

# History of Literary Translation from Tatar Language to Russian in the XX Century<sup>1</sup>

Zhanbolat M. Zhetibay<sup>2</sup>, Radif R. Zamaletdinov<sup>2</sup>, Gulnara F. Zamaletdinova<sup>2</sup>, & Fanuza H. Gabdrakhmanova<sup>3</sup>

## Abstract

As you know, no literature exists without the mutual enrichment of translated literature. And thanks to this we have a wonderful opportunity to get acquainted with the work of not only Russian, but also foreign writers. As a result, translated literature is read in every region. According to many researchers, it was in the twentieth century that the subject of translation studies as a science was formed. Such formation gave a huge impetus to the growth of translated works and improvement of translation skills. It cannot be said that Tatar literature was actively translated into Russian. But even if translated, it is not always far successful. Before the 1917 revolution, there were practically no translations into Russian. Translations of Tatar literature into Russian took a systematic character only from the 30s. We came to the conclusion that in the twentieth century, Tatar literature experienced a kind of Renaissance, which affected not only its literature, but also in translation activities. Translation science as a science was not very planned in nature - this was mainly due to the influence of social factors. The development of the translation of literary prose in Tatarstan in the 20th century was not uniform, the pace of development was not very intensive, but despite this, the translators were able to achieve their goals - to familiarize Russian readers with Tatar literature, raise Tatar literature to the world level and improve the quality of translation.

**Keywords:** Translation Studies; Literary Translation; Tatar Language; Tatar Literature.

## 1. Introduction

Translation studies in Tatarstan in the twentieth century were conditionally divided into several periods. It depended on the events of that time. But even this did not hinder the translation of more than 156 writers from the Tatar language into Russian.

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<sup>2</sup> Kazan Federal University, Kazan, Russia.

<sup>3</sup> Kazan Federal University, Kazan, Russia; [fanuza\\_mayak@list.ru](mailto:fanuza_mayak@list.ru)

This century, according to K. Minnibaev, is the Golden Age of translation studies in Tatarstan. If Tatar literature was enriched before with translations of Eastern literature (Persian, Arabic, Turkish), then from the end of the 19th century it began to be replaced by translations of European and, especially, Russian literature. It also comes down to the fact that the Tatar people have long been associated with the Russian people. This connection affected not only the rate of development of the translation, but also the number of translated texts. In the twentieth century, Tatar literature itself experienced a peculiar Renaissance era, the landmarks of which were both Russian and European literature, as Tatar writers actively mastered new genres of the “European” type. According to G. Ibragimov: “Acquaintance with Tatar history alone, without knowledge of universal history, will be a very one-sided approach. The same can be said about ignorance of the periods and currents of universal literature” (Minnibaev, 2004; Sulistyaningsih et al., 2019). Such an accelerated way of introducing Tatar literature to world literature passed through translation activities. Translation, in this case, helped to raise native literature to the world level.

In studying the history of literary translation from Tatar into Russian, we were based on the works of Alekseeva (2008), Bayramova (2001) Bahreman( 2015), Barkhudarov and Retsker (2003), V.N. Komisarova (Komissarov, 2004), K.S. Minnibaeva (Minnibaev, 2004), Bolgarova (2018), Salakhova and Sibgaeva, (2018), Mugtasimova (2016), Fazlieva et al. (2018), Khaybullina et al. (2018) and others.

The scientific novelty of this study lies in the fact that it contributes to the development of Tatar translation studies, contributes to the further study of the problems of translating Tatar works into Russian.

The practical value of the work lies in the fact that its results can be used in courses on the theory and practice of translation, as well as in lectures on the features of the translation of fiction from Tatar into Russian.

## **2. Methods**

In solving the above problems, we used the following methods: descriptive, analysis of the translation, comparing the text of the original with the translated.

