

Translations from Turkish in Poland, 1990-2010
a study by the Next Page Foundation

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November 2010

Next Page Foundation series of studies on translation flows

in partnership with the "Translating in the Mediterranean" project of Transeuropéennes and
the Anna Lindh Foundation

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I

Turkish literature is poorly represented on Polish publishing market. Until year 1990 only approximately 30 titles were released. Those were both translations of modern and older literature. Texts were translated directly from Turkish and indirectly with the help of a "third language", English or Russian and included prose, poetry and theatre plays. Percentage-wise, the majority of releases were Nazim Hikmet's works – an effect of political situation and political environment in Poland before 1989. In 1976, anthology of Turkish short stories was published (*Rajski statek: antologia opowiadań tureckich*) which was and still is today a major contribution in the process of bringing Turkish literature closer to Polish reader. A significant number of translations (prose – short stories and poetry alike) were published in *Przegląd Orientalistyczny* (Oriental Studies Review). Nevertheless, Turkish literature did not occupy a prominent place on Polish publishing market. This situation however, radically changed after awarding Nobel Prize in literature to Orhan Pamuk in 2006. In the very same year *Wydawnictwo Literackie* released first novel of Pamuk translated into Polish: *Śnieg* ("Kar"; "Snow"). It can be justifiably said that interest, both in Turkish literature and literary translations from Turkish is on the rise.

II

28,128 titles were published in Poland during year 2009, including: 10,427 scientific publications, 1,713 university textbooks, 1,375 professional publications, 1,141 primary and high schools textbooks, 7,588 popular publications, 4,185 literary works for adults and 1,699 for children and young persons¹. Therefore, number of published titles in 2009 is significantly higher than in year 2004. During that year, 22,475² titles were released, including 7,699 scientific publications, 1,630 university textbooks, 1,239 professional publications, 1,280 primary and high schools textbooks, 5,654 popular publications, 3,654 literary works for adults and 319 for children and young persons. This is represented in statistic tables maintained by Polish National Library.

1998	16 597
1999	19 480
2000	20 298
2001	19 760
2002	19 371
2003	20 780

¹ http://www.biblioteka-analiz.pl/biblioteka-analiz/wydanie_261/

² *Ruch Wydawniczy w Liczbach. L.: 2004*, Warszawa 2005

2004	22 475
2005	19 999
2006	24 640
2007	25 226
2008	28 248
2009	28 128

Table according to National Library

Concerning translations of Turkish literature, in 2009, 11 new titles were released. Year before, in 2008, only six new books were published.

III

During last twenty years, attention of readers and translators alike, was focusing on translation of modern Turkish literature. Such works are translated both directly from Turkish and from other foreign language of the original, or – indirectly – through third language, English. Comparing to earlier years, number of translations is increasing. From 2006 until today, eight Orhan Pamuk's novels were translated, whereas *Wydawnictwo Literackie* (a publishing house) has bought publishing rights to all Pamuk's novels in Poland. Similar course of action happened with other noted, modern Turkish author, Elif Şafak. With all probability, in the coming years, this expanding trend will be maintained.

Old literature (before proclamation of Turkish Republic)

Regarding authors writing in pre-Republic period, mainly translations of Yunus Emre were published in Poland after year 1990. In 2009, Polish translation of Şeyyad Hamza's *Yusuf ve Zeliha* was released.

1. Yunus Emre: *Płone, idę...* (Translated by: Jan Ciopiński i Antoni Sarkady), Klub Przyjaciół Turcji, Kraków 1991.
2. Yunus Emre: *Z serca do serca*, (Translated from old Turkish by: Małgorzata Łabęcka-Koecherowa i Andrzej Ananicz), Oficyna Wydawniczo-Reklamowa Format, Warszawa 2002.
3. Yunus Emre: *Płone, idę...: Hymny* (Przeł. Antoni Sarkady), Biblioteka Telgte Wydawnictwo, Poznań 2002.
4. Yunus Emre: *Księga dobrych rad = Risāletü' n-nushiyye* (Translation and edition. Jan Ciopiński), Dialog, Warszawa 2005.

