

Between Peripheries: The Transfer of Dutch-Language Literature to the Polish People's Republic (1945–1990)

This research project explores the fascinating story of how Dutch and Flemish literature found its way into the Polish People's Republic (1945–1990), a time when political ideologies, censorship, and international diplomacy shaped what people could read. Surprisingly, Poland translated more Dutch-language books than any other Eastern Bloc country during this period—over 90 titles, despite many barriers.

The study goes behind the scenes of the translation process, looking at how books were chosen, translated, and published. It investigates who made these decisions: publishers, translators and cultural institutions. By digging into archives in Poland, the Netherlands, and Belgium, the project aims to uncover the hidden dynamics of literary exchange during the Cold War.

The research also highlights the role of censorship, the lack of trained Dutch translators in post-war Poland, and how political agreements helped build bridges through literature. This study offers a new perspective on how literature moves across borders—even between politically and culturally distant countries. Ultimately, it sheds light on the power of books to connect people in divided worlds.