## **3. Results and Discussion**

We came to the conclusion that in the twentieth century, Tatar literature experienced a kind of Renaissance, which affected not only its literature, but also in translation activities. But the literature of this period cannot be strictly differentiated between national and translated, as the latter was part of the first. Depending on the events of that time, literature was conditionally divided into periods. The revolution, the formation of the TASSR, the formation of the USSR, war, repression, the post-

war years, the period of the "thaw", perestroika - all this influenced the development of not only literature, but also the development of translation. So the translation activity, depending on the intensity of the translation of works, was decided to be divided into stages. Conditionally, we can distinguish the following:

- 1) 1900-1917 (pre-revolutionary period);
- 2) 20-30 years (pre-war time);
- 3) 40-50 years (war time);
- 4) 60-90 years (post-war time);
- 5) 90-present time.

It cannot be said that Tatar literature was actively translated into Russian. But even if translated, it is not always far successful.

Before the revolution of 1917, Tatar literature was hardly translated into Russian. The exception is the book of N.I. Ashmarina "Essay on the literary activity of Kazan Tatars-Mohammedan for 1888-1895."

Only in 1914 were several poems by G. Tukaya in Russian translation. The first edition of the Tatar work in Russian is the poem "Broken Hope" ("Өзәлгән өмөт") translated by P. Radimova (1920, Kazan).

Translations of Tatar literature into Russian took a systematic character only from the 30s.

The methods of translating the works of Tatar writers into Russian could not but reflect the trends that were inherent in the entire translation practice of those years - literalism and formalism. In the 1920s, during the period of the World Literature Publishing House, searches were made for realistic methods of translation. But the 30s in the history of literary translation of the USSR were marked by the rejection of the progressive traditions developed in the 19th century by the best Russian writers, translators and critics, starting with Pushkin and Belinsky. In the 30s, translation was considered not as a form of art, but as an exact science, hence the requirements for fidelity to the letter of the original, the observance of the formal elements of the work are put forward. Another reason for the low quality of translations was the lack of qualified professional translators who speak national languages and have the necessary knowledge of the history of culture and literature of the people from whose language the translation was made. But, despite such significant shortcomings in the practice of translation and the lack of development of the principles of realistic translation, which would correctly reflect the spirit, structure of the work in the unity of its content and form, the appearance in Russian of works of Tatar literature signified a new step in rapprochement and understanding between Russian and Tatar peoples.

In the 30s, when the acquaintance of Russian readers with Tatar literature was just beginning, many issues of transmitting national identity were unclear; neither methodology nor theoretical premises were developed. As a result of this, in

the first translations of the works of Tatar literature into Russian, we come up with different approaches to solving the problem: tracing the original, translating liberties.

All these shortcomings were fully reflected in the 1931 collection, in which translations of four short stories of the prominent Tatar Soviet writer Sh. Kamala - “In search of happiness”, “Once upon a time”, etc.

We stopped in detail on translations of the 1930s because in these years the intensive development of Tatar literature by Russian literary science and the readership began. The most significant works of Tatar literature of the pre-revolutionary and Soviet period were translated into Russian. The dominance in the 1930s in the practice of literary translation of the formalistic, literary method prevented the creative development of the original. A theory of realistic translation has also not been developed. Translations related to the 30s can be called fact-finding. Although the translations suffer from many shortcomings, however, they played a role in familiarizing Russian readers with the new literature.

