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European Council of Literary
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Rencontres
européennes de la
traduction littéraire
Strasbourg
European
Conference on
Literary Translation

2-4 October 2024



Sensitivity reading, self-censorship and inclusivity: dealing with offensive language, taboos and controversial issues in translation

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How to be open for change and still loyal to the author and the text?

- Which possible conflicts do you see in the current literary landscape, with a greater sensibility to issues such as racism, ethnicity, gender, sexuality etc. and more focus on sensitive words?
- How does the translator find a balance between his or her different loyalties, to the author, to the text and to the reader?
- Do you have concrete experience of sensitivity reading?
- Does this kind of editing give a necessary input or is it rather a limitation?



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Translator? Publisher? Who should take the responsibility?

- Do you have concrete experience of conflicts or difficult decisions?
- In the event of conflicts, incompatibilities - who is to decide and who should take responsibility for the text?
- What does it mean when a publisher's decision goes against a translator and how should he or she behave in such a situation?



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Is it just a "language" problem?

- Which linguistical and literary questions are imposed by a language evolution driven by consideration of gender and different identity questions (changes in grammar etc.)?
- How do you handle this in your own language?
- On what basis and criteria do we make difficult decisions?
- Are these issues handled differently in different countries?