Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian Language between 1991 and 2012

a study by the Next Page Foundation in the framework of the Book Platform project

conducted by Olena Kurtanidze, Valentyna Mardzhanishvili

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Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language

I. Introduction

Ancient chronicles from Georgia and Ukraine confirm that the acquaintance and rapprochement of these two peoples took place in the 10th and 11th centuries. A rather high level of development both of Kyiv Rus and Georgia Kingdom sparked bilateral interest in political, cultural, and religious relations.

“The Patericon” of Kyiv-Pecherska Lavra proves the participation of Georgian painters in decoration of the main Lavra church in the 11th century. In the 12th century, during the wedding of Yuriy Bogolyubsky and Georgian queen Tamara original performances were staged for the whole week, with “the best Georgian and Ancient Rus talents participating”, which testifies to the development and mutual exchange in theatrical art of the time.

The period of Mongol Tatar invasion (from the early 13th century) is characterized by the lack of information on relations of that period. Only in the 17th century new information appears about trade, military (Cossacks in Georgia and Georgians in Zaporizhya) as well as literary relations. Starting from mid-17th century, many works of Ukrainian literature have been translated in Georgia. The first writer whose works were translated into Georgian was Petro Mohyla (1596-1647), the founder of educational establishment in Kyiv, which is now National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. The translation of his “Confession” (“Catechism” in the original) was performed by a well-known Georgian poet Archil (probably in 1699-1702). Further on, Georgia discovered Dmytro Tuptalo (Rostovsky) (1651-1709), Stefan Yavorsky (1658-1728), and Feofan Prokopovych (1681-1736). In Georgian Institute of Manuscripts translations of their works are preserved; at the time they became popular here, were rewritten by many educated people and exhibited a certain influence in some fields, e.g. in the development of Georgian school drama

Note: The sources for this section are the following:
Баканидзе Отар, Дорогами дружбы, Тб.,1989;
Богомолов Игорь, Тема дружбы народов и интернационализма в грузинской советской литературе, Тб., 1983;
Шалуташвили Надежда, Страницы великой дружбы, Тб., 1988;
Баканидзе Отар, «Київський університет – осередок освіти грузинської молоді» Тб., Видавництво ТСУ, 2004;
Грузинско-українські історичні та літературні відносини (Матеріали експозиції «Ілля Чавчавадзе і Україна» літературно-меморіального музею Іллі Чавчавадзе в Тбілісі), Тб., 2005;
Памятники славяно-руской письменности, изд.Императорскою археографическою комиссию, Патерик Киево-Печерского монастыря, СПб, 1911, під ред. Д.І.Абрамовича, ст.193
Д.Джанелідзе «Грузинський театр з давніх часів до другої половини ХІХ століття», Тб., 1959, ст.167

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and school church theater. It is worth noting that “The Regulation” (1721) by Feofan Prokopovych was translated into Georgian by rector Gayoz in 1782 and used as the basis for the Statute of Tbilisi (Tiflis) and Telavi seminaries.

In Ukraine, in the 18th and 19th centuries those close to King Vakhtang VI (relocated by gracious order of Queen Anna Ioannovna to the Ukrainian lands in 1738) publish Georgian literature and write their own works. The first among those is a great son of Georgian land David Guramishvili with his “Davitiani”.

The descendants of Georgian settlers M. Tsertelyov (Tsereteli) and P. Shalikov (Shalikashvili) in the early 19th century made their contribution in the Ukrainian literature to preserve folklore samples (including dumas). Tsertelyov became the first “to understand the significance of folk poetry and evoke interest in its studies” (V. Voyokov). In the second half of the 19th century the common spirit of revolutionary uprising is reflected in creative works of the best authors of the time, both Georgian and Ukrainian.

In “Iveriya” journal, Illya Chavchavadze published a translation of poem by Taras Shevchenko “The Hireling” performed by a student of Kyiv Spiritual Academy Niko Lomouri. It was the first translation starting and continuing until this day the epoch of “Georgian Shevchenko”. A teammate of Illya Chavchavaze, Akakiy Tsereteli had the honor of personal acquaintance with Shevchenko in his student years. It happened in St. Petersburg in the apartment of M. Kostomarov where the youth of St. Petersburg university usually gathered. Georgia celebrated the 100th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko rather actively in spite of strict ban on it by gendarmerie of the empire. A prominent Georgian teacher and innovator Yakob Gogebashvili who used to study in Kyiv once wrote: “I strongly advise our poets to enrich Georgian literature with translations of Shevchenko’s works”.

