

Retranslating Lorca from Anti-Fascist Martyr to Queer Icon

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Proposal

This paper seeks to analyze how the reception of Lorca in the English-speaking world has been largely due to the successive retranslations of his poetry, which have reflected his shifting status from the anti-Fascist poet martyr of the Spanish Civil War, to the Surrealist icon of the Beat Generation and latterly the gay totem embraced by the burgeoning Queer Studies movement around the turn of the century. All of these interpretations of the Spanish poet were largely constructed around the successive retranslations of his work which have inevitably reflected profound changes in society and language in terms of race and sexual orientation.

This is an aspect of both Lorca's work and its successive retranslations that is inevitably bound to social and historical context and which has received scant critical attention. Therefore, through a diachronic analysis of the evolution of the English retranslations of his poetry, we will seek to analyse these retranslations in terms of racially and sexually sensitive language and observe some of the solutions proposed. In summary, the paper will attempt to show how the socio-historic evolution reflected in the retranslations of Lorca's poetry was crucial in the changing reception of his work in the English-speaking world.

Bionote

Dr. Andrew Samuel Walsh is a lecturer in English, Translation and Communication Studies at the Department of Translation and Interpreting at Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid and has also taught at the University of Granada and the Autonomous University of Madrid. His research interests lie in the fields of literary translation and comparative literature. He is the author of two books and several articles and scholarly papers in this field and is the co-editor of *Literary Retranslation in Context* (Peter Lang, 2017).

