

“Dethroning” The Source Text: A “Skopos” Theoretical Perspective in Sesotho Translation

Edwin Joseph Mohatlane

*University of the Free State, Department of African Languages, P. O. Box 339,
Bloemfontein, 9300, South Africa
E-mail: mohatlanej@ufs.ac.za*

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ABSTRACT The paper challenges the traditional view that the source text serves as the norm against which the target text is modelled. The aim is to present the *skopos* theory in the place of the equivalence paradigm. The researcher moves from the premise that the dominant element in Sesotho translation is no longer the source text but the purpose. Taken from that perspective, this work presents an argument that the purpose of the source text does not necessarily have to determine the purpose of the target text. There is even no guarantee that the purpose in one culture will necessarily be the same in another culture. A change of purpose is also construed to suggest a reformulation of the translation. The result of this work is summarised in the view that the target text is the second original text. The paper recommends that prior any translation process, the translator should establish the purpose and be faithful to express it in translation so that ultimately a meaningful, culturally acceptable and purposeful translation can be produced.