

‘Vegemite, Possums and BYO’: translation strategies in the formation of Japanese perceptions of Australia

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ABSTRACT

Literary translation plays an important role in shaping perceptions of one country and its cultural context in another. After a brief background survey, the paper identifies five key phases in the translation of Australian literature into Japanese. It then goes on to examine ways in which cultural references in Australian literary works are translated into Japanese through a case-study analysis of two Japanese anthologies of Australian short stories. The pedagogical aims of the anthologies, the translation strategies used by editors and translators and translational norms in the Japanese context, are explored, highlighting in particular the common methods of *warichū* (in-text annotation), and *rubi* (glossing) and their effects on readers.

KEYWORDS: anthologies, Australian literature, cultural specific items, Japanese, norms, translation strategies.