

TRANSLATION AS ‘DIALOGIC AGREEMENT’: A BAKHTIN’S PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Mikhail Bakhtin’s {1895-1975} theory of dialogism offers an open-ended potential for a creative translatability of cultures. By enabling a translator to incorporate the cultural traces of both the source culture and the target culture, dialogism provides an outlet to the dilemma between loyalty and freedom that has bothered translation studies for years. A Bakhtinian theory for translation interweaves “living dialogic threads” between the source-culture and the target-culture to create an ambience of open-endedness. This paper explores the various meanings of the term “dialogue” and attempts to show the significance and implications of understanding the activity of translation as dialogic interanimation in the Bakhtinian sense.

KEYWORDS: Translation, Mikhail Bakhtin, Dialogic Agreement, Otherness, Monologism, Utterances, Unfinalizability