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An Application of Skopos Theory to German Literary Translation

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Abstract

This project translated the German short story "Ein neues Paradies" by Hans Dominik using skopos theory in order to observe how the theory interacted with the text and to critique its application to literary translation. The skopos theory states that all translation decisions are to be made with respect to the skopos, or purpose, of the target text, intentionally deprioritizing faithfulness to the source text in the translation process. The skopos of the target text of this project was to produce a modern American English translation of the source text, that provides the reader with an understanding of the source text as a representation of the cultural and historical perspective in which it was written. Upon translating the text, this project found that the theory succeeded in capturing cultural and historical elements of the story, but struggled to address literary and stylistic elements such as tone which can have complex and multiple purposes. These findings provide specific, observed examples of the stylistic and linguistic limitations of skopos theory found by Nord (1997) and limitations in literary translation by Schäffner (1998b).

Keywords: skopos theory, literary translation, German translation, dynamic equivalence, formal equivalence, foreignization, domestication, Hans Dominik

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Introduction

The skopos translation theory *Skopostheorie* came out of the 1970s and 1980s in Germany as a functionalist translation theory that sought to distance translation methods from reliance upon the source text (Munday, 2012). It argued for all translation methods to be determined by the desired function, or skopos, of the target text. Additionally it sought to be a "general theory" of translation (Reiss and Vermeer, 1984). This project applies the theory to the translation of an early 19th century German science fiction short story in order to evaluate how the theory is applied to literary translation.

Literature Review

Constructs

Translation choices have been categorized in different ways by past researchers including Eugene Nida and Lawrence Venuti. Nida (1964) explores the relationship of the source language (SL) reader and the source text (ST) with the relationship between the target language (TL) reader and the target text (TT). Venuti (1998b) describes the relationship between the TL reader and the cultural and linguistic elements of the ST. The two pairs of constructs that are described in the following paragraphs are used to describe the translation choices that were made in this research project.

In 1964, Nida first coined the terms formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence to replace older terms such as free, literal, and faithful in translation theory. According to Nida, formal equivalence is primarily concerned with message in its form and content. This means that the message in the target language will match the message of the source language as closely as

possible, by maintaining the linguistic elements of the source language. In contrast, dynamic equivalence is based on the "principle of equivalent effect," where "the relationship between receptor and message should be substantially the same as that which existed in between the original receptors and the message." (p. 159).

The terms domestication and foreignization were used by Venuti (1998b) to describe the ethical choices that a researcher must make when translating a text foreign to their own culture. Foreignization refers to the translator choosing to preserve the ST's structure, syntax, and cultural context in terms of names and settings. This would produce a TT seemingly more "foreign" to its TL reader. In contrast is the choice of domestication, where the translator will produce a TT that translates foreign cultural and linguistic elements so that they are familiar to the TL reader's culture. Munday (2012) identifies these terms as not binary opposites but existing on a continuum. This project primarily applies these constructs to describing translation choices surrounding the linguistic differences between English and German.

The two spectra of formal vs. dynamic equivalence and domestication vs. foreignization are ways that the application of the skopos will be realized. When translating words, clauses, sentences, and paragraphs in accordance with the skopos translation choices will fall somewhere on these two spectrums. The overarching nature of the skopos theory in determining translation decisions allows the TT to be translated more flexibly in terms of equivalence and foreignization when it best accomplishes the skopos of the TT. These constructs provide a type of qualitative data by which to observe the theory's interaction with the ST.