5. Şeyyad Hamza: *Jusuf i Zeliha* (Translated from old Turkish by Małgorzata Łabęcka-Koecherowa ; introduction by Tadeusz Majda ; editing and footnotes: Agnieszka Aysen Kaim ; additional edition of translated text: Tadeusz Majda, Agnieszka Aysen Kaim, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa 2009.

Poetry

Turkish poetry does not enjoy interest of translators. During last twenty years, only one compilation was published in Poland.

1. *İstanbul şiirleri: Wiersze stambulskie* (Translated by: Lucyna Antonowicz – Bauer, Compilation. Lucyna Antonowicz Bauer, Introduction by Öztürk Emiroğlu), Sasem Polska, Warszawa 2003.

Naturally, translators do translate poetry for individual use, also, significant number of translations was published in *Przegląd Orientalistyczny*.

Modern Literature – prose

Twenty four titles were published between 1990 and 2010. Small number of further new releases is currently being prepared for publication in year 2011. In nearest future, *Wydawnictwo Literackie* will translate and publish all works by Orhan Pamuk and Elif Şafak. Following titles were released in Poland between 1990 and 2010:

1. Stella **Aciman**, *Cień minionych lat (Bir Masaldı Geçen Yıllar)*, translated by: Anna Sobczak, Wyd. Układanka, Brwinów 2009
2. Halide Edip **Adivar**, *Rabia (The Clown and his Daughter)*, translated from primary English source: Anna Kłosiewicz, Prószyński i s-ka, Warszawa 2009
3. Reha **Çamuroğlu**, *Zlecenie (Bir Anlık Gecikme)*, translated by: Anna Sobczak, Wyd. Układanka, Brwinów 2008
4. Hülya **Kalkan**, *Chciałam być tylko wolna (Ich wollte nur frei sein)*, translated from primary German source: Wojciech Szreniawski, Wyd. SDK, Warszawa 2009
5. Ayşe Kulin, *Ostatni pociąg do Stambułu (Last Train to Istanbul)*, translated by: Dorota Dziewońska, Wyd. Albatros Andrzej Kuryłowicz, Warszawa 2010
6. Barış **Müstecaplıoğlu**, *Braterstwo (Kardeş Kanı)*, translated by: Mikołaj Sobczak, Wyd. Układanka, Brwinów 2008
7. Ayşe Önal, *Honor albo śmierć. Niewierne będą ginąć*, translated by: z ang. Żuławik Jacek, Wyd. Świat Książki, Warszawa 2009
8. Emine Sevgi **Özdamar**, *Most nad Złotym Rogiem (Die Brücke vom Goldenen Horn)*, translated from primary German source: Maria Przybyłowska, Wydawnictwo Pogranicze, Suwałki 2007

