

多言語多文化研究に向けた複合型派遣プログラム
派遣研究報告書

2012年 4月 12日

派遣者氏名（専門分野）	SPECHT, Theresa (German Literature)
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下記のとおり報告します。

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研究テーマ	Kurdish Literature in Exile in German-speaking Countries at the Beginning of the 21st Centuries
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派遣期間

2012年 1月 26日 ~ 2012年 4月 1日

訪問研究機関	国	都市	訪問機関	受入研究者
	Germany	Berlin	Institute for Kurdish Studies	Feyrad Fazil Omar
	Germany	Berlin	European Center for Kurdish Studies	
	Germany	Cologne	PEN Center	
	Germany	Bonn	NAVEND e.V.	
	Germany	Mainz	Mainz University	

派遣先で実施した研究内容

In the first month the aim of my research was to compile an overview of Kurdish literature in exile in a German context. Because information about Kurdish literature in German is scarce and it is difficult to investigate about authors and their works (e.g. it is sometimes not explicit if an author can be seen as 'Kurdish' and his work as 'literature in exile'), I contacted researchers that are linked to this topic to get more information. In first place this was Feryad Fazil Omar (Institute for Kurdish Studies, Berlin), who itself is a Kurdish author of poetry in Kurdish and German. I used the university's library to search for and screen relevant books and make a detailed list about authors and works.

I could complete this list when I went to Cologne (Feb. 23-25) and had an interview with the president of the Kurdish PEN-Center, Dr. Zaradachet Hajo, Linguist of Kurdish. He also brought me in contact with Haydar Isik, a Kurdish author of prose texts, who lives in exile in Germany. In Bonn (Feb. 25-27) I visited the library of NAVEND e.V., the Center for Kurdish Culture. By the end of February I compiled a detailed list about Kurdish authors in exile and their works written in or translated into German. (By now the list contains 97 books and information about 90 authors. As it lists all relevant authors and works of Kurdish literature in exile in a German-speaking context, it provides a general overview of this topic.)

The second month, I intensified my research in two directions: 1) taking a closer look on specific works, 2) intensifying the work on the theoretical context.

1) Because of the fact that most of the works in the list is prose (only a small number is poetry, and

an even smaller is drama) I defined the following point of interest for further research: "the development of prose in Kurdish literature in exile in a German-speaking context".

2) The literature this research project focuses on can be seen under several theoretical aspects; first of all, of course, it can be investigated as a 'literature in exile'. Researches on literature in exile in Germany almost exclusively focuses on the exile from Germany 1939-45, but in the last years there is the tendency to widen the spectrum and link it to theoretical concepts of culturality, hybridity and translation theory (see the annual "Jahrbuch für Exilforschung"). A second approach touches theories of cultural memory by asking: How can this literature be defined as 'Kurdish'? There are specific topics and statements in the text that contribute to a collective memory of Kurdishness, e.g. commemorations of historical incidents (the revolts of Scheich Said, Ararat and Dersim; the massacres of Dersim and Halabdjia), similar experiences of oppression (e.g. despotism, flight, prison), as well as a shared language and similar customs and traditions.

Kurdish literature in exile cannot be investigated without paying attention to the political circumstances. One aspect is the definition of 'terrorism'. The largest group of Kurds in exile live in Germany, which politics – following the Turkish politics – declares the Kurdish activist party PKK as a 'terrorist group' and its 'fight for the Kurdish minority rights as 'terrorist activities'. In the literary texts such activities are reflected as a movement of freedom and resistance against national terror. On March 16/17 I participated at a workshop about "Terrorism and (Inter-)Culturality" at Mainz University to discuss theoretical aspects of the phenomenon 'terrorism' (My topic of speech was: "Subversive Performances of 'the terrorist' in contemporary Turkish-German Literature").

研究の当初の目的・計画の達成状況、明らかにできた成果

By the end of March I have screened all the books from the list and I collected the most promising works (about 30 titles) as a small library of "Kurdish Literature in exile in German-speaking countries". As one can see, this literature is quite new in Germany and also still very small and widely ignored. But, nonetheless, it is worth to take a closer look at it, as it reflects experiences and thoughts of a group of people that form part of the German society today and which cultural identity of being 'Kurdish' is often ignored, such as statistics list them as Turkish, Iraqi, Iranian or Syrian. Because of its specific situation – repression in the home countries, situation of exile in the receiving countries – Kurdish literature written in or translated into German often is 'committed literature' ('engagierte Literatur') that emphasises on the content and hasn't found its literary form yet. Nonetheless, there are some works that are promising (as Nihat Behram: Schwalben des verrückten Lebens; Salim Barakat: Der eiserne Grashüpfer; Mehmet Uzun: Im Schatten der verlorenen Liebe; Haydar Isik: Der Agha von Dersim; Mahmut Baksi: Dono; Zuhdi Al-Dahooodi: Abschied von Ninive).

派遣後の研究発表の予定

I applied for a speech at the autumn conference of the "Japanische Gesellschaft für Germanistik" (JGG; German Society Japan) and was accepted, but, unfortunately I had to cancel my participation. I will apply again for the JGG spring conference in Mai 25th/26th.