The Poetics of Transience in Marjorie Evasco's *Skin of Water*: Selected Poems

Shirley O. Lua, De La Salle University, Philippines

ABSTRACT

This article seeks to examine the poetics of transience manifested in the poetry of Marjorie Evasco. She is the 2010 SEA Write Award winner from the Philippines who writes both in English and Visayan Cebuano. The article focuses on several selected poems from her recent collection, *Skin of Water: Selected Poems* (2009). It underscores how Evasco's poetic situations reflect on life's transitory character – the brevity of relationship, the fragility of a child's body, the passing of pain, an encounter with trees and the inevitability death. It also investigates how Evasco's poetic vision imagines ways of confronting the transient and even triumphing over it. The poet has resorted to clever and creative stratagems, such as conjuring images of things ephemeral, the naming of things to hold dominion over them, the manipulation of rhythmic breaks, the deployment of metamorphic imaging and the evocation of deep emotions of love, pain and joy.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Shirley O. Lua, De La Salle University, Philippines

Shirley O. Lua teaches literature at De La Salle University in Manila. She specialises in Philippine literature, diaspora studies and genre studies. She is the Field Bibliographer on Philippine journals for the Modern Language Association (MLA) International Bibliography. Her articles have appeared in books and anthologies such as *Writing Asia: The Literature in Englishes* (Singapore: Ethos, 2007), *Spirituality and the Filipino Film* (Manila: Communication Foundation for Asia, 2010), and *44 Cineastas Filipinos* (Instituto Cervantes de Manila, 2011).
Marjorie Evasco is an award-winning Filipino poet, born in Maribojoc, Bohol on September 21, 1953. She writes in two languages: English and Cebuano-Visayan and is a supporter of women's rights, especially of women writers. Marjorie Evasco is one of the earliest Filipina feminist poets. She is a recipient of the S.E.A. Write Award. Born into a family of teachers who were "always talking English", she was brought up and educated as a Roman Catholic and her formative years in school were spent under the Marjorie Evasco. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Jump to navigation Jump to search.  Evasco's prize-winning poetry books are: Dreamweavers: Selected Poems 1976-1986 (1987) and Ochre Tones: Poems in English and Cebuano (1999). Ochre Tones was launched last May 1997 at National Artist Edith L. Tiempo's residence on Montemar (Sibulan, Negros Oriental). They reported seeing many dark-skinned inhabitants, and they called the island Negros, the island was sparsely settled at the time, except for a few coastal settlements including Ilog and Binalbagan. In 1571, Legaspi assigned encomiendas on the island to 13 of his men,
Augustinian friars began the Christianization of the island the next year. Poetry translation is typically overt. Poetry translators are concerned to interpret a source poem's layers of meaning, to relay this interpretation reliably, and/or to 'create a poem in the target language which is readable and enjoyable as an independent, literary text. Poetry translation involves challenges and these are highlighted in this article. A poetry translation project usually aims to publicize a poet or poets. Poetry translation is typically overt. Poetry translators are concerned to interpret a source poem's layers of meaning, to relay this interpretation reliably, and/or to 'create a poem in the target language which is readable and enjoyable as an independent, literary text. Poetry translation involves challenges and these are highlighted in this article.