



**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

## Evaluation Report

**Noor Ash Shams: Palestinian-Irish Children's Literature Translation (2014-2020)  
(A Cross-cultural Research and Publishing Project of Birzeit University/Dublin City University)**

<https://ctts.ie/links/#noor-ash-shams>

**Date: 9 June 2020**

### To whom it may concern

*Scéalta ón bPailistín: Sean agus Nua*

The stories in this collection are a significant contribution to literature in the Irish language, bringing new voices and perspectives from a different culture into the language. Children's literature in Irish has witnessed significant growth over the last two decades, in particular but not only, in the area of translation. However, there has been virtually no translation from literature in Arabic and this collection is especially important in opening up the daily lives and experiences of Palestinians to young Irish readers and to adult learners of Irish. The language is of a very high standard throughout and the stories beautifully capture the images, rhythms, repetitions, metaphors which are so central to the effectiveness of tales written in the folk idiom. It is fortunate that the both the Irish and Arabic traditions can draw on exceptionally rich oral traditions so that the versions in Irish sit comfortably within a centuries-old tradition of storytelling in the Irish language. At the same time, the translations capture the nuances in culture, context and expression that characterize the specificity of Palestinian culture. Themes of family, nature, conflict, music, climate which recur in tales in the Irish tradition are present in these stories suggesting shared experiences and possibilities for empathetic understanding which point to the crucial mediating position of translation. Given the heavily filtered portrayals of Arab culture in the Western world, it is particularly gratifying that readers in Irish will have access to stories that give readers glimpses of the routine daily lives of Palestinians, young and old. In addition, these stories in Irish are an ideal introduction to the narrative riches of the Arab tradition, ancient and modern, which are so finely rendered in these translations. Birzeit University, the Arab-Irish Chamber of Commerce and Dublin City University and Tamer Institute for Community Education are to be particularly commended for making this project possible. Dublin City University which has established itself as a remarkably innovative centre of Irish-language teaching and

scholarship was the ideal partner in Ireland to enable this project to be brought to fruition. All involved are to be congratulated on enriching the Irish language with an insightful, engaging and stimulating collection of tales. *Scéalta ón bPailistín* is a landmark publication in Irish.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Cronin', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Professor Michael Cronin FTCD MRIA MAE  
Director  
Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation  
Trinity College Dublin  
Ireland