Most poems by Taras Shevchenko are now available to Georgian readership thanks to high-quality translations by well-known Georgian poems and translators. A bibliography “The Symphony of Georgian Shevchenko” published in 2009 in Kyiv by the publishing house of Kyiv International University is a fundamental work reflecting the full spectre of Shevchenko’s presence in Georgian literature (101 pages). The author is a Ph.D. in Linguistics, professor, head of Chair of Ukrainian and Global Cultures and Literatures of Kyiv International University.

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In literary and memorial museum of Illya Chavchavadze an exposition was opened in 2005 dedicated to Georgian-Ukrainian historical and literary relations. Its exhibits tell about the facts provided above and first attempts of translation and research of medieval masterpiece in Georgian literature, “The Knight in the Tiger Skin” by Shota Rustaveli; the translation was performed by Ukrainians Oleksandr Navrotsky (1823-1892) and Mykola Hulak (1821-1899). Both were imprisoned for membership in Cyril and Methodius Association and sent to the Caucasus. Mykola Hulak and his supporters “were eager to learn about the past and show the people who they were, who they had been, what they should aspire for and hope for in the future”, runs an article in Iveriya newspaper.

Old newspaper publications tell about translations and publications in Ukrainian press of poems by A. Baratashvili, R. Eristavi, and A. Tsereteli. Poems by I. Chavchavadze translated by Lesya Ukrainka were published in “Ridny kray” journal under the pseudonym of Sergiy Paliy.

The “Ukrainian” influence on creative works of Illya Chavchavadze in ideological aspect can be noticed if we compare a poem by Ivan Franko “Ivan Vyshensky” with the Georgian’s “Hermit” or “Perebendya” by Taras Shevchenko” and Chavchavadze’s “Mepandure” (bandura player).

Therefore, we can confidently state the existence of Georgian-Ukrainian literary relations in the second half of the 19th century and the early 20th century. Here we cannot but dwell a bit more on the name of Lesya Ukrainka. She had been staying in Georgia from time to time during the last ten years of her life (1903-1913) when her disease drove her to the edge of physical suffering. Still, she didn’t stop writing. In Surami, starting from 1952 a library-museum dedicated to Lesya Ukrainka has been functioning. The opening of this institution was initiated by Georgian writers with Georgiy Leonidze at their head; since that time, every spring a traditional festivity of Georgian-Ukrainian friendship “Lesyaoba” has been held; among participants one can usually

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Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language

find guests from Lesya’s motherland as well. Next to the museum, a monument to the poetess created by Tamar Abakeliya has been put up; a school named after Lesya Ukrainka is functioning. The catalogues of Parliamentary Library fund demonstrate that she has probably the most works translated into Georgian in comparison with other Ukrainian authors. The name of Lesya Ukrainka in Georgia is often brought up along with the name of David Guramishvili as a single symbol of not only literary relations but also friendship and brotherhood of the two peoples lasting through the ages.

II. Review of book publishing and translations market

II.1 Publishing houses and book sales

The information on book publishing in Georgia was provided by Georgia Parliamentary Library for the period between 1989 and 2010 and, in part, 2011.

<table>
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<th>Publication year</th>
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## Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language

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<td>2010</td>
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<table>
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<td>132</td>
<td>2,801</td>
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Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language

At this stage the annual statistics for 2011 is being worked on in the framework of 2012 report. Presently the total number of titles published in Georgian language in 2011 has already been established; it is 1,038.

The electronic catalogue of National Parliamentary Library of Georgia provides information on 75 titles of translations from Ukrainian language into Georgian published up to 2011 inclusive; out of those 66 belong to fiction. It is necessary to note that the creation of electronic database for Parliamentary Library funds has not been completed yet; therefore, the electronic catalogue still does not contain a full list of available literature.

The replenishment of Parliamentary Library funds takes place mostly due to so-called “obligatory contributions” through ISBN associations, i.e. three to five copies of a title. It is necessary to note that ISBN was introduced in Georgia in 1997, but a portion of books was still published without registration; it is only in the recent years that the publishing houses started requiring compliance with international standards.

Apart from that, there is planned procurement of literature deemed necessary as well as gifts from publishing houses interested in their representation in electronic catalogue of the principal library of the country (for advertising purposes).

