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Milton, John & Paul Bandia (Eds.) (2009). *Agents of Translation*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. 329p.

In this volume, Milton and Bandia present thirteen case studies in which translation is used as a way of influencing the target culture and furthering literary, political and personal interests. In the introduction, they examine key concepts related to agency in Translation Studies, including patronage, power, habitus and networking. In their view, agents occupy an intermediary position between a translator and an end user of a translation. This volume, rather than focusing on the functional role of the agent, emphasizes “their role in terms of cultural innovation and change” (2009, p.1). Agents can challenge the dominant system, political as well as literary, and put forward an alternative one.

In the first case study, Georges L. Bastin takes us to Latin America and investigates the role of Francisco de Miranda (1750-1816) as an intercultural forerunner of emancipation in Hispanic America. In this particular case, the actual role of translation is that of having contributed to this emancipation movement, to the creation of a national and continental identity and to the construction of a new culture. Miranda represents “the very model of a politically committed translator and agent of translation, who sees translation as a weapon of emancipation and therefore does not hesitate to manipulate the original by adding or subtracting from the original everything he considers (ir)relevant to his readership” (2009, p.39).

The second case study focuses on the influence of the *Revue Britannique* on the work of the first Brazilian fiction writers in the 19th century. This French revue was an important mediator or agent of British ideas and cultural forms, adapted to contemporary French critical opinion. Brazilian society was in search of a history and literature, and, through translation, modern ideas and new cultural forms were brought to this particular part of the new world and were subsequently adapted to the local culture’s own needs.

In the third study, translation is studied as a form of representation, examining Fukuzawa Yukichi’s (1835-1901) representation of the ‘other’ in 19th-century Japan. Yukichi introduced Western civilization to Japan through his translations and agency. Uchiyama studies the translation of *Nations around the world* (a book on geography) and some editorials written by Yukichi. In these works, the latter represents the civilized West and uncivilized ‘others’, a representation that in Japan has had lingering effects on the formation of stereotypical images of other cultures.

In the fourth contribution, Denise Merkle studies the publishing company Vizetelly & Company as (ex)change agent and looks at the mod-

ernization process of the British publishing industry in Victorian times. Vizetelly & Co was one of the most innovative publishers of the time, and its challenging of dominant norms and confronting the British public with foreign literature were undertakings that proved not to be without risk.

The fifth case study deals with the 'Libraries' of the British publisher Henry Bohn as a form of translation within the margin in the Victorian Age. Bohn was an example of a publisher who was successful in keeping difficult (classical) works in circulation and avoid censure (by staying clear of the most incendiary material). O'Sullivan attributes this to "the degree to which his policy of widespread but restrained expurgation kept him ostensibly within the margins of Victorian decorum" (2009, p. 126).

In the sixth paper, Semircioğlu discusses the case of Ahmed Midhat (1844-1913), an Ottoman agent of translation. Semircioğlu's main argument is that cultural and literary items from a 'model' culture may be transferred by means of free agents of translation to a receiving culture in a variety of culture-specific ways, especially to a culture undergoing profound transformation. By studying paratexts that accompany the translations and reflect the cultural and literary constraints of the target language system, the author reconstructs the translational norms underlying the texts.

In the seventh article, Tahir-Gürçağlar focuses on the interactions between politics, culture and translation and the personal history behind the turbulent career of the Turkish cultural agent Hasan-Âli Yücel (1897-1961). He was an important cultural agent in Turkey at a time when the nation-in-the-making was trying to replace religion as the uniting sentiment with a common language and culture. As a cultural agent he was active at different levels, as a writer, politician, teacher, etc. He created institutions, such as the Village Institutes for education and the Translation Bureau, which helped Turkey in its initial phase of Westernization/modernization.

Outi Paloposki, in the eighth contribution, looks into the different kinds of agency for which two important Finnish translators of the 19th and 20th centuries were responsible. Paloposki names three kinds of agency: textual, paratextual and extratextual. The translators advised publishers about what to translate, thereby introducing unknown authors to Finnish audiences.

The ninth article offers a case of translation at the service of history. Paul Bandia describes the struggle of Cheikh Anta Diop (1923-1986) to unearth Africa's prestigious historical past and traces its relation to ancient Egyptian civilization. Diop emphasized the importance of translation practices in shaping the discipline of African history.

In the tenth case study, Bradford discusses the agency of poets and the impact of their translations in Argentine literary magazines. Until the 1970s, the French ideal was used to validate local production. Three groups of poets, aided by imported texts, challenged those pre-existing conventions in Argentine poetry. Bradford explains how certain literary magazines dealt with translation and how they contributed to moulding Argentines' taste in translation discourse by enforcing certain poetics and constraining others.

The eleventh chapter discusses the role of Concrete poets Haroldo and Augusto de Campos in bringing translation to the fore of literary activity in Brazil. Médiçi Nóbrega and John Milton introduce the de Campos brothers, who became important agents of translation in Brazil via introducing unknown authors, influencing literary changes in the Brazilian canon, criticizing and promoting translations and introducing a theoretical approach to literature in which translation played a central role. They made translation a respectable and desirable field to work in and brought it to the forefront of literary studies.

The twelfth study focuses on the theatre translator as cultural agent. Christine Zurbach looks at the collective agent Centro Cultural de Évora (CCE), a theatre ensemble in Portugal. Their intervention corresponds to Even-Zohar's 'cultural planning' as the aesthetic choices of the programmes led to importation of theatrical and cultural models already established in France (1950-1970). Translation is seen as a decisive element in the importation of a foreign theatrical model. The CCE made efforts to change the cultural direction after the fall of the dictatorial regime in 1974 and worked for the abolition of political censorship.

In the thirteenth and final study, by Francis R. Jones, embassy networks are examined in the Bosnian post-war context. Translations are not instigated and produced by a lone translator but by a network of agents. According to Jones, an embassy network is a combination of Actor-network, activity and social game theory and illuminates how people act together to produce translations, how they are motivated and how they are influenced. Jones distinguishes three types of poetry translations in post-war Bosnia and gives detailed information about the actors, the locations (origins and workplaces of the actors) and illustrates it with a case study.

Agents in translation offers an encompassing view of the multiple facets of agency. This agency is considered from very different angles, ranging from those of publishers' to translators', from politicians' to theatre ensembles'. The thirteen studies offer insights into the significance of agency in implementing changes in the literary, social and political context of a target culture.

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Pöckl, Wolfgang & Michael Schreiber (Eds.) (2008). *Geschichte und Gegenwart der Übersetzung im französischen Sprachraum*. Frankfurt am Main-Berlin-Bern-Bruxelles-New York-Oxford-Wien: Peter Lang Verlag. 200 p.

Les actes de la section "Histoire et actualité de la traduction dans l'espace francophone" du cinquième congrès des francoromanistes allemands (sep-