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Abstract

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“The fair sufferer”: women in sensationalist accounts from British sources in Polish dailies in the early nineteenth century

News on Britain appear regularly in Polish periodical press. In this paper, sensationalist accounts drawn from British sources are selected from a number of dailies published in partitioned Poland in the 1820s (e.g. *Monitor Warszawski*, *Kurier Warszawski*) and traced to the originals (e.g. *The Examiner*, *The Morning Chronicle*). In particular, the paper focuses on representing women in translation. It is argued that not only does the selection of themes (e.g. sudden deaths, motherly neglect, wife trading) demonise and ridicule women, but the distorted translations also result in further pejoration and otheirng of female referents.

The paper uses the framework of stance and evaluation (Hyland and Feng 2016; Biber and Zhang 2018) to address the following questions: What forms of pejoration do the translations involve? What linguistic devices are used to achieve it? Although evaluation is usually considered to be context-based and implicit, in the translations it features as content additions as well as modifications applied to forms of person reference and speech acts.

The paper contributes to research on typifications of women propagated in historical news discourse (Shevelov 1989; Dormus et al. 2018; Brownlees fc) and shows that Polish dailies constructed femininity not only around archetypal personae (mother) and social roles (wives). The translated sensational news from British sources were a convenient site to strongly othered female representations, such as non-conventional gender transitions and genderlessness as well as modern western aberrations of gender norms.

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