**Translating the Holocaust into fiction for young audiences.**

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This interdisciplinary paper explores ‘translation’ and ‘language’ by investigating the translation of genuine Holocaust experiences into fiction in order to provide a modern ‘language’ of the Holocaust for young audiences. This paper offers a comparison between the accounts of Primo Levi and modern children’s literature containing fictional descriptions of the Holocaust to educate and entertain.

Primo Levi was transported to Auschwitz in 1944. In *If This Is A Man* Levi details his experiences in the Lager, and through his testimony, attempts to relate the reality of life during the Holocaust. Levi’s writings along with references from Giorgio Agamben’s *Remnants of Auschwitz* and Robert, J. Lifton’s *The Nazi Doctors* will be used to challenge the text and film of John Boyne’s *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* (2006). The case of whether the fictional construct of Jewish prisoner Schmuel inaccurately translates the experience of the Holocaust will be of focus. Furthermore, a challenge will be offered to the problematic translation of the words ‘Auschwitz’ and **‘**Führer’ to ‘Out With’ and ‘Fury’ in German ‘kid speak’.

The complex issue of needing to educate young audiences on World War II is often in conflict with needing to shelter children from some realities of the Holocaust. This paper questions whether the act of translating the Holocaust ‘sensitively’ for young audiences distorts and weakens first person accounts of the event. Furthermore, the debate over whether Holocaust literature should ever be ‘diluted’ will be discussed. The paper will argue that there is a problematic chain of translation from initial memory to later education which can result in flawed modern comprehension of the event.

Finally, the paper concludes by questioning whether the ‘reality’ of the Holocaust can ever be exposed – in first person accounts or in fiction.