

**Postcolonial literature as/in translation:
Polish translations of Salman Rushdie's
*The Satanic Verses***

**Dr Marta Mamet-Michalkiewicz
University of Silesia in Katowice**

The Satanic Verses in Polish translations

- Salman Rushdie *The Satanic Verses*, London: Vintage Books, 1988
- *Szatańskie wersety*, 1992 (The translator and the publisher of the first Polish edition is anonymous)
- Jerzy Kozłowski, tr., *Szatańskie wersety*, Poznań: Dom Wydawniczy Rebis, 2013.

Names

- Saladin Chamcha
 - Saladyń Czamcza
 - Saladyń Ćamća
- Rekha Merchant
 - Rekha Merchant
 - Rekha Merchant
- Spoono
 - Spoono
 - Cmokierek

Foreign words

- you namaqool, you piece of pig excrement, my love
 - *ty namaqool*, ty kawałku świńskiego łajna, mój ty ukochany
 - ty namakulu jeden, ty kawałku świńskiego gówna, ukochany mój
- scare the coons with their own ooga booga
 - przerazić czarnuchów wykorzystując ich własne czary mary
 - nastraszyć czarnuchów ich własnymi uga buga

Puns

- Moaner Lisa
 - jęczydusza
 - Mumia Liza
- homosap
 - homo sapiens
 - homocepiens
- Fancy a Donald's T-shirts
 - Ubrani w koszulki z Kaczorem Donaldem
 - Fancy a Donald? (footnote added)

Slang

- I've had my bloody chips
 - Miąłem już swoją ostatnią szansę
 - No to mam przesrane
- wogs
 - kolorowi
 - brudasy
- lower thumb
- wzdłuż jego kciuka
 - wzdłuż owego kciuka na dole

Songs

- Proper London, capital of Vilayet, winked, blinked, nodded in the night.
 - ▣ Ten właśnie Londyn, stolica Wilajatu, mrugał światłami w ciemności nocy.
 - ▣ Londyn właściwy, stolica Wilajetu świeci i migocze nocą.

- Sympathy for the Devil: a new lease of life for an old tune
 - ▣ Sympatia dla Diabła: nowe życie dla starej śpiewki
 - ▣ Sympathy for the Devil: ten stary kawałek przeżywał drugą młodość

Writing as a battle

And I hope all of us share the view that we can't share the language in the way the British did; that it needs remaking for our own purposes. Those of us who use English do so in spite of our ambiguity towards it, or perhaps because of that perhaps we can find in this linguistic struggle a reflection of other struggles taking place in the real world, struggles between the cultures within ourselves and the influences at work upon our societies. To conquer English may be to complete the process of making ourselves free.

Salman Rushdie, *Imaginary Homelands*

Chutnification of culture

- a process of mixing of cultural elements
- a process of mixing and combining vegetables and fruit during preparing Indian chutney



‘Flavoring’ the language

- **A writer as a chef**: the master of foreignization and exotization
- unfamiliar words, or phrases (Hindi, Arabic or Urdu) → **flavoring**
- fusion cuisine
- of a translation zone as = a space that does not belong to any one nation
- a zone that connects the “l” and “n” of transLation and transNation



Postcolonial literature as metaphor of translation

Harish Trivedi “Translating Culture vs. Cultural Translation“

“For, if there's one thing that Cultural Translation is not, it is the translation of culture. In fact, it spells, as I shall go on to argue, the very extinction and erasure of translation as we have always known and practiced it.

Intertextuality

- 1. Rejoice for what is lost is reborn
 - Wesel się, mówił list – albowiem to, co było i zginęło, odrodziło się na nowo
 - Raduj się ze mną – pisał – bo to, co tracimy, odradza się
- 2. Fallen through the transformations of clouds
 - Mieli styczność z przeobrażającymi się chmurami
 - Przebili się przez metamorfozy chmur
- 3. Somewhere in a brave new world beneath a yellow sun
 - Gdzieś tam w nowym wspaniałym świecie pod żółtym słońcem
 - Gdzieś w nowym wspaniałym świecie pod żółtym słońcem
- 4. Here I am in a grandmother's house. Her big eyes, hands, teeth.
 - Oto jestem w domu Babki. Jej wielkie oczy, ręce, zęby.
 - Jestem w chatce Babci. Ma wielkie oczy, wielkie ręce, wielkie zęby.

Intertextuality:

The Thousand and One Nights

- He is the genie of the lamp and his master is the Roc.
 - ▣ Jest dżinnem od lampy, a jego panem jest Ptak-Rok
 - ▣ Jest dżinnem z czarodziejskiej lampy, a jego panem jest Ruk.

- *The Arabian Nights*
 - ▣ *Tysiąc i jedna noc*
 - ▣ *Baśnie tysiąca i jednej nocy*

Salman Rushdie's *works* as post-colonial translation

- Tymoczko: „The culture or tradition of a post-colonial writer acts as a metatext which is rewritten – explicitly and implicitly, as both background and foreground – in the act of literary translation”
- Memory distorts our preception
- Post-colonial writing distorts facts about the native culture
- Still, the historical context is needed to establish the facts

Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* as post-colonial translation

- Rushdie „translates” the story of Aadam by „transplanting” in to the Indian culture
- Western story pattern applied to the Indian character
- Bhabha's use of Rushdie's phrase „we are translated men”

Works cited

- Ashcroft et ca., *The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Postcolonial Studies*.
- Stanford University Online Materials
- Edward Said *Orientalism*
- Bhabha *How Newness Enters The World*
- Maria Tymoczko *Post-colonial writing and literary translation*
- Harish Trivedi *Translating Culture vs. Cultural Translation*

THANK YOU

