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 18th and the 19th 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: 'traducţionită') 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*).

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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 Barițiu'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)[1]. 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[2].

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

[1] 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.

[2] For instance, Vladimir Streinu argues against Croce's idea of the untranslatability of poetry when discussing Poe's poems in Romanian (quoted in Lăcătușu, 2000: 65).

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

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36.	Eftimiu, Victor	Problema traducerilor/ The Problem of Translations	*Culisele – A kulissza/ Behind the Scenes*	no. 5/ 1923, p. 2-6
37.	Eftimiu, Victor	Traducere de mântuială/ Poor Translation	*Tribuna Română/ The Romanian Tribune*	no. 75/ 1943, p. 2
38.	Eliade, Mircea	Traducerile din clasici/ Translations from Classics	*Universul literar/ The Literary Universe*	no. 17/ 1925, p. 10
39.	Eliade, Mircea	Despre cultura dirijată/ On Guided Culture	*Universul literar/ The Literary Universe*	no. 6/ 1940, p. 1, 7
40.	Gorun, Ion	Cum traducem/ How We Translate	*Universul/ The Universe*	no. 335/ 1909, p. 1
41.	Grosu, Sergiu	Traducerile/ Translations	*Viața Bucovinei/ The Life of Bukovina*	1941
42.	Hertz, de A.	Traducerile/ Translations	*Adevărul literar și artistic/ The Literary and Artistic Truth*	no. 154/ 1923
43.	Hertz, de A.	Traducerile/ Translations	*Dimineața/ The Morning*	1925
44.	Iamandi, Dimitri	Problema traducerii/ The Problem of Translation	*Vremea/ The Time*	no. 668/ 1942, p. 7
45.	Iancu, Victor	Traducerile/ Translations	*Patria/ The Nation*	no. 217/ 1936 p. 2
46.	Ibrăileanu, Garabet	Traducerile/ Translations	*Viața românească/ The Romanian Life*	no. 9/ 1906
47.	Ibrăileanu, Garabet	Traducerile/ Translations	*Patria/ The Nation*	no. 247/ 1920
48.	Imbrescu, Dumitru	Editorii și traducerile/ Publishers and Translations	*Țara noastră/ Our Country*	no. 855/ 1935
49.	Iorga, N.	Stil și traduceri/ Style and Translations	*Ramuri/ Branches*	No. 3-4/ 1927, p. 33-34
50.	Iorga, N.	Traduceri/ Translations	*Floarea darurilor/ Flower of Gifts*	1907
51.	Iorga, N.	Traduceri/ Translations	*Timpul/ The Time*	no. 270/ 1892, p. 2-3
52.	Iosifescu, Silvian	Traduceri și traducători/ Translations and Translators	*Tribuna poporului/ The People's Tribune*	no. 44/ 1944, p. 2
53.	Isac, Emil	Traducerile/ Translations	*Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New Illustrated Ramp*	1919
54.	Jebeleanu, Eugen	Traduceri, în românește/ Translations into Romanian	*Adevărul/ The Truth*	no. 16491/ 1937, p. 1
55.	Kirițescu, N.	Traducerile/ Translations	*Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New Illustrated Ramp*	no. 3491/ 1929
56.	Lăzărescu, Ion	Traducerile/ Translations	*Viața/ The Life*	no. 785/ 1943, p. 2
57.	Liman, Horia	O operă culturală, traducerile/ A Work of Culture	*Editorial/ Editorial*	no. 17/ 1940, p. 21
58.	Lucullus	Traducerile cu creionul/ Translating in Pencil	*Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New Illustrated Ramp*	no. 834/1920
59.	Lucullus	Traducerile/ Translations	*Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New Illustrated Ramp*	no. 966/ 1921
60.	Maniu, Adrian	Arta de a tălmăci/ The Art of Translating	*Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New Illustrated Ramp*	no. 2899/ 1927, p. 1
61.	Maniu, Adrian	Cenzura traducerilor/ Censorship	*Rampa nouă ilustrată/ The New*	no. 3559/

