

The Translation Of Original Metaphor In Literature

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Abstract : This paper looks at ways of translating new metaphors: those conceived and created by authors, which are often called 'original' metaphors in the world of Translation Studies. An original metaphor is the most extreme form of figurative language, often dramatic and shocking in effect. It displays unexpected juxtapositions of language, suggesting there could be as many different translations as there are translators. However, some theorists say original metaphors should be translated 'literally' or 'word for word' as far as possible, suggesting a similarity between translators' solutions. How do literary translators approach this challenge? This study focuses on Spanish-English translations of a novel full of original metaphors: *Nada* by Carmen Laforet (1921 - 2004). Original metaphors from the text were compared to the four published English translations by Inez Muñoz, Charles Franklin Payne, Glafyra Ennis, and Edith Grossman. These four translators employed a variety of translation methods, but they translated 'literally' in well over half of the original metaphors studied. In a two-part translation exercise and questionnaire, professional literary translators were asked to translate a number of these metaphors. Many different methods were employed, but again, over half of the original metaphors were translated literally. Although this investigation was limited to one author and language pair, it gives a clear indication that, although literary translators' solutions vary, on the whole, they prefer to translate original metaphors as literally as possible within the confines of English grammar and syntax. It also reveals literary translators' desire to reproduce the distinctive character of an author's work as accurately as possible for the target reader.

Keywords : translation, original metaphor, literature, translator training

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