Literary Background of Source Text

The ST is "Ein neues Paradies" a technical-utopian short story written by Hans Dominik in 1910 in Germany. The story captures the forefront of the limited nuclear chemistry

understanding in the early 19th century referencing research conducted by Marie and Pierre Curie just earlier that year. The story also contains some brief allusions to nationalistic ideology through the implication of races competing to acquire control over this new radioactive energy source. In Carl Freedman's *The Poetics of Science Fiction* (2000) he argues that the creation of new worlds in science fiction is to allow the reader to see their own world in a new perspective. When reading about a fictional world, the reader's longings for the real world allow them to realize something about their existing world. The creation of new worlds is present in much science fiction, and this short story is no exception. As the ST showed the original audience something about their own world, I want the modern English reader to be shown the same thing about the 1910 German world in which the story was written. That is why the skopos of this TT is to produce a modern American English translation of the source text, that provides the reader with an understanding of the source text as a representation of the cultural and historical perspective in which it was written. Furthermore, the story represents the limited and antiquated understanding of many scientific fields, particularly nuclear chemistry, in 1910. A number of scientific concepts in the ST are incomplete or simply incorrect. The skopos focuses on preserving the historical perspective so that the modern reader will be able to see the historical scientific inaccuracies written in the ST. While Dominik maintains a very objective, academic tone for most of the story, some brief nationalistic themes are present. Though not promoting all of the facets of national socialism, the concept of racial competition is present in Dominik's story. The skopos' focus on translating the cultural perspective of the story will show the modern reader that while Dominik envisions futuristic energy sources revolutionizing humankind's existence in the universe, his internalized racist dogma still shows in his writing, and sadly is a

increasingly common sentiment among the German people in the decade preceding the assent of Nazi Germany.

Hans Dominik had a professional background in electrical and mechanical engineering (Fischer, 1984), which is clearly seen in the language in this short story as it is extremely technical, literal, and objective. The story spans over five-hundred thousand years of time, with most of the chapters taking place in a different century or millenia. The story begins five-hundred thousand B.C. with a nomadic hunter-gather elder lamenting to himself how bear meat burned by a forest fire tasted much better than the raw bear meat he was presently eating, and ends with a humanity that has conquered the universe through an infinite radioactive energy source. There are no characters that exist for more than one chapter and only one chapter contains dialogue. Most of the contents of the story are either objective observation of some anthropological history, discussion of the role of energy throughout Earth's past and the relatively recent discovery of radioactivity, or lengthy monologues given by professors on the possibilities of radioactive power as a near infinite energy source.

Skopos Theory

The skopos theory was developed out of a desire to create one translation theory to answer all methodological questions for any translation project (Munday, 2012). The word *skopos* means "aim" or "purpose" in Greek, and was introduced by Hans J. Vermeer first in 1978 to refer to the purpose of translation and the action of translating (Munday). His *Skopostheorie* was a part of the functional translation theory movement in 1970s and 80s Germany. The theory states that the purpose of the translation is the determiner for how translation choices are made, rather than being focused on simple equivalence and faithfulness to the source text (ST). This theory aims to avoid more abstract concepts of equivalency and faithfulness controlling the

entire research process, as the translator considers them only in light of the translation's purpose. Munday (2012, p. 122) adapts Reiss and Vermeer's (1984) six basic rules of the theory as follows:

(1) A TT is an offer of information (*Informationsangebot*) in a target culture and TL concerning an offer of information in a source culture and SL.

(2) A TT does not initiate an offer of information in a clearly reversible way.

(3) A TT must be internally coherent.

(4) A TT must be coherent with the ST.

(5) The five rules above stand in hierarchical order, with the skopos rule predominating.

The listing of coherency with the ST as last shows the skopos theory is very intentional in deprioritizing the source text, or "dethroning" as Vermeer phrases it (Munday, 2012). This move has been praised by Du (2012) as widening "the narrow visions of traditional translation" (p. 2193). The first rule of the theory is paramount and is the overarching concept of the theory as a whole; the skopos determines the TT. The second rule acknowledges that the ST and TT will offer information in a linguistically and culturally relative manner to each of their audiences. The notion of irreversibility in rule three demonstrates that the purpose of the ST is not necessarily the purpose of the TT. Munday gives the example of a university's degree regulations ST being translated for the purpose of showing the difference between two education programs. Rules four and five are labeled as the coherence rule and the fidelity rule (Reiss & Vermeer, 1984). The coherence rule states that the TT must be comprehensible by the reader given their "circumstances, knowledge and needs" (Munday, 2012). The fidelity rule states that there must be coherence between the TT and ST, but importantly, does not specify what that coherence is, as it is determined by the skopos.

