# THE ROMANIAN DISCOURSE ON TRANSLATION IN PERIODICALS (1800-1945)

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Abstract: The aim of our paper is to analyse the Romanian discourse on translation in periodicals since its beginnings to pre-communism based on our personal research and the articles and studies mentioned in national bibliographies. Drawing on the disciplines of Translation Studies (TS), we will try to account for the main approaches and directions in the reflections on translation and translators in our country before the rise of the discipline of TS as we know it today, in the 1950s. Last but not least, we will purport to distinguish the original features of our discourse on translation and potential guidelines for translating.

Keywords: Translation Studies, discourse analysis, translator's status, translation guidelines, Romanian periodicals.

#### Introduction

Reflections on translation in our country have been made ever since the first translated text was published into Romanian (cf. Coresi's preface to Întrebare creştinească/ The Christian Inquiry, 1559 which reads that translation was necessary for "all people to understand who Romanians are as Christians, as Saint Paul the apostle speaks... This is because five words in Romanian that can be understood by the people are better than ten thousand words in a foreign language that cannot" – quoted by Lungu Badea, 2005: 145). Furthermore, drawing on the ages of translation as established in the international discourse of the discipline, i.e. normative, descriptive, functional and sociolinguistic (Ladmiral 1997, apud Badea-Georgiana, 2013: 8), the contemporary Romanian TS discourse distinguishes between philological, linguistic and productive translation theories (ibidem). It is also argued that between the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, there was no Romanian translation theory or discourse as such apart from the theoretical elements on the purpose, ends and how translation could jeopardise the language, culture and mentality of the Romanian people (ibid, p. 12). In this respect, we could bring into play the 19th century dispute between Ion Heliade Rădulescu who stressed the positive role of translations meant to enrich a people's culture, as opposed to Mihail Kogălniceanu who rejected them based on their potential role to ruin the specificity of a culture, in general and the young Romanian culture at the time, in particular (an issue that was already tackled in our previous research, cf. Petraru, 2014: 1158). Kogălniceanu's attitude towards translation was labelled as 'translationitis' (Ro: 'traductionită') in the Romanian TS discourse (Badea-Georgiana, 2013: 24); however, it is important to mention that the Romanian philologist was not entirely against translation as such, he only condemned poor translations from cheap works (e.g. popular fiction) deemed to kill a country's spirit unlike the ones from philosophy (e.g. Montesquieu's works) which he found useful (cf. Cornea, 1966, passim).

### The Romanian Discourse on Translation in Periodicals

In spite of the fact that reflections on translation in our country such as the ones mentioned above have been made ever since the first translation into Romanian was carried out, the first articles in periodicals that tackle the phenomenon of translation as such were written in the Cyrillic alphabet; this is the case of George Bariţiu's text in *Foaie pentru inimă, minte şi literatură*/ *Paper for the Heart, Mind and Literature* (1850) with a special concern for the translation of classical authors in Romanian (1858) and possibly in *Foaia literară*/ *The Literary Paper* (1838), as national bibliographies mention (Stoica, 2003)<sup>1</sup>. In the table below, we render the main articles in Romanian periodicals that deal almost exclusively with the art and craft of translation and the mission of the translator; it is also important to mention that there are other disparate translation-related considerations in reviews of translated works which we did not include<sup>2</sup>.

