



## Appendix D: Short Study of Theatre Translations in the Netherlands

### Introduction

In order to have some idea of the textual material that theatre groups in the Netherlands work with, this short study looks at the plays of some of the professional theatre groups in the Netherlands. The groups are selected because they are the eight city theatre groups subsidised by the state: Toneelgroep Amsterdam (Amsterdam), Nationaal Toneel (The Hague), Theater Utrecht (Utrecht), RO Theater (Rotterdam), Noord Nederlands Toneel (Groningen), Toneelgroep Maastricht (Maastricht), Het Zuidelijk Toneel (Tilburg) en Toneelgroep Oostpool (Arnhem). Of each of these groups, a list has been made of how many of their productions that ran during the past season (2015-2016) were based on translations. Where possible, it is also noted who the translators were and what their background was. Another category concerned adaptations, in order to see how many of the translations were further adapted by theatre professionals. Lastly, to have some idea of the percentage of translated works on stage, a list has been made of productions not based on translations or adaptations.

For each translator or theatre professional it is noted what their main role in the field is, e.g. translator (only mentioned for those who are professional translators rather than theatre makers), director, dramaturg or playwright. Many theatre makers have several roles within the theatre which they fulfil in equal measures, and are referred to as 'theatre professionals'.

Some of the productions, notably those that ran only for a few days, and youth productions, including those by NT Jong, a branch of the Nationaal Toneel, have been mentioned but left out of the final results. This is because short, one day productions and youth productions often work with texts in a different manner and would require a different kind of analysis.

## Toneelgroep Amsterdam

Toneelgroep Amsterdam performed twenty productions. Quite a few of them were productions reprised from previous years. Fifteen productions were based on translations. Nine of these translations were made by people who are not professional translators. Four were translated by playwrights, three by dramaturgs, one of them supported by a playwright and one by an actress, and one by another theatre professional. One of these translations, the one by dramaturg Rob Klinkenberg, was further adapted by two other dramaturgs. Five plays were translated by professionals. Two of these translations were then further adapted, one by the play's director and dramaturg, the other by a theatre professional. One play's translator was not mentioned.

There were five adaptations. Three were adapted from translations as mentioned above, the other two were existing Dutch texts with changes made to make them suitable for the theatre and a contemporary audience.

There were three new productions.

### Translations

Production	Writer	Translator	Language pair	
			<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
<i>Antigone</i>	Sophocles	Anne Carson (translator)	Ancient Greek	English
<i>De andere stem</i>	Ahmed Shafik Kamal & Mohammed Abdel Wahap (parts of the production only)	Tayseer Nasr	Arabic	Dutch
<i>De Welwillenden</i>	Jonathan Littell	Janneke van der Meulen en	French	Dutch



		Jeanne Hollierhoek (translators)		
<i>Glazen Speelgoed</i>	Tennessee Williams	Johan Boonen (translator)	English	Dutch
<i>Husbands and Wives</i>	Woody Allen	Rik van den Bos (playwright)	English	Dutch
<i>Kings of War</i>	William Shakespeare	Rob Klinkenberg (dramaturg)	English	Dutch
<i>Kreten en Gefluister</i>	Ingmar Bergman	?	Swedish	Dutch
<i>La Voix Humane</i>	Jean Cocteau	Halina Reijn (actress) en Peter van Kraaij (dramaturg)	French	Dutch
<i>Lange Dageis naar de Nacht</i>	Eugen O'Neill	Ger Thijs (playwright)	English	Dutch
<i>Liliom</i>	Ferenc Molnár	Jibbe Willems (playwright)	Hungarian	Dutch
<i>Medea</i>	Euripides	Peter van Kraaij (dramaturg) en Vera Hoogstad (dramaturg)	Ancient Greek	Dutch
<i>Na de Repetitie/ Persona</i>	Ingmar Bergman	Karst Woudstra (playwright) en Peter van Kraaij (dramaturg)	Swedish	Dutch
<i>Opening Night</i>	John Cassavetes	Gerardjan Rijnders (theatre professional) en Sam Bogaerts (theatre professional)	English	Dutch
<i>Songs From Far Away</i>	Simon Stephens	Rik van den Bos (playwright)	English	Dutch
<i>The Fountainhead</i>	Ayn Rand	Erica van Rijsewijk en Jan van Rheenen (translators)	English	Dutch



