

The Question of Homogeneity in one of Gulliver's Travels Arabic Translations

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Abstract

“Il y a beaucoup de ratures en *literature*”¹ one would say, because writers usually aspire to quench a discursive thirst which is not usually satisfied at first ‘shot’. Authors exert themselves quintessentially on issues that work in consonance with the contextual idiosyncrasies of the audience they are writing for. However, the endeavour acquires more intricacies when the work ‘trespasses’ its original topos to get into a different milieu with ‘variegated’ parameters. Such is the case of translated texts which vacillate between keeping the texture of the Source Language Text (henceforth, SLT) and giving it a ‘face-lift’. Regardless of that, the notion of homogeneity is at times jeopardized by the *nature* of the text at stake. A telling instance could be drawn from Jacqueline Abdelwahab’s (2005) Arabic translation of Jonathan Swift’s Gulliver’s Travels. After fostering a succinct summary of the story, my second move will be to offer some insights into children’s literature in translation. K. Reiss’s 1977 *Text-types* will come in very handy in detecting the right technique to be opted for. Then, some excerpts will be selected and analysed in quest for a certain textual homogeneity between the source and the target texts. Eventually, I hope that putting children’s literature in a translational orbit will ignite a triggering debate on the process of homogenization and its applicability.

Keywords: Homogeneity, English-Arabic translation, Text-types, children’s literature.

¹ Literally translates into « there are lots of crossings-out in literature ».