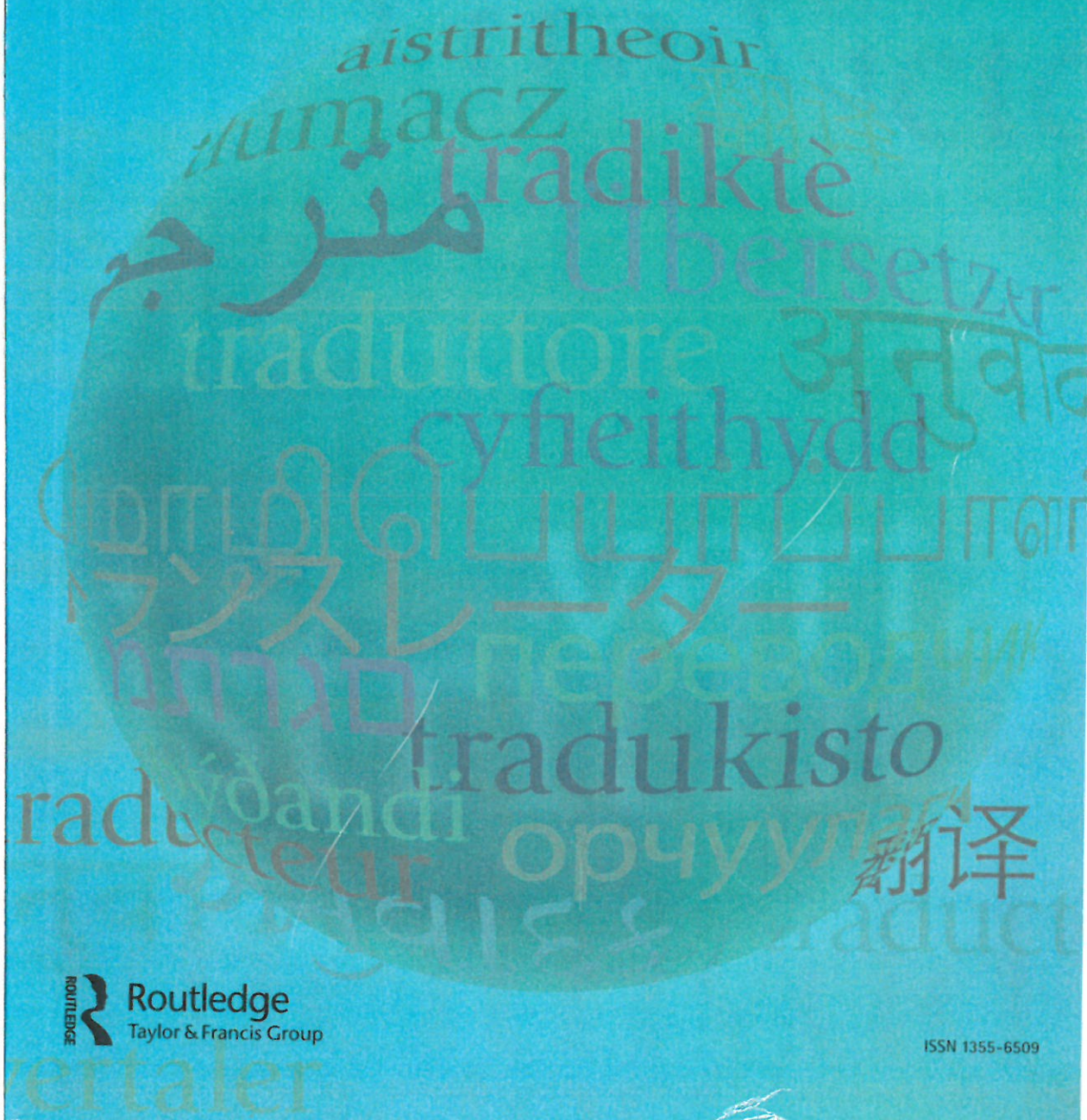


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ARTICLE



Academic literary translators: a happy ‘elite’ or not?

Some insights from correlational research

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ABSTRACT

Part of an ongoing research project mapping various segments of the Slovak translation industry, this follow-up study centres on investigating academic literary translators’ happiness at work. Although job satisfaction has been thoroughly researched in regard to various occupations, literary translators as an uneasy and marginal professional group have been somehow eschewed. The study aims to explore correlations between selected sociodemographic, occupational prestige variables and happiness at work (HAW) in a selected stratum of literary translators. Using the self-report data, the study employs contingency tables in order to test several research hypotheses. The research reveals that, schizophrenically enough, the majority of academic literary translators exhibit fairly positive happiness styles despite their average status, influence, appreciation and low remuneration. We found an indirect relationship between time dedicated to translation and HAW. We also identified direct correlations between the academic literary translators’ status, the level of remuneration and HAW. The results of the study not only cast precious light on up until now under-investigated aspects of literary translators’ self-perceptions of the strands of their professional happiness, but can be used as a roadmap for exploring the selected correlations both in the same as well as different translatorial microhabitus in domestic and foreign translator landscapes.



KEYWORDS

Happiness at work (HAW); literary translator; sociology of translation; professional identity; correlational research

“I don’t translate for livelihood. When I identify myself with an author and admire him, I yearn to translate him, I don’t care whether the pay is good or not. And believe it or not, this makes me happy.” (Slovak anonymous translator)

1. Introduction

With increasing interest in sociological perspectives in translation studies (TS) after all matters textual, the figure of the translator has come into central research focus over the past decade or two. Although habitually muted, unassuming and unintrusive, translators’ voices have of late become louder and more persistent, with translation scholars listening in attentively more than ever. New transdisciplinary impulses from sociology, psychology

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and the ever popular identity studies have pointed out unexplored aspects of the translator's professional identity.

With a sharpened focus on the translator's profession, relatively little work exists in translator studies that analyses their interface with socio-psychology and more narrowly, with domain-specific well-being. In an attempt to fill this lacuna, an analysis of translators' happiness at work (HAW) will be undertaken, with a special interest in a selected stratum of literary translators in Slovakia, i.e. those working as scholars. The aim of this study is to explore the relevance and influence of selected sociodemographic and occupational prestige variables on academic literary translators' HAW. The study draws on the selective repertoire of occupational aspects, as worked out by Dam and Zethsen (2009, 2014), and thus employs an eclectic analytical methodology based on a quantitative analysis of survey-based data. Embedded within domain-specific human subject research, it sets out to examine correlations between the translators' HAW and the variables above.