## Adaptations

Production	Writer	Translator	Language pair	
			From	To
<i>De Stille Kracht</i>	Louis Couperus	Peter van Kraaij (dramaturg)	Dutch	Dutch
<i>De Welwillenden</i>	Jonathan Littell	Guy Cassiers (theatre professional) and Erwin Jans (dramaturg)	Dutch translation	Dutch
<i>Het Jaar van de Kreeft</i>	Hugo Claus	Luk Perceval (director) and Peter van Kraaij (dramaturg)	Dutch	Dutch
<i>The Fountainhead</i>	Ayn Rand	Koen Tachelet (theatre professional)	Dutch translation	Dutch
<i>Kings of War</i>	William Shakespeare	Bart van den Eynde (dramaturg) and Peter van Kraaij (dramaturg)	Dutch translation	Dutch



## New productions

Production	Writer, creator or director
<i>Een Bruid in de Morgen</i>	Hugo Claus (writer)
<i>Gesluierde Monologen</i>	Adelheid Roosen (director)
<i>Wish You Were Here</i>	Lucas de Man (director)

## Toneelgroep Oostpool

Oostpool performed 22 productions. Ten of those were based on translations. Only four of these original translators were credited. Out of those four, three were professional translators, and one a theatre professional. Four of the translations were then adapted, three by theatre professionals and one by a playwright.

Oostpool worked with five adaptations. Four of them are already mentioned, the fifth concerns an adaptation from an English novel to a Dutch play by a theatre professional and writer.

Eight new productions were made. There are also some miscellaneous productions, namely a dance performance, a music performance and several youth- and classroom productions.

Notably, except for crediting hardly any of the translators, most of the original writers of the plays were only mentioned in the play's synopsis and left out of the list of credits.

### Translations

Production	Writer	Translator	Language pair	
			<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
<i>Angels In America</i>	Tony Kushner	Carel Alphenaar (theatre professional)	English	Dutch
<i>Richard III</i>	William Shakespeare	?	English	Dutch
<i>Fresh Young Gods</i>	-	Fragmenten: Daan Alkemade (English, translator) en Gonca	English and Turkish	Dutch



		Karasu (Turkish, translator and theatre professional)		
<i>Lulu</i>	Frank Wedekind	Judith Herzberg (translator and writer)	German	Dutch
<i>Het Lijden van de Jonge Werther</i>	Johann Wolfgang von Goethe	?	German	Dutch
<i>Rinoceros</i>	Eugène Ionesco	?	French	Dutch
<i>Nora (Een Poppenhuis)</i>	Henrik Ibsen	?	Norwegian	Dutch
<i>De Wereldverbeteraar</i>	Thomas Bernhard	Hans W. Bakx (translator)	German	Dutch
<i>De Meester en Margarita</i>	Mikhail Bulgakov	?	Russian	Dutch
<i>De Ilias</i>	Homer	?	Ancient Greek	Dutch

## Adaptations

Production	Writer	Translator	Language pair	
			From	To
<i>They are Just Kids</i>	Patti Smith	Roeland Hofman (writer and theatre professional)	English	Dutch
<i>Richard III</i>	William Shakespeare	Joeri Vos (director)	?	Dutch
<i>Lulu</i>	Frank Wedekind	Hannah van Wieringen (playwright)	Dutch translation	Dutch



<i>Het Lijden van de Jonge Werther</i>	Johann Wolfgang von Goethe	Roeland Hofman (writer and theatre professional)	?	Dutch
<i>Nora (Een Poppenhuis)</i>	Hendrik Ibsen	Joachim Robbrecht (theatre professional)	Norwegian	Dutch

### New productions

Production	Writer, director or creator
<i>Hideous (wo)men</i>	Suzan Boogaerdt and others (creators)
<i>De Onrendabelen</i>	Joeri Vos (director)
<i>Bromance</i>	Joachim Robbrecht (writer)
<i>tgECHO BOTTEN</i>	Erik Bindervoet (writer)
<i>STUK</i>	Teun Smits (creator)
<i>De Ilias</i>	Jan Hulst and Kasper Tarenskeen (creators)
<i>First Contact</i>	Joeri Vos (director)
<i>Kletsmajoor</i>	Teun Luijkx and Vincent van der Valk (creators)





