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“Children’s Literature Translation Studies? – zarys badań nad literaturą dziecięcą w przekładzie”

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### 1. Author information

Michał Borodo is an English philologist initially based at the University of Bydgoszcz, where he worked in the department of Neophilology and Applied Linguistics. In 2008 he gained a doctorate at the University of Gdańsk, where he defended his thesis “Between the Global and the Local: Translation for Children in Poland at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” His research interests include mainly children’s literature translation and power relations in translation and language. He committed many conference papers on the subject, most notably “The Wonderland in Translation – Carnivalization vs. Colonization in the Polish Translations of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” (First Dublin City University Postgraduate Conference in Translation Studies, March 2004). He is one of the more prominent contributors to the field of children’s literature translation, which is still relatively little known in Poland.

### 2. Abstract

The article presents an overview of the children’s literature translation studies (CLTS), cataloguing chief contributors and raising major issues of the discipline. Given the documentary nature of the text is arranged chronologically, following the development of the field in question. It begins with the emergence of the CLTS, which, the author argues, developed at the intersection of translation studies and children’s literature studies in the 1980s and 1990s. Incidentally, both disciplines, the author points out, had to fight for their place in the academia, initially not recognized as “serious enough.” Since the establishment of

this joint field of enquiry, however, renowned researches have been very active and their output prolific. Borodo lists major contributors, showing how the field at large evolved, going through similar stages as the general translation studies, i.e. from the conservative approaches focusing on fidelity to the original through more communicative, functional theories and finally the current emphasis on cultural issues. This broad, bird's eye view of the still disorderly field, with major threads and contentious issues helpfully outlined, is followed by equally useful catalogue of the institutions active in the field such as major journals, academic conferences and university centres. What follows is an extensive bibliography of works worthy of attention of anyone who wishes to investigate CLTS further.

### 3. Terminology

Given its introductory nature, the article is not overburdened with complex terminology. The author includes key terms taken from the seminal researches he refers to, explaining them and providing both their original (mostly English or German) and the Polish (frequently his own suggestion) version of the term. Only the knowledge of most basic concepts in TS research is taken for granted and if so, they are used in their most common, non-nuanced sense. These include such rudimentary terms that are likely to be familiar to anyone interested in translation studies (e.g. context, functionalism, polysystem).

### 4. Methodology

The article follows a diachronic research paradigm. It is a chronological survey, presenting the new subfield of translation studies. However, far from just enumerating books and authors Borodo shows common threads and contentious points in scholarly works. By doing so, he adds a critical, "meta" dimension to his chronological survey.

## 5. Links with other publications on the subject

The bibliography appended to the article lists most major publications on children's literature in translation and is too extensive to be quoted here. Other publications on children's literature translation by Polish scholars include:

Adamczyk-Garbowska, M. 1988. *Polskie tłumaczenia angielskiej literatury dziecięcej. Problemy krytyki przekładu*. Wrocław: Ossolineum.

Krajka, W. 1998. "Czy przekład może być doskonalszy od oryginału? O Pierścieniu i róży W.M. Thackeraya w przekładzie Z. Rogoszówny", in: Lech Ludorowski (ed.), *W kręgu arcydzieł literatury młodzieżowej. Interpretacje-przekłady-adaptacje*. Lublin: Wydawnictwo UMCS. 205-218.

Szymańska, I. 2009. "Wymiary obcości w przekładzie dla dzieci. Przypadek Byczka Fernando", *Między Oryginałem a Przekładem XV*: 2009. 155-17.

## 6. Critical commentary

Personally, I find the text extremely useful, well-written and informative. I think it should be the first port of call for anyone wishing to investigate children's literature in translation. The author presents the crucial information on the field in a methodical, clear way, without trying to blind the readers with science, or show off his knowledge, which as it transpires from the text, is very extensive. He gives us the benefit of his expertise, a broad, bird's eye view on the field, and provides us with plenty of information in the "where to go from here" nature. Approachable, methodical and highly informative, this article is certainly highly recommended.

## 7. Quotation to remember the text by

The text focuses more on being informative, thorough and comprehensive than on offering “sound bites.” Nevertheless, it does have some insightful comments, including the one on the current importance and future of the CLTS:

“It would seem therefore that the field of CLTS becomes increasingly present in the academia” (Borodo 2006: 12, translation mine).

Followed by an encouragement to the Polish researches to start exploring the field.

## 8. References:

“Children’s Literature Translation Studies? – zarys badań nad literaturą dziecięcą w przekładzie”, in: *Przekładaniec* 16: 1/2006. 12–23.

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