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Translation as Narration and Activism for Queer Subcultures

The aim of this paper is to test the hypothesis that translation has played a major role in disseminating and creating important and positive narratives about gay rights movement from shared realities in metropolitan centers, thus contributing to the consolidation of the same project in Brazil in the late 1970's and early 1980's.

An influential group of queer Brazilian intellectuals and literary figures regarded translation an important element to promote gay awareness and rights in Brazil, and founded a periodical targeted at the gay community, *Lampião da Esquina*, which circulated from 1978 to 1981. In addition to publishing/narrating national stories about the homosexual subculture and literary materials, the newspaper printed translated interviews, essays, news of the international gay and lesbian movement, in addition to having a column which recommended books for gay and lesbian readers, including translated literature by writers such as Gore Vidal, Oscar Wilde, Truman Capote, and medical and psychoanalytical texts on homosexuality.

It is important to locate this joint enterprise in history and remember that Brazil was still living under a military dictatorship. As the paper will demonstrate, the circulation of such "immoral" materials was heavily censored, but this group of intellectuals was able to successfully navigate through government censorship and publish their periodical during nearly four years.

The theoretical frameworks that I will use include the work by Keith Harvey regarding representation of homosexuality and identity formation through translation and Mona Baker's model of narrative theory to look at how translation narratives, in the case of *Lampião da Esquina* in Brazil, contributed to building positive knowledge and discourses about homosexuality for the queer subculture.

A more in-depth examination and historical analysis of this publication allow a better understanding of the role played by representations, translations and narrations in the formation of identities for sexual minorities that have challenged dominant heteronormative discourses.