## Other

- *Orfeo* (music)
- *Fast Track* (dance)
- *Acteurs in de Klas: Tranenstick of Dode Hond* (classroom production)
- *Fresh Young Gods & De Meester of Maragarita* (youth productions)



## Het Nationale Toneel

Het Nationale Toneel performed twelve productions. Five of these productions, which also accounted for their five largest performances, were based on translations. All were made by professional translators, except for one, although the translating dramaturg did have a master's degree in the source language and will therefore be included in the list of professional translators.

There were no adaptations made, but there were seven new productions. There are several miscellaneous productions including one music performance and one installation, but mostly productions by NT Jong.

### Translations

Production	Writer	Translator	Language pair	
			From	To
<i>Midzomernachtsdroom</i>	William Shakespeare	Tom Kleijn (translator)	English	Dutch
<i>De Revisor</i>	Nikolaj Gogol	Maaïke van Rijn (translator)	Russian	Dutch
<i>The Little Foxes</i>	Lillian Hellman	Tom Kleijn (translator)	English	Dutch
<i>Solness</i>	Henrik Ibsen	Tom Kleijn (translator)	Norwegian	Dutch
<i>De Gouden Draak</i>	Roland Schimmelpfennig	Matthias Dusesoi (dramaturg, master in Germanic studies)	German	Dutch

### Adaptations

N/A



## New productions

Production	Writer, director or creator
<i>De Zender</i>	Joost van Hezik (director)
<i>Fit to Fly</i>	Casper Vandeputte (director)
<i>Hé Schatje</i>	Theu Boermans (director)
<i>Wie Niet Weg Is</i>	Muriël Besemer (director)
<i>Liefhebben</i>	Laura van Dolron (creator)
<i>The Summer of '96</i>	Casper Vandeputte (director)
<i>Liefde is een Donut</i>	Anniek Pfeifer, Mark Rietman en Vincent Linthorst (creators)

## Other

- *Mariken in de Tuin der Lusten* (music)
- *The Upper Classroom* (installation)
- *Halfweg* (short productions)
- *De Laatste Getuigen* (short production)
- *MONA* (NT Jong)



- *Klaas* (NT Jong)
- *In Mijn Hoofd Ben Ik Een Dun Meisje* (NT Jong)
- *Klaas* (NT Jong)
- *Kamishibai (Klein Mannetje Heeft Geen Huis)* (NT Jong)
- *Wie Niet Weg Is* (short production)
- *Lucy (hartje) Ringo (star)* (NT Jong)
- *Het Schaap Veronica* (NT Jong)
- *Leo en Lena* (NT Jong)



## Het Zuidelijk Toneel

Het Zuidelijk Toneel performed fourteen productions. One of these was based on a translation, although the original translator is unknown. Possibly the original translators were the writer and director, who were listed as responsible for the adaptation of the translation.

There was one further adaptation made by a director from a Dutch novel. There were twelve new productions, and three others, one installation and two short-running productions.

### Translations

Production	Writer	Translator	Language pair	
			<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
<i>Macbeth</i>	William Shakespeare	?	English	Dutch

### Adaptations

Production	Writer	Translator	Language pair	
			<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
<i>Macbeth</i>	William Shakespeare	Jamal Ouariachi (writer) en Lucas de Man (director)	?	Dutch
<i>Marieke Marieke</i>	Johanne Spaey (based on her novel <i>Vlucht</i> )	Leen Braspenning (director)	Dutch	Dutch



## New productions

Production	Writer, director or creator
<i>OER</i>	Erik Whien (director)
<i>Wolk</i>	Lucas de Man (director)
<i>Orde van de Dag</i>	Oscar Kocken e.a. (creators)
<i>Waterdragers</i>	Marcel Osterop (writer)
<i>GOD.</i>	Erik Whien (director)
<i>En de Ander</i>	Dennis Gaens (writer and translator)
<i>Bejaarden en Begeerten</i>	Oscar Kocken en Lucas de Man (creators)
<i>De Waakhonden</i>	Marcel Osterop (writer)
<i>LOS</i>	Lucas de Man (director)
<i>Socrates</i>	Stefaan van Brabandt (director)
<i>Expeditie Theater</i>	Marijn de Wit (director)
<i>Contouren</i>	Marcel Osterop (text and director)



## Other

- *Oog* (installation)
- *To Act or Not to Act* (short-running production)
- *Oud & Nieuws Show* (short-running production)



## Noord Nederlands Toneel

The Noord Nederlands Toneel performed nine productions. Two of these were based on translations, both made by professional translators. Both translations were also adapted, one by the play's directors, one by the translator of the original.

