in the publication *Analysing the State of Translation, Interpreting and Foreign Language Teaching Activities in Slovak Companies* (Analýza stavu prekladu, tlmočenia a vyučovania cudzích jazykov vo firemnom prostredí) by G. Miššíková, M. Mačura, Z. Sedláčková, L. Török, K. Stanová, R. Povolná, and O. Dontcheva-Navratilova. M. Mačura is also the author of a textbook for users of computers in translation *Computer-Assisted Translation* (Počítačom podporovaný preklad) published in 2008. The above-mentioned publications are all devoted to the pragmatic and social aspects of translation as profession.

## **RESEARCH PROJECTS**

1. *Theoretical and Literary Historical Aspects of Translation, Translating Activities and Reception of Literary Texts* (Teoretické a literárnohistorické aspekty prekladu, prekladateľstva a recepcie literárnych textov). 2001-2004. Main coordinator: M. Kusá, the Institute of World Literature SAS, Bratislava. Coordinator for the Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra: E. Gromová.

2. *Translation and National Culture. Circumstances, Relationships and Connections, Personalities, Notions* (Preklad a národná kultúra. Okolnosti, vzťahy a súvislosti, osobnosti). 2005–2007. Main coordinator: M. Kusá, the Institute of World Literature SAS, Bratislava. Coordinator for the Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra: E. Gromová.

3. *Translation, History, Status of Translation, Its Transformations and Scientific Reflection in Time* (Preklad, dejiny, kultúra. Status prekladu, transformácie jeho podôb a vedeckej reflexie v čase). 2008–2010. Main coordinator: M. Kusá, the Institute of World Literature SAS, Bratislava. Coordinator for the Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra: E. Gromová.

4. *Insights into the Current State of Translation and Translating in Slovakia aimed at Socio-Cultural Aspects – Globalisation, Integration, Pluralisation, Multiculturalisation* (Sondy do súčasného stavu prekladu na Slovensku so zameraním na sociokultúrne aspekty – globalizácia, integrácia, pluralizácia, multikulturalizácia). 2005–2007. The main Coordinator: J. Vilikovský, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, the Deputy coordinator: E. Gromová, the Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra.

5. *A New Conception of University Translation and Interpreting Teaching in Slovakia – Translation and Interpreting in an Integrated and Internationalised Europe* (Nová koncepcia univerzitného vzdelávania prekladateľov a tlmočníkov na Slovensku - preklad a tlmočenie v reláciách zjednotenej Európy a internacionalizačných procesov). 2008–2010. Main coordinator: E. Dekanová.

## **INSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS**

1. *Translation and Culture* (Preklad a kultúra). Main coordinator: E. Gromová. 2001–2003

2. *Computer-Assisted Development of Professional Translator Competences of University Graduates for the Needs of Labour Market* (Počítačom podporovaný rozvoj odbornej prekladateľskej kompetencie vysokoškolských absolventov pre potreby trhu práce). European Social Fund. 2006–2008. Main coordinator: E. Gromová

## **INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS**

1. *The Designing of Postgraduate Study of Non-Literary Translation for Slovak University Graduates*. Main coordinator: A. Butašová. Coordinator for the Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra: E. Gromová. With the financial support of the Institut français, the Goethe Institut and the British Council. 1998-2000.

2. *Methodological Cooperation of Slovak University Teachers of Translation and Interpreting* (Metodická spolupráca učiteľov prekladu a tlmočenia na slovenských

univerzitách). 2002–2003. Main coordinator: E. Hoetzel, Marc Bloch University, Strasbourg.

3. *Foreign Language Communication in the Sphere of Business (Czech-German-English-Russian Project (Cizojazyčná řečová komunikace ve sféře podnikání. (Projekt česko-nemecko-anglicko-ruský))*. 2002–2004. Main coordinator: K. Lepilová, Department of Slavic Studies, Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University in Ostrava, Czech Republic. *European Resources for Intercultural Communication. Thematic Erasmus/Socrates network project*. 2004–2006. Main Coordinator: L. Černý. Institute of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Communication, Fachhochschule Köln, Germany. Local coordinator for Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra: E. Gromová.

4. *New Trends in Translator Training (Nové trendy vo vzdelávaní prekladateľov)*. 2007–2008. Leonardo da Vinci. Main Coordinator: D. Müglová, Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra.