Since 1931, Russian translations of Tatar literature are published annually:

Table 1. *Release of Literary Translation (1931–1960)*

| Year | Number of produced books | Year      | Number of produced books |
|------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1931 | 2                        | 1947      | 23                       |
| 1933 | 2                        | 1948-1950 | 30                       |
| 1934 | 5                        | 1951      | 12                       |
| 1935 | 7                        | 1952      | 20                       |
| 1938 | 2                        | 1953      | 11                       |
| 1939 | 3                        | 1954      | 17                       |
| 1940 | 9                        | 1955      | 19                       |
| 1942 | 1                        | 1956      | 20                       |
| 1943 | 1                        | 1957      | 40                       |
| 1944 | 3                        | 1958      | 19                       |
| 1945 | 4                        | 1959      | 19                       |
| 1946 | 4                        | 1960      | 27                       |

From 1920 to 1960, 156 Tatar writers were printed in Russian (taking into account the fact that they were published in magazines, collections and almanacs). Works of G. Tukaya published in separate books 22 times, A. Absalyamova - 18, M. Gafuri - 16, A. Yerikeyeva 17, M. Amira - 14, M. Jalil - 13, K. Najmi - 13, A. Kutuya - 11, C. Hakima - 10, G. Bashirova - 10, A. Fayzi - 8, H. Taktasha - 7.

In the early 40s, in connection with the war, the output of translations from the Tatar language into Russian decreased.

In the 1950s, translations of three novels by A. came out. Absalyamova, novel A. Fayzie "Tukay", stories and stories of other writers.

The study of translations from Tatar into Russian convinces us that the 40-50s were characterized by a general increase in the level of translation culture, a departure from literal copying of the original, the desire to rethink it creatively. But national identity is increasingly reduced to the linguistic properties of the original. Hence the attempt to "decorate" the translation with foreign words and phrases conveyed in Russian transcription. Works that received high state marks at the USSR level were to be translated. For example, the works of G. Bashirova "Honor" and "Spring Winds" K. Najmi, with Stalin Prizes of the 3rd degree, were translated into many national languages of the USSR, which, in turn, aroused interest among foreign readers.

In the early 1960s, a large number of works of Russian and Soviet literature began to be translated. G. is actively working in the field of translating Tatar literature into Russian. G. Sharipova, G. Khantemirova, R. Faizova, A. Badyugina. The era of aspiration for literary translation begins.

In 1972, with the support of the chairman of the Writers' Union Zaki Nuri at the Literary Institute. M. Gorky organized training courses for Tatar-Russian translators. Although this course did not fully meet the expectations, such experts as Sultan Shamsi, Roza Baubekova-Kozhevnikova, Firdaus Akhliya managed to graduate.

The number of publications translated in subsequent years can be seen in the Table below:

Table 2. *Release of Literary Translation (1971–2000)*

| Year      | Number |
|-----------|--------|
| 1971-1975 | 57     |
| 1976-1980 | 79     |
| 1981-1985 | 64     |
| 1986      | 33     |
| 1987      | 19     |
| 1988      | 14     |
| 1989      | 4      |
| 1990      | 3      |
| 1991      | 8      |

|      |    |
|------|----|
| 1992 | 7  |
| 1993 | 11 |
| 1994 | 2  |
| 1995 | 2  |
| 1996 | 3  |
| 1997 | 4  |
| 1998 | 3  |
| 1999 | 5  |
| 2000 | 3  |

In the 90s, despite the large increase in the number of publishing houses, the attitude to Tatar literature was changing, and the translation was completely suspended. However, at present, the translation of Tatar fiction into Russian is increasingly appearing on the pages of "Idel" and "Sovremennik" magazines, where you can find translations of F. Faizova, A. Khaerova, G. Makhdiev-Khasanova, B. Khamidullina, N. Kraievoy.

In the table below, I would like to indicate the most popular translators of the XX - beginning of the XXI century.

