Translation as a measure of international consecration. Mapping the world distribution of Bourdieu's books in translation

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Abstract

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This paper analyzes the translation of Bourdieu's books into different languages as an indicator of recognition and of reception of his work. Until 2008, Bourdieu had 347 translated titles, published into 34 languages and 42 countries. The statistical analysis of these titles provides a picture of the linguistic and geographic distribution of his work in translation and of its evolution over time. Network analysis was used in order to display the centrality of languages, countries and works. Beyond the empirical results, the editorial reception contributes to the reflection on the international circulation of ideas. It also raises the question of the relation between the academic field and the intellectual field.
Constructing a Sociology of Translation centers on the subject of “translation as a social practice”. In Part I (The debate on the translator’s position in an emerging sociology), Erich Prunč (2007) investigated the historical, social and cultural reasons for the discrepancy between the rather marginal status of the translator. The study is characteristic of social constructivism. In Part II (Bourdieu’s influence in conceptualizing a sociology of translation), Gouanvic (2007) discussed the application of Bourdieu’s “habitus”, “field” and “illusion” to translation studies and analyzed the habitus of three agents operating in the translation of American literature in France. To the norms that govern the overall transfer of texts from a sourceculture to a target-culture, while descriptive translation studies (DTS), envisaging translational behaviour as a type of social behaviour, understood 4 The labels primary vs. secondary term formation were put forth by J. Sager (cf. … This book explores the issue of developing computer competence in students of translation. The effort brings a considerable measure of objectivity and concreteness to the quest for quality in translation, thereby providing a guide to judging performance. View. Show abstract. Theoretically the thesis positions itself within the framework of Descriptive Translation Studies and draws upon system theories as well as Pierre Bourdieu’s sociology of culture.