Christiane Nord (2005), who supports the functionalist translation ideology, takes issue

with the skopos theory's "dethroning" of the ST in the area of authorial intent. She states that

while "functionality is the most important criterion for a translation" this does not give the

translator absolute freedom (p. 31). She adds the principle of loyalty to the functionalist

approach, arguing "the target-text purpose should be compatible with the original author's

intentions," but also adds that these intentions can not always be fully known (Nord, 1997, p.

125). Nord writes that while the skopos of the TT may be fulfilled in its translation, it still may

be stylistically inadequate. She states that the theory lacks sufficient attention to the linguistic

nature of the ST or micro-level features of the ST (1997). Du (2012) supports Nord's critiques,

writing that the TT may be comprehensible by the reader based on their "circumstances and

knowledge" and fulfill all other rules, while leaving style unaddressed (p. 2192). Style is a more

abstract concept than equivalence, faithfulness, or coherence and is easily overlooked by the

skopos theory.

Research on the application of the skopos theory has addressed many different types of

written word including Bible translation (Cheung, 2012), legal translation (Garzone, 2000), and

reference letter translation (Kučiš, 2013). Research for this project has found that the skopos

theory is rarely applied to literary translation (Hendrickson, 2019). Hendrickson does not cite

why the theory is not often applied to this type of translation. The fluid nature of the skopos

theory ensures that it will be applied differently to every translation project in which it is used.

The unique historical scientific nature of this story will make this research useful in exploring the

limits and functionality of the skopos theory in literary translation.

Methods

I conducted all translation work in SIL FieldWorks Language Explorer (Version 9.0). The source text was first written as a text file so that it could be imported into the program. The program sorts the source text by paragraph, sentence, and word, and tracks individual word translations in a glossary. It also displays all translations that I input for a single word underneath every occurrence of that word in the rest of the ST. Referencing the generated glossary and these displayed translations helped ensure internal consistency of the TT.

The ST was first translated word-for-word and secondly into the final TT through sentence-by-sentence translation. This method follows that used by Hendrickson (2019). I began by writing glosses for the individual words in the ST which is displayed as an interlinear translation in the FieldWorks program. This allowed me to address comprehension of each word and the many technical terms Dominik uses before fully applying the skopos theory to larger linguistic components such as syntax and tone. Separating the word-for-word translation from the final translation was done to avoid minimizing the quality of the word translation choices and the later full application of the skopos theory. The skopos of the TT was considered while producing the word-for-word translation, but as words function in the context of sentences, these translation choices were often edited while producing the final translation. For making final word translation choices, Google Ngram viewer was used. Google Ngram Viewer displays the frequency of usage of a queried word over time by year in its corpus of written texts. The program was used to find equally dated scientific terminology in English to match the dated German scientific terminology in the ST. The rationale for this translation choice is discussed later.

While producing the final translation, the application of the skopos theory was determined while translating rather than *a priori*. This was done because the skopos of the translation is very focused on capturing the nature of the ST, rather than only maximizing its accessibility for the modern English reader. Substantial notes were taken during the entire translation process. When an important translation decision needed to be made, due to linguistic differences between English and German or addressing a cultural/historical element in the ST, I returned to the skopos of the TT. I then made a translation decision that best accomplished the skopos.

Translation References

Three primary sources were referenced for word translation: the online LEO Dictionary (https://dict.leo.org/german-english/), a physical copy of Larousse German Dictionary (2010), and the translation reference website Reverso Context (https://context.reverso.net/translation/german-english/). The LEO Dictionary provided a large list of nearly all the possible ways that a word can be translated and often labeled certain words that were domain specific (i.e. [CHEM.] for terms related to the field of chemistry). These labels were useful in translating scientifically technical aspects of the ST. LEO Dictionary was also referenced for conjugation, tense, case and grammatical gender information. While LEO Dictionary provided extensive lists of word translation options, the Larousse dictionary provided mostly one translation option for a word, which helped give me an idea about the most common meanings of the German words being translated. Finally, Reverso Context provides information on possible translations for words and frequency of these translations within the context of example sentences from previously translated works. The website displays how frequently each possible translation of the word occurs in the millions of documents that it references, so that the

most common translation options can be easily seen. Reverso Context was particularly useful in translating idiomatic language and more abstract adverbial phrases. Referencing these three sources was used to ensure the accuracy of the translation.

