A Modernist Project: An Analysis on Dupont's Translations of Faulkner's Works

Authors : Edilei Reis, Jose Carlos Felix

Abstract : This paper explores Waldir Dupont's translations of William Faulkner's novels to Brazilian Portuguese language in order to comprehend how his translation project regarding Faulkner's works has addressed modernist traits of the novelist fiction, particularly the ambivalence of language, multiple and fragmented points of view and syntax. Wladir Dupont (1939-2014) was a prolific Brazilian journalist who benefitted from his experiences as an international correspondent living abroad (EUA and Mexico) to become an acclaimed translator later in life. He received a Jabuiti Award (Brazilian most prestigious literary award) for his translation of 'La Otra Voz' (1994), by Mexican poet, critic and translator Octavio Paz, a writer to whom he devoted the first years of his carrier as a translator. As Dupont pointed out in some interviews, the struggles in finding a way out to overcome linguistic and cultural obstacles in the process of translating texts from Spanish to Portuguese was paramount for ascertaining his engagement in the long-term project of translating to Brazilian Portuguese the fiction of William Faulkner. His first enterprise was the translation of Faulkner's trilogy Snopes: The Hamlet (1940) and The Town (1957), the first two novels, were published in 1997 as O povoado and A cidade; in 1999 the last novel, The mansion (1959), was published as A mansão. In 2001, Dupont tackled what is considered one of the most challenging novels by the author due to his use of multiple points of view, As I lay dying (1930). In 2003, The Reivers (1962) was published under the title Os invictos. His enterprise finishes in 2012 with the publication of an anthology of Faulkner's thriller short-stories Knight's Gambit (1932) as Lance mortal. Hence, in this paper we will consider the Dupont's trajectory as a translator, paying special attention to the way in which his identity as such is constituted through the process of translating Faulkner's works.

Keywords : literary translation, translator's identity, William Faulkner, Wladir DuPont

Conference Title : ICIT 2018 : International Conference on Interpreting and Translation

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : October 15-16, 2018