

THE HISTORY OF UKRAINIAN LITERATURE TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH

Tinatin Mshvidobadze
Gori State University, Georgia
tinikomshvidobadze@gmail.com

The paper is a review of Ukrainian literature translations into English during XIX-XX centuries. It characterizes activities of the known Ukrainian translators and highlights translations made during the important periods of the history of Ukraine.

Key words: *translations, Ukrainian literature, classical authors, literary texts.*

During the translation from one language to another various creative processes were taking place for the centuries, which have great importance from ancient times to present days. In the 21st century computer programs are actively involved in the mentioned processes.

A general review of Ukrainian literature translations into English allows us to note certain tendencies from the very first glance; they are different from translation process of any other national literature, which is firstly explained by historical and political factors. In their turn, these factors defined the nature of translations strictly by geographic principle, i.e. English-language translations performed on the European continent and beyond. Still, we can objectively state that the latter dominate over the former. In our opinion, there are solid reasons for that, as it is in the United States of America, Canada and Australia that powerful scientific centers and Ukrainian studies institutions are located.

As for Europe, and the United Kingdom in particular, the interest towards Ukrainian studies has always been much weaker. Despite the existence of the Institute of Ukrainian Studies and Department of Ukrainian Studies in National British Library (London), Ukrainian studies as such were established only recently, in 2008 in Cambridge University. Therefore, the number of translators working on translations of Ukrainian literature in the United Kingdom and the USA, Canada or Australia is different. The most famous British authors are Vira Rich and Steven Komarnitsky, Sarah Lukacs being less known; we can also mention Thomas Moore from Ireland and Robert Jamison from Scotland. If we look at translations from Ukrainian beyond Europe and only selectively, among the most well-known we can name Michael Naydan, Larysa Zaleska-Onyshkevych, Mariya Skrypnyk, Marko Tsarynnyk, Bohdan Boychuk, Yuriy Lutsky, Patricia Warren (Kylyna), Virlyana Tkach, Wanda Philips, Marko Pavlyshyn, Yuriy Tkach, Vitaliy Chernetsky, Roma Franko, Marko Andreychyk, Dzvina Orlovska, and others.

An interesting phenomenon is the publication of Ukrainian literature (both classical and modern) in English conducted in Ukraine (mostly in Lviv in such publishing houses as “Litopys”, “Sribne slovo”, “Spolom”, “Klasyka”, “Kalvariya”, “Piramida”, “Vydavnytstvo Starogo Leva”; there are also two publishing houses in Kyiv, “Mystetstvo” and “Vydavnychy dim Burago”); they include both individual authors, mostly poets, and antologies, mono- and bilingual. Among those we can name the following:

a) monolingual publications: poetry collection by Ivan Franko “Withered Leaves” translated by Ivan Teply (2009); anthology of works by the youngest generation of writers, in particular Lyubko Deresh, Irena Karpa, Kateryna Khinkulova, Svitlana Pyrkalo and Ostap Slyvynsky under the title “Half a Breath” (2009); fairy tales by Zirka Mentazyuk “Kyiv Fairy Tales” (2006);

b) bilingual publications of individual authors, in particular poets: “Autumn Stars” by Maksym Rylsky (2008); “Great Harmony” by Bohdan-Ihor Antonych (2007); “Flying Head and Other Poems” by Viktor Neborak (2006); “Memory Landscapes” by Lina Kostenko (2002); “Early Lyrics” by Pavlo Tychyna (2000) and collection of prose by Yuriy Vynnychuk “Windows of Frozen Time” (2000) translated by Michael Naydan (“Litopys” publishing house); poetry collections by Volodymyr Tsybulko “Eye on Bell Tower” and “Angels in the Pyramid” translated by Yuriy Tarnavsky (2005, 2001); Taras Shevchenko “Selected Poems. Paintings. Graphics” translated by Vira Rich (2007); small prose works by Vasyl Gabor “The Book of Exotic Dreams and Real Events” translated by Patrick Cornes, Nataliya Pomirko and Oksana Bunyo (2012);

c) bilingual antologies: “In Other Light” is the anthology of classical and modern poems translated by Virlyana Tkach and Wanda Phipps (2008) and “100 Years of Youth” is the anthology of Ukrainian poetry of the 20th century translated by Michael Naydan and other authors.

If we analyze translations of Ukrainian literature into English, which were published beyond Europe, despite similar tendencies in publishing both single books and antologies, texts for English readership are more complete and diverse in writers.

As Maxim Tarnawsky points out, the history of translations of Ukrainian literature into English is rather short and not always regular. With the exception of publishing Ukrainian classical authors, in particular Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, Lesya Ukrainka and several other writers, Ukrainian literature was published in English extremely rarely. As for translations in the UK, up until 2000 there had not been a single publication of Ukrainian book in English there. Still, it

doesn't undermine in any way several decades of work in poetry translation by one of the most famous British translators of Ukrainian literature, Vira Rich, whose texts were published abroad and in periodicals, especially during 1990s. In the English-language space beyond Europe the situation has been somewhat different. Ukrainian literature has been translated, but the choice of authors has been sporadic and did not reflect the general state and main trends of Ukrainian literature development.