

Brazilian Practices of Translating Names in Children's Fantasy Literature: A Corpus-based Study

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ABSTRACT

The general purpose of this research is to shed light on an area which still remains largely unexplored in the discipline of Translation Studies (TS), namely translation of children's literature. More specifically, this study sets out to investigate the practices of translating names in children's fantasy literature within the Brazilian context in the period between 2000 and 2003. To do so, the study draws on a theoretical and methodological composite framework derived from three domains in TS: Translation of Children's Literature (TCL); Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS); and Corpus-based Translation Studies (CTS), which, in turn, delimit the scope of the research, its corpus, its line of argument and its course of development. TCL locates the study within a particular area in TS, DTS provides the concepts and notions informing the study, and CTS offers the methodological tools used in the investigation of translation practices. The computerised parallel corpus on which the study is based consists of 12 target texts and their respective 12 source texts, taken from four fantasy series translated in the period, amounting to a total of 24 texts ($\approx$ 1.6 million words). It is argued that the analysis of procedures is one of the necessary preliminary steps towards the uncovering of translation practices. The results of the analysis of procedures revealed the presence of two main translation tendencies emerging from the corpus: one in which the translations give priority to the readability of names, and another one in which the translations do not give priority to the handling of this particular narrative element.

KEYWORDS: children's literature, corpus-based, descriptive, names, practices, procedures.

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