Multiple steps were taken to ensure my full comprehension of the ST and the accurate translation of the scientific terminology in the story. Significant research was conducted comparing online German and English encyclopedia sources covering topics in chemistry and mechanical engineering. Videos and graphics were consulted explaining how certain scientific principles and devices explored in the ST functioned. Though this will be discussed in greater depth later in the paper, the historical nature of the ST also contributed to the need for this research. Some terms that are used are no longer common in their scientific fields or are imprecise by today's academic standards. Three of the nine chapters of the story were very focused on nuclear chemistry, as understood in 1910. To ensure accuracy of the translation of scientific terms in these chapters, I reviewed my translation choices with a chemistry professor. To avoid my limitations of being a non-native German speaker, many discussions were held with a German professor on many linguistic and cultural elements in the ST. While translating the story I found that Domink occasionally used biblical phraseology. *The German/English Parallel Bible* (2009) was referenced to identify the extent of biblical allusions in order to appropriately translate them in light of the skopos. The German side of the Bible was Martin Luther's translation and the English side was the English Standard Version.

Findings and Discussion

Throughout the translation process, the German language, the style of the author, historical terminology, and cultural references all presented choices that had to be made in light of the skopos of the TT. In some areas, the skopos theory provided a flexible methodology for

translating the ST, while in other areas the theory was too abstract or constricting to facilitate clear translation choices. Due to the nature of this research, combining findings and discussion of the project will allow for the clearest presentation of the information. The project is an analysis of the application of skopos theory to literary translation. The findings of this study are the translation decisions made in light of the skopos of the TT. These decisions are an inherently interpretive act so separating them from discussion is not feasible.

Temporal Distance

While the text is only 112 years old at the time of completing this project, certain scientific and technical terms present in the ST were antiquated. Terms like *Knallgas* were translated as "oxyhydrogen" and *Explosionsmotor* as "explosion motor." These terms were chosen as they are English scientific terms that are common in the same time period as the German terms. A Google Ngram Viewer search showed that all four of these terms saw peak usage in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the latter being the era in which the story was written. This choice can be seen as an example of formal equivalence best accomplishing the skopos. A dynamically equivalent translation of *Explosionsmotor* could be "combustion engine" as a modern English reader would read "combustion engine" in a similar fashion as an early 20th century German reader would have read *Explosionsmotor*. In this scenario the relationship between the readers and the text is maintained, but this would subvert the historical directive of the skopos of this project. In this formally equivalent translation, the modern English reader is presented with a historical English term to show the historical nature of the ST.

Definite Articles

One of the most different areas between the ST and TT was in the omission of definite articles. Keeping these indefinite articles would be linguistically improper in English and does

not fulfill the skopos of the TT. For example, keeping the definite article in the translation would cause one sentence to read, "...in Heliopolis on *the* Venus or in Dynapolis on *the* Mars…." A second sentence would read, "They have *the* fire and roast their meat." While the latter sentence still is grammatically correct, it implies a definiteness in English that is not present in the ST. The original text is discussing the possession of fire as a force, not a particular fire. Here the inclusion of an indefinite article would alter the ST's meaning in the TT, so use of articles was linguistically domesticated for the TL reader.

