

**Pánisová, Ľudmila. 2014. SLOVENSKÁ LITERATÚRA V ANGLICKOM PREKLADE – HISTÓRIA A SÚČASNOSŤ (1832 – 2013) [eng.: Slovak Literature in English Translation (1832 – 2013)]. Nitra: Univerzita Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre.**

Reviewed by Matej Martinkovič  
Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia  
matej.martinkovic@ukf.sk

The monograph *Slovenská literatúra v anglickom preklade – história a súčasnosť (1832 – 2013)* [Slovak Literature in English Translation – History and the Present (1832 – 2013)] is authored by Ľudmila Pánisová, a researcher and lecturer at the Department of Translation Studies of the Faculty of Arts at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. It presents a study on translations of Slovak literature into English. It is written entirely in Slovak and is divided, or structured, into three distinct main chapters, with each chapter exploring a different facet of the researched theme. Along with these three chapters, the reader will also find an introduction and a conclusion.

In the introduction, the author outlines her aims, motivations and the two main issues that necessitated such research. The first issue is the severe lack of translations of Slovak literature into foreign languages, combined with the abundance and outright dominance of translations of foreign works into Slovak. This is considered a threat to the development and support of diversity of cultures across Europe by the European Council of Literary Translator's Associations and others. The other issue is the apparent lack of academic research into the topic of translations of Slovak literature into other languages. Due to this deficiency, the author sets out to provide a view of the researched issue from both a synchronic and diachronic perspective that would be as complex as possible. Last but not least, the author was spurred into conducting this research by her love of Slovak literature.

As was already mentioned, the monograph is divided into three parts. The initial part is dedicated to discussing and providing an overview of existing research, i.e. research published prior to 2014. First, it gives valuable context with a historical overview of translations as well as an overview of translations of Slovak literature into foreign languages in two different periods – 1945-66 and 1996-2013. However, the monograph does not limit itself to introducing simple statistics, it also offers a commentary and a well thought-out comparative analysis of the two periods. This chapter also briefly deals with the institutions that support translation in Slovakia and abroad.

The core chapter of the monograph provides a complex overview of literary translation from Slovak into English. It does this through presenting multiple perspectives. The chapter again opens with a general overview of the issue, but it then discusses in detail the situation of translations into

English prior to 1989 and separately after 1989 as well. The reasoning for this split is quite simple and sound – the political, social and economic situation in Slovakia changed vastly in 1989. Perhaps in light of the sociological turn in translation studies and certainly to the delight of those interested in the sociological side of translation studies, the author dedicates an entire subchapter to introducing translators who work on bringing Slovak literature to English speakers. And in the same way, another subchapter is dedicated to the publishing houses that publish translations of Slovak works in Anglophone countries.

While the previous chapter focused more on the quantitative side of translations of Slovak literature into English, the last one offers a qualitative take on translation specifics or issues encountered by translators. The chapter is structured in accordance with the linguistic levels, in this case namely the lexical and morphological levels, in which a translator may encounter Slovak peculiarities and challenges. The discussion of these is primarily based on the author's own comparative analysis of translations and their originals, but several observations made by translators of Slovak literature are included as well. To illustrate the issues, the author also provides various examples and comments on them.

In conclusion, it must be said the monograph *Slovenská literatúra v anglickom preklade – história a súčasnosť (1832 – 2013)* is clearly a result of a great amount of work. Each chapter offers a valuable and interesting insight not only into the number of translated works but also the people – translators – who lie behind them, as well as the publishers who publish the fruits of the translators' labour. The publication is then nicely rounded off by a discussion on the translation specifics one may encounter when working with Slovak texts. It would, however, not to disparage the work that has been done here, have been nice to see perhaps as a stand-alone publication a more expanded version of such discussions that might include translation specifics on all the linguistic levels. Additionally, one must bear in mind the monograph was published in 2014 and thus does not reflect how the situation has developed since then, which would certainly be interesting to see.