

The objective of the project is to write a history of literary translation in Poland since 1918 – the year of the independence. The last hundred years has truly been a century of translation: scale and scope of translated literature has been enormous and the cultural role of translation in the development of Poland's modernity, in literature but also on the wider cultural scene, has been vast. It certainly calls for description and analysis but strangely enough such a project has not been undertaken so far. Our research aims at filling this gap in the panorama of modern Polish culture.

Translators are unacknowledged authors of literature in Polish and the significance of their work goes beyond the task of presenting the foreign writing to readers; translators also play vital role in informing the dynamics of literary production in Poland, they influence styles and ways of writing, introduce literary fashions and sometimes even reshape the literary scene altogether. They also work towards making Polish literature a part of world culture. The point of departure for the planned research will be the biographies of translators of literature in Poland active in the period of the last hundred years. Their reconstruction, often difficult for lack of documents, will be based on archival and library studies. The archive survey will unearth a lot of fascinating unknown material.

Through a study of the translators' work, both the renditions of foreign works they produced, and their own writings (especially in cases of writers-translators), essays, comments, literary criticism, private papers, letters and other archival documents we plan to reconstruct the absent layer of the literary culture in the 20th and the beginning of 21st centuries, paying special attention to its interconnections with the original writing in Polish. We also aim at analysing the web of connections and contacts within the literary and cultural milieus translators worked in, a constellation of institutions they collaborated with, as well as their extra-translational activities.

The resulting book will fill the gap in the history of Polish culture after 1918 and integrate translated literature into the mainstream of Polish writing and introduce new actors onto the scene of Polish literary culture after 1918. As a result, the project will introduce changes into the panorama of the history of Polish literary and cultural life in the last hundred years. The book we plan to write will be structured chronologically, with the biographies of translators as nodes in its construction. Their output together with various aspects of their professional activity, social and institutional situatedness, ideological and political affiliations, will be interpreted with the view of creating a dynamic, multidimensional map of literary translation and translated literature of the last hundred years in Poland.

Translation history has been a vivid branch of international Translation Studies in recent years. Some of the project undertaken brought truly impressive results, like the five volume *Oxford History of Literary Translation in English* edited by a team under the editorship of Peter France and Stuart Gillespie (2005-2013). Books on translation history have been published i.a. in Germany, France and Spain. They make rich source of information and form a platform for a discussion of the interrelation between literatures as well as inner development processes within particular language areas. It is high time Polish literature is described in this context and join the international conversation on the role of literary translation in the creation of our civilization.