The focus on literary translators, and more narrowly, on those being part of academia, is not arbitrary for at least two reasons. First, the study represents a sequel to previous research of one of the authors into Slovak literary translators, in which she determined the perception of their work-related happiness based on Veenhoven's framework (see Bednárová-Gibová 2020). Second, this study is part of a wider research undertaking in progress aiming to explore translators' HAW including sworn and institutional translators, freelancers and agency translators across the Slovak social space.

Moreover, it is useful to look at academic literary translators as an occupational group, indeterminate and marginalised, to find out if and how they experience their happiness at work. How academic literary translators in Slovakia position themselves on the proverbial happiness-at-work ladder, what 'interpretational' capital in a Bourdieusian sense they pursue professionally, how they struggle to achieve their professional happiness; all these questions are at the core of the present study.

2. Research background

The desk research focusing on an analysis of secondary sources dealing with the sociology of translation reveals that it is not an overstatement to say that translators' happiness (or job-satisfaction, whatever the name) remains a much under-researched topic in contemporary translator studies. Up until now, translator happiness has been largely sidestepped and has not been systematically researched, neither with regard to non-literary nor literary translators. Indeed, there are a few translation theorists who deserve a mention (e.g. Katan 2009, 2011; Liu 2011; Dam and Zethsen 2009, 2011, 2014, 2016; Djovčoš 2012) because they partly touched upon the issue at hand either tangentially or implicitly within a much broader research setting. However, they all paid scant attention to literary translators in general, owing to their being a strangely elitist semi-professional translator group along the continuum of translators.

So far translation scholars have mostly been preoccupied with studying the literary translator's habitus, professional trajectory and identity (e.g. Sela-Sheffy and Shlesinger 2008, 2011; Meylaerts 2010; Vorderobermeier 2014, to name just a few). More recently, these thematic undercurrents have given rise to new avenues of exploration with a yet more sharpened sociological veneer, paving the way for researching literary translators' perceptions of their roles and agencies, as documented for example in the collected

volume by Khalifa (2014). Aspects of organisational ergonomics in literary translators with a focus on their workplace dynamics have of late been explored by Kolb (2019). How the prototypical image of solitary literary translators has changed for the better under the influence of ‘multiple translatorship’ resulting from recent collaboration trends and modes of communication within the given community of practice has been timely discussed by Jansen (2017). In another survey analysis she dwells on how literary translators view the question of authorship and ownership of texts and their professional visibility in the wake of Simeoni’s calls for ‘translational emancipation’ (Jansen 2019).

In conjunction with new transdisciplinary incentives from psychology and identity studies, one of the latest progressive trends in researching the literary translator’s personality is a focus on their psychological, emotional, and cognitive aspects (e.g. Hubscher-Davidson 2018; Bednárová-Gibová 2020).

With this novel research perspective in mind, Hubscher-Davidson (2018) explores the implications of emotionality for translation work. She focuses on happiness as a facet within the well-being factor in the TEIQue instrument together with optimism and self-esteem. According to Hubscher-Davidson (ibid.), job-satisfaction is positively and significantly associated with emotion expression and is also linked with global trait emotional intelligence (EI). Although her research participants were not solely literary translators, she found that their global trait EI scores, which could be taken as predictors of job-satisfaction, were marginally higher than those of non-literary translators. This implies that literary translators could be potentially happier at work than non-literary translators, but further research has to be carried out even within our own long-term research undertaking to be able to confirm this. Hubscher-Davidson (ibid.) also found that optimism, happiness, stress-management, self-motivation, self-esteem, relationships, emotion management and adaptability are variables that show significant relationships with translators’ job satisfaction.

Another socio-psychological contribution to the analysis of the literary translator’s personality was made by Bednárová-Gibová (2020). In the prequel to this study, she focuses on the perception of work-related happiness in Slovak literary translators based on Veenhoven’s happiness framework. She found that most literary translators achieve fairly positive happiness levels; their professional aspirations have been fulfilled to some degree, they have a chance to experience a hedonistic level of affect at work from time to time, working from home is usually not an obstacle to perceiving their working environment as stimulating and most of them feel quite well prepared for dealing with translation problems. The present investigation is a follow-up correlational study with different goals and tested variables. Taken together, both studies rank among the much missed contributions to the mapping of the social space of Slovak literary translators, which still remains gravely under-investigated.

We must emphasise that although the contemporary Slovak translation (and interpreting) industry has been researched in great detail by Djovčoš (2012) and Djovčoš and Šveda (2017) in their useful monographs, literary translators (not to speak of the academic ones) have been given scant attention in comparison to others. All we learn about Slovak literary translators from a sociologically-minded point of view is that their financial reward for their wordsmithery is despairingly low and their culture work can thus be considered a form of activism (Djovčoš and Šveda 2017). Not a single word is said about their professional satisfaction, though. From this perspective, we have found a niche in the

Slovak translator landscape which we aspire to fill with our specific focus on academic literary translators' happiness at work in compliance with the latest trends in contemporary translator studies.

3. The academic literary translator and happiness at work

In this section of the study we will take a look at the (academic) literary translator through a current sociological lens. Subsequently, we will delve into HAW as a conceptual construct. The two subsections serve to provide the necessary conceptual background to the self-report data which will be analysed in [section 5](#).

3.1 *The (academic) literary translator through a current sociological lens*

By literary translator in this study we mean, as rightly expected, a translator of literary works which include conventionally recognised literary genres such as prose, poetry and drama. In liaison with a broader conception of literary translators (Fock, de Haan, and Lhotová 2008, 5), those who devote themselves to rendition of audiovisual works, children's books, videogames, travel guides, artistic texts for galleries and so forth, also fall within the contemporary understanding of translingual custodians of culture. Thus, by the academic literary translator we designate a translator who is a scholar or a teacher in a university or other institute of higher education, pursuing literary translation of (not only) conventional literary genres. For many academic literary translators this course of translation represents a natural extension of their professional orientation, connected either to creative writing or literary criticism.