Run-on Sentences

While the phrase "run-on sentences" conveys a negative connotation in English, the German language does not see multiple-clause sentences the same way. Many run-on sentences are present in the ST. I chose to maintain these sentences' lengths, while reordering and combining some of their clauses. Early on in the ST this seven-clause sentence is present:

> "Nur der Älteste unter ihnen tritt vor das Tier hin, und nach zahlreichen Verbeugungen, die er vor dem toten Gegner ausführt, holt er ein sorgsam gehütetes Werkzeug, einen scharfen Steinsplitter, aus seinem Fell hervor und beginnt damit den Bären kunstgerecht abzuhäuten und zu zerlegen."

Here is the final translation of this sentence:

> Only the eldest among them steps up in front of the animal, and after numerous bows, which he performs in front of the dead adversary, he brings a carefully protected tool, a sharp stone splinter, out of his fur and begins to skillfully skin and disassemble the bear.

Maintaining the length of these sentences with their numerous clauses is a linguistically foreignizing element to the English reader, does not impact meaning in English, and does not

significantly impact clarity in the TT. This helps remind the TL reader that they are reading a

foreign text and shows the TT as a culturally and historically foreign perspective to them.

General Structure

I generally erred on the side of maintaining as much of the ST's structure as possible.

This preservation was generally realized in two ways: preservation of the Germanic, linguistic

structure and preservation of the author's unique structure. The skopos of the TT is to provide the

reader with the source text as a representation of the cultural and historical perspective in which

it was written. A language itself is a historical and cultural product of the society that writes in it,

so maintaining ST linguistic elements helps preserve its historical and cultural nature. This is

often realized in the act of keeping foreignizing elements in the TT, which again remind the

English reader they are reading a text from a different language and culture than their own.

Whether or not a reader should know they are reading a translation is an important question in

the field of literary translation theory (Munday, 2012).

Maintaining the author's structure and thus his perspective was important to the TT

showing the ST as a historical and cultural product. This is the second reason that I worked to

maintain the structure of the ST in the TT. Elements like beginning a sentence with a time

element or the direct object were kept when they did not interfere with the meaning of TT in

English. Erring on the side of structural preservation did result in some unexpected elements

being present in the TT. Portions of the beginning of the TT appear very redundant as the

original text is highly repetitive. As stated earlier, Dominik worked as an electrical and

mechanical engineer. I would attribute the technical, objective and at times even redundant

aspects of the story to this fact. Some have critiqued the quality of Dominik's literary writings

(Fischer, 1984), but as the skopos of the TT is not to be a beautiful piece of historical scientific literature, poor literary elements are still present in the TT.

Cultural Elements

In the final chapter of the story Dominik writes, "...im Schweiße ihres Angesichts ihr Brot zu ernten." *Angesicht* (the *-s* being a genitive case ending) clearly means "face." This line is an allusion to the biblical curse described in the book of Genesis, where humanity must labor for their food, rather than it be provided naturally by the Garden of Eden. The German/English Bible referenced for this project uses *Angesicht* in this passage. Biblical allusion is a very important cultural element of the story, so its preservation in light of the skopos was vital. I chose to translate this line as "by the sweat of their brow" rather than the more literal "by the sweat of their face" with respect to the skopos. Again, the purpose of the TT is to show the modern English reader the historical and cultural perspective of the ST. Through my own reflection and cursory discussion with English-speaking peers, I concluded that "by the sweat of their brow" makes the biblical allusion more apparent in the mind of the English reader than "by the sweat of their face." While many modern and historical translations of the Bible into English such as the *English Standard Version* and the *King James Bible* use the word face, I would still argue that the average English speaker would still associate "by the sweat of their brow" with a biblical allusion more than "their face" regardless of familiarity with biblical writings. This was a clear example where the skopos theory allowed me to move away from a formally equivalent translation to a dynamically equivalent translation.