We didn’t manage to determine the number of publishing houses working in Georgia. All of them belong to the private sector. As for publications of Ukrainian literature in Georgia, we need to separately establish an extremely important role of publishing house of Tbilisi state university; starting from 1971 it has provided opportunities for publishing bilingual Ukrainian-Georgian collections, monographies, etc.

The number of copies rarely exceeds 1,000. The average number is 700, and often publishers do not specify the number of copies at all. Book prices are dictated by the market and mostly amount to 4-5 EUR for non-illustrated publications, 5-7 EUR for textbooks, 10-15 EUR for illustrated children’s literature; we need to remember that living wage in Georgia amounts to 90 USD.\(^5\)

\(^5\)http://www.newsgeorgia.ru/society/20121019/215279174.html
Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language

Book sales are conducted mostly by small book shops, departments in stores as well as street sales – both for new and used books. University textbooks by foreign authors, foreign language textbooks, children’s literature, series of Georgian and world classical authors are in greatest demand. Ukrainian segment is practically not exhibited in book sales. Sometimes Russian-Ukrainian and Ukrainian-Russian dictionaries appear; they are in certain deficit and high demand by translators who now translate according to the following scheme: Ukrainian – Russian/English – Georgian or vice versa, using an intermediary language, due to the lack of Ukrainian-Georgian dictionary. In 2012, Ukrainian-Georgian dictionary in three books arrived in Parliamentary Library; it was compiled by Gari Chapidze and edited by Olga Metreveli, ISBN 978-9941-0-4753-4. Ukrainian Studies Institute of Tbilisi State University is working on Georgian-Ukrainian dictionary.

II.2 Libraries

In late 1980s and early 1990s, the network of public libraries in Georgia contained about 8,000 institutions (including specialized and trade union libraries, etc.), even though there had been no real demand for such number. In 1992-1993, this number started decreasing rapidly. First of all the departments of libraries, institutions and trade unions were closed. This process was explained by economic, social and political crisis in the country and was little controlled. After adoption of the Law “On Libraries” in 1996 and the Resolution on Parliamentary Library in 1997 the situation stabilized a bit. Starting from 2005, the number of village public libraries diminished significantly; as of 1991, there were about 4,200 of those, with about 45 million of library documents.

Until recent years, the biggest library network had been the one in the system of Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. Libraries had existed in all 3,000 public schools and about 200 in higher educational establishments. However, in 2009-2010 school libraries actually ceased to be: the resolution of Ministry of Education and Science canceled the post of school librarian and library funds had been transferred to school accountants who were mostly unqualified in library affairs.

Now a targeted program is being realized to study the state of libraries in 64 municipal departments; library funds are checked, libraries are reopened where readership was previously

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Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language

denied access to those, computers are provided, electronic catalogues created, etc. Further amendments into the Law “On Libraries” are discussed, in particular increasing responsibility of local self-governance bodies, the concept of school libraries, etc.

According to approximative data, as of 2012 there are about 620 public libraries in Georgia. Their funds have not been replenished starting from 1990s, with very few exceptions (this information was received in the department of library studies and standards).

As for availability of Ukrainian literature in state library funds:

✓ National Parliamentary Library of Georgia – 75 titles of translations into Georgia entered in the electronic catalogue
✓ 622 titles in Ukrainian
✓ National Scientific Library of Georgia – 108 titles (1912-1990 pp);
✓ 30 titles of 1991-2012, out of those 29 are translations from Ukrainian;
✓ library of Tbilici public school No. 41 named after Mykhaylo Hrushevsky – over 25,000 copies of textbooks and fiction;
✓ library of the Institute of Ukrainian Studies in Tbilisi State University – bilingual publications issued by the Institute of Ukrainian Studies starting from 2007 and the chair of national literary relations and literary translation, “Ukraine” club;
✓ library of Lesya Ukrainka museum in Surami;
✓ public libraries of Georgia (with literature published before 1990s);

A significant amount of Ukrainian literature is available in:

✓ Association of Ukrainians Residing in Georgia;
✓ Cultural and Informational Center of the Embassy of Ukraine in Georgia;
✓ Otar Bakanidze private library;
✓ public school No. 3 named after Lesya Ukrainka in Surami
✓ Saturday school named after I. Kotlyarevsky in Batumi.