Thinking about the literary translator in occupational terms brings up, however, a number of problems. As in most European countries, the overwhelming majority of literary translators in Slovakia engage in translating for financial reasons alongside their primary occupation.¹ This makes it sociologically difficult to define the 'profession' of the literary translator and to gather statistical data. Similarly, it is demanding to find out an exact number of so-called 'professional literary translators', who, in compliance with the CEATL² demarcation, earn their living solely from literary translation (Fock, de Haan, and Lhotová 2008, 6). In the Slovak setting, however, the criterion of the 'professional literary translator' has been adapted in the sense of translating predominantly literary texts because of its inapplicability in its verbatim wording due to insurmountable historical and social differences in the translator's profession in comparison to Western Europe. Also unknown is the number of 'active literary translators' (ibid.) who translate regularly, i.e., have at least one translation published every two to three years, but earn their living from professional activities other than literary translation (e.g. teaching, lectures and talks). Another problem is that the majority of them remain unaffiliated despite the existence of the Slovak Literary Translators' Society (SSPUL). Hence, the total number of literary translators in Slovakia proves difficult, if not impossible, to determine. Similarly, the difficulties related to the 'professional' and 'active' binary, affect equally academic literary translators. Although the overall figure of academic literary translators in Slovakia remains questionable, our rough estimate is that, based on our chief prerequisite of an association with academia, recruited number of potential participants (see [section 4.2](#)) and extrapolation of judgements, it could range between 40 and 50².

To problematise the situation further, anyone can start working as a literary translator with no required training, but this undermines ‘the boundaries of the profession’ (Grbić 2014) and contributes to its instability. On these grounds, we hold the view that being a literary translator should be regarded as a semi-profession. This is because through their fragmentary and part-time occupational paths, (academic) literary translators promote an ‘anti-professionalizing ethos’ and create an ‘alternative autonomization dynamics’ in their occupational field (Sela-Sheffy 2010, 136). A subversion of the professionalisation of their translation activities resides in the suppression of economic considerations of their occupational functioning, impaired working status (signalled e.g. by the absence of permanent employer or salary in contrast to the majority of other professions), undue emphasis on self-sacrifice for the benefit of community and an elevated sense of their own professional excellence, as Sela-Sheffy (2010) argues. Besides, performing literary translation as a side activity easily promotes secondariness of their professional competences in the eyes of the wider public. The part-time occupation creates *de facto* an alternative professional *modus vivendi* of these translators, upholding their sovereignty at work.

As much as theory teaches us that the meaning of literary communication lies in cultivating the reader’s taste in culture and language, something different happens to agents of ‘cultural diplomacy’³ in the present-day translation industry. What is now schizophrenically expected from a literary translator is to render a four-hundred page pulp fiction thriller within a month or two, or they have to co-translate simultaneously with other three or four translators. Such practices obviously create a breeding ground for the denigration of literary translation with its cognitive and aesthetic functions being annihilated (see Keníž 2018).

Despite this state of affairs in the Slovak literary translation business, we dare to claim that literary translators still take up a special position along the continuum of translators. This privileged standing can partly be explained through their culturally saturated conceptualisation as translingual ambassadors responsible for creating a connection between two fictitious literary worlds materialised in two language versions. This naturally predisposes literary translators to a cultural elite in their role of culture gatekeepers. In addition, we base this elitist perception on the assumed large amount of their *cultural capital* in Bourdieu’s terms. Academic literary translators, as a specific group of interlingual wordsmiths, can similarly be taken for inherent embodiments of cultural elite based on their transcultural missions and stereotypically expected erudition. Whether we refer to literary translators hyperonymically, or we treat academic literary translators as specific hyponyms of the broader semantic designation of the selected translator habitus, we agree with Sela-Sheffy (2010) that literary translators are prone to idealise their job as ‘a *vocation* rather than just as a means of earning a living, which entails a declared hostility for, and avoidance of material and economic considerations’. Such a de-materialised stance implies a sense of unconditional devotion and sacrifice and partly explains the weakness of their professional status, as acknowledged in the wider literature (see e.g. Robinson 1997; Chan 2005; Djovčoš and Šveda 2017).

However, in today’s times of cultural amnesia and lazy reading habits,⁴ we realistically refrain from viewing (academic) literary translators in Slovakia as ‘star’ translators (Sela-Sheffy 2010). Within this conceptualisation, translators revel in the visibility of celebrities and create their own system of stardom consisting of winning prizes and affiliations to exclusive literary and intellectual clubs. Slovak translators’ individual translation capital

(Lindqvist 2006) certainly does not allow them to be compared to Sela-Sheffy's star translators owing to the significant absence of the majority of the mentioned aspects regarding the external recognition of translators' stardom.

3.2 The construct of happiness at work

Recently, there has been a steady rise in research interest in the conceptual construct of happiness at work (HAW) in social sciences. According to Walsh, Boehm, and Lyubomirsky (2018), HAW has been found to be associated with greater career success, higher income, workers' commitment to their jobs, job performance, and prosociality within the workplace.

As the true meaning of happiness, representing a central lexeme in the noun phrase under discussion, has been open to debate since Aristotle's time, HAW rightly qualifies for a philosophical concept. Simultaneously, as aspects of HAW have been targets of occupational investigations within positive psychology, HAW makes for a psychological notion, too. Realising the porousness of boundaries of this philosophical and psychological concept, scholars are not unanimous in defining the contents of happiness. Some regard '(subjective) well-being', 'quality of life', 'affect', 'hedonia' and 'eudaimonia' as more or less synonymous with 'happiness' (Easterlin 2004), while others clearly emphasise the need to distinguish between these terms (Warr 2007). When considering occupational applications, 'job satisfaction' may seem a suitable designation, too. However, as the term could imply the fulfilment of an individual's occupational needs (Bednárová-Gibová and Madoš 2019), we prioritise the term 'happiness at work' in accordance with psychological literature because firstly, it has a broader semantic extension, and secondly, its connotations are grounded on active and energy-laden associations (Warr 2007). These foster a sense of positivity, personal glow, absence of inertia and contentment emanating from the fulfilment of one's goals or aspirations.

However controversial the term *per se* may be both denotatively as well as connotatively, our understanding of HAW is experiential and data-based. Hence, we conceptualise HAW, in line with our previous research, as translators' experience of subjective well-being at work that features contentment, positive assessment of their professional life aspects and prevalence of positive over negative feelings (Bednárová-Gibová 2020). Capitalising on Fischer's (2010) levels of HAW analysis, we base our investigation into academic literary translators on their collective happiness level since we treat them as a cohort. This enables us to highlight translators' HAW as a collective experience impacted by the work group dynamics to which individual research participants can contribute with their own HAW levels. In this particular case, the group dynamics concerns the attitudes to and patterns of happiness within the assembled cohort.

4. Methodology

In this study, we aim to investigate the influence of selected sociodemographic and occupational prestige variables on academic literary translators' happiness at work. Drawing on survey-based data, we will explore correlations between the translators' HAW and the variables above to accomplish the overarching aim.

