

Reading Gender in Translation: translator's intervention in Isaac Chocrón's *Pronombres personales*

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ABSTRACT

This thesis is a translation and commentary. It aims to show that translation intervention is often necessary when translating from Spanish into English and dealing with gender markings in Spanish that would not be necessarily present in English. It considers the need to intervene when translating the gendered views reflected in a fictional text as used in descriptions, interactions and/or exchanges between the sexes. Apart from usual interventions made to provide an idiomatic translation through 'shifts' and footnotes, there are instances where translators intervene in a more conscious, conspicuous and purposeful way. The English translation of Venezuelan author Isaac Chocrón's (1930-2011) novella, *Pronombres personales*, translated as part of this thesis, makes use of such interventions. The research is supported by discussions offered by Gender Studies, Feminist Literary Criticism, as well as recent developments in Translation Theory regarding gender.

Chapter One looks at translations into English of a gender-marked word in Spanish from several translators of *Don Quixote*. It also presents cases where intervention has resulted in censorship, and, by discussing translation choices with texts representing homosexuality, it underscores translator presence in feminist translation. These foundations serve to propose a justification for noticeable interventions when translating gender issues (whether grammatical and/or human) in Chocrón's novella. A small introduction to the life and works of Chocrón is introduced in Chapter Two, which also serves to present a case of a lesser-known author whose work is made more visible through the 'intervention' of a translator. Chapter Three discusses instances of interventions when translating Chocrón's novella, the most noticeable being the translation into English of the Spanish gender-marked pronouns that serve as chapter titles. Several translational interventions reflect the femininities and masculinities shown in the Spanish text. Chapter Three is followed by the translation into English of Chocrón's novella whose title in English is *Personal Pronouns*. Finally, the Addendum contains an interview conducted with Chocrón in August 2011 in which the author discusses his writings and the novella cited here.

KEYWORDS: gender, femininities, intervention, masculinities, literary translation

Completion of Thesis

Place: Binghamton University, New York, U.S.A.

Year: 2012

Supervisors: Dr Carrol Coates, Dr Marilyn Gaddis-Rose, Dr Joshua Price, Dr Salvador Fajardo