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Palestinian-Irish Children's Literature Translation Project

نور الشمس
مشروع ترجمة أدب الأطفال الفلسطيني الأيرلندي

Tionscnamh Aistriúcháin: Noor Ash Shams



The *Noor Ash Shams* Children's Books Project is a Palestinian-Irish third-level initiative involving the translation, publication and distribution of children's stories in Arabic and Irish.

Aim of Project

The main goal of the project is for Palestinian and Irish children to exchange traditional and contemporary stories, thereby learning a little about each other's culture and adding to the diversity in reading material available to them.

Background

The idea grew out of a visit by Irish academics to Palestinian universities and NGOs under the Right 2 Education banner. Since 2014, Mahmoud Abdel-Fattah and Eithne O'Connell, lecturers in translation studies from Birzeit University in Ramallah (www.birzeit.edu) and Dublin City University (www.dcu.ie), respectively, have worked closely with authors, editors, illustrators and publishers in Ireland and Palestine on the project. In 2015, the translators met in Ireland and started to translate the Palestinian and Irish stories they had chosen into English (which was used as a pivot language in both directions) and then into Irish Gaelic and Arabic respectively. The texts selected for translation include stories written by both adults and children.

Project description

2014-2018 Phase One involved a study and research trip to Ireland by Mahmoud Abdel-Fattah in spring/summer 2015 and attendance at translation workshops in Dublin and Inis Oírr, Aran Islands. 2018 saw the publication of an illustrated volume of traditional Irish stories and another of contemporary stories in Arabic. These were translated by Mahmoud Abdel-Fattah. Phase One was funded primarily by BZU, with the books distributed to schools throughout the West Bank and Gaza by Tamer Institute for Community Education (www.tamerinst.org), the NGO publisher in 2018.

2015/2019 Phase Two, funded by BZU and DCU and other donors, is to be completed in 2019 and involves the publication in a single volume of seven traditional and contemporary

Palestinian stories translated into Irish by Máire Uí Dhufaigh and Eithne O'Connell. These will be made available to Irish-language primary and secondary schools, north and south.

Translation Team

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Editorial Team Máire Nic Mhaoláin, Translator of Harry Potter and formerly of An Gúm, Ireland's official Irish-language educational publisher, Dublin. Republic of Ireland.

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