There were seven new productions. There were four short-running and youth productions.

### Translations

Production	Writer	Translator	Language Pairs	
			From	To
<i>Borgen</i>	Adam Price	Kor de Vries en Lammy Post-Oostenbrink (both translators of Nordic and Danish literature)	Danish	Dutch
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	William Shakespeare	Erik Bindervoet (translator)	English	Dutch

### Adaptations

Production	Writer	Translator	Language Pairs	
			From	To
<i>Borgen</i>	Adam Price	Ko van den Bosch (theatre professional) and Ola	Danish	Dutch





		Mafaalani (director)		
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	William Shakespeare	Erik Bindervoet (translator)	English	Dutch

### New productions

Production	Writer, creator or director
<i>Futopia</i>	Moereman and Sons (creators)
<i>Crashtest Ibsen: Ik zie Spoken</i>	Joachim Robbrecht (playwright)
<i>Crashtest Ibsen: Nora</i>	Joachim Robbrecht (playwright)
<i>Eerste Hulp Bij Comakijken</i>	Jip Vuik (director)
<i>Staat van Geluk</i>	Hannah van Mourik Broekman (director)
<i>Mijn Tweede</i>	Rik van den Bos (playwright)
<i>Sneeuwwitje</i>	Ko van den Bosch (director)

### Other

- *The Bright Side of Life* (short-running production)
- *TROY: The Young Ones* (short-running production)
- *Leedvermaak* (short-running production)



- *Chaos – Dichterbij* (youth production)



## Toneelgroep Maastricht

Toneelgroep Maastricht performed three productions. One of them was based on a translation made by a playwright, the other two were new productions. There were no adaptations, and three miscellaneous productions, including two music performances and a classroom production.

### Translations

Production	Writer	Translator	Language pair	
			From	To
<i>Verleden Tijd</i>	Harold Pinter	Jibbe Willems (playwright)	English	Dutch

### Adaptations

N/A

### New productions

Production	Writer, director or creator
<i>Not the Tommy Cooper Story</i>	Jan Veldman, Michel Sluysmans, Vincent van Warmerdam (theatre



	professionals)
<i>Kamer en de Man</i>	Eric de Volder (playwright)

## Other

- *Een Overdonderende Midzomernacht* (music)
- *Vastelaovend de Venice* (music)
- *Theater in de Klas 2015* (classroom production)



## Theater Utrecht

Theater Utrecht performed two productions. Both were based on translations made by professional translators. There were no adaptations or new productions. There was one miscellaneous performance, concerning a behind the scenes at *Een Soort Hades*.

### Translations

Production	Writer	Translator	Language pair	
			From	To
<i>Een Soort Hades</i>	Lars Nören	Karst Woudstra (playwright and translator)	Swedish	Dutch
<i>Crave</i>	Sarah Kane	Marcel Otten (translator)	English	Dutch

### Adaptations

N/A

### New productions

N/A

### Other

*Wild Horses* (behind the scenes at *Een Soort Hades*)



## RO Theater

RO Theater performed five productions. All of them were new productions. They also performed three miscellaneous shows, two of them short-running, one a dance and music performance.