### **INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION**

The Department of Translation Studies cooperates with the following foreign universities and institutions: The Institute of Translation, Interpreting, and International Relations of the University of Marc Bloch, Strasbourg, France; Leipzig University, Germany; Institute of Translation Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic; Faculty of Arts, University in Ostrava, Czech Republic. It also cooperates with the Directorate-General for Translation (DGT), European Commission, Brussels in establishing a Network of European Master's in Translation Programmes.

Furthermore, the Department participates in the Socrates – Erasmus programmes involving exchanges of students and teachers with the following universities: Middlesex University, London, United Kingdom; Universidad Europea de Madrid, Spain, Ionian University, Kerkira, Corfu, Greece; Institute of Translation Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic; Faculty of Arts, University in Ostrava, Czech Republic.

### **PROFILES**

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**Prof. Editá Gromová, PhD.** is Senior Lecturer at and the Head of the Department of Translation Studies, Faculty of Arts, of Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra, Slovakia. She teaches translation theory and methodology of translation to students majoring in Translation and Interpreting. Her main research interests are translation studies, translation theory and translation didactics. She graduated in translation studies, English and Russian in 1977 and finished her PhD. studies in 1996 at the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. She is the author of several publications on translation studies including *Interpretation in the Translation Process (Interpretácia v procese prekladu, 1996)*, *Theory and Didactics of Translation (Teória a didaktika prekladu, 2003)*, *Culture – Interculturality – Translation (Kultúra – Interkulturalita – Translácia, 2006 with D. Müglová)* as well as coursebooks *Chapters from the Introduction to Translation Studies (Kapitoly z úvodu do prekladateľstva,*

1998, 2000) and *Introduction to Translation Studies* (Úvod do translatológie, 2009). Apart from that, she has published more than 50 studies and articles from the field of translation studies both in Slovakia and abroad. She is vice-president of The Slovak Society of the Translators of Scientific and Technical Literature.

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**Professor Gabriela Miššíková, PhD.** is Senior Lecturer at and the Head of the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Arts, of Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra, Slovakia. She graduated in English and Slovak in 1982 at the Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia. And finished her doctoral studies at the E. Štúr Institute of Slovak Language, Slovak Academy of Science. She teaches linguistics to students majoring in English language and literature, and translation and interpreting. Her main research area is Stylistics and Pragmatics. In addition to publishing widely on stylistic and pragmatic approaches to translation she is the author of *Stylistic Analysis of Text* (Štylistická analýza textu, 1999), *Linguistic Stylistics* (2003), *Working with Texts in Stylistics* (2004), *Analysing Translation as Text and Discourse* (2007) and chief editor of *Topics in Linguistics*. She is Director of the Institute for Translation and Interpreting approved by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic to set the national translation and/or interpreting exams for sworn translators and interpreters.

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Slovak comparative studies. She graduated in Slovak and Russian at the Faculty of Education, Nitra, Slovakia in 1970. She is author of several publications on translation studies including *Adjectivalia in the Translation Process* (Adjektiváliá v translačnom procese, 2006), and *Chapters from the Theory and Didactics of Translating Non-literary Texts* (Kapitoly z teórie a didaktiky prekladu odborných textov, 2009).

### **PHD STUDIES IN TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING**

The Department of Translation Studies has been the centre for PhD students in the Translation and Interpreting study programme since 2005. The chair of the study programme is Edita Gromová. Since 2005, the following 10 doctoral theses have been finished and defended at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Faculty of Arts, Department of Translation Studies:

1. Welnitzová, Katarína: *The Aim of Non-verbal Communication in Consecutive Interpreting* (Úloha a podiel neverbálnej komunikácie v konzekutívnom tlmočení). 2008, 157 pp.

The doctoral thesis *The Aim of Nonverbal Communication in Consecutive Interpreting* focuses on an area which has received insufficient attention. In the theoretical part of the thesis the term *nonverbal communication* is defined, with a brief discussion of its history and most important aspects. In this part all the nonverbals relevant to consecutive interpreting are explained. The second part of the thesis defines the term *social perception*, studying and examining the listener's perception of the interpreter's performance. *External and internal factors* which can influence the listener's perception are identified. The practical part of the thesis analyzes a real interpreting situation. Two interpreters (a woman and a man) of different characters (she – an explosive person, he – a phlegmatic person) interpret the same texts of different discourses (a text about global warming and a wedding toast). The research has brought some interesting conclusions.

2. Hodáková, Soňa: *Memory in Simultaneous and Consecutive Interpreting* (Pamäť v simultánnom a konzekutívnom tlmočení). 2009, 164 pp.

