



Review: Martínez Pleguezuelos, Antonio J. (2018). *Traducción e identidad sexual: reescrituras audiovisuales desde la Teoría Queer*. Granada: Comares.

The book opens with a prologue in which Rosario Martín Ruano succinctly presents the topic to the reader. In the first pages, Martín Ruano outlines the new approaches that have been previously studied by diverse authors on the pairing of translation and identity. This is a field of study that, though already studied, demanded more specific attention to the area of sexual paraphrasing in the globalized world. The study tackles a topic that has not been deeply analyzed in Translation Studies, and that aims at shedding some light on the rephrasing processes carried out within transnational translation processes, mainly within the sector of the media.

The first chapter includes a poststructuralist approach to present the discursive character any identity. The author develops an extensive revision on the topic based on different authors who have studied the construction of identity through discourse. The main objective is to prove which consequences derive from the use of language when we speak, and also when we translate, regarding sexuality or sexual minorities. Scholars from diverse areas (cultural Studies, LGTB+ Studies or feminism) serve as a complete and accurate theoretical substrate on which the rest of the chapters will grow. Based on the opinions of Stuart Hall or Jonathan Potter, among others, Martínez Pleguezuelos presents in a detailed way the discursive processes that shape reality and, thus, sexuality. Moreover, the author includes a genealogical review, based on Foucault's assumptions regarding power, to show the reader how the figure of the homosexual appeared in medical science, and how it has evolved throughout the 20th Century and the first years of the 21st. How this first chapter is written helps the addressee to understand clearly the topic of the book.

The second chapter incorporates Judith Butler's performativity perspective continuing with the aforementioned Foucauldian argument. This approach allows us to question the concept of identity and especially the idea that there could be a primitive identity essence that typifies each individual, establishing fixed categories that do not change and evolve with time. As explained by the author, this argument would be of vital importance for translation, being this a practice which could naturalize categories such as "gay", "lesbian" or "bisexual", as well as other points of view that do not recognize the wide variety of sexual orientations that can be found within the spectrum of affective diversity. Being this a complex topic, the author delves into it in a precise, clear and understandable way for all audiences, even for those who approach it with little or no knowledge on the field of study.

From an interesting and original perspective, the third chapter of the book is devoted to explaining the globalization of sexual minorities, bearing as its explanation's core idea the concept that the translation process is a way of connection and international communication. As explained by the author himself, there are to date few research Studies on the globalization of sexuality, and there is a need to fill

this gap in this academic field with books like the one here reviewed. Based on the literature foundations developed in previous pages, *glocal* identities are analyzed, those that emerge from the union of dominant globalized discourses and local ones to which different communities are strongly connected. As a result of the integrative vision projected of LGTB+ Studies, Globalization Studies, as well as translation ones, the author can capture with various examples, and a solid argumentation, how occidental perspectives travel anywhere in the world and end up prevailing over sexual identity paradigms that existed in such regions. The act of translation, as reflected by Martínez Pleguezuelos, turns into a translational information flow within a privileged medium that transmits content depending on certain power interests. Through the various cases included in the book, it is easy to understand the scope of the occidental discourses translated and exported to other societies, as well as their direct consequences observed thousands of people in their daily lives. Within this cultural imperialism, to which the author refers, culture is adopted as an exchange currency in a global scenario that affects the (non) acceptance and normalization of other sexual profiles that cannot be easily found in the hegemonic discourse about sexuality. For instance, the dissertation opportunely refers to some places in Africa or Asia and the situation of LGTB+ communities living in the suburbs, so as to highlight the importance of studies like this one, as well as to clarify that the act of translation lies beneath the processes that build those identities that are under the yoke of exogenic power regimes.

Regarding the birth of queer theory, it is understood as a phenomenon which resulted from a round-trip translation of theories born in France and adopted, as well as incorporated, in university departments in the United States, where the rephrasing and adaptation of thoughts and academic currents are considered, according to the author, new fields where new ways of perceiving sexuality may grow.

The final two chapters are a practical reflection of the proposal presented in previous pages. Through these specific cases, in the fourth chapter the author analyses in detail the evolution, from a macro textual approach, of the representation of LGTB+ characters and plots in North American television series dubbed into Spanish for the Spanish market. From the author's perspective, it is quite easy to perceive in the selected cases how identities are not a fixed idea that transcends cultures and languages. Quite the opposite, the selected examples vouch for the discursive character of any identity and certify that when trespassing linguistic frontiers, the act of translation participates as a first-class agent in the configuration of new identity orders for other societies.

Language, as read in chapter five, is understood as a tool of power so as to create knowledge. Thus, the section devoted in the fifth chapter to the *gayspeak* and the *camp talk* is of great interest and use from a double translation perspective: on the one hand, from an academic point of view, in order to understand which discursive processes are used within the LGTB+ community and how they have evolved in time-space due to the diachronic and diatopic review and, on the other hand, from a more practical and professional perspective, as a source of materials to which the translator can recur in order to solve lexical and semantic difficulties when translating a text with such features. This chapter tackles, in a chronological manner, which translation solutions have been used since the 90s until the present time. It pays special attention to how the lexical selection, the alterations in the discourse, the omissions and even the change of meaning in the translated dialogues of the corpus build

the image of the LGTB+ characters in the analyzed TV series. It is interesting to observe how studies have advanced towards new linguistic strategies to achieve a more respectful and inclusive representation of the LGTB+ characters and storylines.

Finally, the set of examples presented to observe the evolution in the rephrasing processes of LGTB+ thematic series, from the nineties to the present time, clearly shows the objective of the author and confirms the perspective presented throughout the book about the discursivity of sexuality. Thus, the comparison between the original version and the dubbed one in series like *Will & Grace*, *Queer as Folk*, *Transparent* or *Looking*, as well as the suggested analysis of the more current tendencies of Audiovisual Translation Studies are a clear reflection of the importance and relevance of this research in the field of translation. This book leads the way to future research and represents one of the most transparent attempts to explain complex concepts to new researchers on the ground, which makes this book a must-read for any professor, scholar, translation professional and student that engrosses himself or herself in the study of the pairing of translation and sexual identity.

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