The research reported here is based on a quantitative analysis, consisting of a correlational analysis which employs statistical chi-square tests (χ^2) and p -values. A chi-square test is used to determine if there is a statistically significant difference between the expected frequencies and the recorded frequencies in categorical variables of a contingency table. It calculates the probability that the recorded frequencies occurred by chance, with the null hypothesis (i.e. the assumption that there is no difference between the expected and observed frequencies) being the starting point. Statistical significance is expressed via a p -value that represents the probability that the gained results occurred by chance; the lower the p -value, the higher the probability that our results did not happen by chance.

The χ^2 test calculations were done via the chi-square calculator available at the Social Science Statistics' website.⁵ Providing that the calculated p -value is less than an alpha level of 0.05 or 0.01, the hypothesis about a non-significant relationship can be rejected. The p -value, however, can be influenced by the number of the degrees of freedom (df) which are calculated via the $(r-1) \times (c-1)$ formula⁶ separately for every contingency table. Contingency tables display the distribution of one variable in rows and another in columns to examine the correlation between the two variables. As this is the first correlational study with a focus on a specific stratum of literary translators in Slovakia, we have no other research to compare the data with.

4.1 Research plan

Based on the preliminary evaluation of the questionnaire (see Appendix) that we used to collect self-report data (discussed in more detail in [section 4.2](#)), we proposed the following eight hypotheses. Each and every hypothesis (H) is justified by its pertinent motivator and was tested through contingency tables and the chi-square test (χ^2).

H1: The older literary translators are happier.

We predict that older translators may be already well-known and elitist enough on the literary translation market not having to fight for translations, which can theoretically make them satisfied.

H2: The more educated literary translators are less happy.

Common-sensically, we presume that more education brings more complex personalities with greater expectations, demands but also disappointments and consequently a decrease in happiness.

H3: Female literary translators are happier than male translators.

We test Clark's generalised hypothesis (1997) that women report a higher level of job satisfaction than men, being applied to the selected translator's habitus.

H4: The less time literary translators devote to translating, the happier they are.

This hypothesis proceeds from authentic anonymous translators' responses in which they state that only being episodically busy makes translators feel at home. At the point where they end up being permanently busy, unable to meet deadlines, translation "transforms into drudgery". This implies that literary translation could be considered as a secondary occupational activity, increasing translators' HAW only when carried out less extensively.

H5: Literary translation is a low status semi-profession with a low income.

In accordance with the wider literature (e.g. Fock, de Haan, and Lhotová 2008; Katan 2009, 2011; Dam and Zethsen 2009; Sela-Sheffy 2010; Djovčoš and Šveda 2017) we expect the same situation in the Slovak translator habitus.

H6: Literary translators' visibility increases their happiness.

Based on our previous research (Bednárová-Gibová and Madoš 2019), we predict that translators' professional visibility has a positive impact on their happiness thresholds.

H7: The greater influence/power literary translators have, the happier they are.

Even though influence/power is a professional trait that translators often report to be lacking (see e.g. Dam and Zethsen 2011), it is enticing to look at this assumption through the academic literary translators' lens.

H8: The more appreciation literary translators receive, the happier they are.

Capitalizing on the research results by Bednárová-Gibová and Madoš (2019) we hypothesize that translators' recognition of their work by others increases their HAW levels, especially with literary translators who are more visible and thus more exposed to external appreciation than any other translator types.

4.2 Data and research subjects

The data subject to statistical processing in the *Statistica 12* software were gained from a self-report questionnaire. The questionnaire is based on Warr's (2007) two happiness dimensions – self-validation and pleasure – and rests on cognitive and affective happiness indicators. For this study's sake, it contains 25 questions; 19 were semi-closed, 5 closed and 1 open. The questionnaire was built around the following data categories: (1) background and sociodemographic questions (type of employment, most translated languages, gender, age, education, number of years devoted to active translating, amount of time dedicated to translating per week, etc.); (2) parameters of occupational

prestige based on Dam and Zethsen (2009, 2014) – status, salary, degree of expertise, professional contact, visibility, influence/power, responsibility and appreciation. To measure the translators' HAW, a 5-point Likert scale was adopted in the semi-closed questions.

The data were collected in a span of four weeks in November 2017 through convenience and snowballing sampling. In view of the difficulties with the data collection implied in [section 3.1](#), 36 informants with an academic background who carry out literary translation were invited to participate in the research using purposive sampling. They were contacted on their email addresses via the Slovak Literary Translators' Society (SSPUL), the Institute of World Literature of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Artforum and the language departments of 7 Slovak universities using Google Forms. With a view to [section 3.1](#) of this study, the inclusion criteria involved conceptualisation of the literary translator in both a narrower (translating prose, poetry and drama) and wider sense (translating less conventional literary genres and more recent forms of art), working association with academia, being an active (having a translation published every 2–3 years) and professional literary translator (translating primarily literary texts). In sum, a total of 21 complete questionnaires were received in compliance with the set criteria. The presented analysis is thus based on an essentially limited sample. In some cases, the sample size may seem relatively small to put forward stronger claims, but given the specificity of the academic literary translator's habitus, it is still able to uncover some important facts and to point out some tendencies.

As a consequence of an active selection process, the respondents can be viewed as sufficient enough in this particular case, because the inclusion criteria exempt all other potential research subjects from other variables which would degrade the statistical force. By our distribution efforts targeted at academics through the selected Slovak universities, reservations concerning the representativeness of the sample can be tempered. It should be emphasised, though, that the study serves more as a pilot project in order to test the survey design and questions and formulate the hypotheses to be verified on a larger group of respondents. Given the very much 'local character' of the conducted agent-based research, the specific inclusion criteria (with each contributing to the specificity of the subjects) within an already marginalised translator habitus, and our intention to compare the research results with other translator habitus within our longitudinal research, the limited sample size can be deemed legitimate.

90.5% of the subjects carry out literary translation as a part-time occupation, which promotes their 'anti-professionalizing ethos' (Sela-Sheffy 2010). 80.9% of the academic literary translators seem to pursue the three conventional literary genres in their translations. The top three most translated languages are English (23.8%), German (14.3%) and French (14.3%), followed by Slovak (9.6%). Russian, Ukrainian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Croatian and Swedish make up 4.8% each. 61.9% of the subjects have been actively involved in literary translation for more than 20 years (see also Bednářová-Gibová 2020). This should guarantee reliability and truthfulness of the self-report data to a large extent.

5. Correlational research results and discussion

This section of the study is devoted to the testing of the hypotheses and interpreting of the gained data on the strength of the specified methods.

