

Translation as De-Radicalization: On the Transforming of Mary Hays's *Memoirs of Emma Courtney* into French

Helena Bergmann

Abstract

The semi-autobiographical confessional and feminist tract, *Memoirs of Emma Courtney* (1796), by the British radical writer Mary Hays (1759–1843), was translated into French by Pauline de Meulan (1773–1827) in 1799, as *La Chapelle D'Ayton, ou Emma Courtney*. As opposed to its English model, which was given a mixed reception due to its emotional and compromising authentic background, the translated version became immensely popular in France. One reason for this was the major extension made to the action through the adding of plots and characters from several other British works. The article focusses on the various measures taken by the translator to purge the parts of the original work she chose to maintain from their reliance on feminism and contemporary radical philosophies. This was carried out through a process of exclusion, character modification and alteration of genre. The methods for deepening the characterisation and improving the work stylistically are also analysed.

Keywords

Godwin; De Meulan; Imitation; Textual colonisation; Female emancipation

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Rasmus Rask in St Petersburg 1818–1819: Russian-Scandinavian Scholarly Networks and the Old Norse Sources of Medieval Russia

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Abstract

Rasmus Rask, nowadays regarded as one of the founders of comparative philology, travelled to St Petersburg in 1818. During his stay, he attempted to draw the attention of local scholars to the Scandinavian languages. In doing so, he forged important connections with benefactors, such as Count Rumiantsev, as well as historians and philologists of the Imperial Academy of Sciences. However, the most important friendship he formed was with Ivan Loboiko, who acquired from Rask an intimate acquaintance with Old Norse literature. Loboiko went on to become one of the first Russian scholars to study Old Norse sources in the original and use them to throw light on early Russian history at a time, when romantic nationalism's interest in the medieval past reigned supreme in Russian literature and scholarship. This article will map for the first time the extent, nature, and influence of Rask's connections in St Petersburg.

Keywords

Philology; Scandinavia; Russia; Romantic Nationalism; Scholarly Networks

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Byron's Corsair and the Boundaries of Sympathy

Cassandra Falke

Abstract

Contemporary reviewers of Byron's work often noted his skill in cultivating sympathy for outlaw figures – a skill that was admired, but also worried over since it implied sympathy's independence from a moral code. Recent scholarship about sympathy in the Romantic period has not focused much on Byron, but this essay highlights a complexity and originality in his invocation of sympathy that has been overlooked. Analyzing *The Corsair* with particular attention to narrative perspective and the use of direct address, this essay shows Byron portraying characters overcoming the boundaries of gendered, national, class or religious difference in acts of generous sympathy, only to have these acts rendered ineffectual or even destructive. The ineffectiveness of intradiegetic acts of sympathy complicates the text's invitation for readerly sympathy, suggesting that sympathy is morally neutral, a catalyst for unpredictable actions.

Keywords

Byron; Sympathy; *The Corsair*; Outlaws; Narrative perspective

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The Non-Place of Eros. On John Keats and the Logic of Flowers and Bees

Peter Henning

Abstract

The following article investigates Keats's expansion of the notion of *Eros*, arguing that it forms a dialectic relation between the self-sufficiency of the lover and a dream of mutual exchange between the subject and its object of desire. In order to discern the specific concerns of Keats in this regard, the study analyzes a letter sent to his friend John Hamilton Reynolds on the 19th of February 1818, suggesting that it constitutes a paradigmatic focal point from which a Keatsian logic of desire may be subsequently outlined. The letter in question is well known to romantic scholars, famous for its positing and purported contrasting of two different modes of subjectivity: that of the flower, and that of the bee. As I want to contend, however, the issues of subjectivity raised by this text have not been adequately addressed, either with regard to their psychological or literary significance. Tracing the bee motif historically, the article discusses its appropriation by Keats, in order to highlight its problematical role in his lyrical work. Against this background, the letter to Reynolds is shown to exemplify a conflicting, utopian, discourse of being and loving: a non-place of *Eros*.

Keywords

Apiculture; Roland Barthes; Chronophilia; Chronophobia; Desire; Utopia

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George Romney's Death of General Wolfe

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Abstract

George Romney (1734–1802) became famous as a portrait artist but also aspired to history painting throughout his career. In 1760 he exhibited the first painting to commemorate the death of General James Wolfe, who had died the previous year during the battle for Quebec. It was also the first history painting – if we understand by this term the dramatic depiction of a heroic action – to dare to depict its subject in modern dress. The object of considerable controversy, it nevertheless gained a special premium and was bought by a prominent collector. It also set a precedent for following treatments of its subject by Edward Penny, Benjamin West, and James Barry. It was taken to India by a subsequent owner, and its location is now unknown. Using Romney's sketches and contemporary descriptions as a basis, in this paper I reconstruct the appearance of this painting and discuss its importance in the history of British art.

Keywords

George Romney; James Wolfe; History; Painting; Exhibitions

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