9. Serdar **Özkan**, *Zaginiona Róża (Kayıp Gül, The Missing Rose)*, translated from primary English source: Anna Pajek, Świat Książki, Warszawa 2009
10. Orhan **Pamuk**, *Biały zamek (Beyaz Kale)*, translated by: Anna Akbike Sulimowicz, Wyd. Literackie, Kraków 2009
11. Orhan **Pamuk**, *Cevdet Bej i synowie (Cevdet bey ve Oğulları)*, translated by: Anna Polat, Wyd. Literackie, Kraków 2010
12. Orhan **Pamuk**, *Dom ciszy (Sessiz Ev)*, translated by: Anna Akbike Sulimowicz, Wyd. Literackie, Kraków 2009
13. Orhan **Pamuk**, *Muzeum niewinności (Masumiyet Müzesi)*, translated by: Anna Akbike Sulimowicz, Wyd. Literackie, Kraków 2010
14. Orhan **Pamuk**, *Nazywam się Czerwień (Benim Adım Kırmızı)*, translated by: Danuta Chmielowska, Wyd. Literackie, Kraków 2007
15. Orhan **Pamuk**, *Nowe życie (Yeni Hayat)*, translated by: Anna Polat, Wyd. Literackie, Kraków 2008
16. Orhan **Pamuk**, *Stambuł. Wspomnienia i miasto (İstanbul.Hatıralar ve Şehir)*, translated by: Anna Polat, Wyd. Literackie, Kraków 2008
17. Orhan **Pamuk**, *Śnieg (Kar)*, translated by: Anna Polat, Wyd. Literackie, Kraków 2006
18. Abasiyanik, Sait Faik, *Tureckie opowieści morskie*, translated by: Lucyna Antonowicz-Bauer), Czas, Wilno 2004
19. Kâmuran **Solmaz**, *Kiraze. Droga do sułtańskiego haremu (Kirâze)*, translated by: Danuta Chmielowska, Dialog 2009
20. Mehmet Murat **Sömer**, *Zabójstwa proroków (Peygamber Cinayetleri)*, translated by: Anna Polat, Prószyński i s-ka, Warszawa 2009
21. Mehmet Murat **Sömer**, *Zabójstwo Buziaczka (Buse Cinayeti)*, translated by: Anna Polat, Prószyński i s-ka, Warszawa 2008
22. Elif **Şafak**, *Bękart ze Stambułu (The Bastard of Istanbul)*, translated from primary English source: Michał Kłobukowski, Wyd. Literackie, Kraków 2010
23. Elif **Şafak**, *Pchli Pałac (Bit Palas)*, translated by: Anna Akbike Sulimowicz, Wyd. Literackie, Kraków 2009
24. Feridun **Zaimoğlu**, *Leyla (Leyla)*, translated from primary German source Elżbieta Kalinowska, Wyd. Czarne, Wołowiec 2008

Still, number of translations from Turkish into Polish is very small.

Journals

A significant number of translations, both Turkish short stories and poetry were published in *Przegląd Orientalistyczny*. All titles are listed in Dorota Smętek's work: *A Bibliography of Turcic Studies In Przegląd Orientalistyczny 1948-2008*, Poznań 2009. This study can be found in the internet.

Translators personae

Major contemporary translators of Turkish literature are connected to Warsaw University: M. Łabędzka-Koecherowa, S. Płaskowicka-Rymkiewicz, T. Majda, D. Chmielowska, L. Antonowicz-Bauer, Anna Sulimowicz and Anna Polat. Recently, most of new titles have been translated by Anna Sulimowicz. Anna and Mikołaj Sobczak have both graduated from Warsaw University, they are translating and releasing books in their own publishing house *Układanka*. Agnieszka Aysen Kaim is another graduate of Warsaw University, currently working at University of Łódź. She is also translating literature from Polish into Turkish. Translators: Jan Ciopiński, Antoni Sarkady, Grażyna Zając are connected to Jagiellonian University in Cracow. Currently, employees of Jagiellonian University Turkish Language Chair are working on anthology of Turkish short stories.

Translations from Turkish into Polish and Polish into Turkish may be financed from Turkish TEDA scheme. TEDA has supported publication of *Śnieg* ("Kar", "Snow") translated by Anna Polat. Another financing opportunity exists through *Instytut Książki* ("Books Institute").

Third language translations

Because of small number of literary translations from Turkish, translators from other languages opt for translating books of Turkish authors from their languages, mostly English. This used to be a more common practice, today this should be abandoned in favour of direct translations from Turkish.

Following titles were translated from third languages:

Ayşe Kulin, *Ostatni pociąg do Stambułu (Last Train to Istanbul)*, translated from English by: Dorota Dziewońska, Wyd. Albatros Andrzej Kuryłowicz, Warszawa 2010

Serdar Özkan, *Zaginiona Róża (Kayıp Gül, The Missing Rose)*, translated from English by: Anna Pajek, Świat Książki, Warszawa 2009

Translations from Polish into Turkish

Polish literature is translated into Turkish, however, in limited numbers due to small number of specialists dealing with this type of translations. Poetry and prose is translated by Neşe Taluy Yüce and Osman Firat Baş. First Polish-Turkish Congress of Translators and Literature Specialists has taken place in 2006. A list of titles which should be translated into Turkish nearest future was created.

Bibliography

Dorota Smętek *A Bibliography of Turkic Studies In Przegląd Orientalistyczny 1948-2008*,
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