

Translating Australian (multi)culture: the German translation of Melina Marchetta's *Looking for Alibrandi*

Children's literature is produced within a cultural ideology that almost demands a representation of certain ideas/messages pertaining to such major themes as identity, politics and society as well as macro themes relating to ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ecology and the environment. *Looking for Alibrandi* made a defiant mark on the Australian book scene in the early 1990s as one of the first young adult novels written by an Italian-Australian to deal with issues directly related to ethnicity in a contemporary Australian context. The German translation of *Looking for Alibrandi* was published in 1995 as *Josy sucht Josy*.

Translating (multi)culture addresses aspects central to the migrant/ethnic-minority group/individual experience in Australia as portrayed in Marchetta's text. Further to the portrayal of ethnicity/multiculturalism is the relationship between multiculturalism and urbanisation as specific to representations of contemporary Australian society. These are major considerations given that one of the most integral aspects to the study of the translation of children's literature is the way in which children's texts facilitate the transfer of culture through the deployment of cultural signifiers. Furthermore, it is important to distinguish the various text-specific challenges created through the process of introducing these cultural signifiers into the target text and target culture via the act of translation. As such, this paper addresses the notion of 'translating Australian (multi)culture' by observing the translation-strategies employed by the German translator, Cornelia Holfelder-von der Tann to overcome many of the Australian-specific challenges of the source text.