Language and gender. Research and desiderata

Translation and gender inclusive language.

English-Italian

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Overview

1. Italian queer transfeminism;

2. Translation and queer feminism;

3. Examples of recent translation into Italian of queer feminist Anglophone texts

Italian queer transfeminism

- *Transfeminist Manifesto* by Emi Koyama (2001)

Italian queer transfeminism

- 2012

LES ACTIVISTES TRANS RADICALES ET DANGEREUSES

ÉTIQUETTE : OUTRANS

OUTrans : Le transféminisme

DE **KARINE SOLENE ESPINEIRA** / ON **6 AVRIL 2013** / DANS **ARTICLES**

ODT
OBSERVATOIRE DES TRANSIDENTITES

Translated into Italian by
Ideadestroyingmuros *(2010)*

MANIFIESTO PARA LA INSURRECCIÓN TRANSFEMINISTA//MANIFESTO PER UN'INSURREZIONE TRANSFEMMINISTA

- **Italian/Spanish/French transfeminisms are centred on a transgender epistemology and stress the notion of embodiment**
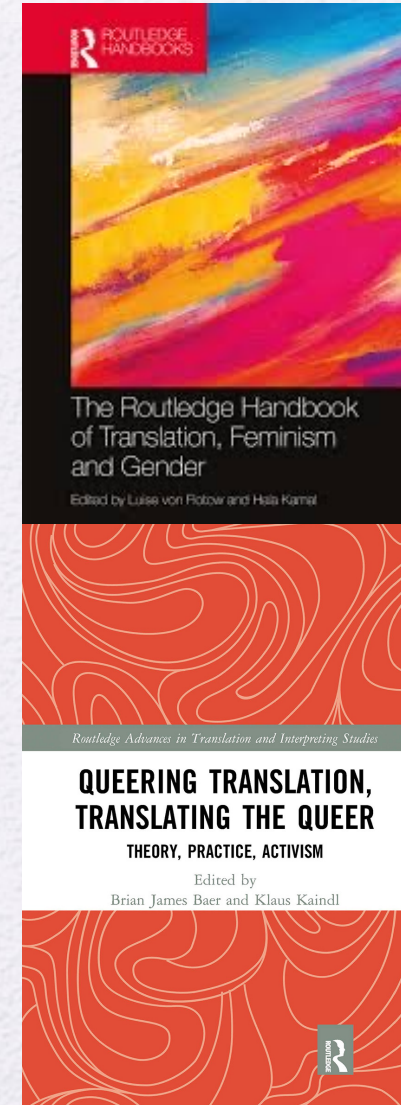
  - (Espineira and Bourcier 2016)

Translation and queer feminist activism

- **Translation and activism** (Baker 2006, 2013, 2016; Tymoczko 2007; Wolf 2012)

- **Queer feminist translation** (Castro and Ergun 2017; Von Flow and Kamal 2020; Baer and Kaindl 2018; Baer 2021)

ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOKS

The Routledge Handbook of Translation, Feminism and Gender

Edited by Luise von Flotow and Hala Kamal

Routledge Advances in Translation and Interpreting Studies

QUEERING TRANSLATION, TRANSLATING THE QUEER

THEORY, PRACTICE, ACTIVISM

Edited by
Brian James Baer and Klaus Kaindl

Translation, performativity and affect

Translation: performativity scholarship

- Performative turn (Bigliazzi et. al 2013; Marinetti 2013; Wolf 2017; Baldo 2019, 2020):

- Translation **and** affect (Bermann 2014; Gregg and Seigworth 2010; Koskinen 2020) given the importance placed on the **body by transfeminism** (Baldo 2019, 2020, 2023)

Inclusive language and queer linguistics

- **A reaction to** essentialist, hegemonic and naturalized notions of gender and sexuality

- Queer linguistics focuses on the linguistic construction of **non-heterosexual** but also on **heterosexual identities**

- **Studies of queer discourse**: analyse instances of heteronormative discourse but also a discourse that subverts hegemonic notions of gender and sexuality

(Motschenbacher 2010: 180)