Nr.	Author	Title and translation	Periodical and translation	Publication
crt.				details
1.	Aderca, Felix	Să fie cu putință?/ Is This	Revista Fundațiilor Regale/ The	no. 4/ 1946,
		Possible	Review of Royal Foundations	p. 3
2.	Anastasie,	Comentarii în jurul problemei	Bis/Bis	no. 66/ 1943
	Mihail	traducerilor/ Comments on the		
		Issue of Translating		
3.	Bachelin, I.	Cum se traduce la noi în	Noua revistă română/ The New	no. 1/ 1909
		bibliotecile populare/ How	Romanian Review	
		Translations Are Carried Out in		
		Our Libraries		
4.	Barițiu, Gh.	Traducere/ Translation	Foaia literară/ The Literary	no. 1/ 1838,
			Paper	pp. 4-7
5.	Barițiu, Gh.	Măiestria de a traduce/ The Craft	Foaie pentru inimă, minte și	no. 18/ 1850,
		of Translation	literatură/ Paper for the Heart,	pp. 140-144
			Mind and Literature	
6.	Barițiu, Gh.	Traducerea scriitorilor clasici în	Foaie pentru inimă, minte și	no. 16/ 1858,
		limba română/ Translating	literatură/ Paper for the Heart,	p. 79 & no. 17
		Classical Authors into Romanian	Mind and Literature	p. 87
7.	Batzaria, N.	Traducerile/ Translations	Gândirea/ The Thought	1922
8.	Bobeș, T.	Traducerile/ Translations	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New	no. 3/ 1928
			Illustrated Ramp	
9.	Botez,	Traducerile/ Translations	Timpul/ The Time	no. 2390/
	Demostene			1944, p. 2
10.	Botez,	Traducerile/ Translations	Opinia/ The Opinion	1922
	Demostene			
11.	Boureanu, Radu	Spiritul traducerilor/ The Spirit of	Flăcări/ Flames	no. 3, 1938, p.
		Translations		7
12.	Bran-Lemeny,	Arta și analiza traducerii/ The Art	Gazeta cărților/ The Gazette of	no. 1-2, 1943,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All three texts are mentioned by Stoica in "Bibliografia generală a studiilor critice despre arta traducerii". *Literatura română. Ghid bibliographic, partea a III-a, Scriitori români traducători/* "General Bibliography of Critical Studies on the Art of Translation". *Romanian Literature. Biliographic Guide, part III, Romanian Writers and Translators*, 2003, pp. 867-891; unfortunately, most of the texts published before 1945 are no longer available today, either in classic book format in national libraries or on online bibliographies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For instance, Vladimir Streinu argues against Croce's idea of the untranslatability of poetry when discussing Poe's poems in Romanian (quoted in Lăcătuşu, 2000: 65).

	Ioan Al.	and Analysis of Translation	Books	p. 1-3
13.	Bretan, Lucian	Reglementarea editurii/	Afirmarea/ The Affirmation	no. 1/ 1937
		Regulating Publishing Houses		
14.	Brezianu, Barbu	Sborul cuvintelor/ Flying Words	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New	no. 5318/
			Illustrated Ramp	1935, p. 1
15.	Călin, Alex	Traducerile/ Translations	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New	no. 487, 1919
			Illustrated Ramp	
16.	Călin, Alex	Valoarea literară a traducerilor/	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New	year VI, 1922
		The Literary Value of	Illustrated Ramp	
		Translations		
17.	Călinescu, G.	Traduceri/ Translations	Adevărul literar și artistic/ The	no. 73/ 1935
			Literary and Artistic Truth	
18.	Cerbu, Eman	A traduce bine/ To Translate Well	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New	year VI, 1921
			Illustrated Ramp	
19.	Cetină, I.	Criza nuvelei și traducerile/ The	Datina/ The Custom	year VI, 1926
		Crisis of the Short Story and		
		Translations		
20.	Cioculescu,	Anul literar. Traducerile/ The	Adevărul/ The Truth	no. 15031/
	Şerban	Literary Year. Translations		1933, p. 7
21.	Cioculescu,	Anul literar. Traduceri și	Adevărul/ The Truth	no. 15338/
	Şerban	traducători/ The Literary Year.		1934, p. 5
	~.	Translations and Translators		17.77
22.	Cioculescu,	Anul literar. Traduceri/ The	Adevărul/ The Truth	no. 15635/
22	Şerban	Literary Year. Translations	V /ml m:	1935, p. 6
23.	Constantinescu,	Traducerile/ Translations	Vremea/ The Time	no. 643/ 1942
24	Pompiliu	Problema traducerilor/ The Issue	Cănatăn ûn CED/ The CED	7. 26/1042
24.	Constantinescu, Pompiliu	of Translations	Săptămâna CFR/ The CFR Week	no. 26/ 1943
25.	Constantinescu,	Biblioteca universală/ The World	Vremea/ The Time	no. 740/ 1944,
23.	Pompiliu	Library	vremeu/ The Time	p. 12
26.	Constantinescu,	Traducătorul ideal/ The Ideal	Vremea/ The Time	no. 643/ 1942
20.	Pompiliu	Translator Translator	vremed, The Time	110. 043/ 1742
27.	Cuclin, Dimitrie	Traducerile şi specificul naţional/	Patria/The Nation	no. 469/ 1938,
27.	Cucini, Dinneric	Translations and National		p. 5
		specificity		P
28.	Davila, Al.	Traduceri/ Translations	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New	no. 2108/
	,		Illustrated Ramp	1924
29.	Densuşianu,	Epistole literare/ Literary Epistles	Orientul Latin/The Latin Orient	no. 4/ 1874, p.
	Aron			4
30.	Dianu, Romulus	Traducerile/ Translations	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New	no. 2552/
			Illustrated Ramp	1926, p. 1
31.	Donici, Leon	Traducerile/ Translations	Flacăra/ The Flame	no. 40/ 1922
32.	Drăgulescu, C.	Cum să traducem? How Should	Ausonia/ Ausonia	no. 1-2/ 1942,
		We Translate?		p. 4-8
33.	Drimba, Ovidiu	Chestia traducerilor/ The Issue of	Tribuna/ The Tribune	no. 76/ 1941,
		Translations		p. 5, 10
34.	Drimba, Ovidiu	Mai multe traduceri/ More	Tribuna/ The Tribune	no. 436/ 1942,
		Translations		p. 2
35.	Dumitrescu,	Traducerile/ The Translations	Timpul/ The Time	no. 1926/
	Geo			1942, p. 30-
				32

