



# Different times, different themes in *Lady Chatterley's Lover*: a diachronic critical discourse analysis of translator's prefaces

Authors: Lütfiye Oktar<sup>1</sup> and Neslihan Kansu-Yetkiner<sup>1</sup>

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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11059-012-0142-0>

**Page Count:** 337–364

**Publication Date:** 01 Dec 2012

**Online Publication Date:** 25 Jun 2012

**Article Category:** Research Article



Restricted access

## ABSTRACT/EXCERPT

### Abstract

The present study pleads for the idea that translator prefaces offer concrete directions along which these texts can construct and contest authority, highlight cultural values and differences, underline self-identity, influence readers' perception, and unveil related changes of a historical, social and political nature. In other words, prefaces offer a readily available and reliable source of research to bring ideology to the surface and to explore social and political conditions in a given society at a given time. This assumption yields the basic argument of critical discourse analysis that a text offers a mediated interpretation (or a variable version) of objective reality and changes in language use are linked to wider social and cultural processes in a dialogical relation. Concerning both internally and externally imposed pressure, the primary aim of this study is to analyze two prefaces written by two different translators of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, the scandalous novel of D.H. Lawrence in Turkish, for its two translated versions published in 1942 and 1981, respectively. Trying to highlight the discourse-ideology relationship, we aimed to explore the social and cognitive factors determining the translators' stance towards constructing the discourse in their prefaces as a manifestation of self-legitimization for the translation of a stigmatized novel, and also to indicate the diachronic shifts in two discourses in accordance with the changing sociocultural/political conditions in Turkey in the span of forty years. Accordingly, while the first preface published in 1942 was woven around legitimization of sexuality in the form of a public self-defence of a translator who had dared to translate *Lady Chatterley's Lover* within the 40s of Turkey under the strict single-party regime, the second one is in the form of an exculpation of a stigmatized literary novel by highlighting its universal artistic value and by defocusing its sexually stigmatized nature within strongly



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**Print ISSN:** 0324-4652

**Online ISSN:** 1588-2810

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