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6 http://www.nplg.gov.ge/ec/ka/cart/search.html?cmd;

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Translators from Ukrainian into Georgian language

Some literature is owned by NGOs: Union of Journalists “House of Georgian-Ukrainian Press and Books”, Union of Ukrainian Teachers in Georgia “Educators”, library of State Museum of Georgian Literature named after G. Leonidze, and private libraries.

III. Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian

III.1. General data and division by genres

In the history of Georgian-Ukrainian literary relations, the stage during Soviet times is an important one. It features diversity of literary relations both on state and personal levels. The writers of Soviet period believed themselves to be descendants of previous Ukrainian-Georgian literary traditions.

The development of literary contacts in Georgia was mostly favored by Tbilisi State University named after Ivane Dzhavakhishvili. Starting from 1940s, a course of Ukrainian literature has been taught here; in those times, it was read by a well-known writer and translator Mikheil Kentsurashvili (writing under the pseudonym of Iasamani). After his death, this project was continued by Otar Bakanidze and Tengiz Buachidze. In 1964, an active student exchange was started between Kyiv and Tbilisi Universities; thanks to this, a range of highly qualified talented translators appeared, and literary cooperation enlarged. During this period, the first ten-day event dedicated to Ukrainian literature in Georgia was held; Tbilisi university actively participated in its organization and hosting. As a consequence, first “Ukraine” club was created, and then a chair of national literary relations and literary translation.

The goal of the Club was to study and popularize Ukrainian literature, translation activities and preparation of experts. Starting from 1970, Club organized literary and anniversary events on a regular basis, established a tradition of publishing bilingual books, with original and translation. The first one was “Light, Light” by Lesya Ukrainka published in 1971 in honor of her 100th anniversary.

For a long time, the post of permanent secretary of the Club was occupied by dean Niya Abesadze, an author of a range of articles on Ukrainian-Georgian literary relations, several TV programs on Ukrainian writers as well as a qualified professional in fiction translation and inter-
Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language

literary contacts. The high quality of her translations was acclaimed at the All-Union Session of Ukrainian Literature Translators in Kyiv in 1982. The works of Ukrainian authors translated by Niya Abesadze were published on the pages of newspapers and journals (“Literaturuli Sakartvelo”, “Saundzhe”, “Tsiskari”), in all bilingual publications of the Club and published as a separate book “Good Day to You, Ukraine!”. This book familiarizes readers with works by P. Tychyna, M. Rylsky, M. Bazhan, L. Kostenko, I. Drach, V. Korotych, M. Vingranovsky, B. Oliynyk, and N. Kaschuk.

The chair of national literary relations and literary translations with Ukrainian studies as specialization was established in 1975. Scientific conferences and anniversaries upon initiative of the chair and with participation of well-known Ukrainian personalities (in different years) such as Mykola Bazhan, Oles Honchar, Oleksandr Korniychuk, Dmytro Pavlychko, Ivan Drach, Yevhen Kyrylyuk, Mykola Zhulynsky, Oleksa Synychenko, Petro Kononenko, and Pavlo Fedchenko were a long-standing tradition and naturally influenced further development of literary ties.

However, in 1990s, during acute political and economic crisis of the young Georgian state the chair faced great hardship, even though it tried to pursue its activities for ten more years with only enthusiasm for support.

Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language

Вітчизно кокана. Тб., 2007.; Петро Кононенко. Сакартвели. Тб., 2009.; Важа-Пшавела. Орел. Тб., 2011.; Андрій Малишко. Пісня душі, Тб., 2012, as well as over 10 monographs and many scientific works. The activities of Otar Bakanidze, former head of chair of national literary relations and literary translations, now director of the Institute of Ukrainian Studies and President of “Ukraine” Club, are especially fruitful. He is an author of numerous publications: “Roads of Friendship” (Georgian-Ukrainian literary and theatre ties); “Ukrainian Literature” in three books (the first wide-scale attempt to research Ukrainian literature in Georgia); monographs “Sketches on Ukrainian Literature” (acclaimed by Pavlo Tychyna literary prize), “Ukrainian Theatre in Tbilisi”, “Taras Shevchenko”, “Ivan Franko”, “Lesya Ukrainka”, “Harps of Gold”, “Maksym Rylsky”, “Mykola Bazhan”, “Oles Honchar”. The most recent publications by O. Bakanidze are “Land of Beauty and Poetry” (Georgia in life and creative works of Oles Honchar), 2008, and “Luminaries of Ukrainian Drama”, 2010.

