

## INVISIBLE STORYTELLERS; THE ROLE OF TRANSLATORS IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Abdikhamidova Sevinch Obidjon kizi

2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Faculty of English philology and translation studies

Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Samarkand/Uzbekistan

**Abstract:** The role of translators in children's literature is a critical and often overlooked aspect of making diverse and culturally rich stories accessible to young readers around the world. This article investigates the importance of translators as cultural mediators, their influence on how children's literature is received and understood, and the difficulties they encounter in maintaining the core of the original text while making it accessible to a new audience. Additionally, it examines the cultural values, ethical and creative choices involved in translating children's literature, emphasizing the need to recognize and appreciate the valuable contributions of these invisible narrators.

**Key words:** *Translation, children's and adult literature, challenges, cultural values.*

Translating for whom is still remaining as one of the controversial topics among scholars, but translating for children is a question that is constantly searching for an answer that we may never find. At first glance, it might seem "A piece of cake"; however, it has been a huge piece of cake for both writers and translators. Because children can read words, but they do not read what is behind the lines. The latter is the task of translators who usually find it difficult to faithfully convey both the message and what lies behind that message following the norms and background of the target language.

Translating presents numerous challenges, whether it's for adult or children's literature. Additionally, it can be difficult to establish a distinct line between the translation difficulties of books for children and those for adults. In fact, translating for children involves similar, even more challenges than translating for adults, and the strategies used to address translation issues encountered with adult literature are not always acceptable when translating for children. So why do translators face more challenges while translating children's literature compared to adult literature? First of all, in order to find answers to these questions, we should know the definition of children's literature and what makes it different from adult literature.

Children's literature refers to written and illustrated works which are specifically

created for children, typically ranging from infancy to adolescence. This genre encompasses a wide variety of forms, including picture books, chapter books, middle-grade novels, and young adult literature. It often contains themes and topics that are relevant and relatable to children, such as friendship, imagination, and overcoming challenges. It also tends to have a more straightforward and accessible writing style compared to adult literature, as it aims to engage and captivate young readers. In addition, children's literature often includes moral lessons or messages, but these are usually conveyed in a subtle and indirect manner, allowing children to interpret and understand them in their own way. It also often includes elements of fantasy and magic, allowing young readers to explore imaginative worlds and expand their creativity. Overall, children's literature has its own unique characteristics and serves a specific purpose in nurturing the love for reading and storytelling in young audiences. It is an important and valuable genre that plays a significant role in the literary world.

Translating children's literature is a rewarding but very challenging task, since it requires a unique set of skills which go beyond just the knowledge of languages. First of all, to communicate with a child reader means to enter into an imaginary conversation with fresher and keener readers than adults. For this reason translators always strive to reconnect with their own childhood experiences while translating. What makes their work more challenging is the need to approach it by considering the perspective of children and seeing the story through their eyes. That's why their primary responsibility is to orient their books towards young readers and to ensure that they are engaging their audience. Secondly, translators need to have a good understanding of the cognitive and emotional development of children at different ages. This will help them to choose the right language, style, and content for the specific age group that they are translating for. Lastly, they should be culturally sensitive and fully aware of social and historical backgrounds that may differ between the original text and the target audience.

Numerous scholars of children's literature have examined an unequal power between adults (the creators) and children (the recipients). It is obvious that socially, economically, and physically, adults hold greater power than children. They are the ones who produce books for children, and also purchase them for children. Additionally, it is typically adults who read the books aloud for children. When it comes to the translated books of children's literature, another influential adult enters the picture: the translator. Although translators

should translate children`s literature, it is obviously the adults who translate them and buy the translations for children. That`s why, translators play a crucial role in making decisions on behalf of them regarding which stories are written for them, whether the elements are appropriate or not in terms of context and style.

Furthermore, translators play a significant role in helping target audience`s cultural acquisition, language development, and cultural values through their translations. It is an undeniable fact that literature for children can play a huge role in shaping cultural values and serves an educational purpose. That`s why it is very important to convey messages to teach young children about moral values, and what is good or bad. However, creating children`s books solely for pedagogical purposes represents an authoritarian approach that may lead to a loss of artistic enjoyment. The goal is to translate works that reflect the reality of young people and enable them to absorb the intended educational messages without imposing them; but, at the same time, translators should realize that the main purpose of children`s literature is to provide enjoyment, not just instruction as the target audience includes children and young people.

In conclusion, recognizing the contribution of translators in children's literature is very important, as they convey stories from various parts of the world to children in an authentic and engaging way. By appreciating the work of translators, we can encourage the continual enrichment of children's literature with a wide range of voices and perspectives. As culture begins with a child, children's literature takes a significant place in shaping cultural values. We should always bear in mind that valuing children's literature is equivalent to valuing the whole literature, and demonstrating an interest in today's children is an investment in tomorrow's leaders.

#### **REFERENCES:**

1. Gillian Lathey. (2010). *The role of translators in children`s literature*. (241 p). London and New York: Routledge.
2. Luc van Doorslaer & Haidee Kotze. (2020). *Children`s literature in translation* (280 p). Leuven University Press
3. Kateřina Frimmelová. (2010). *Translating children`s literature*. (102 p). Masaryk university.

4. Ms. Nedjah Mimouna & Ms. Sammoudi Ines. (2020). *Translating Children's Literature: between Social Challenges and Cultural Discovery*. (65 p). People's Democratic Republic of Algeria Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
5. Tesina di Laurea. *The role of the translator in children's literature: translation and analysis of Sara Zarr's "A Song Called Home"* (58 p). Anno Accademico 2021 / 2022.