### Translations

N/A

### Adaptations

N/A

### New productions

Production	Writer, director or creator
<i>Branden</i>	Wajdi Mouawad (writer)
<i>Bommenneed</i>	Jetse Batelaan (director)
<i>De Gelaarsde Poes</i>	Pieter Kramer (director)
<i>Van Wavern</i>	Alize Zandwijk (director)
<i>Als ik de Liefde Niet Heb: Een Moderne Bedevaart naar</i>	Jeroen de Man (director)



<i>Rome</i>	
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## Other

- *Moeders* (short-running production)
- *Theater na de Dam* (short-running production)
- *Gaunerstück* (dance and music)



## Results

### Overview

Group	Translations			Adaptations			New	Other	Total***
	<i>Translators*</i>	<i>Theatre prof.**</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>From translations by translators</i>	<i>From translations by theatre prof.</i>	<i>Other/ unknown</i>			
Toneelgroep Amsterdam	6	9		2	1	2	3	-	20
Toneelgroep Oostpool	3	1	6	1	-	4	8	4	19
Het Nationale Toneel	5	-	-	-	-	-	7	13	12
Het Zuidelijk Toneel	-	-	1	-	-	2	12	3	14
Noord Nederlands Toneel	2	-	-	2	-	-	7	4	9
Toneelgroep Maastricht	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	3
Theater Utrecht	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
RO Theater	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	5
Total	18	11	7	5	1	8	44	31	84

\* Translators: all those that are considered as professional translators





\*\* Theatre prof.: Theatre professionals, all those working within the theatre that are not considered as professional translators

\*\*\* Total: not including 'other' productions

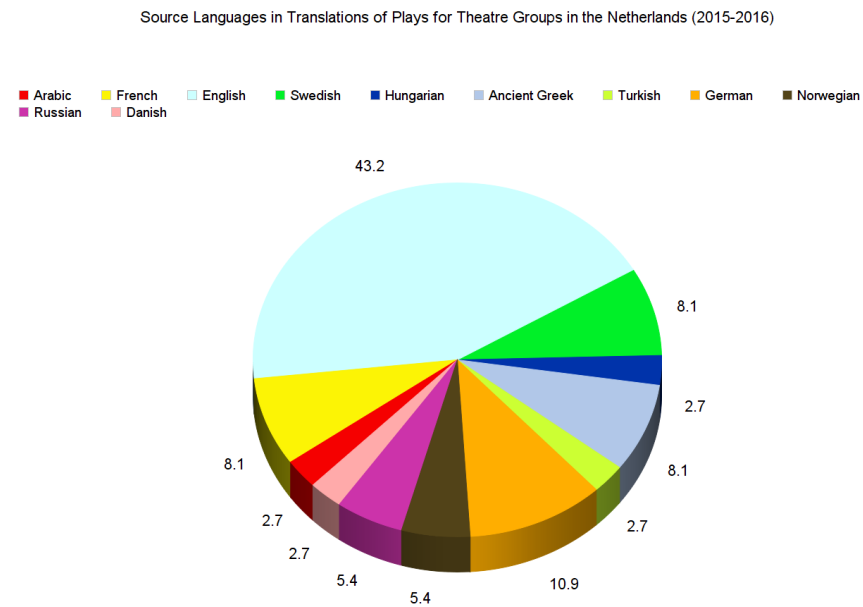
## Languages

From the 36 translations, one was a translation into English. Of the other 35, one translation was translated from two languages, both Turkish and English. The total of plays translated to Dutch will therefore be counted as 36. This results in the following percentage of languages translated from:

Source language	Total	Percentage of total
Arabic	1	2,7%
French	3	8,1%
English	16	43,2%
Swedish	3	8,1%
Hungarian	1	2,7%
Ancient Greek	3	8,1%
Turkish	1	2,7%
German	4	10,8%
Norwegian	2	5,4%
Russian	2	5,4%
Danish	1	2,7%

## In Figures

Figure 1 shows the source languages used in theatre translations over the past season. It is clear that English still is a dominant language. Other of the more commonly used language can be accounted for because they have a repertoire of classic plays, such German as with Goethe, Ancient Greek with Euripides and Sophocles and French with Molière.



*Figure 1. Source Languages in Translations of Plays for Theatre Groups in the Netherlands (2015-2016)*



Figure 2 shows the division of the type of productions over the season 2015-2016. Small and short productions were left out. Still, more than half of the productions are accounted for by new productions, based on material created by the theatre group themselves rather than on translations and adaptations. However, it must be noted that these new productions largely account for the smaller and shorter running productions. Much of those plays playing on the bigger stages for a large audience are based on classic repertoire, most of which is translated and/ or adapted material. Note: TT = Translations by Translators, and TTP = Translations by Theatre Professionals.