5.1 Age

The subjects' age breakdown shows that important age groups are those in their 40s (42.9%), 50–60s (28.6%) and above 60s (19%). As Table 1 shows, the translators' HAW is most observable among the middle-aged and older research subjects. Both in the 40–49 and 50–59 age groups 38.1% of the subjects view themselves as either 'happy' or 'very happy'. In the senior >60 group, positive happiness levels are reported by 14.3% of the respondents. There are, however, as few as 9.5% of the young literary translators among the subjects. This testifies to the fact that literary translation is usually not carried out as a main occupation by the younger generation of academic translators in Slovakia, presumably due to financial reasons.

Based on the data in Table 1, hypothesis 1 is not confirmed as the χ^2 test value is tantamount to 9.95. Hence, we cannot claim that HAW is connected with age, nor can we argue that the younger translators are happier or conversely that the older translators are happier. There is thus no ground to substantiate Dam and Zethsen (2009) 'progressive disillusion' hypothesis that happiness decreases with age, either. The p -significance level indicates that the relationship between happiness and age is non-significant, because the p -value is >0.05 .

Table 1. Correlation between happiness and age.

| Age | 25–29 | 30–39 | 40–49 | 50–59 | >60 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Very happy | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Happy | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Neither happy nor unhappy | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Very unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

$$\chi^2 = 9.95, df = 12 \quad \chi^2/df = 0.829, P(\chi^2 > 9.95) = 0.620$$

5.2 Education

As regards education, the overwhelming majority of the informants are PhD. degree holders; 9.6% of them can boast of a higher academic achievement, being either Associate Professors or Full Professors. As few as 14.3% of the subjects possess just a master's degree in the humanities, which is conditioned by the requirements of academia urging their players to work on their academic ranks. As expected, there are no subjects who would possess a degree outside of the humanities. Although the 'high school' and 'B.A' options may seem rather surprising in the offer of potential answers when addressing academic literary translators, they were nonetheless included, because within our longitudinal research the same questions will have been tested with other types of translators. With a view to the future testing, it is most desirable to keep the pattern of possible options the same in order to have the data ready for comparisons across various translator habitus.

Table 2. Correlation between happiness and education.

| Education | High school | B.A. | M.A. | PhD. | Other |
|---------------------------|-------------|------|------|------|-------|
| Very happy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Happy | 0 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| Neither happy nor unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| Unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Very unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

$$\chi^2 = 5.65, df = 6 \quad \chi^2/df = 0.941, P(\chi^2 > 5.65) = 0.464$$

The data in Table 2 reveal that hypothesis 2 was not borne out when examining the relationship between happiness and education ($\chi^2 = 5.65$). We contend that whether the academic literary translators are happy is not related to their education. There is no indirect correlation between the two variables, contrary to our presuppositions. As the p -significance level ($p = 0.464$) > 0.05 , there is a non-significant relationship between happiness and education.

5.3 Gender

In regard to gender, there are 42.9% female and 57.1% male translators among the subjects. Although this finding suggests that academic literary translation seems slightly more male dominated, this prevalence is not in agreement with Dam and Zethsen (2009); Katan (2009, 2011); Djovčoš (2012) and Djovčoš and Šveda (2017) who unanimously adduce the approximate 70:30 female to male per cent ratio among translators regardless of localisation of their research.⁷ This implies a certain gender idiosyncrasy of the academic literary translator's habitus in Slovakia. Even though the issue of gender and translators' HAW certainly begs for deeper investigations, we found no relationship between happiness and gender. Whatever the academic literary translator's gender, their perception levels of HAW are approximately the same. The data in Table 3 show that hypothesis 3 was not corroborated ($\chi^2 = 2.70$). The p -significance level ($p = 0.440$) indicates that there is a non-significant relationship between the examined variables.

Table 3. Correlation between happiness and gender.

| Gender | Male | Female |
|---------------------------|------|--------|
| Very happy | 2 | 1 |
| Happy | 7 | 3 |
| Neither happy nor unhappy | 3 | 4 |
| Unhappy | 0 | 1 |
| Very unhappy | 0 | 0 |

$$\chi^2 = 2.70, df = 3 \quad \chi^2/df = 0.9, P(\chi^2 > 2.70) = 0.440$$

5.4 Time dedicated to translation

The questionnaire included an enquiry about how much time the subjects dedicate to their translation activities. 57.1% of the subjects dedicate to literary translation less than 10 hours per week while 28.6% of the subjects spend 10–20 hours per week on translating. This time-frequency distribution of translation activities is a consequence of the part-time occupation with literary translation in the vast majority of the subjects. Only 9.5% of

Table 4. Correlation between happiness and time dedicated to translation.

| Amount of time | <10 hours per week | 10–20 hours per week | 21–30 hours per week | 31–40 hours per week | >40 hours per week |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Very happy | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Happy | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Neither happy nor unhappy | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Very unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

$$\chi^2 = 18.3, df = 6 \quad \chi^2/df = 3.05, P(\chi^2 > 18.3) = 0.006$$

the respondents state that they devote more than 40 hours per week to translation; these being the only full-time literary translators in the sample.

From the data in Table 4 it follows that hypothesis 4 was borne out, with the p -level being <0.01 . We confirmed an indirect relationship between time dedicated to translation and happiness. The part-time occupation could also explain this, at first sight, rather surprising research result, because for academic literary translators who translate besides holding an academic position, translation is probably seen more as a pastime than for those who have to make a living of it. It is also possible to state that those academic literary translators who dedicate to translation 10–20 hours a week are happier than those who translate less than 10 hours a week. In addition, a larger number of the subjects in the latter group seem unable to express their feelings as to whether they are happy or not.

5.5 Status

Status as a sociological concept is conventionally associated with parameters such as money, power, fame, educational background, worthiness and value to the society, at least in Western cultures (Dam and Zethsen 2014). Although translation has long been considered a low-status (semi-)profession (see e.g., Dam and Zethsen 2009, 2016; Katan 2009, 2011; Djovčoš 2012), it is nevertheless relevant to examine the perception of the given conceptual quasi-metaphor by academic literary translators. Upon converting the five graded response categories into numerical values between 1 and 5 (with 1 representing the lowest degree and 5 the highest), the use of the numerical values enabled us to calculate the mean values of the subjects' responses: their mean status rankings are at the value of 3.1, i.e., average. This finding is consonant with those by Katan (2009), Dam and Zethsen (2011, 2014) or Bednárová-Gibová and Madoš (2019) according to which translators (although not necessarily literary ones) enjoy at best an average status. More concretely, 76.2% and 19% of the subjects perceive their status as 'average' and 'high', respectively, as the data in Table 5 imply. Surprisingly, as few as 4.8% of the informants view their status as 'low', which could indicate that they take more into account their own worthiness in a cultural sense than weak social standing in an economic sense (see Table 8) when self-interpreting their status.

