

TOWARDS A GLOBAL LITERATURE

The extraordinary progress in communications and technology that characterized the 20th century and made possible the process now known as globalization has had, like it or not, a profound effect on the world of literature, creating a new international context which has to a large extent replaced national cultures as the ultimate arbiter of literary taste. This situation has radically altered the role and importance of literary translation. While in the past both writer and publisher sought success first and foremost at national level, foreign language translations following only when a significant national consensus decreed an author worthy of the honour, it is now understood that any significant achievement, whether literary or merely commercial, will be international in nature. The writer is thus aware from the start of the need to prepare a translatable text that will appeal to an international audience while the translator finds himself involved in a large-scale international project which frequently aims to publish and promote a work simultaneously in many countries and languages.

It will be the purpose of this research project to examine these developments, specifically in Italy, but more generally in Europe and the world, considering all the varied consequences and repercussions. The initiative will bring together the many IULM scholars in the Facoltà di Interpretariato, traduzione e studi linguistici e culturali who work in the field of translation, pooling their varied knowledge in such a way as to produce a general overview and analysis of the situation supported by a sufficient number of detailed individual studies.

Subject areas:

1. The increasing integration of the national and international literary scenes.
2. Translation and publication of foreign writers in Italy.
3. Translation of Italian writers abroad.
4. Italian writers who are not translated or rarely.
5. Italian translators.
6. The effect of translations on Italian language and fiction from 1945 onwards.
7. Counter tendencies: poetry and minority language writing.
8. Literary journalism in Italy.
9. International literary prizes.