

**Rogers, Margaret (2015): *Specialised Translation. Shedding the 'Non-Literary' Tag.*** (Palgrave Studies in Translating and Interpreting). Houndsmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 978-1-403-90393-8. 175 pages.

This monograph on specialised translation is the fourth book in a series of books edited by Margaret Rogers under the title *Palgrave Studies in Translating and Interpreting*. It is devoted to the state-of-the-art of specialised translation and falls into six clearly structured and well-laid out chapters which consider the mutual relation between terminology and translation from a historical and current perspective and which discuss the role of translators in the future from a specialist-in-the-field perspective.

In her introduction, Margaret Rogers devotes a full chapter to the role of communication and translation in the global society. Today professional translators are essential for the dissemination of knowledge and knowledge transfer but it is not enough for them to familiarize with the terminology of a subject to do a proper job but to consider a number of related and by far more sophisticated issues (cf. Chapter 1.2). They need to know about the specific semantic, syntactic and pragmatic aspects involved in the languages for specific purposes, their use in various domains and genres applied. Moreover, translators need to devote their attention to cultural issues, the use of metaphors in various genres and the rhetorical moves and steps used to underline the specific intentions of an author in a text and to properly transfer this intention to the target audience. The author states the clear borderline between fiction and prose on the one hand and specialised translation on the other. However, as a brief survey on published research articles shows, there is still more attention given to literary than to specialised translation (*JoS-Trans, the Translator, Target*) and one cannot simply ignore the boundaries between these.

Chapter 2 introduces some key concepts related to specialised translation: significance of subject field, culture and linguistic scope of specialised language as well as lexical codification.

Then Chapter 3 entitled "Borders and Borderlands" considers terms, text and translation as basic concepts in the complex translation process and their multiple interference. Starting from a perspective on the missing role of specialised translation as an academic discipline, Margaret Rogers discusses three key elements of specialised communication and translation: the need to establish it as a field in its own right; to acknowledge that non-literary/specialised translation is a serious engagement and finally to explore its complexity. In this context, she refers to "borders" as a concept to delimitate translation activities from other disciplines and to consider similarities at the same time. In a broader sense, translation refers not only to text but also to the intralingual and intersemiotic features required to establish coherence in the target language material. Chapter 3 also clearly provides answers to the questions: (i) What is a term? (ii) What is a text? and (iii) What is translation and specialised translation? Here, Margaret Rogers argues that term is ambiguous in that it refers to the form (*signifiant*) and to the sign as a whole (*signe*) at the same time. 'Terms' need to be distinguished from 'Words' in order to be automatically identified by automated language processing. Since terms may comprise of more than one component, it is a challenge to properly determine them through tagging processes. In this context, Margaret Rogers offers principal guidelines (cf. p. 57), but also considers the fuzziness between some of the criteria. Still the process of identifying a term may be "elusive and perhaps illusory" (cf. p. 58). 'Text' is yet another term that has been subject of argumentation in multiple ways. For translators, text is what they usually deal with, basically a coherent fabric of sentences but sometimes also having the nature of a simple list (cf. invoices). Nonetheless the translator needs to familiarize with the specific features of a text,

the relating genre and above all the respective conventions of use in both the source and target languages. Languages for specific purposes (LSP) texts are specific since they involve the specific subject terminology as well as subject thought and therefore appear to some non-experts as 'non-text'. Translations and LSP translations have a lot in common – a new 'text' is created (or better shaped) by the translator to the needs of the target audience. The rapid emergence of new genres and multimodality of texts challenges translators as does the need for multi-language translations (e.g. for the European Union) which is often prone to errors throughout the translation process and/or retranslation. Referring back to the issue of literary translation versus LSP translations, it becomes clear that the first is the creative rewriting of the source text done by the translator whereas the latter is challenging because of subject, terminology and genre-related issues, i.e. it is rewriting according to subject rules and conventions.

Chapter 4 is devoted to a historical perspective on translation and its interdependency with terminology as one of the distinguished features of specialised translation. This can be traced back in history for medieval and religious texts being subject of multiple translations. Moreover, Margaret Rogers considers the role of terms in linking knowledge and translation. She also underlines the importance of glossaries in creating a knowledge base and concludes this chapter by arguing that the history of translation has always been closely related to the development of special-language terminologies, no matter whether it referred to literary or non-literary (LSP) texts.

Following on this perspective, Chapter 5 is focusing on the construction processes of terms – in particular on borrowing, neologisms and circumlocution/loan to fill the 'lexical gap'. From a terminology perspective, it is important to develop databases with emerging terms from new fields and to closely consider the text material they originate from. From a translation perspective, a circumlocution or loan translation for a 'lexical gap' may be an adequate approach before professional bodies standardize concepts and terms. Thus 'non-equivalence' can be resolved by borrowing, loan translation or paraphrasing. These three strategies are then discussed in detail. Chapter 5 is of particular relevance because it conveys strategies for novice translators in dealing with 'gaps'.

In her concluding remarks, Margaret Rogers clearly argues in favour of specialised translation as a subject in its own right and provides even more arguments against the negative label of specialised translation.

All in all, Margaret Rogers' book is food for thought not only for translators but also for terminologists and researchers dealing with specialist texts. It points to the major issues involved in the specialised translation process and considers it as a serious engagement. The book is written in an easy-to-read and very comprehensible style. It is appealing to the reader because of the profound knowledge base of the author in the fields of linguistics, terminology, translation and LSP. The book is a clear claim to reconsider the role of terminology on the one hand and specialised translation on the other. It provides clear arguments to consider LSP translation as a subject in its own right requiring proper education and training. Therefore it should be recommended to students, novice translators and educators in the field.

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