

TRANSLATING SHAKESPEARE INTO ROMANIAN: ON THE EVE AND IN
THE AFTERMATH OF THE 1848 REVOLUTION

Oana-Alis Zaharia
Dimitrie Cantemir University, Bucharest

ABSTRACT

The present paper sets out to emphasise the important ideological function of translations in the nineteenth-century Romanian principalities by illustrating the way in which socio-cultural factors, ideology, the dominant poetics and politics shaped and influenced the first Romanian translations of *Julius Caesar* (1844) and *Macbeth* (1850). The two translations share important characteristics such as the option for a verbatim translation and the Frenchifying of the text. I aim to demonstrate that these processes were meant to shore up not only the dominant poetics but also the revolutionary ideology of the time, which aimed to assert the Romanians' national identity by emphasising their Latin origins. Moreover, I will consider the two plays' topicality, in both Wallachia and Moldavia, on the eve and in the aftermath of the 1848 Romanian revolution.

KEYWORDS: Shakespeare, translation, Romanian principalities, 1848 revolution