We found a direct relationship between status and happiness, which was confirmed at the 0.01 level. The happier academic literary translators are those who have an 'average' (or 'high') status; the ones with a 'low' status seem rather unhappy. A large number of the translators with an 'average' status, however, cannot express their feelings if they are happy or not.

Table 5. Correlation between happiness and status.

| Status | Very high | High | Average | Low | Very Low |
|---------------------------|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|
| Very happy | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Happy | 0 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Neither happy nor unhappy | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Very unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

$$\chi^2 = 23.8, df = 6 \quad \chi^2/df = 3.97, P(\chi^2 > 23.8) = 0.001$$

Table 6. Correlation between income satisfaction and status.

| Status | Very high | High | Average | Low | Very Low |
|-------------------|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|
| Very satisfied | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Satisfied | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Average | 0 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Dissatisfied | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Very dissatisfied | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |

$$\chi^2 = 4.14, df = 6 \quad \chi^2/df = 0.69, P(\chi^2 > 4.14) = 0.658$$

Moreover, we examined the relationship between status and income satisfaction ($\chi^2 = 4.14$), as Table 6 shows. We found that the subjects' income satisfaction is not related to their status as the *p*-significance level is tantamount to 0.658, which is >0.05 , so the correlation between status and income satisfaction is non-significant.

5.6 Income

Nowadays, income is an important indicator of social status and occupational prestige (see e.g. Dam and Zethsen 2014). The translators were asked to adduce their levels of satisfaction with their income from literary translation and we also asked them to state their monthly level of remuneration. The results are displayed in Tables 7 and 8, respectively.

Fewer than a half of all translators (i.e., 42.9%) show an 'average' satisfaction with their income, 33.3% report being 'dissatisfied' and 14.3% even 'extremely dissatisfied' (see Table 7). What is a most strange finding is that 57.1% of all subjects who state that they are either 'happy' or 'very happy' earn in fact very little, i.e., less than 800 EUR (gross pay) per month.⁸ This suggests that the academic literary translators do not link their HAW with economic capital, to put it in Bourdieu's terms. A possible explanation could be that, as a rule, academic literary translators translate as part-timers (as this survey shows), which means that they are not dependent on the income from their translations. It should also be stressed that the denial of the first-place pursuit of economic capital in the subjects

Table 7. Correlation between happiness and satisfaction with income.

| Satisfaction with income | Very satisfied | Satisfied | Average | Dissatisfied | Extremely Dissatisfied |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------|--------------|------------------------|
| Very happy | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Happy | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Neither happy nor unhappy | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Very unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

$$\chi^2 = 8.68, df = 9 \quad \chi^2/df = 0.964, P(\chi^2 > 8.68) = 0.467$$

Table 8. Correlation between happiness and the level of remuneration in EUR per month.

| Remuneration in EUR | >2,000 EUR | 1,500–2,000 EUR | 1,100–1,500 EUR | 800–1,099 EUR | less than 800 EUR |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Very happy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Happy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 |
| Neither happy nor unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Very unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

$$\chi^2 = 10.6, df = 3 \quad \chi^2/df = 3.5, P(\chi^2 > 10.6) = 0.014$$

paves the way for permeation of literary translation by an ‘anti-professional’ ethos, as voiced by Sela-Sheffy (2010).

Another psychological explanation for the absence of linkage between HAW and economic capital is offered by Bednárová-Gibová (2020), who contends that literary translators value their inward-oriented job aspects such as ability to prepare quality translations and increase in knowledge and translation skills more than external job aspects such as income, which reveals a whole lot about their personality traits. As increased income is especially impactful for lower wage earners (see Walsh, Boehm, and Lyubomirsky 2018), more work remains to be done in researching whether a higher level of remuneration would lead to significantly greater HAW levels on the part of (academic) literary translators.⁹

Based on the data in Table 7, we found no relationship between happiness and satisfaction with income ($\chi^2 = 8.68$); the significance level ($p = 0.464$) indicates a non-significant relationship between the two variables. However, the data in Table 8 confirm that there is a significant relationship between happiness and the level of remuneration ($\chi^2 = 10.6$) at the 0.05 level. What is most intriguing is that the academic literary translators who earn less than a desperately low 800 EUR per month are happier. Similarly, a good many subjects with low remuneration cannot say whether they are happy or not. Overall, Table 8 lends some evidence for confirming hypothesis 5 as a low level of remuneration conventionally implies a low social status, although the translators, interestingly enough, tend to rate themselves socially somewhat higher. With reference to Bourdieu’s capital theory (1977), this means that on the strength of their higher status self-interpretation than they objectively possess they slightly over-interpret their symbolic capital. As this study reveals, the translators disregard economic capital (i.e. money) and partly also social capital (i.e. professional contacts in the sense of social networks), as can be inferred from section 5.7. As argued by Bednárová-Gibová (2020) in the prequel to this study, literary translators seem to prioritise cultural capital (i.e. education and knowledge) in their HAW pursuit.

5.7 Visibility

Although 66.6% of the subjects state that they have their name either ‘very often’ or ‘often’ published on their translations (see Table 9), a salient feature of the examined translation segment is that the translator’s name is often absent in any information or advertising materials, even those prepared by the publisher. For the commonplace Slovak reader, the translator’s name has no bearing whatsoever on their reading choices. 71.4% of the subjects work mostly from home on their translations, so their physical visibility, understood with regard to the location of their workplaces in a central or peripheral

Table 9. Correlation between happiness and name visibility.

| Name Visibility | Very often | Often | Sometimes | Seldom | Never |
|---------------------------|------------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Very happy | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Happy | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Neither happy nor unhappy | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Unhappy | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Very unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

$$\chi^2 = 4.92, df = 9 \chi^2/df = 0.546, P(\chi^2 > 4.92) = 0.841$$

Table 10. Correlation between happiness and professional contact.

| Professional contact | Very high | High | Average | Low | Very low |
|---------------------------|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|
| Very happy | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Happy | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Neither happy nor unhappy | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| Unhappy | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Very unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

$$\chi^2 = 14.01, df = 12 \chi^2/df = 1.175, P(\chi^2 > 14.01) = 0.300$$

position in the company they are part of,¹⁰ is rather low. On the other hand, when taking into account their professional visibility, based on the translators' contacts with the author, colleagues or readers, only 9.5% of the subjects complain about a 'very low' degree of their professional contact. As shown in Table 10, more than a half of all subjects (52.3%) report an 'average' degree of professional visibility. These professional contacts can be likened to Bourdieu's social capital.

