

*H. Kittel, A. P. Frank, N. Geiner, T. Hermans, W. Koller, J. Lambert, Übersetzung, Translation, Traduction, Ein internationales Handbuch zur Übersetzungsforschung, Encyclopédie internationale de la recherche sur la traduction, 1985-2001, Berlin, New York*

## **The translation of realia in literary texts**

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Realia are objects or “circumstances in a political, institutional, social and geographical way”. The range of the objects can vary wildly, from specific things such as an animal species, a custom or tradition, or a type of food or drink. It can also refer to something unique like a specific mountain, an agency or a capital city. In a broader meaning, it can also determine language peculiarities like a dialect. This article, however, doesn't take this into account and focuses on realia in a narrower sense in a drafted version. Linguistically, realia are defined through "Realia Lexemes" and also through predicates (Substantives, Verbs etc.) as well as singular terminus (proper nouns, definite identifications).

A survey about different techniques of Realia translation in literary texts has shown, that the conscious or unconscious choices of the translator have consequences for the world of a text, including its elements of time and place, protagonists etc., as well as the type and genre specific characteristics of literary texts. It does not matter if the translation technique of the target text differs between relative literary and study of literature method and the source text, even if the variation relevance heavily differs from case to case and from the study instruments used. The representation of the foreignness and the foreign experience also affects the source text. The translator has considerable possibilities of influence from Realia expressions. Eventually, the translator is always confronted with the question, that Schleiermacher verbalized in 1813 as one of the fundamental problems of translation: the translator either decides the literary translation is suitable for cultural differences and the genuineness of the source language; unhampered readability is most important, and names should

be adjusted as much as possible. In doing so, the reader can relate better to the text and its author.

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