

De intrede van Multatuli in Hongarije ¹

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How Multatuli arrived to Hungary?

Abstract: This article reflects on the importance and nature of cultural transfer studies. Cultural transfer implies a dynamic meeting of cultures which always happens in concrete political, historical and sociocultural contexts. I argue therefore that political aspects and the concept of emancipation play a crucial role in this type of research. After sketching the reception of one of the best-known Dutch authors Multatuli (1820-1877) in Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland I introduce the most important elements of the Hungarian reception. I focus not only on the role of the socio-cultural background of the translator but also on the political, historical and socio-cultural context of Hungary at the beginning of the twentieth century. In the end I demonstrate parallels in the reception of Multatuli in Central Europe at the last turn of the century.

Keywords: cultural transfer; reception studies; translation; context; Multatuli

1. Inleiding

Dit artikel werd geïnspireerd door het CODL-project. ² Dat behelst de circulatie van de Nederlandstalige literatuur in andere culturen. De methodologie bij uitstek voor dit soort onderzoek is cultuurtransfer. De eerste studies op dit gebied werden door Michel Espagne en Michael Werner in het midden van

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² Over CODL zie verder: www.codl.nl.