The doctoral thesis deals with the issue of memory in simultaneous and consecutive interpreting and represents an interdisciplinary approach to the problems being investigated. It connects translation studies knowledge with the findings from psychology, especially cognitive psychology. The very essence of the thesis focuses on the influence of cognitive processes (general and specific abilities) on the quality of individuals' simultaneous and consecutive interpreting. The basic hypotheses include assumptions that general cognitive abilities (selective attention) do not influence the quality of interpreting; on the contrary, specific cognitive skills of individuals (regulation of cognitive processes) have a significant influence on the interpreter's performance.

3. Janíková, Katarína: *Translation as Cross-Cultural Communication or Interlanguage Transfer* (Preklad ako interkultúrna komunikácia alebo interjazykový transfer). 2008, 198 pp.

This doctoral dissertation was based on the multidimensional analysis of the source and the target text. Linguistic, cultural, psychological and social aspects were applied to the novel „A Clockwork Orange“ by A. Burgess and its translation into Slovak by O. Kořínek „Mechanický pomaranč“. The main goal of the research was to

highlight the importance of equivalence in translation achieved through interlanguage transfer and cross-cultural communication. All the findings led to a better understanding of the translation process and the translator's methods used while translating linguistic, cultural, psychological and social situations. Moreover, a new translation method was formulated that speeds up the proper translation process.

4. Ostrihoňová, Anna: *Dubbing Translation* (Preklad v dabingu). 2009, 204 pp.

Although the amount of dubbing translation of movies, films, sitcoms and soap operas vastly outnumbers the volume of books translated into Slovak, there is still a lack of sufficient theoretical research and methodology on this subject.

The thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is focused on description of dubbing techniques. The second and third chapters deal with translation problems that might be encountered while translating an audiovisual product, i.e. translation of slang and cultural references. The fourth chapter is dedicated to adaptations of literary works and particularities of their translation. The last chapter summarises the approaches and techniques that might be used for translation of an audiovisual product. It is stressed that the linguistic and technical quality of the translation is paramount as well as the translation methods and techniques that offer all the means needed to convey the linguistic, cultural and social meaning of the audiovisual product.

5. Kozáčiková, Zuzana: *Translator and Translation Competence in the Theory and Teaching of Translation* (Prekladateľ a prekladateľská kompetencia z pohľadu teórie a didaktiky prekladu). 2009, 168 pp.

This thesis aims at introducing fundamental aspects of translation competence, primarily linguistic competence in translation pedagogy. The aim is, thus, to draw attention to linguistic competence as one of the main domains of a more complex term – translation competence. Since linguistics is the study of language and has produced such powerful and productive theories about how language works, and since translation is a language activity, it would seem only common sense to think that the first had something to say about the second. The thesis introduces and analyses the selected topic in seven chapters.

Translation education is seen as a matter of intervention in the development of the various components of translation competence. To train student translators, we must first ask what skills and knowledge professional translators have that our students do not yet have and second, how we can foster the skill students already have and what we can do in order to help our students to become good translators.

6. Štefčík, Jozef: *Court Interpreting and Strategies for Teaching It* (Súdne tlmočenie a jeho didaktické perspektívy). 2008, 153 pp.

The thesis examines the multi-aspectual phenomenon of court interpreting in Slovakia, in a contrastive analysis of two legal languages – Slovak and German.

In regard to the communication act in court interpreting with different strategic goals of its participants, attention was drawn to the professional status and competences of court interpreters, description of asymmetrical communication, the notion of institutional context as a „hypertext“, as well as the stressful environment which distinguishes court interpreting from other types of professional interpreting. Also, the legal discourse in its macro and microstructure was analyzed in both sample languages, with the main focus on charge statements, sentence statements and expert witnesses, and

development of a note-taking concept of universal symbols in legal discourse.

The thesis concludes with strategies for teaching court interpreting in Slovakia, based on the outcome of statistical analysis dedicated to issues concerning the work of professional court interpreters in Slovakia. The goal was to present an exemplary model of teaching court interpreting.

7. Preložníková, Soňa: *Professional, Institutional and Pedagogical Aspects of Curriculum Design in Translator and Interpreter Training in Europe* (Profesijné, inštitucionálne a didaktické aspekty tvorby kurikula vo vzdelávaní prekladateľov a tlmočníkov v európskom kontexte). 2008, 248 pp.

