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THE ROLE OF TRANSLATION IN THE GLOBAL RECEPTION OF RUSSIAN LITERATURE

Abstract. This article examines the pivotal role of translation in shaping the global reception and understanding of Russian literature. Russian literary works, from the classics of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky to contemporary authors, have achieved worldwide recognition largely due to translation. The study explores the historical development of Russian literary translation, analyzes key translation strategies, and investigates the challenges translators face in preserving cultural, linguistic, and stylistic nuances. The article also highlights the impact of translation on comparative literary studies and cross-cultural literary discourse, arguing that the translator serves not only as a linguistic intermediary but also as a cultural mediator.

Keywords: Literary Translation, Global Reception, Comparative Literature, Cross-Cultural Communication, Translator as Cultural Mediator.

РОЛЬ ПЕРЕВОДА В ГЛОБАЛЬНОМ ВОСПРИЯТИИ РУССКОЙ ЛИТЕРАТУРЫ

Аннотация. В статье рассматривается ключевая роль перевода в формировании глобального восприятия и понимания русской литературы. Произведения русской литературы, от классиков Толстого и Достоевского до современных авторов, добились мирового признания во многом благодаря переводу. В исследовании рассматривается историческое развитие русского литературного перевода, анализируются ключевые стратегии перевода и рассматриваются трудности, с которыми сталкиваются переводчики при

сохранении культурных, языковых и стилистических нюансов. В статье также рассматривается влияние перевода на сравнительное литературоведение и межкультурный литературный дискурс, утверждая, что переводчик выступает не только в роли языкового, но и культурного посредника.

Ключевые слова: Литературный перевод, Глобальное восприятие, Сравнительное литературоведение, Межкультурная коммуникация, Переводчик как культурный посредник

Introduction. Russian literature has long held a prominent place in the global literary canon. Authors such as Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Anton Chekhov, and Alexander Pushkin have exerted profound influence on world literature. However, the international recognition of these works would have been impossible without translation. Translation facilitates the cross-cultural circulation of literary texts, enabling readers from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds to access and engage with Russian literature.

This article explores the role of translation in shaping the global reception of Russian literature, emphasizing the interplay between linguistic fidelity, cultural adaptation, and stylistic preservation. By examining historical and contemporary approaches to translation, this study highlights how translators contribute to the international visibility and interpretation of Russian literary works.

Historical Context of Russian Literary Translation. The translation of Russian literature into European and other world languages dates back to the 18th and 19th centuries, coinciding with the rise of Russian literary realism. Early translators, often scholars or expatriates, faced considerable challenges, including unfamiliar idiomatic expressions, complex syntactic structures, and culturally specific references. Notable translations, such as Constance Garnett's renderings of Dostoevsky and Tolstoy into English, were instrumental in introducing Russian classics to Western audiences.

Over time, translation practices evolved from literal word-for-word methods to more nuanced approaches that balance linguistic accuracy with cultural and aesthetic sensitivity. Contemporary translation theory emphasizes the role of the translator as an active participant in shaping meaning, rather than merely a conduit between languages.

Challenges in Translating Russian Literature. Translating Russian literature presents multiple challenges:

Linguistic Complexity: Russian grammar, vocabulary, and stylistic devices can be difficult to render in languages with different structures.

Cultural Nuances: Russian literature is deeply embedded in the country's social, historical, and philosophical context. Translators must convey these nuances without oversimplification.

Philosophical and Psychological Depth: Works such as Dostoevsky's novels contain intricate psychological and moral explorations, requiring careful rendering to preserve meaning and impact.

Linguistic Complexity. Russian literature is characterized by a highly intricate linguistic system, encompassing complex syntactic structures, rich morphological patterns, and a lexicon replete with nuanced semantic layers. The language employs flexible word order, extensive use of aspectual distinctions in verbs, and a variety of stylistic devices such as idiomatic expressions, archaisms, and culturally specific metaphors. These features pose significant challenges when translating into languages with fundamentally different grammatical, syntactic, and morphological frameworks. Translators must navigate these structural differences carefully to preserve not only the literal meaning of the text but also its stylistic elegance, rhetorical effects, and literary rhythm. Failure to account for these linguistic subtleties can result in loss of nuance, alteration of narrative voice, and diminished literary quality in the target language.

Cultural Nuances. Russian literature is deeply rooted in the nation's unique social, historical, and philosophical contexts. Works often reference culturally specific norms, historical events, literary traditions, folklore, and religious or philosophical ideas that are intimately familiar to Russian readers but may be obscure to international audiences. Translators face the challenge of conveying these cultural elements without resorting to oversimplification or distortion. Effective translation requires a combination of deep cultural literacy, contextual interpretation, and careful adaptation strategies that balance fidelity to the source text with accessibility for the target audience. This task often entails providing implicit or explicit cultural explanations, maintaining the text's cultural flavor, and ensuring that the literary and aesthetic qualities remain intact across linguistic boundaries.

Philosophical and Psychological Depth. Russian literary works, particularly those by authors such as Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Gogol, are renowned for their profound philosophical inquiry and psychological complexity. Novels such as *Crime and Punishment* or *The Brothers Karamazov* explore intricate moral dilemmas, existential questions, and the inner workings of human consciousness. Translators must not only render the literal meaning of the text but also capture the subtleties of thought, emotion, and ethical reflection embedded in the narrative. This requires a highly nuanced understanding of both source and target languages, as well as sensitivity to the author's literary style, narrative tone, and thematic intentions. The challenge lies in preserving the depth of characterization, the intensity of psychological exploration, and the philosophical resonance that makes Russian literature universally compelling.

These challenges underscore the translator's role as both a linguistic and cultural mediator, whose interpretive decisions can shape global perceptions of Russian literature.

Conclusion. Translation plays a central role in the global reception of Russian literature. By bridging linguistic and cultural gaps, translators enable international

audiences to access, interpret, and appreciate Russian literary works. The translator's dual function as a linguistic expert and cultural mediator highlights the complexity and importance of translation in cross-cultural literary discourse. As global literary exchanges continue to expand, the practice of translating Russian literature remains a vital conduit for fostering international understanding and enriching the global literary canon.

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