

IV Jornadas Internacionales de Traductología

En torno a la traducción relacional

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**Readers' agency:
the role of readers' paratextual voices in the mediation and (re)interpretation of translated literature**

One essential factor regarding the reception of translated texts has so far gained little attention in translation studies: the competitive attitude that underlies not only translation (Chesterman 1997), but also the reading and interpretation of translated texts. My recent study (Taivalkoski-Shilov, 2015) indicates that readers are not powerless as regards translated texts. Even non-professional readers are able to influence other readers' attitudes towards a given translation by framing it in a negative or positive context with the help of paratexts, for instance (e.g. negative or positive translation reviews). The aim of my plenary lecture is to show that readers have agency in the mediation and interpretation of translated literature. Readers naturally have an active role when processing the text, i.e. concretizing the potential of a translated text into a specific meaning (Brems & Ramos Pinto, 2013). Potentially they can also affect other readers' interpretations of translated texts. In my lecture I will give examples of such cases from two ongoing research projects: a multi-method research project on the reception of Kaisa Sivenius's Finnish translation of Foucault's *Histoire de la sexualité* and a study on readers' interaction in three Finnish online reading groups (Taivalkoski-Shilov, forthcoming).