The aim of this work is to present translation pedagogy as an independent discipline and analyse all the aspects of curriculum design of translation and interpreting study. It concentrates on the practical application of the institutional aspects of curriculum design in higher education institutions in Europe. It presents a typology of European translator and interpreter centres and compares the outcomes of their curriculum analysis with the recommendations published under the *Thematic Network Project in the Area of Languages (TNP), Sub-project 7: Translation and Interpreting (TNP)*. On the basis of the comparison it presents a curriculum proposal for translator and interpreting training adapted to the needs of the Slovak higher education context, bearing in mind the ongoing reform of higher education under the *Bologna process*.

8. Kiššová, Mária: *Paradigms of Children's Literature Translation* (Paradigmy prekladu detskej literatúry). 2009, 162 pp.

The aim of the thesis is to map the characteristics of children's literature translation. The theoretical part of the work stresses the expressive characteristics of children's literature which are consequently related to translation of children's literature. The second part of the work focuses on the importance of the theory of translation of children's literature as a unique sphere within literary translation. The third part consists of close analyses of the chosen children's literature texts translated from English into Slovak. The works analyzed are *The Illustrated Mum* by Jacqueline Wilson (translated by Katarína Karovičová), *Mary Poppins* by Pamela Travers (translated by Anna Horáková in 1971 and Oľga Kralovičová in 2006), and *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C. S. Lewis (translated by Patrick Frank). The thesis advocates the need for a specific approach towards children's literature translation and strategies to be used by translators.

9. Hevešiová, Simona: *Translation as a Form of Intercultural Communication* (Preklad ako interkultúrna komunikácia). 2008, 153 pp.

The thesis aims at introducing the fundamental aspects of post-colonial literature from the perspective of post-colonial translation studies. The aim is to draw attention to linguistic and culturally determined elements of post-colonial texts requiring a specific approach by the translator. Methodologically, the thesis is rooted in the theoretical concepts of the Slovak translation school which regard translation as a process of communication. These theories may be conveniently linked with newer trends in translation studies, such as post-colonial translation theories. The comparative analyses of two post-colonial novels - Thiong'o's *Grain of Wheat* and Soyinka's *The Interpreters* - and their translations into Slovak demonstrate potential problems that may arise during the translation process and evaluate the translation strategies chosen. By

pointing to specific features of post-colonial literary texts, the thesis calls for a distinctive approach by the translator to the translation process.

10. Mačura, Martin: *Praxeological Analysis of the Current Status, Procedures, Outcomes and Methods in Commercial Translation in Slovakia* (Praxeologická analýza stavu, postupov, východísk a metód komerčného prekladu vo firemnom prostredí na Slovensku). 2008, 182 pp.

This research focused on the analysis of the current status, procedures, methods, outcomes and practical aspects of Slovak commercial translation. The tendencies on the Slovak market in terms of commercial translation can be described as quite divergent due to the lack of standards for commercial translation. Also, variables such as content quality, formal quality, deadlines, financial issues, timely delivery, use of computers and computer technology in translation, speed, revisions, document formats, document logistics, legal aspects of translation as a process, all seem to be outside the scope of concern in traditional translation research, but they encroach on the translator's work on a daily basis. The essence of the thesis was to create a general theoretical and idealised model of commercial translation and compare it with the practical situation in Slovakia. By analyzing the data in the above areas and comparing it with the theoretical model, it was possible to determine how close the practical situation is to the theoretical idealised model. The research resulted in compiling a set of recommendations for Slovak translators and companies.

## TRANSLATOLÓGIA V NITRE

**Štúdium prekladu v Nitre. Kabinet Kabinet literárnej komunikácie a experimentálnych metodík – KLKEM. Nitrianska škola prekladu. Osobnosti. Vyučovanie prekladania. Jazykové špecializácie. Preklad literárnych a odborných textov. Tlmočenie. Vedecký výskum. Publikácie. Konferencie. Doktorandské štúdium.**

V príspevku autorka predstavuje nitrianske translatologické centrum, pričom si všíma jeho začiatky, ktoré siahajú do 60. rokov 20. storočia, keď bol na Pedagogickej fakulte v Nitre založený Kabinet literárnej komunikácie a experimentálnych metodík (KLKEM). Zaoberá sa výskumom na nitrianskom pracovisku v oblasti prekladu od konca 60. rokov 20. storočia v jednotlivých etapách až po súčasnosť. Všíma si najvýznamnejších predstaviteľov nitrianskej školy a celkove jej prínos v oblasti translatologického výskumu u nás i v zahraničí. Ďalšia časť príspevku sa venuje súčasnému výskumu v oblasti translatológie na Filozofickej fakulte Univerzity Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre..

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