

A Timbre of Its Own: investigating style in translation and original writing

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ABSTRACT

Situated within descriptive translation studies, this paper uses a corpus-based, target-oriented approach to effectuate a case study on the style of a translator-author. Specifically, it compares stylistic features in samples of one contemporary translator-author's translations and his original writing. By addressing the question of whether there are discernible stylistic similarities and/or differences in the two types of texts produced by the same writer, this research aims at improving the understanding of the translation process and the relation between the two writing activities, i.e. translation and original writing. It sets out to determine whether the translator's voice still has a timbre of its own. Results suggest that similarities between the translations and the original writings are not limited to subconscious features only. They further suggest that, even though it holds partially, the division of subconscious/similar versus conscious/dissimilar stylistic features may be too simplistic.

KEYWORDS: translation and writing, translation process, translator presence, translator style, voice.