

Writing through Translating and Translating through Writing: Antjie Krog as writer/translator

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation explores Antjie Krog as translator within the Afrikaans and English literary field in South Africa. The focus of the study is primarily on Krog's translation of her own work, namely her prose works *Country of my skull* and *A change of tongue/n Ander tongval*, and poetry *Down to my last skin, die sterre sê 'tsau'/the stars say 'tsau'* and *Verweerskrif/Body bereft*. Although Krog is also renowned for her work as translator of others' work, the concept self translation is particularly relevant for this study: to write through translation and translate through writing.

The study has a dual objective: on a polysystemic level Krog's position and status as translator and that of her translation products within the Afrikaans and English literary field in South Africa is researched; on a socio-cultural level Bourdieu's concept *habitus* is employed in order to explore the underlying force behind Krog's translation process. The focus throughout is on Krog's double writing, the overlapping of the act of writing and the act of translating as it resonates on textual and metatextual level. Although a Bourdieusian reading of translations is a relatively unexplored terrain in the South African translation field, this study aims to add fresh insights into a dispositional view of the translator in his or her space within the literary field. In the course of this study philosophical concepts of Deleuze and Guattari, Kristeva and Bhabha are employed. Deleuze and Guattari's concept minor literature is employed insofar the act of translation and the translation product reflects a different subjectivity. Kristeva's concept the abject is likewise explored in the way it is reflected in Krog's writing and translating. In the end it is argued that Krog, when writing in her non-mother tongue and when translating, is situated in a hybrid space, an in-between space. This study thus shifts from a polysystemic analysis of Krog's translation products to a more individual approach and the notion that Krog's habitus as writer is inextricably linked to her habitus as translator; that translation is an embodied process.

KEYWORDS: Antjie Krog, habitus, sociology of translation, self translation.

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Om te skryf deur te vertaal en te vertaal deur te skryf: Antjie Krog as skrywer/vertaler

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OPSOMMING

Hierdie proefskrif is 'n studie van Antjie Krog as vertaler binne die Afrikaanse en Engelse literêre veld in Suid-Afrika. In hierdie studie word daar slegs op Krog se vertaling van haar eie werk gekonsentreer, naamlik die prosawerke *Country of my skull* en *A change of tongue*/*'n Ander tongval*, en die poësie *Down to my last skin, die sterre sê 'tsau'*/*the stars say 'tsau'* en *Verweerskrif*/*Body bereft*. Hoewel Krog ook as vertaler van ander skrywers se werk bekend is, is dit veral die konsep selfvertaling wat in hierdie studie van belang is: om te skryf deur vertaling en vertaal deur te skryf.

Die studie neem 'n tweeledige vorm aan: op 'n polisistemiese vlak word die posisie en status van Krog as vertaler, en ook van haar vertaalprodukte binne die Afrikaanse en Engelse literêre veld in Suid-Afrika ondersoek; op 'n sosiokulturele vlak word Bourdieu se konsep *habitus* ingespan ten einde die onderliggende dryfvere agter die vertaalproses van Krog te ondersoek. Die deurlopende fokus is op die dubbele skrywerskap van Krog; die oorvleueling van die skryfhandeling en vertaalhandeling soos dit op tekstuele en metatekstuele vlak resoneer. Alhoewel 'n sosiokulturele (Bourdieu-aanse) lesing van vertaaltekste 'n relatief onbekende terrein in Suid-Afrikaanse vertaalteoretiese kringe is, wil hierdie studie aantoon dat 'n disposisionele beskouing van die vertaler in sy of haar ruimte binne die literêre veld vars insigte bring. Deur die loop van die studie word filosofiese konsepte van Deleuze en Guattari, Kristeva en Bhabha betrek. Deleuze en Guattari se denkinstrument van 'n mineurletterkunde word ingespan sover die vertaalhandeling en -produk 'n andersoortige subjektiwiteit weerspieël. Hierbenewens word Kristeva se konsep van die abjekte in Krog se skryf- en vertaalhandeling ondersoek. Uiteindelik word dit aangevoer dat Krog as vertaler binne 'n hibriede ruimte, 'n tussenruimte funksioneer wanneer sy in Engels skryf en wanneer sy vertaal. Hierdie studie beweeg dus van 'n polisistemiese ondersoek na Krog se vertaalprodukte tot by 'n meer individuele ondersoek na die beskouing dat Krog se *habitus* as skrywer onlosmaaklik verbind is aan haar *habitus* as vertaler, en dat die proses van vertaling 'n beliggaaamde proses is.

SLEUTELWOORDE: Antjie Krog, *habitus*, sosiologie van vertaling, selfvertaling.