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TRANSLATIONS OF SCHUMPETER'S WORK: FROM GERMAN INTO ENGLISH TO ENGLISH INTO GERMAN

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ABSTRACT

*An overview of translations of texts by Joseph A. Schumpeter shows some very interesting stories. First of all, Schumpeter's early works, especially his monographs, were primarily written in German. As concerns his first major contribution on economic dynamics, the *Theorie der wirtschaftlichen Entwicklung* (1911), originally, and still published by Duncker & Humblot, a first English translation was only provided more than 20 years later in 1934 as the *Theory of Economic Development*. After Schumpeter's migration to the United States in 1932, the original language of both individual articles and his monographs changed to English. In 1939, his second major, two-volume work on economic dynamics, the *Business Cycles*, was published with McGraw-Hill. Interestingly, this time, a similar lag applied to the translation in the opposite direction: more than 22 decades later, the translation as *Konjunkturzyklen* (1961) was published with Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy, Schumpeter's third monograph on economic dynamics, however, was translated more quickly: only four years after the original publication with Harper in 1942, the translation *Kapitalismus, Sozialismus und Demokratie* was published in 1946. Interestingly, the rights for the translation were not secured by the publisher of Schumpeter's earlier German work, Duncker & Humblot in Berlin, but instead by Francke in Bern, Switzerland – when CSD was published, the Nazi regime was still in power in Germany.*

*The translations of Schumpeter's major works are not just an interesting case because they happened both ways, but, related to the lags between publications, because they also displayed developments in Schumpeter's own thinking and terminology, which became visible especially in Schumpeter's own forewords to the respective editions. This issue will also be briefly discussed in this paper. For example, as concerns the *Theorie der wirtschaftlichen Entwicklung*, the book originally consisted of seven chapters. The seventh one, dealing with dynamics on a broad scale and delving into economic sociology, however, was removed by Schumpeter in the second German edition of 1926, since, as he noted in the foreword (1911/1926: 11), the "fragment of cultural sociology" (own translation) would distract the reader from the abstract economic ideas and theory which he regarded as central. In fact, a first English translation of this chapter was only provided recently by Becker and Knudsen (2002). This reflected Schumpeter's shift away from sociological questions in discussing his economic theory until BC. Later, of course, in CSD, Schumpeter went full circle and took up these arguments once again. This paper discusses the stories just outlined in more detail and embeds them in a framework both of Schumpeter's work in general, including the reception of it, and the historical context into which the different books were published.*

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