Inclusive language guide Oxfam 2023

CONTENTS

Inclusive language guide Oxfam 2023

- ## Gender - based discrimination/misogyny/sexism

Domestic worker (no domestic servant); forced marriage (no child marriage); humankind (no mankind);

Sex worker (no prostitute); workforce (no manpower) ; anti-abortion (no pro life); survivor of rape (no victim of rape)

- ## LGBTQIA+ rights and inclusion

- Afab/Acab (no biological male/female); gender non-conforming people (no gender minorities); LGBTQIA+ (no LGBT); transgender (no transgendered), use of they

- ## Migration and refugee rights

- Asylum seeker (no illegal immigrant); biracial (no mixed race); First Nations (Indians); Indigenous (no Aboriginal - in Canada)

- ## Race and decolonization

- People of colour (no Bame, mixed race, coloured)

Translating English gender inclusive language into Italian

- **Corpus of feminist queer theoretical texts translated into Italian:**
  - Ahmed, Halberstam, Muñoz, Rivera and Johnson, Stryker

  - **Paratextual material** makes visible translators' positioning and justification of translation choices

  - **Activist collectives**: *A Squeerto, Laboratiorio Smaschieramenti, Non una Di meno, CRAAAZI*

Language inclusivity: translating English into Italian

❖ **Terminology issues**

1. Avoiding binarism:
   - *They, neuter*

2. Terms referring to race:
   - *Of colour, Indigenous*

3. LGBTQ terminology
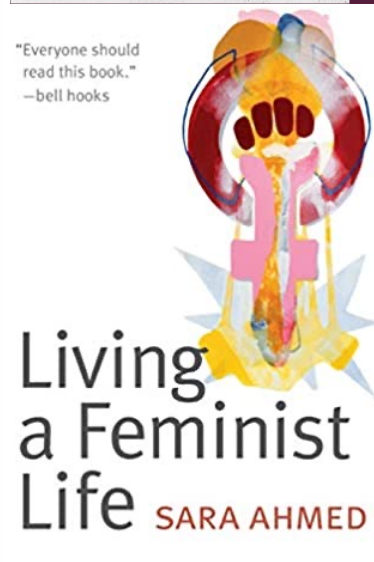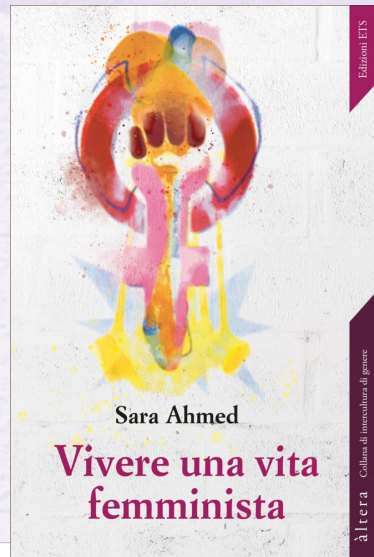   - *Queer, queen, butch, bulldagger, two spirits*

❖ **Translatological considerations**

Baldo, Evans and Guo 2021; 2023

Translating gender inclusivity: English and Italian

TRANSLATION EXAMPLES

Preface of the translators (Marta D'epifanio, Beatrice Gusmano, Serena Naim and Roberta Granelli)

Of colour, *brown* and *browness* not translated with 'di colore' as they point at the racism of fascist past

Use of feminine (singular and plural) as Sara Ahmed in this book does not include texts of white male scholars:

We become retrospective **witnesses**….you **wouldn't been able** to know exactly…

Diventiamo testimoni **retrospettive** del nostro divenire. Avere delle parole per nominare i problemi può fare la differenza. Prima non saresti **riuscita** a capire esattamente di che cosa si trattava.

