

Греческий критический аппарат в изданиях славянских переводов: необходимость и (не)возможность

Greek Critical Apparatus in Slavonic Translations: Necessity and (Im)possibility

The paper is focused on two principal questions that every modern publisher of Slavonic medieval translations from Greek faces: the need to have an apparatus clarifying the deviations of the Slavonic text from its Byzantine source text and the limitations (objective or subjective) that inevitably accompany the creation of such an apparatus.

The necessity for a comparative view on the Greek sources is motivated by two main factors. The first one is the source basis. In general translations are not preserved as originals but in copies instead. Detailed text-critical work with Slavonic sources helps, in most cases, to eliminate the mistakes accumulated in the process of transmission yet it does not always give reliable evidence in distinguishing some inaccuracy in translation from a copyist error which was set in the general archetype. In such a case, the Greek original should be taken as a corrective. The second factor is related to the increasing requirements to the publishing of translations as far as they are used for various scholarly purposes by philologists, philosophers, historians and theologians. Any restriction of the view to the Slavonic manuscript tradition only deprives the medievalists of important data about the translation technique used, about the adoption of ideas, of terms and *topoi*. As a result, the potential of a given text to reveal the linguistic and cultural asymmetry between the source text and target text is destined to remain unfulfilled.

The possibility to attract a comparative material from Byzantine sources depends on several scholarly circumstances. On the one hand, the specific Byzantine manuscript which was used by the respective translator is, as a rule, not known. And, concerning the text version to which it belongs, the judgment is based on collation of Slavic and Byzantine manuscript tradition. In some of the cases the text variation, which is sought, is more or less preserved, while in other cases it is irretrievably lost. So the degree of proximity between the available Byzantine and Slavic witnesses implies limitations for each specific translation – in the selection of data and creation of a trustworthy Greek critical apparatus. On the other hand, what is important in terms of the scope and trustworthiness of this apparatus is the level of knowledge of Byzantine tradition and the qualities of the available edition. Due to objective reasons, the approach to texts having Greek critical editions and to texts not having such is radically different. Last but not least, the popularity of a given writing also reflects on the concept of a Greek critical apparatus – as far as highly frequent texts are concerned (those with rich manuscript tradition and many branches), the question arises about selection and presentation of the optimal quantity and quality of information in order to avoid an apparatus turning into a tomb of useless variants.

In conclusion, the presence of a Greek critical apparatus in the editions of Slavonic translations is indubitably necessary. Its content and scope, however, will remain beyond standardisation for a while, since they directly depend on a complex of factors that differ for the different texts. The main objective in the selection of the variants in this apparatus is still a proper understanding of the proto translation and clarification, if possible, of its relationship with a certain branch of the Byzantine tradition.