

**Miššíková, G. (2007) *Analysing Translation as Text and Discourse*. Praha: Jednota tlumočnicků a překladatelů, 160 pp.**

*Analysing Translation as Text and Discourse* by Gabriela Miššíková brings new insights into the interdisciplinary area of translation studies by applying recent developments in the fields of stylistics, pragmatics and discourse analysis to the investigation of translation of literary and political discourse. The book promises to be of high interest to both linguists and professional translators, as it takes into account various context-dependent aspects of the interaction between writers and readers which a translator has to grasp in order to construct a consistent interpretation of the message into the target language.

The book is organised into three parts. In Part I, the author, who considers the fields of text linguistics and discourse analysis as two overlapping areas, clarifies her understanding of basic concepts, such as text, discourse, stylistic and translation analysis. In Part II, while offering a comparison of different methods of stylistic analysis, Miššíková advocates an interdisciplinary approach to the study of style and stresses the relevance of pragmatics to the analysis of translations of literary and non-literary texts. She points out that “the implementation of a pragmatic dimension brings into focus the speaker’s intentions, the meanings s/he intends to express between the lines, as well as the importance of context and contextualization in the spoken variety of language and the concept of intertextuality in its written variety” (p. 33).

Part III focuses on various pragmatic factors which affect translation as a process and a product, such as the acts we perform when using language, the ways of expressing our attempts to be polite, relevant and cooperative. The chapter *Interpreting Background Knowledge in Translation* explores the stylistic means of a short story, while focusing on the study of foregrounding and the quality of openness in text. The analysis proves that, since the translator makes constant use of his/her own experiences and ‘knowledge of the world’ when translating, the original text and its translation may be viewed as two more or less independent discourses. The next chapter presents conversational and transactional analyses of maxim hedges in literary texts. Drawing on Grice’s conversational maxims, the author emphasizes the meta-linguistic role of hedges which function as indicators and cues, helping the translator to infer the likeliest meaning from the given context of a conversation (p. 106). Furthermore, she discusses translation strategies used in the Slovak translations of Burgess’s novels *Junk* and *Heroin* and points out that compared to the source text, the translations show a tendency to greater explicitness/directness and descriptiveness. The last chapter in this part

investigates political discourse, using for exemplification a corpus of spontaneous and prepared speeches delivered by Tony Blair and Mikuláš Dzurinda in 2007 and 2006 respectively. A conversational analysis of maxim hedges attempts to identify conversational strategies employed by the speakers, focusing on specific usages of hedging expressions and intensifiers. Miššíková's findings evidence that hedges related to Grice's conversational maxims should be interpreted and analysed in the particular context of communication and in their close interaction and complexity, where they may be seen as "pragmatic realisations of the cooperative principle in speech" (p. 141).

By the application of aspects of pragmatics and approaches of stylistics to the study of translation, *Analysing Translation as Text and Discourse* provides valuable insights into the nature of translated texts as products; moreover, the book suggests how translation as a process may benefit from taking into account pragmatic and discursive factors.

In conclusion, it should be stressed that Miššíková's publication is a very useful addition to the field and will certainly prove to be a valuable and inspiring text for both linguists and translators. It has definitely expanded the scope of inquiry of translation analysis and suggested various important issues for further research into the procedure and methods of translation analysis.

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