

EXTRAORDINARY VOYAGES OF THE TRANSLATOR

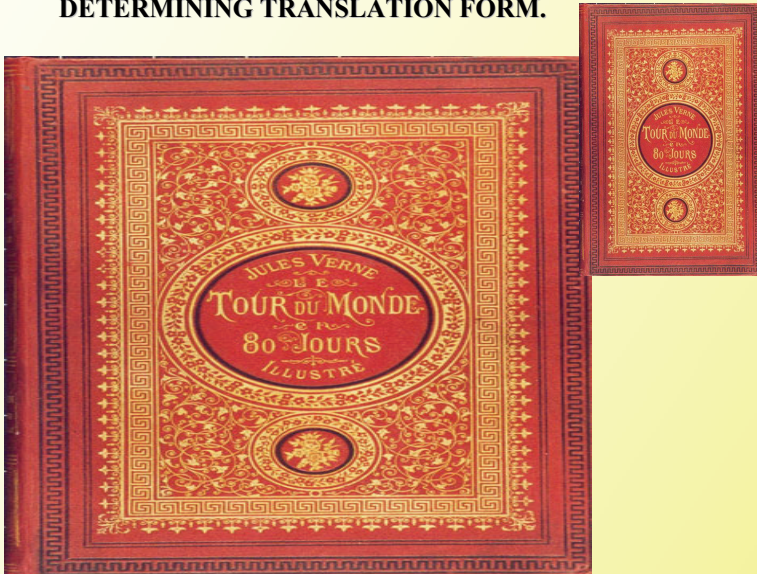
KIERAN O'DRISCOLL

SALIS, DCU.

kieran.odriscoll3@mail.dcu.ie

I. Introduction

- To study retranslations of *Le Tour du Monde en Quatre-Vingts Jours* (1873);
- To identify the translators/study their lives
- How do the translations differ (style, content)
- How do we explain the different types of translation approach (multiple influences)?
- EACH INDIVIDUAL TRANSLATOR HAS UNIQUELY RE-IMAGINED VERNE'S CLASSIC STORY; THE FLESH-AND-BLOOD TRANSLATOR IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ORIGINAL STORY IN DETERMINING TRANSLATION FORM.



II. Research Methods

- Analysis of each translation focuses on certain selected chapters (random and motivated selection)
- Compare sentences in original with their translations and describe the shifts
- Suggest the underlying causes, using the evidence of the translator's life story and writings, and other social contextual factors, as well as the evidence of the translation itself
- Propose an overall concept of translation for each English text.

III. Selected Findings

- Anonymous (1879)
- Grossly inaccurate: why?
- Liberal norms of accuracy in U.K. at that time; low status of translation
- Low status of Verne as 'popular' and 'children's' writer, considered to appeal to readers of lower social status and less education who were regarded as not requiring 'canonised' literature
- Incompetent translator
- This translation has been incorrectly attributed to Trinity College Dublin graduate and UK clergyman, Frederick Malleon, who was actually a highly accurate Victorian translator of other Verne novels (e.g. *A Journey into the Interior of the Earth*, 1877) but who did NOT translate ATWED

V. Conclusions

- Multiple factors influence translation decisions
- The individual translator is the primary influence on her translation's form
- Verne's increased literary stature had led to more accurate translations in recent decades
- Retranslation leads to gain and diversity for original.

IV. Homosexual Innuendo

- Butcher (1995) argues that a sexual and often specifically gay subtext is present in novel
- This has influenced some of his translation choices
- 'Bisexuality certainly occurs in Verne ... a homosexual streak permeated his character' (Butcher 2006)