26	Eftimiu, Victor	Problema traducerilor/ The	Culisele – A kulissza/ Behind	no 5/1022 n
36.	Elilliu, Victor			no. 5/ 1923, p.
25	701 1 771	Problem of Translations	the Scenes	2-6
37.	Eftimiu, Victor	Traducere de mântuială/ Poor	Tribuna Română/ The	no. 75/ 1943,
		Translation	Romanian Tribune	p. 2
38.	Eliade, Mircea	Traducerile din clasici/	Universul literar/ The Literary	no. 17/ 1925,
		Translations from Classics	Universe	p. 10
39.	Eliade, Mircea	Despre cultura dirijată/ On	Universul literar/ The Literary	no. 6/ 1940, p.
		Guided Culture	Universe	1, 7
40.	Gorun, Ion	Cum traducem/ How We	Universul/ The Universe	no. 335/ 1909,
		Translate		p. 1
41.	Grosu, Sergiu	Traducerile/ Translations	Viața Bucovinei/ The Life of	1941
			Bukovina	
42.	Hertz, de A.	Traducerile/ Translations	Adevărul literar și artistic/ The	no. 154/ 1923
			Literary and Artistic Truth	
43.	Hertz, de A.	Traducerile/ Translations	Dimineața/ The Morning	1925
44.	Iamandi,	Problema traducerii/ The Problem	Vremea/ The Time	no. 668/ 1942,
	Dimitri	of Translation		p. 7
45.	Iancu, Victor	Traducerile/ Translations	Patria/ The Nation	no. 217/ 1936
	141104, 110101			p. 2
46.	Ibrăileanu,	Traducerile/ Translations	Viața românească/ The	no. 9/ 1906
10.	Garabet	Tradacerne, Translations	Romanian Life	110. 37 1300
47.	Ibrăileanu,	Traducerile/ Translations	Patria/ The Nation	no. 247/ 1920
',.	Garabet	Tradacerie, Translations	Turrey The Transit	110. 2177 1920
48.	Imbrescu,	Editorii și traducerile/ Publishers	Ţara noastră/ Our Country	no. 855/ 1935
10.	Dumitru	and Translations	; ara noustra our country	110. 033/ 1733
49.	Iorga, N.	Stil şi traduceri/ Style and	Ramuri/ Branches	No. 3-4/
٠,٠	101gu, 11.	Translations	Ramary Branches	1927, p. 33-
		Translations		34
50.	Iorga, N.	Traduceri/ Translations	Floarea darurilor/ Flower of	1907
50.	101gu, 11.	Traduceri/ Translations	Gifts	1507
51.	Iorga, N.	Traduceri/ Translations	Timpul/ The Time	no. 270/ 1892,
31.	101gu, 11.	Tradacer Translations	Timpus The Time	p. 2-3
52.	Iosifescu,	Traduceri și traducători/	Tribuna poporului/ The	no. 44/ 1944,
32.	Silvian	Translations and Translators	People's Tribune	p. 2
53.	Isac, Emil	Traducerile/ Translations	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New	1919
55.	isac, Eiiii	Traducerne/ Translations	Illustrated Ramp	1919
51	Jebeleanu,	Traduceri, în românește/	Adevărul/ The Truth	no. 16491/
54.	•	Translations into Romanian	Auevarui/ The Truth	
55	Eugen		Dampa nouž ilvatuatž / Tl M	1937, p. 1
55.	Kiriţescu, N.	Traducerile/ Translations	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New	no. 3491/ 1929
5.0	I XX I	Troducanila/Translation	Illustrated Ramp	
56.	Lăzărescu, Ion	Traducerile/ Translations	Viaţa/ The Life	no. 785/ 1943,
	T' TT '	0 1		p. 2
57.	Liman, Horia	O operă culturală, traducerile/	Editorial/ Editorial	no. 17/ 1940,
	T . 11	A Work of Culture	n v.1 , .v/m x	p. 21
58.	Lucullus	Traducerile cu creionul/	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New	no. 834/1920
	Y 11	Translating in Pencil	Illustrated Ramp	0.66/4025
59.	Lucullus	Traducerile/ Translations	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New	no. 966/ 1921
	36		Illustrated Ramp	2002:
60.	Maniu, Adrian	Arta de a tălmăci/ The Art of	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New	no. 2899/
<u> </u>		Translating	Illustrated Ramp	1927, p. 1
61.	Maniu, Adrian	Cenzura traducerilor/ Censorship	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New	no. 3559/

