

## **Translating the Greek Civil War: Alexandros Kotzias and the translator's multiple *habitus***

Kalliopi Pasmatzí

University of Manchester, U.K.

### ABSTRACT

This paper examines how literary and socio-political influences might permeate translatorial action and lead to the articulation of the translator's multiple *habitus* by looking at the Greek translation of a highly controversial book. Nicholas Gage's *Eleni*, published in the USA in 1983, captures the darkest moments of the ideological rift between Left-wing and Right-wing forces during the Greek Civil War (1946-1949). The translator of *Eleni* into Greek, Alexandros Kotzias (1926-1992), a post-war political novelist, was considered a highly controversial literary figure amongst the Greek Left-wing literati. Drawing on narrative theory, this paper establishes how Kotzias' own constructed public narrative of the civil war, an outcome of his individual past socialization within the Greek socio-political field, surfaces in the translation of *Eleni*. Ultimately, this paper argues for the translator's *habitus* as a multiple entity, whose various facets correspond to the translator's diverse socialization within a variety of social fields.

**KEYWORDS:** Bourdieu, Greek Civil War, ideology, narrative theory, translator's agency.