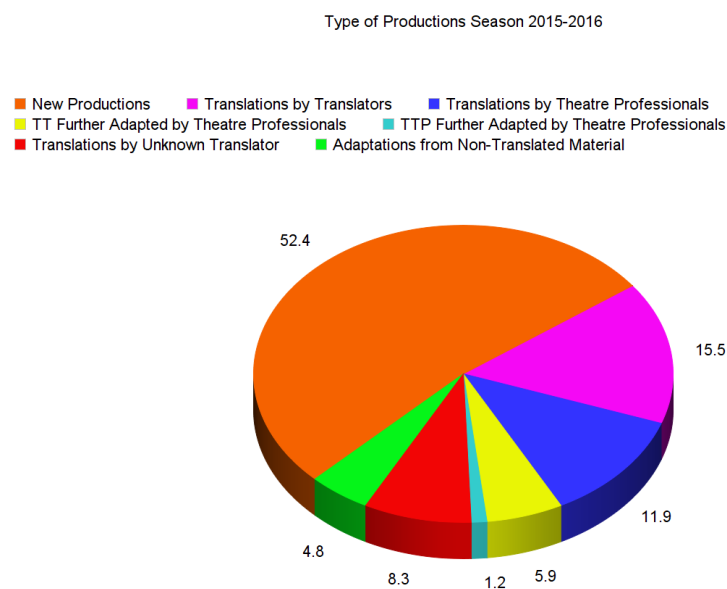


Figure 2. Type of Productions Season 2015-2016

Figure 3 zooms in on those productions of the past season that were translations and adaptations, using the same labels as in figure 2. It can be clearly seen that out of the translations made, most are still made by professional translators, although they clearly have competition from theatre professionals. Moreover, a large amount of the plays translated by professional translators were then further adapted by theatre professionals, whereas that happened only once for a translation made by a theatre professional. There are some adaptations from non-translated materials such as those based on Dutch novels or plays, and quite some translations by translators who were not credited for their work.

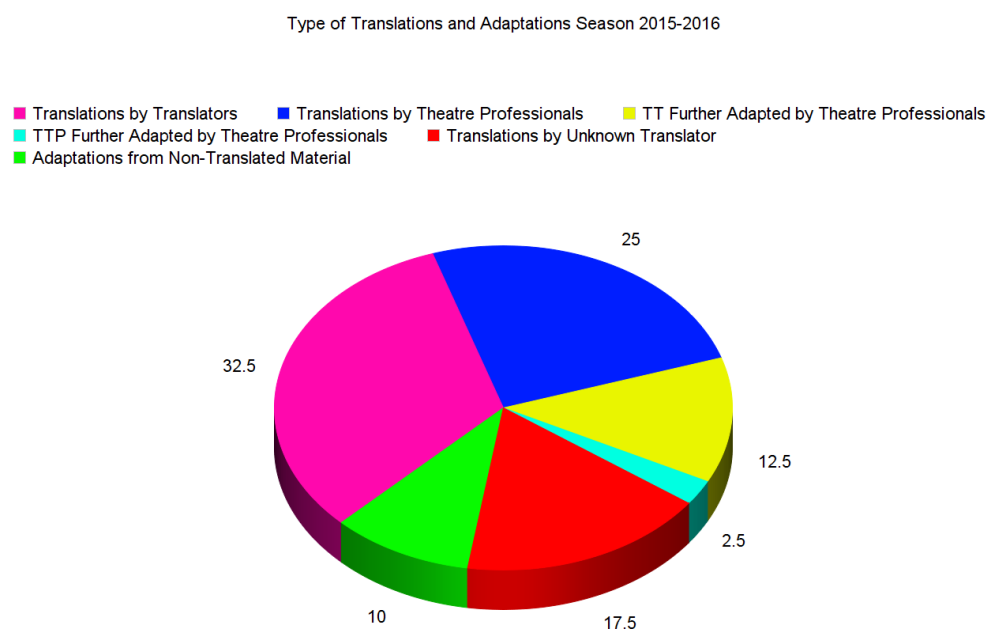


Figure 3. Type of Translations and Adaptations Season 2015-2016.