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Retellings of the classics: Is the emperor dressed to kill?

While the abridged and/or simplified literary texts are no novelty in the field of second/foreign language learning, the Slovenian retellings of the classics for those readers whose mother tongue and/or first language is Slovenian are a relatively new emergence. The texts available range from translations of picture books to original retellings of novels, from modern renderings of well-known texts to shifted genres and linguistically simplified versions. The target audience often remains unidentified. The objectives, however, are at least implied if not clearly stated: the development of the literacy skills; encouraging (possibly unenthusiastic) readers to read for pleasure; making the classics relevant for the audiences of today. Whether this is always achieved, remains to be discussed. In my presentation I shall offer a critical overview of selected adaptations of literary texts published in Slovenia since 2010. Looking at the linguistic characteristics, types of discourse and the content, I intend to discuss which new clothes suit the old emperor, and where the (weavers') backsides can possibly be seen.