

Title: Examining the “Untranslatable” through Retranslation of Tolstoy’s “The Kreutzer Sonata”
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Abstract:

With retranslation of literary classics on the rise, “Examining the ‘Untranslatable’ through Retranslation of Tolstoy’s “The Kreutzer Sonata”” investigates the work of five translators in order to analyze the methods used to translate the short story’s narrative style, including the element skaz, considered an “untranslatable” realia. Considering the goals of Tolstoy and his narrator, portions of the text have been chosen which markedly use skaz and are vital to the story’s narrative structure in order to examine how these goals are executed. Then the translated passages are compared, discussing how each approached the realia and how those choices affect a reader’s understanding of the text and its aims. The final purpose of the paper is to compare these translation choices with other theories of realia and skaz translation in order to determine whether the methodologies used in translation of “The Kreutzer Sonata” are consistent with common techniques or contain wisdom for future translation work.