

Subtitling Humor - The Analysis of Selected Translation Techniques in Subtitling Elements Containing Humor

Magdalena Panek

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Master's Thesis from the year 2009 in the subject English - Pedagogy, Didactics, Literature Studies, grade: 1, Wroclaw University of Technology (Institute of English Studies), language: English, abstract: With the development and growing popularity of new technologies, audiovisual translation is becoming of paramount importance in recent translation studies. One of the most intricate forms of translation is subtitling because of its semiotic composition and limitations. In addition, different kinds of movies can be found in the media, for example comedies, that also involve particularly intricate aspects. One of them is humor, which requires extra attention. This multifarious phenomenon entails handling language- and culture-specific elements. While watching a subtitled foreign comedy, we do not realize what a complex process the translator has carried out. This paper will study the idea of how humor is best rendered in subtitles and evaluate selected techniques used in translating humorous excerpts of movies. The theoretical part of this paper comprised of two chapters will thoroughly study audiovisual translation, especially subtitling, Relevance Theory and humor with special focus on its translation. The practical part, which is the third chapter, will deal with translation techniques that I have selected from recent studies and, which is new in the field of translation study, will asses their application specifically in subtitling humor. To clarify, the chapter will exemplify and discuss the techniques a translator can use when translating humor. Crucial as the techniques are, I will look into their use within particular contexts. Their application will be illustrated by authentic excerpts taken from the recently produced box-office comedies Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason, Love Actually and Scary Movie 3. Using Relevance Theory as a reference point, the final intended effect of humor will be the focus of this study. In other words, I will attempt to scrutini



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