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GHELTOFAN, DANIELA. 2021. Mic dicționar de cuvinte-realia rusești și corespondențele lor lexico-frazeologice românești. Timișoara: Editura Mirton. ISBN: 978-973-52-2006-8

Book Review

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Living in such tumultuous times as the ones we are now living brings to the fore, once more, the importance of culture in understanding messages formulated by people that speak different mother tongues. Thus, "raising cultural awareness in [translation and] interpreting students is compulsory in today's society" (Șimon & Suciu 2015, 1245) as it contributes to the quality of the translation and/or interpretation they provide, ensuring the appropriate meaning transfer between the two languages used in the communication process. One of the many professional and educational tools that is available to the translation and interpreting students, i.e. the translators and interpreters to be, is the dictionary, be it mono-, bi- or multilingual, explanatory or not, general, semi-specialised or specialised, or a combination of all these. This last situation is reflected in Daniela Gheltofan's dictionary, "Mic dicționar de cuvinte-realia rusești și corespondențele lor lexico-frazeologice românești" [A Small Dictionary of Russian Realia-Words and Their Romanian Lexico-Phraseological Correspondences] (2021), that is both an explanatory and a bilingual dictionary, focusing on about 200 realia-lexemes, i.e. cultural terms. The dictionary addresses primarily students and young professionals in the field of translation and interpreting, but also anyone wishing to expand his/her knowledge in Russian culture.

"Mic dicționar de cuvinte-realia rusești și corespondențele lor lexico-frazeologice românești" (Gheltofan 2021) starts with a foreword, in which the author

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presents the structure of the dictionary and the rationale behind it. It is then followed firstly by a short presentation of the Russian alphabet, described in relation to the Romanian language, secondly by a Romanian-Russian terminological list of the main terms used in the dictionary to explain the translation choices put forth by the author, and thirdly by an introductory study on the concept of *realia*, especially from the viewpoint of the Russian cultural and translation studies. In the study, the author highlights that *realia* are cultural terms that mirror the ethno-cultural reality of a specific community or people (Gheltofan 2021, 18). Thus, realia are words and expressions that confer uniqueness and specificity to a culture, to its people and to the language they speak (Gheltofan 2021, 25). In other words, realia are *cultural markers, updaters* or *differentiators* (Gheltofan 2021, 26), on the one hand and on the other, they are *(inter)cultural mediators* (Gheltofan 2021, 28) because in the translation process one culture is rendered linguistically through the lens of another culture. Based on the realia taxonomies proposed by some linguists (Vereshchagin & Kostomarov 1973, Vlakhov & Florin 1970, 1980, Ivanova 2004), Gheltofan (2021, 38-44) classifies realia into ethnographic, socio-political and administrative, geographical, aphoristic and onomastic realia. Furthermore, the author stresses the difficulties that the translator and/or interpreter faces when dealing with realia and puts forth some translation solutions for the Russian realia words and expressions such as transliteration/phonetic transcription, literal/semantic translation, approximate translation, descriptive translation, translation by a hypernym or hyponym as well as translation doublets (Gheltofan 2021, 51-55).

The realia-lexemes included in the dictionary are arranged alphabetically, irrespective of the taxonomy proposed by the author in the introductory study (Gheltofan 2021, 38-44) and listed above. Each dictionary entry contains the Russian realia-lexeme written in Russian and followed by its Romanian phonetic and graphic adaptation presented in square brackets. The realia-lexeme is then briefly defined and translated into Romanian. The Romanian reader is given not one, but several translation solutions, that are acceptable from the viewpoint of translation and interpreting studies.

The dictionary compiled by Daniela Gheltofan, "Mic dicționar de cuvinte-realia rusești și corespondențele lor lexico-frazeologice românești" (2021), ends with an alphabetic index of the Russian realia units transcribed into Romanian, the bibliography, and the summary of the book, presented in three languages: Romanian, Russian and English.

Rather a didactic than a normative dictionary, as the author points out from the very beginning (Gheltofan 2021, 8), "Mic dicționar de cuvinte-realia rusești și corespondențele lor lexico-frazeologice românești" is a useful tool not only for Romanian translation and interpreting students or young professionals, but also for anyone interested in the Russian culture as it singles out and defines some of the most relevant cultural symbols, offering translation solutions, too. Furthermore, "Mic dicționar de cuvinte-realia rusești și corespondențele lor lexico-frazeologice românești" extends the tradition started in Romania by other linguists (e.g. Stoian &

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Șimon 2018, Șimon & Stoian 2018, Benő & Péntek 2009, 2013) who have tackled English, Hungarian and Romanian culture-specific terms, highlighting the openness to multiculturalism and multilingualism in the Romanian space.

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