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On Translation for Dubbing in Terms of Visual Phonetics

Following Yves Gambier's contribution to audiovisual translation research, this field encompasses all translations for production or postproduction in any media or format referring to translation of verbal content of multimedia texts with the focus on its adequate applicability in a similar media system as the original text.

On the grounds of translation theories relevant to audiovisual translation research such as Descriptive translation Studies, Skopos Theory and Polysystems Theory it can be asserted that in translation for dubbing the function of the product prevails, the verbal text functions in the film system where it is constrained by time limits and lip synchrony. The visual constraints, however, are observed only in close-up shots. In terms of visual phonetics, the lip shape of the speaker is well-marked while pronouncing bilabial consonants and open and rounded vowels.

The present research limits itself to the comparative analysis of the inventory of English and Lithuanian bilabial consonants, as well as a bilabial following vowel or diphthong, whether it is close, open or rounded. Recommendations of translation for dubbing from English into Lithuanian in terms of visually adequate bilabials and them following vowels or diphthongs are produced.