In 2012, thanks to the efforts of Institute director and his young colleagues Nino Naskidashvili (Ph.D. in Linguistics, graduate of Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University), Ivane Mchedeladze (MA in Linguistics, graduate of Institute of Ukrainian Studies), and Sofio Chkharatashvili (MA in Linguistics, Slavic Languages), a bilingual book was published with poems of a well-known Ukrainian author Andriy Malyshko in the honor of his 100th anniversary. Several students had also been involved in the translation process. Naturally, the works of beginners cannot yet be compared with the level of Simon Chikovani, Dzhansung Charkviani, Niya Abesadze, Revaz Khvedelidze, Amiran Asanidze, Giorgy Tsibakhashvili, Konstantine Lortkipanidze, Karlo Kasalde and many others; but possibly in the future they might become real professionals to match their predecessors.

During traditional annual all-Georgian competition of Taras Shevchenko poetry reciting (its organizer is Lina Tatarashvili, head of Ukrainian Female Council), where according to the conditions reciting poems by Ukrainian genius is to be done in original and in Georgian translation, Dzhansung Charkviani is a permanent honorable guest and a judge. Most often translations by Dzhansung Charkviani, Simon Chikovani and Raul Chilachava can be heard there.
Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language

Raul Chilachava is a separate page at a current stage of Georgian-Ukrainian relations. Georgian by origin, he has lived in Ukraine for many years. We can only marvel at his skill, because in his poems he is equally eloquent in Georgian as mother tongue and Ukrainian mastered in adult age. His proficient knowledge of Ukrainian allows him to deeply feel and adequately translate Ukrainian poetry into Georgian and vice versa, Georgian poetry into Ukrainian. His first Ukrainian poetry collection “Sapovnela, a Flower of Happiness” was published four decades ago, in 1972. Nowadays Raul Chilachava is an author of numerous poetry books, translations, scientific research, publicistic works, laureate of many literary prizes, and chevalier of state and international orders.

It is necessary to note that Raul Chilachava did not stop his fruitful publishing activities in the most complicated political and economic times after disintegration of the Soviet Union, when support of creative intelligentsia in Ukraine had greatly diminished. Thanks to his effort and authority he managed to publish both Ukrainian and Georgian translations, in particular “The Knight in the Tiger Skin” by Shota Rustaveli, “Davidiana” by David Guramishvili in an unsurpassed translation by Mykola Bazhan, and Ukrainian luminaries such as Shevchenko, Franko and Lesya Ukrainka were published in Georgian in translations by Raul Chilachava.

In 2001, a bilingual poetry collection in translation by Raul Chilachava was published; it included works by 55 Ukrainian authors. A characteristic feature of the collection and a merit of translator is that along with the names well-known to Georgian readership (Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, Lesya Ukrainka, Pavlo Tychyna, Maksym Rylsky, Volodymyr Sosyura, Mykola Bazhan, and Andriy Malyshko) a great amount of authors unknown to Georgian audience at the time was also presented: Mykola Voroniy, Mykola Zerov, Mykhaylo Semenko, Mykola Khvylyoviyi, Todos Osmachka, Yevhen Malanyuk, Yevhen Pluzhnyk, Olena Teliga, Oleg Olzich, Bohdan-Igor Antonych, Vasyl Stus. The names of Dmytro Pavlychko, Lina Kostenko, Vasyl Symonenko, Borys Oliynyk, Ivan Drach, Mykola Vingranovsky and Vitaliy Korotych already appeared in Georgian periodicals; we also shouldn’t forget Vasyl Mysyk, Petro Zasenko, Petro Osadchuk, Volodymyr Bazlevsky, Pavlo Movchan, Roman Lubkivsky, Vasyl Goloborodko, Oles Lupiy, Leonid Cherevatenko, Hanna Chubach, Leonid Hoorlach, Mykola Vorobyov, Svitlana Yovenko, Viktor Kordun, Borys Chip, Mykola Myroshnichenko, Mykhaylo Hryhoriv, Svitlana Zholob, Sofiya Maydanska, Mykola Lukiv, Luybov Holota, Anatoliy Kychynsky, Yuriy Buryak, Vasyl...
Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language

Osadchy, Vasyl Herasymyuk, Ihor Rymaruk, and Svitlana Koronenko, a constellation of modern Ukrainian poets.

