The purpose of this course is to examine how literary translation can become a vehicle for transmission of overt and covert ideological messages relating to questions of national identity, gender and erotics, morals and religion. The first part of the course will present the dominant theories in this field of research, and inquire into cases of manipulative interference in translation that exemplify the power and range of influence ideological factors have in literary translation. The second part of the course will be dedicated to practice: the actual translation of academic texts that have something to do with ideology; thus dealing with some of the specific challenges inherent to these texts.

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Between the texts translated in the course

The satirical essay on Elie Wiesel in Solomon's Court

Aryeh Shri (Shri 0929; compare to English translation from 0920);

The disputed segments of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict during the time of Shalom Schachar (Schachar 0926; compare to English translation from 0922);

Sections from Chauvinists/shoveleuses of Cat in the Rain and Soldier's Home of Ernest Hemingway (Hemingway 2006, 113-114, 129-130);

Discussion of the nature of national identity and its emergence (Attila Balmaz, in Encounters, Melani Epic McAlister);

The article on the connection between American interests in the Middle East and Hollywood films of the 1950s (Encounters, Melani McAlister);

An ideological discourse, and the struggle for cultural hegemony between European nations (Deutscher 2008);

In the Language Glass of Geir Deitscher; Textual interpretation (Deutscher 2008);

On technological novelties and their impact on orientation and the soul, within a lecture by Umberto Eco (Eco 1996).

Requirements

The students must read the reading material before each lecture, and participate in class discussions.

The students will present four translation assignments. Each student can choose between two options for a final assignment:

1. A report on the translation and ideology;
2. A translation of an academic text on translation and ideology.

Bibliography


