

Feminismus, Gender und Uebersetzungs- wissenschaft

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Plan:

- 1a. Feminisms and Translation: focus on Canada 1980s : *Rebelle et infidèle. La ré-écriture au féminin* (Susanne de Lotbiniere-Harwood 1992); *Gender and Translation* (Sherry Simon 1996); *Translation and Gender: Translating in the 'Era of Feminism'* (Luise von Flotow 1997)
- 1b. Feminist Translation Studies
- 2. Gender: a term for the 1990s : anti-essentialism and Butler
- 3. Gay and lesbian interests in translation: 2000s; Queer, or « people referred to as women »: 2005+
- 4. *Translating Women*: 2011 and Metramorphosis

Feminismen und Uebersetzung: 1978 +

- Translation studies, feminisms (and postcolonial) criticisms developed side by side in the 1970s and 1980s;
- enter the politics of language, publishing, reviewing, dissemination, voice, and power differentials in translation.
- Susan Bassnett: UK
- Barbara Godard: Canada
- Suzanne Jill Levine: USA
- Carol Maier: USA

The Cultural Turn: Manipulation School

- In translation studies, “the cultural turn” (Bassnett and Lefevere, the Manipulation School, Gideon Toury, Jose Lambert, and Americans writing in *Difference in Translation* (1985) provoked and promoted focus on cultural, contextual aspects of translation production and criticism:
- Influences, among others:
- Derrida and his translators (Barbara Johnson, later Gayatri Spivak)
- Helene Cixous and her translators
- Michel Foucault

Importierte Feminismen

- Feminisms had a huge impact in North America: literary history, political science, psychology, philosophy, linguistics, social sciences...
- For translation: feminist linguistics and literary studies proved important, and post-structuralist/deconstructionist influences from France that addressed the question of language:
- *New French Feminisms* (1985) imported into USA;
- Quebec feminisms imported into English Canada

Sprachkritik

How can women write, using an instrument (language) that has been sharpened against them? Helene Cixous, Nicole Brossard;

We need to create a new language; use existing language in new ways; excise the destructive and self-destructive aspects;

Result: women's experimental writing.

How can translators translate experimental women's writing?

A question asked by English-Canadian translators: Barbara Godard, Suzanne de Lotbiniere-Harwood, Linda Gaboriau.

Quebecs Feminismen in Canada

- Quebec: strong post-structuralist influences from France from early 1970s; strong anti-conservative, anti-Catholic movements of the 1960s (La révolution tranquille) – but that like most other revolutions, it ignored women’s interests;
- Experimental Women’s Writing from early 1970s
- *La Nef des sorcières*: writing women’s experiences and women’s bodies (1976)
- Texts by Nicole Brossard:
 - “je suis un adjectif”
 - “le e muet”
 - “écrire l’inédit”

Experimentelle Texte von Frauen

- “Women re-possessing the word, and naming the life of the body as experienced by women”: Verena Stefan: *Häutungen*: “Language fails me as soon as I try to speak of new experiences.” (1975)
- Women’s writing as a “political activity” to make women’s words and women’s work visible: Nicole Brossard (1970s): “maternell, individuell essentielle, *ma* continent” or “laboratoire”.
- Wordplay to undermine malespeak: Mary Daly (1977): “therapist”, “the bore-ocracy” “the Totalled woman.”

Feministische Uebersetzungen 1

- Brossard: *L'Amèr ou le chapitre effrité* (1978)

- The **S**e

- our
- mothers

- - demonstrating the power of the creative, informed, fearless feminist translator, who 'flaunts' her presence in prefaces and footnotes, daringly and overtly *womanhandling* the text (Translator's preface: Godard 1983).
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Feministische Uebersetzungen 2

- Louky Bersianik: *L'Euguelionne* (1976) on the politics of abortion:
- “le ou la coupable doit être punie”
- Tr. Howard Scott (1984)
- “the guilty one must be punished, whether she is a man or a woman.”

Feministische Uebersetzungen 3

- Reading at Espace GO, Montreal: July 1985
- “Fricatelle ruisselle essentielle aime-t-elle dans le touche à tolut qui arrondit les seins la rondeur douce des bouches ou l’effet qui la déshabille?” *Writing 16*, 1986
- Tr. Susanne de Lotbiniere-Harwood:
- “Does she frictional she fluvial she essential does she in the all-embracing touch that rounds the breasts love the mouths’ soft roundness or the effect undressing her?” *Writing 16*, 1986.

Feministische Uebersetzungen 4

- Brossard: *La nef des sorcières* (1976)
- “*J’entre dans l’histoire **sans relever ma jupe...**”*
- Tr. Linda Gaboriau: (1977)
- “*Tonight I am entering history **without opening my legs***
- *Opening my mouth instead...*”

Feministisches Uebersetzen 1

- Multiplying the activities of “women re-possessing the word, and naming the life of the body as experienced by women” (Godard)
- Promoting and working with translation as a “political activity” to make women’s words and women’s work visible;

Pursuing political intentions: women’s visibility, rights, voices, and the translator’s power to initiate change;

- Publishing translators’ notes, explanations, exclamations, theoretical essays, and drawing attention to the (often female) translator’s daring innovations and interventions.

Feministisches Uebersetzen 2

- Search for women's texts from around the world; India, Mexico, South America, (often from the 'developing world'.)
- Large translation projects: African women's oral histories, *Women Writing in India* Vols. 1 and 2 (1992/94).
- Publishers capitalizing with "series of (any) women writers":
- cf. *Translating Canada* 2006)

Kritiken

- Wave of feminist translations from **late 1970s to 1990s**. Then:
- Opportunism, hypocrisy: women's abuse of texts and language is no different from the men's they claim to resist (Rosemary Arrojo (1995));
- Unreadable, elitist texts: Brossard and other experimental writers write for university professors, no one else can read this material (Felski 1989, Gillam1992);
- “Being democratic with minorities” – facile ‘ab-use’ of women’s texts from developing countries in the ‘translation racket.’ (Spivak 1992)