
Duarte, J., Rosa, A. and T. Seruya. *Translation Studies at the Interface of Disciplines*. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Co., 2006, 207 p.

Translation Studies at the Interface of Disciplines, edited by João Ferreira Duarte, Alexandra Assis Rosa, and Teresa Seruya is a collection of papers by twelve distinguished contributors and includes an essay by one of the editors, Alexandra Assis Rosa. The book is a compilation of papers presented at the conference "Translational (Studies): A Crossroads of Disciplines" held at the Faculty of Letters, University of Lisbon in November, 2002. It is divided into three well-organized parts: (I) New perspectives on the disciplinary space of translation, (II) Theoretical models at work and (III) Texts and contexts in translation. Each part has four to five chapters. The book also includes a very useful subject index located in the back, as well as bibliographical notes that are placed at the end of each chapter. With a strong interdisciplinary focus, the essays in the book as-

sert that any disciplinary context is related to translation: Sociology, Literary Theory, Cultural Studies, Discourse Analysis, and Sociolinguistics are examples of disciplines that can be used to illuminate the role of Translation Studies.

The first part delves directly into the idea of translation as an interdisciplinary study, discussing the sociology of translation. The author of the chapter, Andrew Chesterman, divides the study into three sub-areas: the sociology of translations as products, the sociology of translators, and the sociology of translating (which he understands as the translation process). Chesterman summarizes a wide array of theoretical models currently used in this field, such as the theory of the "polysystem", which deals with the cultural position and the status of translation, and also entails the status and the role of the translator. Chesterman describes the process of selecting texts to be translated and the influence of publishers and sponsors in this procedure. He mentions the example of Pierre Bourdieu, who researches the psychological-emotional disposition of translators and how

translators see themselves in relation to their society. Another theory mentioned by Chesterman comes from Niklas Luhmann, who compares translation to the legal systems of our societies in which translation is structured around valid and non-valid versions of the original text. Chesterman also explains the role of a translation historiography and cites Anthony Pym as to its three part structure: 1) the translation's "archaeology", which gives the textual and sociological facts, 2) the "historical criticism" that discusses translation and its consequences with regard to a society's progress, and 3) an "explanation" which explores the social causes of translation. Chesterman mentions Pym's work as a way of connecting translators to a sociohistorical context.

According to Alexandra Assis Rosa, the translator must always consciously consider the mind of the reader in each sociocultural context. In her chapter "Defining target text reader: Translation studies and literary theory", Rosa explains the relationship between translation studies and literary theory. She defines addresser and receiver as "entities located in a certain historical and

sociocultural context which conditions their linguistic behavior and interaction." Literary communication, she states, is now a focus on how literary texts represent a communicative interaction in its context. In other words, translation in a literary atmosphere pertains to the receivers in the target culture. The manner in which outside readers and authors comprehend texts due to their culture is tremendously important to the translation process, even when dealing with the greatest literature. Rosa then addresses how literary theory and translation studies define readers, each type being evaluated on a scale of "realness". She says the two main types of readers are the *implied* reader and the *ideal* reader. Rosa quotes Gideon Toury (1995) who says, "translations are facts of the target culture, and as such are produced under the target culture's constraints or motivations." By defining different types of readers, translators and those who study translation can then publish an effective product for the target culture, and also reassess translation as study and practice.

The book's third part is especially noteworthy for Maria José

Alves Veiga's short, yet extremely interesting, essay on subtitle-reading practices, specifically in Portugal. Veiga completed a study based on the responses of 293 Portuguese students. Her goal was to get a deeper understanding of reading practices in Portugal by utilizing a questionnaire that would aid in creating a framework for the study of audiovisual reading habits. The author describes the many rules of subtitling, such as reading speed of an audience, synchronization between subtitle content and sound/image, the subtitle layout, time of exposure, etc. Under the subsection *Reading subtitles*, Veiga provides abundant statistical information. For example, 55.4% of the students (11-18 years of age) stated they could read and understand subtitles; however, 18.3% of students, a large percentage, claimed they could not finish reading the subtitle. Feedback from studies like Veiga's has a great impact on the field of translation, especially with regard to subtitling. Research is especially important in those countries, like Portugal, where many

films require subtitling. The author believes that further inquiry in the job of national and international academia should be made in order to promote the study of effective subtitling.

Translation Studies at the Interface of Disciplines is a very detailed study of how translation functions at the interdisciplinary level. It reveals, in a unified manner, how translation is a dynamic field, a house of many rooms, or a kaleidoscopic image. The text could be a very valuable source to graduate students or those who have a background in Translation Studies. The editors cite the importance of the need to connect many different disciplines to the study of translation. At the same time, they emphasize the idea that translation, as a study and as a practice, must evolve with the times. The book supports a "need for territorial border crossing in search of different approaches, guidance and advice from several disciplinary fields", which then allows for a thorough investigation of translation.

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