Upon examining the data in Table 9, we ascertained a non-significant relationship between happiness and name visibility as the χ^2 test and p -values are 4.92 and 0.841, respectively. It also transpires that academic literary translators seem happy with their varying degrees of name visibility. Similarly, there is no relationship between the subjects' happiness and the degree of their professional contact ($\chi^2 = 14.01$; $p = 0.300$). In sum, based on the data in Tables 9 and 10, hypothesis 6 is rejected.

5.8 Influence/power

Though conventionally influence can be regarded as a relatively strong status indicator, our results are at odds with this assumption, because to the majority of the subjects (71.4%) it is of average importance how they perceive their job prestige. Numerical conversion of the data shows that the subjects' mean influence/power scores reach the value of 2.9 on the 1–5 rating scale, i.e., they correspond to the 'average' scale degree.

As can be derived from Table 11, there is no direct correlation between happiness and influence/power ($\chi^2 = 9.61$; $p = 0.383$). In other words, the academic literary translators' HAW is not related to their influence/power. Hence, hypothesis 7 is not corroborated.

An interesting observation is that while the more aggressive concept of influence/power seems to be of lesser significance to the subjects, the related gentler psychological concept of responsibility matters much more to a substantial number of them when ascribing prestige to their work. This is confirmed by an anonymous translator: *'My happiness at work resides in mediating a foreign word to others [...], thus opening new*

Table 11. Correlation between happiness and influence/power.

| Influence/Power | Very high | High | Average | Low | Very low |
|---------------------------|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|
| Very happy | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Happy | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| Neither happy nor unhappy | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Unhappy | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Very unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

$$\chi^2 = 9.61, df = 9 \quad \chi^2/df = 1.06, P(\chi^2 > 9.61) = 0.383$$

worlds for other readers, giving them a chance to think about things which they wouldn't otherwise be thinking about. My happiness is about the feeling of **responsibility** (emphasis added) towards literature, language and solidarity with those who freely decide to enter a dialogue with literature' (see also Bednářová-Gibová 2020, 77). While 57.1% and 14.3% of the informants attach 'high' and 'very high' degrees of responsibility to their jobs, almost a third of them (28.6%), however, said they ascribed a 'certain degree' to their work, indicating some room for leeway in the interpretation of the question. This could be connected to the much freer nature of literary translation, having less serious sanction consequences than e.g. legal translation despite undoubtedly playing a vital role in creating a language culture of a given people.

5.9 Appreciation

Drawing on Bourdieu's theory (1977), perceptions of *symbolic violence* by translation agents were also examined. Thus, it was enquired of the subjects to what extent their work was appreciated by others. We posed the question as a reaction to translators' work being often depicted as 'thankless' or even 'not recognized' (Dam and Zethsen 2009, 28). 71.4% of the informants stated that their work was appreciated to a 'certain degree' and 28.6% answered to a 'high degree'; nobody marked the lowest ranking category, i.e., to a 'very low' degree. Numerical conversion of the data in Table 12 reveals that the translators' mean appreciation scores pertain to the value of 3.3 on the 1–5 rating scale. The mid-scale value of the five-graded Likert scale in response to this question is in total agreement with the latest findings by Bednářová-Gibová and Madoš (2019), however, this time for a specific translator's habitus. As can be inferred from the data in Table 12, there is no correlation between happiness and appreciation in the tested literary translators ($\chi^2 = 3.24$), so hypothesis 8 is rejected. The *p*-significance level ($p = 0.356$) points to a non-significant relationship between happiness and appreciation. This means that academic literary translators' HAW is not related to whether others appreciate their work.

Table 12. Correlation between happiness and appreciation.

| Appreciation | Very high | High | Certain | Low | Very low |
|---------------------------|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|
| Very happy | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Happy | 0 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Neither happy nor unhappy | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Unhappy | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Very unhappy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

$$\chi^2 = 3.24, df = 3 \quad \chi^2/df = 1.08, P(\chi^2 > 3.24) = 0.356$$

6. Conclusions, caveats and outlooks

To conclude, the gained HAW profile of the academic literary translators, which emanates from this study, can help us understand their socio-psychological frames of mind amidst their somewhat schizophrenic professional reality. Despite their average status, influence and weak social appreciation, the translators seem to show fairly positive happiness styles; 61.9% of the subjects perceive themselves as 'happy' or 'very happy'. Noteworthy links were found between the translators' HAW and time dedicated to translation, their status and the level of remuneration. The less time the translators devote to translation, the happier they seem within the scope of their part-time jobs. There is a positive correlation between status and HAW: the happier translators seem those who have an 'average' (or 'high') status. Although we found a significant relationship between HAW and the level of remuneration, a sociologically intriguing finding is that the academic literary translators whose earnings are scandalously low seem happier than those who make a bit more money. Based on these correlations, the following preliminary conclusions can be drawn: firstly, literary translation seems psychologically beneficial if performed within a less extensive time frame. Secondly, the academic literary translators' status perception seems to have a psychological repercussion on their professional satisfaction. Thirdly, income is not a strong professional satisfier in academic literary translators, which implies their immaterialist orientation in social values.

Although the performed statistical probe had a limited scope, it sought to test the selected variables in relation to the presence of HAW in the research participants. Hence, the conclusions are necessarily related to the limited (however academically strong) pool of the research participants and the method connected with relying on ethnographic self-report data. As Hubscher-Davidson forewarns us (2018), self-report instruments including questionnaires can be negatively influenced by the social desirability bias, so it is likely that a positive bias towards happy literary translators does not leave our study unaffected. It is also possible that other variables can impact on academic literary translators' HAW, but were not confirmed because of the limitations of this study. The findings of the study cannot be generalised and applied to the whole population of literary translators, either. It is therefore relevant that replications of this research are conducted with subjects with a non-academic background and different nationalities, ideally with much larger research samples, to extrapolate its findings to what could be dubbed universal literary translators' habitus. Correlation coefficients should also be interpreted with caution, especially when analysing human perceptions and feelings. In the foreseeable future, there are also other relationships of interest that could be analysed, for example, the role of environmental factors (especially translation ergonomics) or translator personality, in optimising literary translators' happiness.

Nonetheless, this research represents another contribution to our cognitive-affective research mosaic in progress focusing on mapping translators' HAW across the Slovak social space. The present study can be used as an analytical roadmap for 'gauging' literary translators' HAW across supranational translator landscapes. In addition, the study adds weight to a much needed conversation between translator studies and psychology because it enriches our understanding of the sources of translators' professional satisfaction although the phenomenon under discussion is large and complex.

