

## Summary

The dissertation thesis is based on the concept of translation as an aesthetic stance not limited to translating from one language to another, but informing a certain type of original creation. In order to speak about this aesthetic stance which shares some of its features, methods and values with those often found in the work of a translator the term “translation poetics” is proposed. The American poet Elizabeth Bishop (1911–1979) is presented and examined as a representative of this poetic type. A study of her lifetime work as a translator creates a context and background for the formulation of the basic characteristics of Bishop’s “translation poetics”, and, consequently, for the reading of her poems. The detailed chronological examination of all her translations (from Ancient Greek, French, Portuguese and Spanish) is followed by an outline of the main poetic principles which lie both behind translation and the original creation, and these are exemplified by detailed close-readings of a selection of Bishop’s poems. The key features of Bishop’s “translation poetics” (the interest meetings and borders; tensions between domination and submission, and between the insider and the outsider position; sensitivity towards the plurality of voices and of perspectives; a stress on dialogue and interaction; constant doubt and tentativeness that springs from the knowledge that it is impossible to achieve perfection; the stress on search, on the process, not on the outcome) all stem from the principle of the encounter with the other and the openness towards the other, and can be found operating on various levels in individual poems, from the thematic level and the level of the space, through the particular motives and imagery, to the language, rhetoric, and form. The proposed contribution of the thesis is threefold: firstly, to present an overall view of Bishop’s life work as a translator; secondly, to suggest a new perspective of Bishop’s poetry by seeing it in terms of translation; and thirdly, on a more general level, to outline a type of poetics, “translation poetics”.