

Virginia Woolf and the migrations of language

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Abstrak

Virginia Woolf's rich and imaginative use of language was partly a result of her keen interest in foreign literatures and languages - mainly Greek and French, but also Russian, German and Italian. As a translator she naturally addressed herself both to contemporary standards of translation within the university, but also to readers like herself. In *Three Guineas* she ranged herself among German scholars who used *Antigone* to critique European politics of the 1930s. *Orlando* outwits the censors with a strategy that focuses on Proust's untranslatable word. *The Waves* and *The Years* show her looking ahead to the problems of postcolonial society, where translation crosses borders. In this first in-depth study of Woolf and European languages and literatures, Emily Dalgarno opens up a rewarding new way of reading her prose.