Sara Ahmed (Sossella editore 2023)

SARA AHMED

The Promise of Happiness

Sara Ahmed
La promessa
della felicità
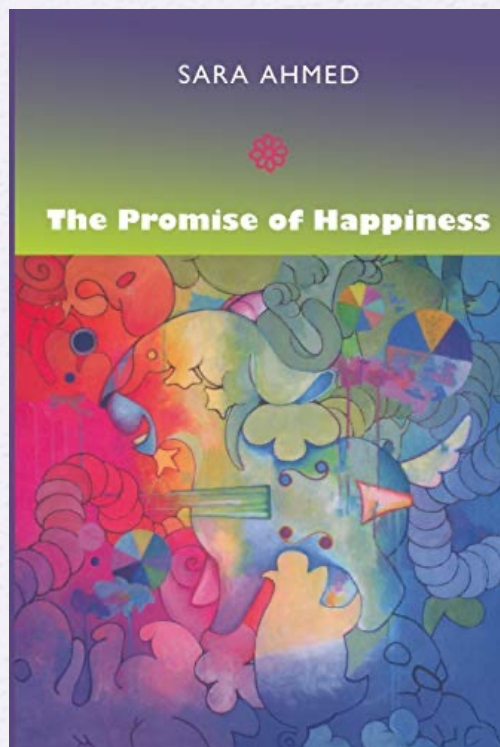
Afterword by the translator (Laura Scarmoncin)

Inclusive language
Epicene terms (same term for masculine and feminine: *la persona*)
Agreement by proximity
Duplication (feminine and masculine)

Inclusive feminine
Essere affett*e* da qualcosa significa giudicarlo.

schwa (singular and plural).
child/children translated as "bambinə/ɜ" o "figliə/ɜ"

Sara Ahmed (Fandango 2023; 2024)

- Introduction by Elia Arfini and Michela Baldo

- Preface by the translators (Michela Baldo and feminoska)

➤ Feminine as gender inclusive

➤ The use of *schwa*

➤ *Of colour, brown*: persona razzializzata

Jack Halberstam (Minimum Fax 2022)

Aferword by CRAAAZI

(Centro di Ricerca e Archivio Autonomo transfemminista-queer "Alessandro Zijno)

"**Unbecoming**" translated as "**indecente**", "**indecenza**", or "**non-diventare**".
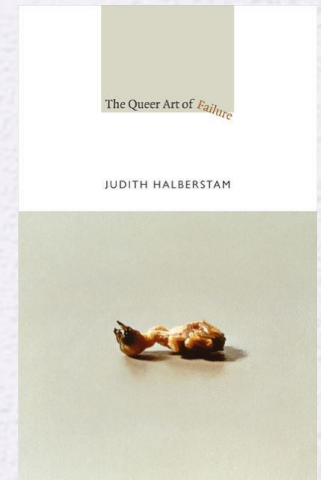
The antisocial dictates <u>an unbecoming</u>, a cleaving to that which seems to shame or annihilate, and a radical passivity allows for the inhabiting of femininity with a difference. (p.144)

"**Queer and queerness**" translated as "**perverso**", "**perversione**" and "**perversità**" and at times to use also the borrowing *queer* alongside the translation

To avoid gender binarism:

extensive plural feminine

asterisk

L'ARTE QUEER DEL FALLIMENTO
JACK HALBERSTAM

Translation by
by Goffredo Polizzi

The Queer Art of *Failure*
JUDITH HALBERSTAM

José Esteban Muñoz (Nero 2022)

Translation by Nina Ferrante and Samuele Grassi
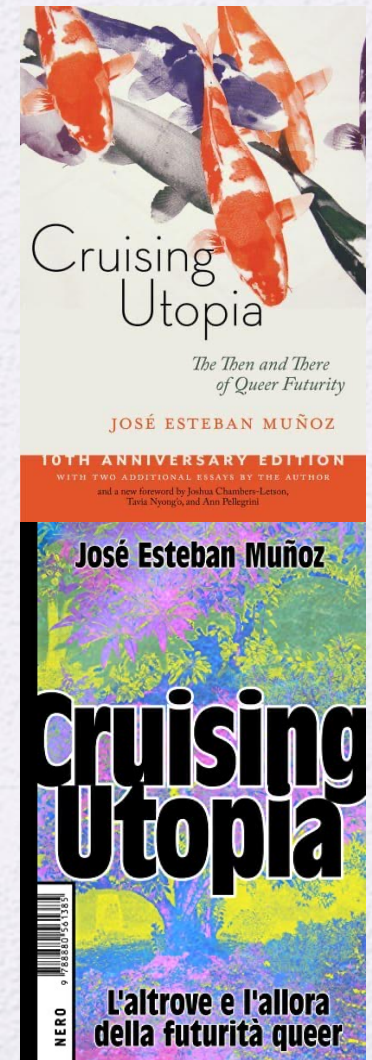
Preface by the translators

