

Abstract

This thesis explores the subject of transfer in the same medium and same language using *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë (1847) as a case study. Three adaptations, written by three British authors, inspired by the original text are examined as the aim of my thesis is to answer the following: in what way are the adaptations similar to the original, what were the motives that led to their writing and what is their general attitude towards *Jane Eyre*. The adaptations in question are *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier (1938), *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys (1966) and *The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde (2001).

The first chapter is the literature review and it presents the different theories I employ in my analyses. Based on Even-Zohar's polysystem theory (Even-Zohar, 1990) I have placed *Jane Eyre* in the English literary system and explained how it became a major source for adaptations, to this day. I have also presented theories from the field of translation by Jakobson (1989 [1959]), Popović (1975), Steiner (1998 [1975]), and Mailloux (1995). Theories not from the field of translation by Genette (1987) and Hutcheon (2006) are also implemented. Each of the following chapters is devoted to a single work and they are chronologically ordered. Every adaptation is compared to the original from several angles. First I have compared the storyline and characters. In addition, each adaptation is analyzed in light of the genre it was written in. In case a shift in genre has occurred, I have tried to show how that change has contributed to the interpretation of the original work or how it expresses a critical stand towards it. In case a shift in genre did not occur, I have tried to find out whether writing in the

same genre has contributed in any way to the interpretation of the original work by the adaptation. Whether a shift in genre occurred or not, I have tried to show that each adaptation conveys a specific message and ideology that are not necessarily in line with the messages of the original work. Finally, I have examined whether the attitude of each adaptation towards the original is affirmative or controversial, using Popovič's terms.

The final chapter of the thesis, which summarizes the findings of my work and presents its conclusions, shows that transfer is a process through which an adaptation can respond to a canonized work and comment on it. However, adaptations do not necessarily speak out against the original work, and in some cases they reaffirm and strengthen the insights and values of the source.