		of Translations	Illustrated Ramp	1921, p. 1
62.	Marinescu,	Traducerile/ Translations	Seara/ The Night	no. 15/ 1931
02.	Ştefan	Traductific Translations	Searca The Ivigni	10. 13/ 1731
63.	Martinescu,	Problema traducerilor/ The	România literară/ Literary	no. 48/ 1940,
	Pericle	Problem of Translations	Romania	p. 2
64.	Nicolescu, G.C.	Traducere și original în poezie/	Universul literar/ The Literary	no. 21/ 1942,
		Translation and Original in Poetry	Universe	p. 1-2
65.	Nicolescu, G.C.	Traducere și original în proză/	Universul literar/ The Literary	no. 23/ 1942,
		Translation and Original in Prose	Universe	p. 1-3
66.	Nicolescu, G.C.	Traducerile/ Translations	Universul literar/ The Literary	no. 46/ 1942,
			Universe	p. 1-2; no. 2/
				1943, p. 1-2
67.	Nolla, Dem. Gh.	Traducerile și moda/ Translations	Tribuna literară/ The Literary	no. 2/ 1941,
		and Fashion	Tribune	p. 26
68.	Oană, Ion	Problema traducerilor/ The	Tribuna/ The Tribune	no. 2/ 1942,
		Problem of Translations		p. 4
69.	Odobescu, Al.	Despre traduceri/ On Translations	Transilvania/ Transylvania	no. 22/ 1877,
		(I-II)		p. 253-257;
				no. 23, p.
70	011	B : :	0 : ///// //	265-270
70.	Odobeșteanu,	Reminiscențe, traduceri, înrâuiri/	Orizont/ The Horizon	1940-1941
	Victor	Reminiscences, Translations, Influences		
71.	Pantazescu,	Scrierile românești și traducerile/	Ţara noastră/ Our Country	Jan. 27, 1922
/1.	Dan. C.	Romanian Writings and	jura noastra/ Our Country	Jan. 27, 1922
	Dan. C.	Translations wittings and		
72.	Perpessicius	Traducerile/ Translations	Cuvântul/ The Word	no. 1177/
	1			1928, p. 1
73.	Perpessicius	Editura de stat/ The State	Revista Fundațiilor Regale/ The	1945, p. 209
		Publishing House	Review of Royal Foundations	
74.	Petrașincu, Dan	O problemă literară cu ecou	Muncă și voie bună/ Work and	no. 2/ 1940,
		social: traducerile/ A Literary	Joy	p. 9
		Problem with Social Implications:		
		Translations		
75.	Petrescu, Cezar	Traducerile/ Translations	Cuvântul literar și artistic/ The	no. 3/ 1925,
	<b>D</b>	m 1 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Literary and Artistic Word	p. 1
76.	Petrescu, Cezar	Traduceri și traducători/	Curentul/ The Tide	no. 439/ 1929,
77	Potmos C	Translations and Translators	Daviata Cur Intilan D 1 / ml	p. 3
77.	Petrescu, Cezar	Proprietatea literară. Cum se fac	Revista Fundațiilor Regale/ The	no. 493, p. 2
		traducerile în românește/ Literary Property/ How Translations into	Review of Royal Foundations	
		Romanian Are Carried Out		
78.	Philippide, Al.	Arta de a traduce versuri/ The Art	România literară/ Literary	no. 30/ 1939
/ 0.	i imippide, Ai.	of Translating Poetry	Romania  Romania	110. 50/ 1757
79.	Philippide, Al.	Schimbul literar international/	Viața românească/ Romanian	no. 5/ 1940, p.
'	pp.100, 111.	International Literary Exchange	Life	92-94
80.	Philippide, Al.	Limba românească și traducerile/	Curentul literar/ The Literary	no. 119/ 1941,
	11,	Romanian Language and	Trend	p. 12
		Translations		_
81.	Philippide, Al.	Traducerile trădătoare/	Vremea/ The Time	no. 667/ 1942,
		Treacherous Translations		p. 6
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82.	Philippide, Al.	Cultura noastră și traducerile/ Our	Adevărul/ The Truth	no. 16166/
62.		Culture and Translations	Adevarui/ The Truin	1936
83.	Postelnicu, C.	Utilitatea traducerilor/ Usefulness of Translations	Universul literar/ The Literary Universe	no. 52/ 1940, p. 11
84.	Protopopescu, Dragoș	Problema traducerilor/ The Problem of Translations	Spectator/ The Spectator	no. 8/ 1943, p. 1, 2
85.	Rareș, Sorin B.	Traduttore, tradittore	Miorița/ The Little Ewe	no. 1535/ 1936
86.	Robot, Al.	Despre traduceri și răstălmăciri/ On Translations and Misinterpretations	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New Illustrated Ramp	no. 4518/ 1933
87.	Rodan, Victor	Traducerile clasice/ Classic Translations	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New Illustrated Ramp	no. 1291/ 1922
88.	Sadoveanu, Ion Marin	Traducerile/ Translations	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New Illustrated Ramp	no. 3404/ 1929, p. 1
89.	Sân-Georgiu, Ion	Traducerile pentru teatru/ Translations for Theatre	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New Illustrated Ramp	no. 3487/ 1929
90.	Scurtu, Ion	Traducerile literare la noi/ Literary Translations in Our Country	Semănătorul/ The Sower	no. 28/ 1906, p. 545-547; no. 30, p. 587-589; no. 31, p. 608-612; no. 32, p. 631-633.
91.	Scurtu, Ion	Traduceri negustorești și traduceri literare/ Literary and Commercial Translations	Semănătorul/ The Sower	no. 39/ 1907, p. 801-802
92.	Scurtu, Ion	Traducătorii de contrabandă sau traducătorii traducerilor/ Contraband Translators or Translators of Translations	Semănătorul/ The Sower	no. 39/ 1909, p. 787-789
93.	Sebastian, Mihail	Notă despre traduceri/ Note on Translations	Revista Fundațiilor Regale/ The Review of Royal Foundations	no. 219/ 1940
94.	Sfetca, Petru	În apărarea traducerilor românești/ Defending Romanian Translations	Dacia/ Dacia	no. 31/ 1944, p. 2
95.	Stino, Aurel George	Iarăși despre traduceri/ On Translation Again	Acțiunea/ The Action	no. 699/ 1942, p. 5-6
96.	Stino, Aurel George	Traduceri literare sau literale/ Literary or Literal Translations	Ţara/ The Country	no. 3/ 1929
97.	Stino, Aurel George	Traducerile/ Translations	Ştirea/ The News	no. 3/ 1929
98.	Suru, Miron	Despre traduceri/ On Translations	Meşterul Manole/ The Master Builder Manole	no. 1-3/ 1940, p. 58
99.	Suru, Miron	Traducerile/ Translations	Ţara noastră/ Our Country	1933
100.	Şiclovan, C. I.	Şi câteva traduceri bune/ A Few Good Translations, As Well	Facla/ The Torch	no. 1561/ 1936, p. 2
101.	Ștefan, Ion	Problema traducerilor şi nivelul culturii/ The Issue of Translations and the Level of Culture	Universul literar/ The Literary Universe	no. 37/ 1941, p. 3

