

Reproduction of Multilingual and Multicultural Features of Ivan Franko's Early Prose in the Anglophone Translation by Roma Franko

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Ivan Franko, whose scope of literary heritage and magnitude of creative talent never cease to impress, left an undeniably huge trace in the history of Ukraine and Poland alike. Literary figure and political activist, ethnographer, publicist, editor, scholar, I. Franko was one of the enlighteners of the nation, a Prophet leading his people to the better future similar to Moses leading the Jewish people to the Promised Land.

The author's early prosaic works are in the centre of the present research, for not only do they possess high literary significance, but also historical one. They are saturated with I. Franko's own views on politics, relations between Polish and Ukrainian people and the coexistence of Ukrainian, Polish, German and Jewish communities on one soil. Thus, I. Franko's early prose depicts the multicultural society he lived in, which poses problems for translation into a non-cognate language (e.g. English). Roma Franko, a prolific Canadian-based modern translator of Ukrainian literature, has initiated a tremendous translation project which aims at familiarizing the Anglophone readers with the Genius of her namesake and the history of the 19th – 20th c. Ukraine depicted in literary sources of that period.

Ivan Franko was educated in the Polish-Ukrainian milieu and influenced greatly by Polish and German literary works. The fact that he could read most of the world masterpieces in original (Greek and Latin being the languages he knew since his gymnasium years), broadened his worldview and made a huge impact on his own works. This powerful mixture of cultures and languages within a single person was eventually embodied in the language of writings, especially of the early period. Usage of Polish syntactic structures, borrowings from Polish and German, depiction of the way of life and culture of Polish, German and Jewish people – all this flavored by Ukrainian dialectal vocabulary on the one hand and bold ideas pertaining to the fate of his Motherland, the life of peasants and intelligentsia – the features characterizing his early prose, e.g. *'Ne spytavshy brodu' / 'Unknown Waters'*, *'Lelum i Polelum'*, *'Dla ogniska domowego' / 'For the Home Hearth'*, *'Osnovy suspilnosti' / 'Pillars of Society'* (1880s – 90s). Bright samples of this mixture are the lines from Zygmunt Krasiński's verse: *'Zstap o Polsko, zstap, Aniele, w promieniste ciele'* and a well-known German proverb *'Man muss sich stricken nach der Decken'* appearing on the same page of I. Franko's *'Ne spytavshy brody' / 'Unknown Waters'*.

The present research, therefore, concentrates on the problems of rendering Franko's early prosaic works into English in view of their multilingual and multicultural features, serving as encyclopedia of life in Polish Ukraine at the end of the 19th century. In our humble opinion, the translations of these works should be supplemented with at least a brief historical outline of the period, since I. Franko was masterly interweaving not only languages and cultures, but also political facts and his own views.