

Title: Translating Drama: From John Wilson's "The City of the Plague" to Alexander Pushkin's "Pir vo Vremya Chumy"

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The modern Anglo-American and Russian school of Translation Studies has claimed translation to be the form of literary activity aimed at producing the same communicative effect by means of interpretation of the source text.

The interpretative and communicative nature of translation is most clear in translating drama. Drama translators are often "trapped in the labyrinth" (S. Bassnett) of free and literal translation. A. Pushkin has left his mark in this debate. In his critical works, particularly in his article "On Milton and Chateaubriand's Translation of *Paradise Lost*." Pushkin criticized his word-for-word translation which failed to be adequate to the sense of the original. Only the recreation of the original can lead to fidelity – as he pointed out in his thoughts on V. Ozerov's works. "Drama translation is a litmus test to a playwright" (Пушкин А.С. Заметки на полях статьи П.А. Вяземского «О жизни и сочинениях В.А. Озерова». // Пушкин А.С. Полное собрание сочинений в 10 тт. Т. 7. М.: Наука, 1964. С. 554).

Translation of John Wilson's poem "The City of the Plague" (1816) was such a "litmus test" for Pushkin. Our aim is to show the shifts of meaning in adapting J. Wilson's play to the Russian public.

Taking the work of a contemporary British playwright Pushkin modernized the source text using the following adaptation techniques:

1. part as a whole. Pushkin translated the only one scene, 4<sup>th</sup> scene of act I.
2. "extreme condensation" (D. Blagoi) of thoughts and images. Pushkin left out the last episode of the scene where Walsingham and the Young man cross swords.
3. Pushkin's task is to line a hidden inner conflict of a character. In Walsingham's song the Plague is both ugly and beautiful in her "sable pall" – it is useless to argue with her and impossible to win. Pushkin's Chairman also praises the Plague but only because it mobilizes all the forces of a man who is capable to accept his inevitable death without any fear.

To remain true to the original text it was essential to reformulate it – Pushkin managed to prove it both in his literary works and critical articles.

*Works Cited:*

Wilson John. *The City of the Plague*. Edinburgh: Printed by G.Ramsay and Co. for A. Constable & Co. 1816.

Пушкин А.С. Пир во время чумы.// Пушкин А.С. Полное собрание сочинений в 10 тт. Том V. М.; Наука, 1964.