Throughout the ST, the author often discusses uranium as "das Uran" or "the uranium." As discussed earlier, many definite articles were omitted, but in one element of the text they were preserved. In a chapter outlining the decay chain of uranium, the author writes that the

researcher Frederick Soddy wrote "a new Genesis" of decaying matter. Dominik starts his detailing of Soddy's Genesis with the phrase "Im Anfang war das Uran" which literally translates as "In the beginning was the uranium." I chose to keep the definite article for uranium in this text in order to preserve the biblical allusion that Dominik uses here. In referencing the German/English parallel Bible used for this project, I noted that the beginning of the book of John reads "In the beginning was the Word" (*English Standard Version Bible*, 2009, John 1:1). While for the previously discussed biblical allusion, I found that a dynamically equivalent translation best showed the biblical reference, here I felt a literal translation best shows the modern English reader this cultural element of the ST. This translation may still be considered dynamically equivalent though it is literal as it seeks to preserve the relationship between the reader and the ST.

Punctuation

Elements such as commas were difficult to address. The ST had commas in places that English would not typically and lacked commas where English would naturally have one. One sentence, for example, begins, "Langsam, aber sicher hat die Menschheit…." In English, one would naturally write this sentence as "Slowly but surely, humanity has…" or even "Slowly, but surely, humanity has…", but not the literal "Slowly, but surely humanity has…." I found that the skopos of the TT did not provide much guidance for how to make this translation decision. Meaning is not impacted when reading the sentence with the original punctuation and this could be kept as a linguistically foreignizing element in the same way that the run-on sentences were kept. Or they could be removed as they appear wrong to the English reader and make the sentence less clear. The area of punctuation was very far removed from the domain of the skopos of this project. An argument could be made either way. The fifth rule of the skopos theory states

that "[a] TT must be coherent with the ST" but leaves how this is realized to the skopos (Munday, 2012). Even if the skopos of this project did contain a directive prioritizing clarity for the English reader, this may come at the cost of preserving cultural and historical elements. Keeping all ST commas could indeed be a useful foreignizing element for the reader. Making this decision was extremely subjective and difficult to justify with respect to the skopos.

I chose to leave most commas in the TT that were present in the ST. The commas that were omitted were omitted due to the combination and/or rearrangement of clauses in the run-on sentences of the ST. The skopos theory did not allow me to determine if this sacrifice of TT clarity is justified by preserving such an abstract linguistic facet of the German ST. This is an example of how the theory does not properly address micro-level features of the ST, the criticism made by Nord (1997).

Tone

Tone was another difficult area to handle with the skopos theory. As the skopos is a functionalist theory, it is focused on how the TT is intended to function rather than how equivalent it is to the source text (Munday, 2012). The tone of a text is something that has to be interpreted though and will be interpreted differently by different readers. While the translator can address tone any way in order to fulfill the skopos, they cannot account for the interpretation of tone that the reader of the TT will have. This is a limitation of the skopos theory that I found in my translation.

One might argue that the best way to approach tone is to include tonal directives in the skopos. A skopos that simply stated the tone of the TT must match the tone of ST was considered as a part of the skopos for this translation project. But again, while a translator can produce a TT with a particular tone, that tone may not be functionally present in the mind of a

reader. This is especially true while translating literary works, as entire fields of study are developed around literary interpretation. The presence of a certain tone is more an act of interpretation than of innate elements such as grammatical structure, so I would argue this is why it is difficult for the skopos theory to adequately address tone. This corroborates Nord's (1997) finding which noted the lack of stylistic direction of skopos theory and this finding provides specific observed examples of this limitation of the theory.

Discussion of the Skopos Theory

In translating, I found that the act of applying the skopos could be just as interpretive as applying any other translation theory which the skopos theory is supposed to supersede. While I chose to maintain most of the structure of the ST, and justified it with the skopos of the project, this choice still was my own interpretation of the skopos. The skopos could not clearly address all literary and linguistic elements of the translation process, though that is its purpose. This finding again corroborates Nord's (1997) criticism that skopos theory does not sufficiently address the linguistic nature of the ST. It succeeded in addressing greatly in historical terms and cultural allusions, allowing both dynamic and formal equivalence to be used. I believe this flexibility is the greatest strength of the theory. It recognizes that it is impossible for the TT to capture all elements of the ST, so it focuses the effort on how the TT is to function. I believe it is impossible for a skopos to address every aspect of the ST, nonetheless the theory maintains that the skopos is the only metric by which translation choices are made.

