



Why Translation Studies Matters with Daniel Gile and Gyde Hansen (Amsterdam and Philadelpia 2010). Forthcoming articles are on self-censorship in the Communist period and healthcare interpreting.

Sergei Pshenitsyn

Herzen Pedagogical University (St. Petersburg) trn.sergei@gmail.com

Cultural Approaches in Russian Translation Studies

Focusing on cultural aspects of translation and interpreting was a major turning point in the development of modern Translation Studies. This paper proposes to analyze some approaches to cultural aspects of translation in Russia in order to reveal an interesting interplay of specific characteristic features of the Russian school of Translation Studies and its ideological context and highlight its contribution to translation research.

This presentation will outline a peculiar paradox: investigating the role of culture in translation and interpreting was marginalized in the Russian school of Translation Studies proper but flourished and produced an important and highly original body of research in other philological disciplines. Then the paper will briefly describe the unique approaches and the contribution of Russian/Soviet cultural linguistics and text linguistics to understanding the role of culture in translation (still underappreciated by the present day Translation Studies in Russia) and proceed to analyze the context and some of the specific dogmas of the Russian national school of Translation Studies that prevented it from fully integrating cultural approaches to translation. In some more detail the paper will discuss the two-tier 'cultural lacuna' approach, which was developed by the Russian researchers Yuri A. Sorokin and Irina Yu. Markovina, and its possible application in translation research.

Bionote

My main research interests lie in the area of cultural and communicative aspects of translation and interpreting and American/Russian cross-cultural studies. I combine teaching at Herzen Pedagogical University with work as a translator and conference interpreter. This academic year I teach a course Reflection as a Basis for Professional Work of Translators and Interpreters. Most of my publications are in Russian. My publications in English include: Political Correctness in Translation: Cultural and Linguistic Problems // Thanomnuan O'Charoen and Tongtip Poonlarp (Eds.), Translation and Interpretation in a Multilingual Context, pp. 242-255. – Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Printing House, 2011. Cultural Models and Meaning of a Translated Work // Thelen M. and B. Lewandowska-Tomasczyk (Eds.), Translation and Meaning, Part 5, pp. 357-364. – Maastricht School of Translation and Interpreting, Hogeschool Maastricht, 2000. More information could be found on my homepage at the Herzen Pedagogical University website: http://www.herzen.spb.ru/main/structure/fukultets/foreign/1382523026/1382528099/1382552018/1382640837/1382643070/