

TRANSLATING AUSTRALIA: THE CONCEPT OF 'AUSTRALIANNESSE' IN TIM WINTON'S *DIRT MUSIC*

ABSTRACT

This paper will form a chapter of my thesis entitled 'Translating Australia - Contemporary Australian writers in Translation'. To summarise briefly, the thesis will approach questions of cultural identity as constructs of discourse, the manner in which *langue* - 'the cultural inventory of myths, of associations and of the meanings which they support' (Turner, 1993:9) becomes the bearer of Australian identity across cultures and the role played by translation in this cross-cultural transfer. In this paper I analyse some of the themes in *Dirt Music* in order to highlight the manner in which they form part of our national discourse and represent 'Australianness' in a receiving culture. My discussion will consider instances of cultural allusions, intertextuality and other factors which reflect a universe of discourse unfamiliar to the target reader.

By presenting some examples from the Italian translated text of where issues of universe of discourse have been either unrecognised or ignored I hope to illustrate how cultural identities are 'produced in specific historical and institutional sites within specific discourses and practices, by specific enunciative strategies' (Hall, 1996:4) and how translators, critics and reviewers 'manipulate' (Lefevere, 1992) texts in order to facilitate the reception of these messages and to conform with the expectations of 'Australianness' as understood by Italian readers.