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		of Translations	*Illustrated Ramp*	1921, p. 1
62.	Marinescu, Ștefan	Traducerile/ Translations	*Seara/ The Night*	no. 15/ 1931
63.	Martinescu, Pericle	Problema traducerilor/ The Problem of Translations	*România literară/ Literary Romania*	no. 48/ 1940, p. 2
64.	Nicolescu, G.C.	Traducere și original în poezie/ Translation and Original in Poetry	*Universul literar/ The Literary Universe*	no. 21/ 1942, p. 1-2
65.	Nicolescu, G.C.	Traducere și original în proză/ Translation and Original in Prose	*Universul literar/ The Literary Universe*	no. 23/ 1942, p. 1-3
66.	Nicolescu, G.C.	Traducerile/ Translations	*Universul literar/ The Literary Universe*	no. 46/ 1942, p. 1-2; no. 2/ 1943, p. 1-2
67.	Nolla, Dem. Gh.	Traducerile și moda/ Translations and Fashion	*Tribuna literară/ The Literary Tribune*	no. 2/ 1941, p. 26
68.	Oană, Ion	Problema traducerilor/ The Problem of Translations	*Tribuna/ The Tribune*	no. 2/ 1942, p. 4
69.	Odobescu, Al.	Despre traduceri/ On Translations (I-II)	*Transilvania/ Transylvania*	no. 22/ 1877, p. 253-257; no. 23, p. 265-270
70.	Odobești eanu, Victor	Reminiscențe, traduceri, înrâuiri/ Reminiscences, Translations, Influences	*Orizont/ The Horizon*	1940-1941
71.	Pantazescu, Dan. C.	Scrierile românești și traducerile/ Romanian Writings and Translations	*Țara noastră/ Our Country*	Jan. 27, 1922
72.	Perpessicius	Traducerile/ Translations	*Cuvântul/ The Word*	no. 1177/ 1928, p. 1
73.	Perpessicius	Editura de stat/ The State Publishing House	*Revista Fundațiilor Regale/ The Review of Royal Foundations*	1945, p. 209
74.	Petrașincu, Dan	O problemă literară cu ecou social: traducerile/ A Literary Problem with Social Implications: Translations	*Muncă și voie bună/ Work and Joy*	no. 2/ 1940, p. 9
75.	Petrescu, Cezar	Traducerile/ Translations	*Cuvântul literar și artistic/ The Literary and Artistic Word*	no. 3/ 1925, p. 1
76.	Petrescu, Cezar	Traduceri și traducători/ Translations and Translators	*Curentul/ The Tide*	no. 439/ 1929, p. 3
77.	Petrescu, Cezar	Proprietatea literară. Cum se fac traducerile în românește/ Literary Property/ How Translations into Romanian Are Carried Out	*Revista Fundațiilor Regale/ The Review of Royal Foundations*	no. 493, p. 2
78.	Philippide, Al.	Arta de a traduce versuri/ The Art of Translating Poetry	*România literară/ Literary Romania*	no. 30/ 1939
79.	Philippide, Al.	Schimbul literar internațional/ International Literary Exchange	*Viața românească/ Romanian Life*	no. 5/ 1940, p. 92-94
80.	Philippide, Al.	Limba românească și traducerile/ Romanian Language and Translations	*Curentul literar/ The Literary Trend*	no. 119/ 1941, p. 12
81.	Philippide, Al.	Traducerile trădătoare/ Treacherous Translations	*Vremea/ The Time*	no. 667/ 1942, p. 6

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82.	Philippide, Al.	Cultura noastră și traducerile/ Our Culture and Translations	*Adevărul/ The Truth*	no. 16166/ 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	*Mioriţa/ 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	*Țara/ The Country*	no. 3/ 1929
97.	Stino, Aurel George	Traducerile/ Translations	*Știrea/ The News*	no. 3/ 1929
98.	Suru, Miron	Despre traduceri/ On Translations	*Meșterul Manole/ The Master Builder Manole*	no. 1-3/ 1940, p. 58
99.	Suru, Miron	Traducerile/ Translations	*Țara noastră/ Our Country*	1933
100.	Șiclovan, C. I.	Și câteva traduceri bune/ A Few Good Translations, As Well	*Facla/ The Torch*	no. 1561/ 1936, p. 2
101.	Ștefan, Ion	Problema traducerilor și nivelul culturii/ The Issue of Translations and the Level of Culture	*Universul literar/ The Literary Universe*	no. 37/ 1941, p. 3

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

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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 20th 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* Lăcătușu, 2000: 64).

In fact, contemporary Romanian TS scholars distinguish between two periods in the national discourse on translation of the second half of the 20th 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

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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[3].

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 Lăcătușu, 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 Țepelea 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 Lăcătușu, *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 Rareș, 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 Lăcătușu, *op. cit.*, pp. 72-73).

As argued in the contemporary Romanian TS discourse, translation criticism in the first half of the 20th 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 Lăcătușu, *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 Lăcătușu, *ibidem*) even claims that damages should be paid to foreign authors whose works

[3] 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).

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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* Lăcătușu, *ibidem*) and it is the length and quality of translations that show the level of a culture (Călinescu, 1935 *apud* Lăcătușu, *ibidem*). Thus, it could be argued that translations are equal in status to the literature of a nation (Imbrescu, 1935 cited in Lăcătușu, *ibidem*) and they did not only become an exercise, but a conscience for writers, a parallel creation to the original (Boureanu, 1938 *apud* Lăcătușu, *ibidem*). The idea that translations could suffocate the literature of a country is strongly rejected (Protopopescu, 1943 *apud* Lăcătușu, *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* Lăcătușu, *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 20th 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 19th century in Cyrillic alphabet (i.e. Bariţiu's texts in *Foaie pentru inimă, minte şi literatură/ Paper for the Heart, Mind and Literature*) and at the end of the 19th 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 (Lăcătușu, 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 (Lăcătușu, *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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