Calendar of publications


1996 - 3 publications Божа благодать Давид Гурамішвілі та Леся Українка. Вірші (українською та грузинською мовами) ღვთის წყალობა Ред-ри: Петро Кононенко, Отар Баканідзе Переклали грузинською:  Georgia თავისი დრო მამაობით, ნათალი თქმის მონუმენტი. თბ. , Київ.

Василь Сухомлинський. Листи до сина. Пер. і ред. Нодар Басиладзе

Олесь Гончар. Степовий чарівник. Уривки з роману «Твій світанок». Пер.Сосо Чочія. Тб., Накадулі.


2004 – 2 publications Микола Бажан. Джерело. (Двомовна збірка, до якої увійшли переклادي творів М.Бажана грузинською та його переклادي грузинських поетів

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Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language


Василь Степаненко. Пори року. Вірші. Пер. Рауль Чілачава. Київ. ISBN 966-8652-01-0

2006 – 1 publication Заклик друзям. Voco amicos Багатомовна збірка поезій. Пер. Давид Гоцірідзе та інші. Тб., Універсал


Тарас Шевченко. За горами гори... დაბადებით დაბადებით დაბადებით დაბად... Двомовна українсько-грузинська збірка Ред-ри: Отар Баканідзе, Ніно Наскідашвілі Перекладачі: Аміран Асанідзе, Рауль Чілачава, Ґіорґі Цібахашвілі, Константине Лорткіпанідзе, Сімон Чіковані, Джансуг Чарквіані, Тристан Махаурі, Нія Абесадзе, Кахабер Чеішвілі, Ніно Наскідашвілі, Русудан Чантурішвілі, Тб., 2007.

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Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language

Леся Українка. Надія წვიმის პრელუდია ვირші українських поетів. Переклад Амірана Асанідзе. Ред. Н.Кутателадзе. Тб. 2008.

Валентина Марджанішвілі. Обірвана струна. Штрихи до портрета Пантелеймона Петренка. Двомовне українсько-грузинське видання. Збірка наукових статей «Українці – перекладачі «Витязя в тигровій шкурі»». Редактор Ольга Петріашвілі. Пер. Шота Мачарашвілі, Тамта Ґуґушвілі. - Вид. ТОВ «Фаворит»-2008


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Domination of poetry translation is a characteristic trend of Ukrainian-Georgian literary relations. That is why publication of Ukrainian prose translations in 2005 became a significant event. A poet, translator of Ukrainian literature Dzhava Asatiani worked on translations of leading Ukrainian authors from the 18th-20th centuries for three years (Hryhoriy Skovoroda, Mykhaylo
Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language

Kotsyubynsky, Yuriy Yanovsky, Leonid Pervomaysky, Vasyl Stefanyk, Oles Honchar, Ivan Chendey, Vasyl Zemlyak, Pavlo Zahrebelny, Yuriy Mushketyk, Roman Ivanychuk, Hryhoriy Tyutyunnyk, Yuriy Scherbak, Yevhen Hutsalo, Valeriy Shevchuk, Volodymyr Drozd, Anatoliy Kolisnychenko, Nadiya Kovalyk). Thanks to Iza Ordzhonikidze, director of State Museum of Georgian Literature named after Georgiy Leonidze this collection was published.

Another event of 2012 was the presentation of Ivan Kotlyarevsky’s poem “Aeneid” in Georgian. During the event, in Cultural and Informational Center of Ukrainian embassy in Georgian friends and wife of a well-known poet and translator Amiran Asanidze shared their memories how carefully and patiently (for many years) the translator worked on this complicated and original work so difficult for reproduction in another language. The book was finally published for private funds of poet’s friends in a very small quantity (50 copies), which is no match for its significance.

III.3 Other publications

A sizeable contribution in publicistics is also made by Ukrainian diaspora in Georgia and Georgian one in Ukraine. Starting from 2001, Georgia has started issuing a newspaper “Ukrainsky Courier”, which is now not published due to lack of permanent source of financing. During the previous years, the pages of publication hosted not only informational articles but also literary pieces in Ukrainian and Georgian.

