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TITLE OF THESIS

ZAKARIYYÅ TÅMIR ON FACEBOOK: SOCIAL MEDIA AND A CHANGING LITERARY LANDSCAPE

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ABSTRACT

By using famed Syrian writer, Zakariyyā Tāmir’s, Facebook page, al-mihmāz, as an example, the present thesis aims to explore the rapidly changing literary landscape and its implications for translators. Today, authors are experimenting with technology and social media more than ever before. In my thesis, I evaluate the ways in which the shift from print to digital is altering the definition and role of the author, reader, and text in our society. In addition, I present three ways in which the publication of literature on social media sites directly affects translators: the translator becomes curator, the translator becomes distributor, and the translator encounters more very short fiction, the last of which I expand on in chapter three by giving examples from my own translation of al-mihmāz. Social media and its effects on literary translation have been sorely under-researched and under-discussed in the field of translation. In order to adapt to an ever increasingly digital literary environment, a serious and thoughtful discussion must take place within the translation community regarding this matter. While this thesis does not begin to cover all of the vast changes in literature, nor does it detail all of the implications for translators, it provides a solid starting point for such a discussion.

Keywords:
al-mihmāz; Facebook; literary translation; social media; translations into English; Zakariyyā Tāmir