

The Limits of the Play Text: Translating Comedy

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ABSTRACT

This article explores how the translation of puns and humoristic language in a dramatic text stretches the boundaries of the written text, raising issues of performance and delivery. For this purpose, three functionally different English translations of Goldoni's *Il servitore di due padroni* are looked at to investigate how each deals with the traditionally untranslatable aspects of Goldoni's comedy: his reliance on improvisation and on the expressiveness of the vernacular.

KEYWORDS: Carlo Goldoni, drama translation, humour, performance, comedy.