AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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TITLE: LIESL JOBSON'S SOUTH AFRICA: COMMENTS ON THE ITALIAN TRANSLATION OF THE BOOK "100 PAPERS"

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ABSTRACT:

In response to the panel's call for papers entitled "Come raccontare l'Africa oggi. Visioni ed esperienze letterarie", convened by Michela Meschini, I would like to report on my personal experience of translating four short stories written by a contemporary South-African writer called Liesl Jobson and published in the book "Cento Strappi" (100 papers) by Marcos y Marcos at the end of 2013. The translation from English into Italian of the short stories in the book was carried out by 24 novice literary translators, mentored by Isabella Zani and Claudia Tarolo (Marcos y Marcos' publisher), in the context of a workshop initiative called "24x4 col resto di 4".

In her "collection of prose poems and flash fiction", the writer Liesl Jobson touches upon one hundred examples of South African modern reality: a wealth of themes such as parenthood and marriage, fertility and conception, anorexia and bulimia, dyslexia and autism, prostitution, war and death are viewed through the lens of her South-African sensitivity and are narrated using English and Afrikaans words, with harmony and rhythm that derive from her being a classical music composer too.

This paper will explore such themes by presenting the most significant steps of the translation process as well as the most relevant cases of translation problems and solutions regarding the transposition of South African culture, concepts and words for an Italian audience.

AUTHOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Agnese Morettini is a doctoral researcher in Audiovisual Translation at the University of Macerata (under the PEFLIC programme), with a research project on subtitling competence. Her research interests include interlingual subtitling, SDH and museum accessibility as well as literary translation. She is also a freelance translator, subtitler and proof reader.