Queer (queer: adjective and noun), *queerizzare* (queer: verb) and *il queer* (queerness: noun)

Masculine plural has been used with "guilty awareness"

Periphrasis, provocative feminine forms and asterisks to avoid gender binarisms (frocia/frocie)

Of colour left in English

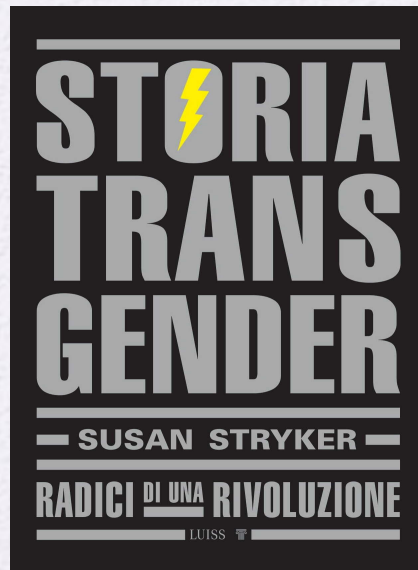*Bambino queer* left in the masculine

Preface by Antonia Caruso

Preface by the translators (Laura Fontanella and Marta Palvarini)

Preface by Gruppo Ippolita

Interview with Porpora Marcasciano

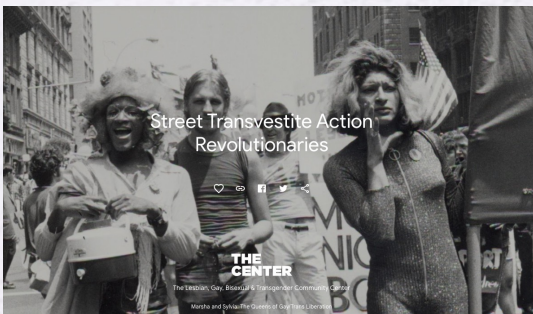Use of periphrasis **to avoid gender binarisms**

The use of the extended/generic masculine when talking about doctors and psychiatrists as part of the violent and paternalistic system that oppresses transgender people

Transgender, *mixed race, dragball and ball culture, bulldagger* (masculine lesbian pejorative term) *"two spirits"* and *hijira* are kept in English

English terms are used with their translation

STAR (Edizioni minoritarie 2020/2021)

Preface by the translators +extra essays

Asterisk and periphrasis (epicenes) to avoid gender binarism

Queen as a loan
Tranvenstite translated as *travestito/a*

People of colour translated as *persone razzializzate e persone di colore*

Indians translated as *persone indigene*

Language inclusivity: translating English into Italian

❖ **Terminology issues**

1. **Avoiding binarism:**

- **En**: *They*
  - Hord (2016); Bradley (2020)

- **Ita: -*, -@, -u, schwa (ə 3), feminine plural, epicenes**

    - Gheno (2020; 2022), Thorton (2022); Formato and Somma (2013), Baldo (2017; 2019); queer collectives

Language inclusivity: translating English into Italian

❖ **Terminology issues**

2. **Terms referring to race** (Ahmed 2023)

   - **En**: *Of colour*
   - **Ita**: *di colore, of colour, non bianca, persona razzializzata*

3. **Terms referring to LGBTQ terminology**

   - **En**: *Queer, queen, butch, bulldagger, two spirits*
   - **Ita**: *queer, perverso, frocio/frocia, queen, butch, two spirits*

     - *Baldo 2017; Nossem 2019*

Translating English gender inclusive language into Italian

- Affective links to activism in the translation choices

- Translation of inclusive language **as a sign of language contact** (Malamatidou 2016)

- Thank you