Table 3. *Popular Prose Translators from Tatar into Russian of the 20th - Early 21st Century*

| Translators  | Literary translation  |
|--------------|---|
| G. Akhunov   | G. Akhunov "Klad"; M. Magdeyev "My - children of forty-first year".   |
| A. Badyugin. | G. Gubay "When we grew up"; A. Yeniki - novels and short stories; Sh. Kamal "At the dawn".                                      |
| A. Bendetsky | Works of G. Tukai, G. Kutui, A. Alish, S. Hakim.  |
| I. Vinetsky. | I. Gazi "Apple tree in bloom", "Unforgettable years", "Bread, rifle and love "; Works by F. Khusni, G. Absalyamov, M. Khasanov. |
| T. Zhuravlev | Sh. Rakipov "Where you are from, Jean?"; stories of R. Tukhvatullin   |
| I. Zaborin   | A. Akhmet "Stepdaughter"; S.H. Kamal "Gulls"; M. Gafuri "When we were little."  |
| M. Zariipov  | G. Akhunov "Behind Mount Artish"; N. Fattakh "Itil, the river flows", works by A. Yeniki, V. Nurullina.                         |

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| M. Zaretsky            | Translation of stories A. Eniki.  |
| S. Ibragimova          | The stories of G. Bakirov, A. Akhmet and others.  |
| R. Kutuy               | A. Kutuy "The Adventures Of Rustem"; A. Yeniki "Gulyandam", also translated works of S. Khakim, E. Davydov, R. Fayzullin.             |
| N. Kraeva              | Stories of F. Husni, works of A. Halim.   |
| L. Lebedeva            | Translation of A. Eniki stories.  |
| G. Makhdieva-Khasanova | Stories of F. Yarullin, A. Gilyazov, R. Zaydulla, T. Minnullin.   |
| E. Nigmatullin         | Works of N. Fattah, R. Nizamiev.  |
| M. Rafikov             | Sh. Kamal "When you hear a beautiful"; N. Dauli "Between life and death", works of G. Tukay, A. Yeniki, M. Amir, Kh. Sar'yan.         |
| R. Runin               | Translation of A. Eniki stories.  |
| M. Safin               | Works of M. Nasybullin, A. Kasimov, A. Khalim.  |
| F. Faizov              | Works of T. Galiullin, F. Ziyatdinov, T. Minnullin, M. Yunus and others.  |
| R. Faizova             | G. Ibragimov "Deep roots", "Our days"; G. Bashirov "Green area - My dear cradle"  |
| B. Hamidullin          | He translated and published three novels of G. Akhunov, a novel of V. Imamov and a documentary story about Derdmend of L. Hamidullin. |
| G. Hantemirova         | G. Iskhaki "At the Crossroads".   |
| H. Khusainova          | Translation of A. Eniki stories.  |
| S. Shamsi              | Works of G. Ibragimov, R. Fakhretdinov.   |
| G. Sharipova           | M. Galyau "Turbidity"; G. Ibragimov "Daughter of the steppe", "Glubokiye korni"; K. Nadzhmi "First spring" and others.                |
| V. Yudin               | Works of G. Bashirov, G. Gubai, G. Apsalyamov and others.   |

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In our opinion, these translators made a huge contribution not only to literature, but also to translation activities. Thus, the skills and quality of translation are improved, which favorably affects the development of translation in Tatarstan.

#### 4. Summary

Translation of fiction is a complex and time-consuming process that requires not only certain skills and abilities, but also, most importantly, the presence of creative thinking in the translator. The development of the translation of literary prose in Tatarstan in the 20th century was not uniform, the pace of development was not very intensive, but despite this, the translators were able to achieve their goals - to familiarize Russian readers with Tatar literature, raise Tatar literature to the world level and improve the quality of translation.

#### 5. Conclusions

The development of literary translation with the identification of its features, the transition from free to adequate translation from the Tatar language into Russian in Tatarstan is being improved and developed to this day. Despite the fact that the translation business is precisely artistic works from the late 90s. It is not so intense, but there is a section for literary translation in the Writers' Union that helps novice translators, books with translations of Tatar classics are published, bilingual magazines are published, and Tatar prose translations into Russian are published on the pages of Idel and Sovremennik magazines. We hope that the translation business is only gaining momentum and in the near future both Russian-speaking and foreign readers will have access to wonderful Tatar works, which will cause even greater interest in Tatar literature.

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