

Perez, Emília – Brezovská, Miroslava – Jánošíková, Zuzana. 2021. SLOVENSKÝ DABING A TITULKOVANIE V PREMENÁCH ČASU. [eng.: Slovak Dubbing and Subtitling over the Course of Time] Nitra: Univerzita Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre.

Reviewed by Marián Kabát
Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia
marian.kabat@uniba.sk

Carl Sagan (1980) stated that “You have to know the past to understand the present,” and I have to say that this quote perfectly sums up the main ideas of *Slovak Dubbing and Subtitling over the Course of Time*. The authors basically journey across time and observe dubbing and subtitling practices in Slovakia. For this reason, the book is divided into three parts that deal with the past, present, and future of audiovisual translation in the country.

The first part focuses on the times before 1989 and then looks at the 1990s, which was the golden era of Slovak dubbing, right up to the emergence of subtitling and the marketization of dubbing. It is rich in academic sources and insights from practitioners, thus adding an authenticity and a pragmatic element to the publication. The authors create a complex picture comprising language, culture, translation, and technology, and the reader learns about older dubbing techniques and even fan-dubbing in the Czechoslovak era. It needs to be added that such information often comes from oral sources collected through interviews (just as in this publication), which are slowly but surely getting harder to come by.

The second part of the monograph discusses the present problems of audiovisual translation in Slovakia. Since the beginning of dubbing and subtitling in Slovakia, dubbing was believed to have prevalence. The authors challenge this hypothesis. They analyse several popular Slovak most viewed broadcasters and create a sample of 17,982 units that they group based on the country of origin and individual types of audiovisual translation. The same qualitative analysis was done on cinema screening. After comparing the data, the authors can clearly show a shift in preference from dubbing towards subtitling.

The last part of the book focuses on the possible future of audiovisual translation in Slovakia, and the authors switch their focus to streaming platforms and on-demand video broadcasting. They analyse the present market with such services and the support for Slovak as well as the demand for Slovak compared to Czech (which is an interesting phenomenon, given that many Slovaks prefer Czech dubbing over Slovak dubbing). The book also delves into media accessibility in Slovakia as an issue that needs to be addressed.

As a whole, the publication examines the issues of audiovisual translation in Slovakia that often resonate in academic as well as public

spaces. It addresses important questions about dubbing and subtitling as well as Slovak and Czech preferences. The monograph is also a source of inspiration for further research into the history of audiovisual translation, media practices, and further development of audiovisual translation in Slovakia.