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Predrag Novakov

CULTURE-RELATED ELEMENTS IN TRANSLATION: AN ENCOUNTER WITH OTHERS

Summary: It is a well-known fact that the complex phenomenon like language includes a broad range of components specific for a given community and its culture. These components, more or less typical for the given community only, represent a particular challenge for the translator and provide the area in which the translation can contribute to a better insight into other cultures, that is to accepting multiculturalism surrounding us. Having that fact in mind, this paper discusses translational procedures related to the transfer of culture-related elements in two directions: from English (as the source language) to Serbian (as the target language) and vice versa, with the examples from the field of social sciences, religion and art. Namely, the central part of this paper first lists relevant examples from the field of sociology and history (that is, from the book The Culture of Cities by L. Mumford, whose Serbian translation was published in 2010) which distinctively point to the translational problems which may occur while transferring cultural components from English to Serbian. After that,

the paper discusses examples in which Serbian is the source, and English the target language; these examples are related to religion and religious art, to the field in which cultural differences are particularly pronounced. Examples were excerpted from the book Serbian 18th Century Wall Painting by L. Šelmić, whose English translation was published in 2004. Analysing examples from these two books, this paper discusses possible translational solutions for specific culture-related contexts and their contribution to a better understanding of other communities and multiculturalism in general.

KEY WORDS: culture-related components, English, religion, translation, Serbian