It is necessary to note that in 2003-2006 an editorial group made of Nestan Gugushvili, Shota Macharashvili, Valentyna Mardzhanashvili, and Olena Kurtanidze issued a bilingual Georgian—Ukrainian journal “President of My Country”. It published articles on politics, economy, history, religion and, naturally, literary works and sketches on life and activities of writers.

A similar bilingual publication under the title “Sakartvelo” has been published for the sixth year in a year in Kyiv, under the aegis of Iberia, Association of Georgians in Ukraine. The journal’s editors are David Todua and David Kurtanidze, head of Iberia, Association of Georgians in Ukraine.
Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language

An annual publication of bilingual journal “Ukrainian Business in Georgia” by its editor Volodymyr Myroshnichenko decreases informational deficit in development of economic ties between Ukraine and Georgia at its current stage.

Representatives of Ukrainian community in Georgia conduct specialized conferences, roundtable discussions, etc. They try to preserve materials of these events in printed publications. This is how the following collections (with Georgian translation) were published: “Ukraine-Georgia: Historical Relations of Two Nations and Two Cultures” – 2006; “Diplomatic, Civil and Economic Relations Between Ukrainian People’s Republic and Georgian Democratic Republic in 1917-1922” – 2007 (dedicated to the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations) – collections of materials from scientific and practical conferences held by the Embassy of Ukraine and Georgia and International Cultural, Charity, Scientific and Enlightenment Union Dnipro headed by Borys Synyuk, 2008, Tbilisi; “Sketches on the History of Ukrainian-Georgian Relations” (project author Olena Kurtanidze – Tbilisi, 2008; “Ukrainians – translators of “The Knight in Tiger Skin” – Oleksandr Navrotsky, Mykola Hulak, Mykola Baxhan, Panteleymon Petrenko” (project author Valentyna Mardzhanishvili) – Tbilisi, 2008.

The abovementioned titles were published thanks to the support of Ukrainian Embassy in Georgia and in particular thanks to financing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine under the Program on Establishing Ties with Ukrainians Living Abroad.

IV. Translators, work conditions

The role and significance of translation and translators has been formulated in a very imaginative way by Raul Chichalava in a foreword to “August” collection: “… translator is a cicerone in puzzling language labyrinths. He is alike to a kind spirit who survived the fall of the Tower of Babel and is now called upon to restore the destroyed unity of humankind.”

The need for understanding emerges in different circumstances and satisfies different demands, both rational and spiritual. The intensity and mobility of modern life makes this profession especially relevant. A translator from Ukrainian into Georgian or vice versa is a professional in demand. The need for preparation of qualified professionals is evident; as for translators of fiction, we can return to previous experience.

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Translations from Ukrainian into Georgian language

In 1964, thanks to the initiative of Tbilisi State University, namely professors E. Kharadze and O. Bakanidze, a student exchange between Tbilisi and Kyiv State Universities was performed. Revaz Khvedelidze, Amiran Asanidze, Nuri Verdzadze graduated from Kyiv University and found professional realization in Georgian-Ukrainian literary relations, and in particular in translation.

In 1976, a new group of Tbilisi University students arrived in Kyiv: they were Dzhaba Asatiani, Natela Gavashelashvili, and Raul Chilachava. Thanks to this exchange, Grygoriy Khalymonenko, Lyudmyla Hrytsyk, Natalia Bilichenko and Svitlana Zholob studied in Tbilisi. Oleksandr Khalymonenko stayed in Kyiv for life and work. During the first years of the 21st century, Gocha Kvantaliani and Nino Naskidashvili obtained Ukrainian education in Kyiv National University. Almost all of these names have been referred to in this research as translators of Ukrainian literature, its researchers and promoters.

The practice of bilingual publications favors their accessibility to wide readership among Georgian and Ukrainian communities even though, no doubt, it cannot meet all current demands. In particular, there is need for translations of works from Ukrainian renaissance, modern poetry, scientific literature, etc. As it has already been mentioned, Ukrainian prose is almost not exported, especially modern one, which has already been recognized in other European countries. However, the greatest demand exists for scientific literature and nonfiction on history and culture of Ukraine.

Translators’ low pay (mostly 2 to 3 EUR per page) is also a problem. There are no state programs to popularize Ukrainian literature. The Program on Establishing Ties with Ukrainians Living Abroad has been unfortunately suspended. At the very least, its efficiency can be confirmed by the number of publications in 2008 initiated by Ukrainian diaspora representatives in Georgia.