102.	Ștefănescu,	Despre traduceri/ On Translations	Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New	no. 5132/
	Mircea		Illustrated Ramp	1932
103.	Şuluţiu, Octav	Traducerea, capital de istorie	Universul/ The Universe	no. 150/ 1940,
		literară/ Translation, Capital of		p. 4
		Literary History		
104.	Şuluţiu, Octav	Traducerea ca mijloc de	Universul/ The Universe	no. 157/ 1940,
		vulgarizare/ Translation As		p. 4
		Means of Vulgarisation		
105.	Şuluţiu, Octav	Traducerea marilor poeți străini	Universul/ The Universe	no. 171/ 1940,
				p. 4
106.	Talex, Alex	Problema editorilor.	Acțiunea/ The Action	no. 954/ 1943,
		Traducerile/ The Problem of		p. 2-3
		Publishers. Translations		
107.	Tretinescu,	Despre traduceri/ On Translations	Timpul/ The Time	no. 1800/
	Tiberiu			1942, p. 2
108.	Țepelea, Gabriel	Ortega y Gasset: Despre mizeria	Revista Fundațiilor Regale/ The	no. 7/ 1943,
		și splendoarea traducerilor/	Review of Royal Foundations	p. 181-185
		Ortega y Gasset: The Misery and		
		Splendour of Translation		
109.	Voita, L.	Despre traduceri/ On Translations	Chemarea vremeii/ The Call of	1941, p. 10
			the Time	
110.	Vrânceanu,	O problemă de cultură:	Curentul magazin/ The Tide	no. 31/ 1939,
	Dragoș	traducerile/ An Issue of Culture:	Magazine	p. 3
		Translations		
111.	Vulcănescu,	Traduttore, creatore/ Translator,	Presa/ The Press	no. 10/ 1940,
	Romulus	Creator		p. 2

