

## **Handmaidens to Translators versus Feminist Solidarity – Opposing Politics of Translation in the Galician Literary System**

María Reimóndez  
Independent Researcher, Spain

Lori Chamberlain's eye-opening article "Gender and the Metaphorics of Translation", originally published in 1988, first described translators in general as "handmaidens to authors". This fruitful analysis helped open up interesting avenues for feminist translation. On the one hand, it highlighted the need for a reformulation of the actual theoretical concepts underlying traditional translation theory; while on the other, it opened up questions regarding the status of women translators in practice. However, further studies have questioned this idea of the translator as female and inferior. For example, postcolonial approaches have shown that Western translators have usually exercised their power to interpret the Other in ways that were complicit with colonial endeavours. It is in this framework that this article explores the power implications of translation for the Galician literary system. The Galician literary system may be interesting as it can be seen as a non-hegemonic system (inside Europe) or a hegemonic one (outside Europe). The analysis of two translations, that of Jean Rhys' *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Manuel Forcadela, and that of Sandra Cisneros' *Loose Woman* by Marilar Aleixandre shall explore two opposing trends. The first one is a trend in which the discourse of the non-hegemonic position of Galician actually allows for patriarchal and colonial interventions in translation, while the other one takes feminist solidarity as a base for a relationship with the female postcolonial Other.