

FOREWORD

This volume is not only a tribute to a leading scholar in the Portuguese academic world, João Ferreira Duarte, but also a significant map of a major area of studies, which has asserted its relevance especially in the last decades: Translation Studies. In Portugal, but also in the wider international arena, João Ferreira Duarte and Translation Studies have always been closely related. His contribution to the introduction and establishment of this field of research in Portugal, the inspiring role he has played for a significant number of colleagues and younger scholars, the way he firmly put Portuguese Translation Studies on the map within the international context, and perhaps mostly his enthusiasm, all have been crucial to the development of Translation Studies as well as of Comparative Literature in Portugal and abroad.

João Ferreira Duarte has always taken as his point of departure that through translation we are able to gain a wider picture of processes of literary exchange (and therefore of literary phenomena), leaving behind nationalistic criteria as the major source of literary achievement. He has always considered that Portugal and its position in a semi-periphery have specific characteristics, and that by studying them it is also the international arena that is illuminated.

João Ferreira Duarte has also explored the connections between Translation Studies and Postcolonial Studies. Again, the Portuguese case is decisive for a fuller comprehension of the postcolonial dimension. In fact, Portugal's historic and therefore strategic position in the present world cannot be disconnected from that of other such countries that likewise have to deal with a colonial past as well as with the latter's historical legacy for the present. This means that the role of mediator between different cultures that span from Europe to Africa, South-America, or Asia, as is the case of the Portuguese language and literature, has to be understood as a form of cultural (but also literal) translation. João Ferreira Duarte has underlined these connections, and he has always insisted that scholarship in Literary Studies should pay particular attention to them.

This volume confirms the ideas that I have tried to emphasize just now. By bringing together a significant number of scholars in Translation Studies who, in Portugal or elsewhere (United Kingdom, Angola), have

regularly collaborated with João Ferreira Duarte, this book maps the guidelines and the results of what has been written on translation from a descriptive, non-normative perspective. The metaphor of the centre-periphery is a major way of representing Translation Studies in Portugal—if one understands that the periphery itself is interrogated, and therefore helps to redesign what might otherwise be considered as a stable centre. Translation Studies scholars from several major universities are represented here, clearly manifesting the major role João Ferreira Duarte has played, and his ability to gather students and colleagues in this area of studies. It is not everybody that is capable of such an endeavour. Reading this volume, and perusing João Ferreira Duarte's extensive bibliography, we come to understand the range of topics that he addressed and made available for all of us in the Portuguese academia, how he passed on his enthusiasm for Translation Studies to his students (some of whom are responsible for the present volume), and his role in affirming Portugal's specific contribution to this area of studies, from an international perspective. His has always been a cosmopolitan view.

I would like to end this foreword by simply recollecting João Ferreira Duarte's role in the Centre for Comparative Studies at the University of Lisbon. In 1997 João Ferreira Duarte and I started thinking about the possibility of founding a Research Centre, considering that a truly interdepartmental orientation was fully justified, and that the bringing together of different area studies, at that time separated in institutional terms, might play a crucial role in the advanced education in Comparative Studies in Portugal. We were right, of course. But the project would never have come to light if it were not for João Ferreira Duarte's enthusiasm and hard work. For a significant number of years, he was a very active and thorough Vice-Director of the Centre, always ready to give his full support to all the projects that might further Comparative Studies in Portugal. He has always been eager to open up new areas of studies, among which, as I mentioned earlier, the relations between Translation and Postcolonial Studies. His ability to recognize the quality of work done by others, be they colleagues or students, has definitely made a difference within the Portuguese academia, and it has contributed significantly to fostering the interest for Translation Studies in Portugal. João Ferreira Duarte himself has contributed with important essays about the problems posed by translation, whether on the theoretical questions involved, or case studies with significant implications, including some cases in *non-translation*, and in which he has always shown a keen awareness of the ideological dimensions of a literary problem.

The period in which he accepted to be Vice-Director of the Centre for Comparative Studies has strengthened our mutual appreciation, and has shown to me how special it is to find a colleague with whom scientific relations may in fact help to promote personal appreciation and friendship. I have always found in João Ferreira Duarte an open and generous mind, ready to do everything he could to help and to strengthen the position of the Centre for Comparative Studies, and of Comparative Studies at large, in Portugal. Even after his retirement, João Ferreira Duarte continues to be a reference in both the Centre and in Translation Studies. It is especially rewarding to experience his intellectual availability and the generosity with which he continues to offer his presence and work to all members of the Centre for Comparative Studies.

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