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Translation as a tool for shaping national identities: the case of Galicia.

With the emergence of nationalism in Galicia (northwest of Spain) during the first third of the twentieth century, a group of intellectuals, known as Xeración Nós, embarked themselves on the project of constructing a national identity for their homeland. Following a political agenda based on the concepts of Celticism and Atlanticism with the aim of differentiating Galicia from Spain, they chose Ireland, an important member of the Celtic-Atlantic nations, as a model for Galicia to follow in the process of finding its own identity free from any kind of Spanish influence. Thus, they tried to establish a brotherly relationship with the northern European island in which translation played a key role as it was used to introduce innovative Irish literary models in Galicia, to fortify the Galician language and elevate its status and to resist the influence of the Spanish culture. One of the main objectives of these translations was to create an effect of identification between both nations and to incorporate Galicia into the Celtic mythological tradition. Taking these considerations into account, my paper will explore how translation of Irish literary texts was used as a political instrument that contributed to articulate a nationalist discourse and became a de-alienating force. I will look at translation as a process of appropriation that intended to establish a cultural dialogue with the Other and became a way of resistance and reaffirmation of Galicia's national identity.