Last but not least, we realise that however subjective and contentious the research into translators' HAW may be, enhancing our knowledge about cognitive-affective self-perceptions of their occupational functioning aspects, including their views, stances and feelings, can shed more light on the hidden complexities of the literary translators' personae.

Notes

1. Fock, de Haan, and Lhotová (2008, 45) examined incomes of literary translators all over Europe and claim that 'the earnings of recognized, professional translators of literature are to be found at or below the poverty threshold in any given country'. They also ascertained that Slovak and Czech translators translated the largest number of literary works, but were at the bottom of the pay scale. The Slovak literary translators' deplorable remuneration has also been confirmed in the most recent research by Djovčoš and Šveda (2017).
2. The European Council of Literary Translators' Associations.
3. Apart from the authors' suppositions, the number is also based on the extrapolation of the estimates by Katarína Bednárová, Ladislav Šimon and Barbara Sigmundová, acclaimed Slovak literary translation professionals, mediated in an email correspondence in October 2020. For the sake of comparison, there were only 6 professional literary translators in the vitally important sociological translator research by Djovčoš and Šveda (2017). To date, the largest survey of Slovak literary translators seems to have been conducted by DoSlov citizens association in 2019, involving 117 participants with at least one published translation (Rondziková 2020).
4. The term has been borrowed from von Flotow (2007).
5. The term *amnesia* has been taken over from Bourdieu (1977). He explicitly mentions *genesis amnesia* by which he means forgetting of a habitus' history (Bourdieu 1977: 78–79). By *cultural amnesia*, analogically, we mean forgetting our cultural history. The traces of cultural amnesia and lazy reading habits in younger generations in Slovakia have been tacitly hinted at by Keníž (2018). Taking into account translocal dimensions of these phenomena, similar observations, especially in regard to the decline in reading activities in today's digital era, have been reported by the American Psychological Association (Twenge 2018).
6. <https://www.socscistatistics.com/tests/chisquare2/Default2.aspx>.
7. In the given formula, *r* stands for the number of rows and *c* for the number of columns.
8. All cited scholars, however, did not focus exclusively on (academic) literary translators.
9. Compare with the estimated average salary in Slovakia in 2019, which amounts to 1,063 EUR (<https://www.minimalnamzda.sk/priemerna-mzda.php>).
10. According to the research by Walsh, Boehm, and Lyubomirsky (2018), happiness and income rise hand in hand up until USD 75,000 after which point a higher income does not enhance happiness or emotional well-being.
11. Translators' physical visibility has been understood in compliance with Dam and Zethsen (2014, 108).

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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Appendix

Part 1: Background Questions

1. Do you hold an academic position at a university or any other higher education institution? (if retired, please answer in relation to your entire career)
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
2. Is translating a full-time profession for you?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
3. Do you translate primarily literary texts?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
4. Could you say that you have your literary translations published regularly, i.e. every 2-3 years?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
5. What kind of literary texts do you normally translate?
 - ☐ Poetry
 - ☐ Prose
 - ☐ Drama
 - ☐ Audiovisual works
 - ☐ Videogames
 - ☐ Children's books
 - ☐ Other (please specify)
6. Which language(s) do you translate from?
 - ☐ English
 - ☐ German
 - ☐ French
 - ☐ Spanish
 - ☐ Russian
 - ☐ Ukrainian
 - ☐ Other (please specify)
7. Please indicate your gender:
 - ☐ Male
 - ☐ Female
8. How old are you?
 - ☐ 25 – 29
 - ☐ 30 – 39
 - ☐ 40 – 49
 - ☐ 50 – 59
 - ☐ > 60
9. How many years have you been an active translator?
 - ☐ 1 – 5
 - ☐ 6 – 10
 - ☐ 11– 15
 - ☐ 16 – 20
 - ☐ > 21

10. What is the highest education level you have received?

- ☐ High school
- ☐ Bachelor's degree
- ☐ Master's degree
- ☐ PhD.
- ☐ Other (please specify)

11. How many hours per week do you spend translating?

- ☐ < 10 hours
- ☐ 11-20 hours
- ☐ 21-30 hours
- ☐ 31-40 hours
- ☐ > 40 hours

Part 2: Parameters of occupational prestige and happiness at work

12. How happy do you feel as a translator overall?

- ☐ Very happy
- ☐ Happy
- ☐ Neither happy nor unhappy
- ☐ Unhappy
- ☐ Very unhappy

13. How do you perceive your status as translator based on your working experience?

- ☐ Very high
- ☐ High
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Low
- ☐ Very low

14. How satisfied are you with your income from literary translation?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Dissatisfied
- ☐ Extremely dissatisfied

15. Please specify how much you earn per month as a result of your translation activities:

- ☐ > 2,000 EUR
- ☐ 1,500 – 2,000 EUR
- ☐ 1,100 – 1,500 EUR
- ☐ 800 – 1,099 EUR
- ☐ less than 800 EUR

16. How do you rate the degree of expertise/education required to perform your job as

- ☐ a translator?
- ☐ Very high
- ☐ High
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Low
- ☐ Very low

17. What is the degree of your professional contact with the author/end users/recipients of the target text, clients etc.?

- ☐ Very high
- ☐ High
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Low
- ☐ Very low

18. Do you like communicating with the author/end users/recipients of the target text/colleagues or clients in connection with your translation (production)?

- ☐ I like it very much

- ☐ I like it
 - ☐ I don't really care
 - ☐ I hate it
 - ☐ I absolutely hate it
19. How frequently does your name appear on your translations?
- ☐ Very often
 - ☐ Often
 - ☐ Sometimes
 - ☐ Seldom
 - ☐ Never
20. Where in the institution(s) you're working with, is your office where you usually work on your translations located?
- ☐ Central
 - ☐ Neither central nor peripheral
 - ☐ Peripheral
 - ☐ Hard to tell; I mostly work from home
21. How do you rate the degree of the power/influence that you possess as a translator?
- ☐ Very high
 - ☐ High
 - ☐ Average
 - ☐ Low
 - ☐ Very low
22. How would you rate the advancement opportunities in your field of work?
- ☐ Very high
 - ☐ High
 - ☐ Average
 - ☐ Low
 - ☐ Very low
23. How much responsibility is involved in your job as a translator?
- ☐ Very high
 - ☐ High
 - ☐ Average
 - ☐ Low
 - ☐ Very low
24. To what degree do you think is your work appreciated or valued by others?
- ☐ To a very high degree
 - ☐ To a high degree
 - ☐ To a certain degree
 - ☐ To a low degree
 - ☐ To a very low degree
25. Do you have any other opinions or comments on the literary translator's "happiness at work" that you would like to share with us?