

Leonardi, Vanessa. 2020. IDEOLOGICAL MANIPULATION OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE THROUGH TRANSLATION AND REWRITING: TRAVELLING ACROSS TIMES AND PLACES. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

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Ideological Manipulation of Children's Literature Through Translation and Rewriting: Travelling Across Times and Places explores the "dangerous liaison" between children's literature and translation studies with the idea of ideological manipulation, inherent in any process of translation, at the heart of the question. The book aims to illustrate how translation cannot be by essence a neutral activity but rather a "highly ideological and complex process", which at once heightens worldwide communication and filters information through the prism of subjectivity and ideology.

Because of its ambivalent nature and status, children's literature is a prime example to discuss these ideas of manipulation and ethics in translation, and Leonardi brilliantly exposes her point via the use of concrete examples, introduced by a clear "state of the art" in both disciplines of translation studies and children's literature studies. Moreover, because children's literature is not managed by its readers, children, but is produced and controlled by adult chaperons, the mediating and manipulating role played by translators, editors, publishers, booksellers and consumers is most evident, and renders visible what happens to every book on the literary market, though the process is often overlooked elsewhere.

Moreover, by questioning the prevalent part of manipulation in the translation of children's literature, Leonardi reminds us of the peripheral position of children's literature in the polysystem, following Zohar Shavit's argument, and underlines how this status of "Otherness" affects translation. Indeed, translation at large is often forced into a position of invisibility and inferiority; consequently, the translation of children's literature suffers the weight of a "double invisibilisation".

Leonardi's book is divided into three major parts, assorted with bibliographies, along with an introduction and a conclusion. The first part examines the translation of children's literature in a theoretical, abstract way, and starts by defining key concepts and features of children's literature, before summarising quickly the historical developments of the field, and its connections with translation and translation studies. The second and third parts of the book are composed of three case studies each of ideological manipulation in intralingual translation and interlingual translation respectively. In this way, the book aims to discuss through the use of concrete examples how ideological manipulation operates at all levels when translating children's literature. Moreover, the different case studies provide illustration of different types of manipulation, from the most evident ones, in the case of censure under an authoritarian regime for instance, to

more subtle ones, in the case of cultural hegemony. The book also illustrates how such manipulation of texts can serve a purpose for a translator's agenda, for example when translating Snow White with a feminist perspective, and thus can propose different alternatives to traditional stories. Furthermore, the book also mentions how ideologies, and thus translation practices, can vary not only from one translator to another, but also from one geographical and cultural background to another, depending on what one society deems acceptable for children or not. Finally, the conclusion offers a number of avenues for further research regarding the translation of children's literature, which would propel the development of a still young field of study.

The major shortcoming of the book seems to be that the analyses in the case studies, albeit lively and interesting to read, are not very detailed and somewhat too descriptive. Moreover, another difficulty is that many quotes in other languages (Italian mainly, but also German) are given on their own, without an English translation, literal or otherwise. This hinders the understanding of the book in some parts as not all readers are fluent in those languages.

In the end, *Ideological Manipulation of Children's Literature Through Translation and Rewriting: Travelling Across Times and Places* is a compelling book that investigates the often-overlooked role played by translation in mediating children's literature and the ideologies at play in the literary world. The book is didactic and accessible without a necessary background of knowledge in either children's literature studies or translation studies, as the author defines clearly the terms and developments of both fields.