

## **Intralingual Translation: from Old French into modern French. Through the Text and beyond**

ISF Research Project led by Dr. Hilla Karas and Prof. Hava Bat-Zeev Shyldkrot

This research aims to develop a model of the process in which intralingual diachronic translations start to be considered as “translation”. Although translations have been carried out since antiquity, it is only recently that the definition of translation has become a major issue in translation studies. While other forms of closely related diachronic text transfer, such as lexical and syntactic modernizing, summarizing and using gloss, serve a similar purpose without being viewed as translations, but rather as occurrences of D’hulst’s “assumed transfer”, it is through the very use of the term “translation”, among other factors, that translation can be set apart. The “translation” label is important for two reasons: (1) it can clearly trace the limits of the phenomenon of translation in a given culture; (2) it reflects and influences views of linguistic continuity and change. Those views have also been partly expressed by Toury’s “assumed translation”, relying on cultural perception of the translation category, influencing concepts of national identity and their political consequences.

The French language offers a particularly great number of translations from Old French into newer forms of this language, mainly modern French, which will serve as the research’s corpus. Texts in Old French have undergone various kinds of transmutations, involving either a linguistic, literary or cultural shift, or any combination thereof. Consequently, studies in translation and Old French language are most essential for this investigation. The analysis will look at literary texts, since the types of considerations involved in their translation and analysis reflect the different systems concerned.

Based on Toury’s “assumed translation” and on Sakai’s “regime of translation”, it will be suggested that for an intralingual diachronic translation to occur and be considered as such, speakers have to switch their view of the older linguistic phase: rather than treating it as an integral part of the same language, they need to regard it as a separate component of one evolving entity. It is precisely this moment of conceptual turn in the history of the French language and literature, that the suggested study seeks to document, describe and analyze, in order to generalize on similar situations in which intralingual intertemporal translations start to be accepted by scholars and general public alike.

In order to record the data and factors of this historical moment, we will explore selected documents, including texts, peritexts and epitexts, from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. To examine the factors at work in this set of circumstances, we will have to assess not only the source and target texts, but also their genres, their systemic position, commercial, social, professional, personal and scientific facts, and their reception by readers of various groups. Documents referring directly to the question of linguistic continuity between modern French and Old French, and the intelligibility of the latter *état de langue*, will be analyzed as well. We shall explore the motivation for the production of the intralingual translations with the quantity and frequency we encounter, through the study of epitextual elements. The results of the study will appear in a number of publications and the final conclusion will be developed in a book.

Applying the concept of ‘assumed translation’ to intralingual diachronic translation through a study of Old French texts constitutes the originality of this research.