# Reflections on Translation and Translators before 1900

As can be seen from the table above, there are very few articles on translation in 19th century Romanian periodicals. Thus, the database we gathered from the entries in national bibliographies (Stoica, 2003: 867-891), our personal research in the field and reception studies that also dealt with the translation phenomenon (such as Tamara Lăcătusu's on English literature in Romania between 1900-1950 with a special chapter on the conception on translation and the translator for the period discussed, 2000: 63-83) shows that only 6 out of 111 articles were published before 1900 (3 by G. Bariţiu, 2 by Al. Odobescu and one by N. Iorga). The main recommendation was for bad translations to be put an end to and advice was given on how to translate (Barițiu, apud Lăcătușu, 2000: 26). The Transylvanian scholar's prescriptivism was also brought into play in the context of longer target texts in analytical languages that would occur when source texts from synthetic languages were dealt with, i.e. as in the case of English works translated into Romanian (apud Maiorescu, 1871 who stressed that translators should be agents of culture, speak foreign languages and travel a lot so as to be able to render the image of the source culture in translation or study grammar and compile either monolingual or bilingual dictionaries). Odobescu acknowledges the usefulness of translations to enrich the Romanian language and argues that translators should be knowledgeable about the author and not distort the meanings of words and sentences in translation; they should also be faithful to the Romanian language (1877a: 255). Above all, translators should be 'clear', 'correct', 'elegant', 'balanced' and 'readable' in the target language (1877b: 267), so as to meet the horizon of expectations of their readers. At the beginning of his career at the university, our great historian N. Iorga, published studies and reviews in various periodicals, *Timpul/The Time* included. Later on, he acknowledged that he translated little and poorly and believed that all translators had to master their art and love world literature. He particularly commented on the translation of poetry which could be done in three ways: by creating, through translation, the original (in this case, there should be congeniality between the translator, the work to translate and its author, apart from deep knowledge of the SL and TL); by being less faithful to the original, i.e. translating verse by prose when required (in spite of the fact that this breaks the text's rhythm and leads to a greater distance from the original and its ideas); by observing rhythm, i.e. rendering verse by verse in keeping with the convention of the ST (Iorga only rejects rhyme since it sometimes requires much sacrifice). Last but not least, a respectful translator should always serve the interests of the author in the TL, not his/her own glory (Iorga, 1907, *passim*)