The skopos theory struggled to address certain areas in producing the TT and I would attribute this to the ST being literature. Previous studies have used the skopos theory to translate legal documents (Garzone, 2000) and reference letters (Kučiš, 2013), but the functions of these texts for the reader are very inherent. Legal documents are written with explicit, unambiguous

purposes and reference letters exist for the sole purpose of informing the reader about the referent. But in literature, meaning is left more open to the reader. Therefore, it is difficult to reduce any literary TT to having a single purpose. This may explain why preliminary research for the project did not yield results of the theory being applied to literary translation. The skopos theory is intended to be an all-encompassing answer to translation methodology, so pointing out this blind spot is an important critique.

Limitations

A significant limitation of the research was my own limitations as a student of German and non-native speaker. While steps outlined in the methods were taken to overcome this, my proficiency has a large impact on the overall quality of the translation independent of its quality as an application of the skopos theory. Second, I believe that there are limitations in having the translator and determiner of the skopos be the same person. While translating it was easy to interpret the skopos to produce what I saw as the best TT. I, as the translator and writer of the skopos of the TT, could easily edit the skopos throughout the project. This was not done at any fundamental level, but at times I did feel limited by the skopos that I had chosen. This is the third limitation of the project. It is important to separate limitations of the skopos theory from the skopos. In critiquing the theory, I often found that translation challenges it did not address could have been rooted in the skopos, rather than the theory. In areas such as tone, as I addressed earlier, I do not believe this was true. I do believe that the skopos of this project would have benefited from including more directives addressing linguistic elements such as structure, but it is important to note that Nord (1997) argued that the skopos theory itself does not adequately address linguistic elements of the ST.

This project was also limited by my use of the Reverso Context website. The site was very useful in showing word translations in the context of the sentence in which they were used. However, the translation choices referenced on Reverso Context were made using translation methodologies other than that of this project. The skopos theory calls for the skopos of the TT to be the sole determiner of translation choices, so reliance on translation decisions made in any other context is a limitation of this research.

Upon completion of the project, I found a paper written by Schäffner (1998b) which argued that the skopos theory only applies to non-literary texts. Schäffner notes that style and function are much more complex in literary texts. Dictating a single function of a literary work will limit the interpretations a reader of the text can make. Literary works are often written in a manner where they are open to interpretation, and elements of style do not serve a simple communicative function. This project was concerned with the application of skopos theory to literary translation, and it was limited by a lack of familiarity with Schäffner's critiques. A thorough review of the literature would have yielded this paper before the completion of the project, and properly cited it in the literature review. However, not knowing critiques of the application of skopos theory to literary translation allowed me to be more unbiased in my work. This project's findings corroborated the findings of Schäffner (1998b) without prior familiarity to them. The inability of the skopos theory to adequately address tone in this translation is an example of how literary texts are much more complex and cannot be limited to a single purpose.

Conclusion

In this project "Ein neues Paradies" by Hans Dominik was translated using the functionalist skopos theory. The chosen skopos of the TT was to produce a modern American English translation of the source text, that provides the reader with an understanding of the

source text as a representation of the cultural and historical perspective in which it was written. The theory allowed this skopos to be well accomplished by translating using both formal and dynamic equivalence with respect to cultural elements, and foreignization and domestication with respect to linguistic elements. The skopos theory however did not allow for proper addressal of tone. As tone is a literary element interpreted by the reader, not just the translator, thus translation choices surrounding it cannot be controlled for and determined solely by the skopos of the TT. Skopos-directed translation is the root of the skopos theory, so this challenges the usefulness of the theory as a universal translation method. The critiques of Nord (1997) and Schäffner (1998b) present similar theoretical criticisms. This project tested their arguments and provides specific, observed examples of the stylistic and linguistic limitations of skopos theory in Nord (1997) and literary translation limitations in Schäffner (1998b). The challenges of applying skopos theory to literary translation may explain why little research has been conducted in this area, but therefore shows the importance of more research like this to be conducted.

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