

“Pompous Nothings” and Condescension in the Romanian Retranslation of *Pride and Prejudice*

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Abstract. *The present article aims at providing a textual analysis of formulaic language in eight Romanian versions of Jane Austen’s novel, *Pride and Prejudice*. The article investigates strategies in the translation of such constructions by looking at examples culled from the discourse of characters such as Mr. Collins, or Lady Catherine de Bourgh, whose speech patterns are known to be rife with formulaic language, meant to serve as reinforcement for (im)politeness. The corpus indicates that a strategy of equivalence for formulaic expressions in translation is the reason why overlapping occurs in multiple target texts. Thus, overlapping might be used as a tool for identification in the case of familiar language. I conclude that the overlapping noticed in the retranslation of formulaic expressions is not due to creative appropriation, rather it is a phenomenon dictated by the very presence of formulaic language in the source text.*

Keywords: *equivalence; formulaic expressions; familiar language; novel language; overlapping; retranslation;*