To summarize, reflections on the art of translation and its master before the 20<sup>th</sup> century are simple at a stage when the Romanian culture was still young and had to be fostered from bad translations that could pervert the public's taste; translators should observe fidelity to the target language, hence the preference for free translations in the era.

#### Reflections on Translation and Translators between 1900-1945

As underlined later on in the Romanian discourse on translation (cf. Lăcătușu's "Conceptions on Translation and the Translator", 2000: 63-83) and as can be seen from the table above, the 105 articles on translation that came out between 1900 and 1945 could be read in periodicals such as Viața Românească/ The Romanian Life, Revista Fundațiilor Regale/ The Review of Royal Foundations, Ideea Europeană/ The European Idea, Adevărul literar și artistic/ The Literary and Artistic Truth, Universul literar/ The Literary Universe, Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New Illustrated Ramp, etc. Reputed figures of the time (e.g.: N. Iorga, Mihail Sebastian, Al Philippide, Cezar Petrescu, Romulus Vulcănescu, G. Călinescu, G. Ibrăileanu, Perpessicius, to name but a few) supported the importance of translations for the development of national literature and the dangers that translators might fell prey to unless they keep with basic translation guidelines. Despite the fact that legal guidelines for all translators to obey would only be established through the Translators' Charter in 1963 at Dubrovnik, in the Romanian discourse on translation in periodicals there is common agreement that translations should be carried out by talented translators, masters of both the SL and TL. For instance, in his preference for target orientedness, Ibrăileanu went as far as arguing that translators had the duty to be as close to the original as possible as they should feel and live a second time the ST through their translation (Ibrăileanu, 1906: 451-453, apud Lăcătuşu, 2000: 64).

In fact, contemporary Romanian TS scholars distinguish between two periods in the national discourse on translation of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (*ibidem*). The former, between 1900-1918, is a neutral one in tone and the studies published during these two decades are less numerous; on the contrary, from the 1920s to the 1940s, the number of articles on translations and translators in periodicals boosts and the authors' tone is marked by anger against the quality of (mainly cheap) foreign literature introduced to the Romanian

readers in an era almost exclusively guided by commercial criteria with incoherent translation policies that ignored canonical works. In fact, translations, when not serialized in collections, were often reduced to no more than 120 pages according to the French trend of the time so as not to bore the readers (*cf.* Dimitriu 2000, *passim*), thus making the short story a favourite candidate<sup>3</sup>.

The articles discuss issues such as the need for translations, translatability (which cannot be denied in the case of prose but is controversial when it comes to poetry), literal vs. free translation. The last issue was particularly tackled by Camil Petrescu who demanded 'precision' and 'accurate grammar' from the translator that reformed the target language when breaching these imperatives (quoted in Lăcătuşu, 2000: 66). Tudor Vianu replied that adaptation is the key (in cases such as Murnu's translation from Homer that led to the debate between the two Romanian personalities, *ibidem*). The translator's skills are also discussed by Gabriel Ţepelea who commented Ortega y Gasset's *The Misery and Splendour of Translation*; thus, the translator is seen as a mediator between cultures, translation being more than simple transposition from a language into another, but the presentation of a culture and civilization to another one. In this context, the Romanian translations of the time are rejected based on their poor quality (*ibidem, passim*).

Most cultural authorities mentioned in the table above speak about the translator's status and the qualities s/he should possess; direct translations are required, not indirect ones, the translator should master both SL and TL, be a creator (Cerbu Eman, quoted in Lăcătuşu, op. cit., p. 71), not a simple philologist, but a writer who deeply penetrated the source language and culture. Moreover, Pompiliu Constantinescu, Sergiu Grosu and Sorin Rareş, among others, claim that there should be an affinity between the translator and the author, Marian Ralea ironically noting that the translator needs to be a genuine intellectual in a country that has none (cited in Lăcătuşu, op. cit., pp. 72-73).

