

## NEW VOICES FOR OLD HEROES: HOLDEN CAULFIELD IN RETRANSLATION

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**Abstract:** *The paper discusses the two Bulgarian translations of Salinger's 'The Catcher in the Rye' (1965; 2017) in the light of retranslation theory, from the first formulations of the Retranslation Hypothesis in the 1990s to some of its recent re-conceptualizations by translation theorists, and in the Bulgarian cultural context of the respective periods. Analyzing key aspects of the protagonist's idiolect and the translators' strategies in reproducing it in Bulgarian, the paper challenges the easy dismissal of the first translation by Nadya Sotirova as dated and "inauthentic", and of its language as distorted by restrictive totalitarian norms and self-censorship. It is argued that in its desire to differentiate itself from its predecessor, to improve upon it and make the text more engaging for today's readers, the 2017 translation by Svetlana Komogorova produces certain textual deformations of its own, thereby undermining the universality of the original Retranslation Hypothesis claim that later translations are closer to their original texts. The conclusions are in tune with recent thought in retranslation studies which veers away from discussing retranslations in teleological and hierarchical terms, towards their agency as literary regenerators through their plurality and multivocality.*