Miššíková, Gabriela and Pánisová, Ľudmila (eds.). 2015. Slovenská literatúra v preklade. Zborník z medzinárodnej odbornej konferencie. [eng.: Slovak Literature in Translation. Collection of Papers from the International Conference]. Nitra: Univerzita Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre.

Reviewed by Mária Koscelníková Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia maria.koscelníkova@ukf.sk

Literature connects cultures. It bridges the gap created by the many differences and peculiarities every culture possesses. Translators play a significant role in stimulating relationships between distant cultures. The publication *Slovenská literatúra v preklade* (Slovak Literature in Translation) probes the little explored milieu of translated Slovak literature around the world. Eight contributions thoroughly explore this type of translated literature, as well as the cultures involved and their relations.

Beginning with cultural asymmetry, Katarína Bednárová systematically investigates the cultural nuances and important aspects of translating from minor into major languages. The author discusses translation as literary mediation, political manipulation and literary reception. Using various examples she highlights the history of the translation of Slovak literature and emphasizes reception as an essential element of a literature's success in a foreign milieu.

The opening article is followed by research on specific environments, starting with an article by Viktória Kniazková on translation of Slovak literature into Russian. Readers will welcome the diachrony of the translation of Slovak works from the Soviet period until now, with a thorough enumeration of translated Slovak authors and detailed information about the success of their works.

The next article by Dagmar Mária Anoca takes us to Romania, shedding light on translated Slovak works there. Along with Peter Kopecký, the author maps the situation after 1945 and offers us a list of translated Slovak works into Romanian.

The middle part of the publication takes us into the English-speaking environment, with Mark W. Lencho's interesting observations on the difficulty of transferring invariants from localizing languages into globalizing ones. Using the example of Martin Kukučín's work, the author notes the uniqueness of translation from Slovak and evaluates the possible reasons for the current situation resulting in a lack of translated Slovak literary works.

A similar problem is depicted in the article by Gabriela Miššíková, but with translation from English to Slovak and pointing out the important role of pragmatic competence when translating and inferring the author's intention. Her pragmatic approach to translation analysis offers a fruitful and promising research method for translation criticism.

The Slovak-English investigations end with Ľudmila Pánisová's introduction to her research on the translation of Slovak literary works into English. Her work *Slovenská literatúra v anglickom preklade (Slovak Literature in English)* significantly enriches the Slovak academic environment as it points out research has so far been merely partial, incomplete or ambiguous. The author also depicts the difficulty and peculiarities of such research.

The final articles of the publication return to Europe with Olha Ruda's article on the Slovak-Ukrainian literary relationship. The author presents the history of Ukrainian translation studies, Ukrainian authors and translators, as well as the emergence of the first Ukrainian translations of Slovak works. The author offers a rich variety of sources and examples of translated Slovak works.

The publication closes with Milan Žitný's article on the reception of translated Slovak literature in the German language environment. The author reflects the significant position of Slovak literature in the 1945-89 period. The article discusses the different situations in the publishing houses in World War II Germany, then post-war Germany as well as the issue of Slovak-Czech relations influencing the reception of Slovak literature. The author offers a comprehensive list of translated Slovak works.

Slovak literature in Translation offers valuable research that had been lacking in Slovak academia. It provides a rich resource for all researchers interested in the future of Slovak literature in translation, as well as translating literature into Slovak.