As argued in the contemporary Romanian TS discourse, translation criticism in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century draws on Lovinescu's theory on the impossibility to objectively judge a work of art, a claim that does not hold true for Vladimir Streinu who feels that translation should not be considered autonomous, but an extension of the original. Beyond the slightly hermeneutical dimension, the authors publishing in periodicals plead for the surveillance of translations and their quality. Therefore, 'reading commissions' and 'control offices' need setting up, and gaps in translation need filling in; a state institution for all issues pertaining to translations should be founded, Perpessicius envisaging the translation of important masterpieces from world literature (*ibidem*). The translator's status is also brought into play, the low pay and it is commonly agreed that The Society of Writers of that time should interfere to control the quality of translations (M. Sebastian, cited in Lăcătuşu, *op. cit.*, p. 74). Furthermore, the author should be protected and the responsibility for the translated text stimulated by introducing a clause to grant translation rights. C. Alex (quoted in Lăcătuşu, *ibidem*) even claims that damages should be paid to foreign authors whose works

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Actually, in our previous research drawing on our doctoral thesis on the reception of English Canadian literature in Romania by means of translations and critical studies, we proved that, as far as Canadian literature was concerned, the favourite authors for the pre-communist period were the humourist Stephen Leacock with his short stories and Mazo de la Roche, author of popular fiction for women; this is due to the fragments of their works published in the main periodicals of the time (*cf.* Petraru, 2013).

were poorly translated, suggesting the study of parallel texts to improve the quality of existing translations and the use of samples for all methods used to translate differently the same text.

Last but not least, translation is an instrument of knowledge, thus enriching national literature (cf. Perpessicius, 1928 and Sebastian, 1935, apud Lăcătuşu, ibidem) and it is the length and quality of translations that show the level of a culture (Călinescu, 1935 apud Lăcătuşu, ibidem). Thus, it could be argued that translations are equal in status to the literature of a nation (Imbrescu, 1935 cited in Lăcătuşu, ibidem) and they did not only become an exercise, but a conscience for writers, a parallel creation to the original (Boureanu, 1938 apud Lăcătuşu, ibidem). The idea that translations could suffocate the literature of a country is strongly rejected (Protopopescu, 1943 apud Lăcătuşu, ibidem); they are a matter of cultural education of the masses so their aesthetical and educational role could no longer be denied (Constantinescu, 1943 apud Lăcătuşu, ibidem).

As a general remark, not only did the Romanian discourse on translation in periodicals truly start to develop in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but it also covered wider areas than before (translator's status, translation guidelines, translator's rights, damages for the author in case of poor translations).

### **Conclusions**

To conclude, we showed that, despite the fact that considerations on translation have been published ever since the first translation into Romanian was carried out (in Coresi's preface to Întrebare creştinească/ The Christian Inquiry, 1559), reflections on translation in periodicals only came out in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Cyrillic alphabet (i.e. Barițiu's texts in Foaie pentru inimă, minte și literatură/ Paper for the Heart, Mind and *Literature*) and at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Romanian. Authors admit that translations are useful and plead for the clarity, correctness, elegancy and fluency of the target text. However, based on the database we compiled from our personal research, reception studies (Lăcătusu, 2000) and national bibliographies (Stoica, 2003), there are more than 100 articles published in periodicals between 1900-1945 as opposed to only 6 before. Contemporary Romanian scholars (Lăcătusu, op. cit.) distinguish between two periods in the pre-communist TS discourse: 1900-1918 and 1920-1940, respectively. The latter period is more marked by anger against the poor quality of translations than the former, in their originality, Romanian personalities going as far as arguing that authors should be entitled to claim damages against poor translations from their works. Translators should be creators, not simply master the source and target language, but also the culture and civilisation of both SL and TL; moreover, there should be congeniality between translator and author so as to facilitate the translation process. Last but not least, direct translations are encouraged, along with the study of parallel texts and it is argued that translations are equal in status to national literature, showing a country's level of culture.

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