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## **LERMONTOV'S AIRSHIP: FROM THE GERMAN POEM BY J. C. ZEDLITZ TO THE LATVIAN TRANSLATION**

### Abstract

The poem *Heavenly Ship* (Vozdushny korabl, 1840) by M. Y. Lermontov is a rendering translation of the poem *Das Geisterschiff* by the Austrian poet Joseph Christian Zedlitz (1790-1862). It is fairly different from the original, as it was created within the romantic framework of translation, which implies not only preservation of individual stylistic features of the source, but also readiness to compete with the author in order to attain the ideal behind the text. Lermontov individually develops each of Zedlitz's prototypes. A comparative analysis of poems by Zedlitz and Lermontov has already been carried out (see Fröberg, Žinkin, Эйхенбаум). The goal of the present paper is to provide some ideas for a comparative analysis of Lermontov's poem and its translation into Latvian (a translation of a translation) by the Latvian poet Olga Lisovska, published in an anthology of Lermontov's poems in Latvian in 1974. The article focuses on the rendition of the title of the poem and its central theme, i.e., the theme of Napoleon. The article stresses the necessity for the translator to turn to the original poem, i.e., the poem by Zedlitz, in order to convey precisely what was intended by Lermontov, for his original idea becomes salient when viewed in contrast to the poem by Zedlitz.

**Key word** – Lermontov, Zedlitz, translation, German, Latvian