

INTRODUCING TRANSLATION STUDIES: THEORIES AND APPLICATIONS

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In his work, *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications*, Munday offers a valuable compilation of the main analytical frameworks and theories that have evolved since Translation Studies came to be regarded as a new, independent discipline worthy of academic research. This volume has been designed to be used as an introductory university coursebook. As such it will be of particular interest for teachers, students and, very especially, for novel researchers in the field.

The book is divided into eleven chapters, that—in an attempt of gaining clarity and precision— Munday develops following the same scheme. After an introductory chart in which the key concepts and ideas to be dealt with are summarised, the corresponding theories and approaches are analysed and evaluated. A case study together with its discussion follows. An interesting feature of this book is the great diversity of languages—English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Punjabi—and of genres that Munday examines in his case studies. These include an analysis of passages translated from the Bible, fragments from the novel *Harry Potter* and from the prose of García Márquez and Proust, a tourist guide, a cookery book for children and several official documents. After the case study, Munday offers a concise summary of the main points discussed followed by useful section on relevant further reading designed for researchers. He ends each chapter with a series of questions and commentaries aimed at encouraging his readers to launch out on their own reasearch.

Munday acknowledges that, for reasons of space, he has been forced to leave aside certain issues and frameworks generally considered essential in the evolution of the discipline. He, nevertheless, selects a series of fundamental theories and approaches that he deals with separately in each chapter.

The first chapter focuses on key aspects of Translation Studies and on the consolidation of translation as new academic research area. Special emphasis is put on the outstanding contribution of James S. Holmes in helping the discipline of translation achieve its independence.

In the second chapter Munday underlines the work carried out by Dryden in the 17th century, whose triad put an end to the endless debate on the dichotomy between free and literal translation. He also comments on Scheleirmacher's work whose proposal of a method of translation that respects and even incorporates elements from the foreign text was to have considerable influence on modern scholars.

The third, fourth, fifth and sixth chapters describe and analyse the emergence and subsequent abandonment of linguistically-oriented models put forward in the 1950s. In Chapter Three Munday tackles the concept of equivalence stated by Jakobson and developed by Eugene Nida, who drew the distinction between formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence. In the 50s and 60s translation scholars such as Vinay and Darbelnet, Carford and Leuven-Zwart devoted their efforts to establishing detailed taxonomies of 'shifts' or small linguistic changes that Munday presents in Chapter Four. In the 70s and 80s German scholars abandoned their view of translating as a static linguistic phenomenon and proposed functionalist and communicative theories, such as Holz-Mäntäri's model of translational action and Reiss and Vermeer's influential skopos theory, which Munday expounds in Chapter Five. Hallidayan systemic functional linguistics also had a great influence on Translation Studies, giving way to translation models that attempted to associate linguistic choices to the communicative function of the text and its socio-cultural context. That is the case of the models propounded by Mona Baker, Juliane House and Hatim and Hason, described and evaluated in Chapter Six.

Munday devotes Chapter Seven to the analysis of the theories put forward by the scholars from Tel Aviv. He draws special attention to Even Zohar's polysystem theory and to Toury's methodology for the descriptive analysis of translated texts as well as to his concept of norm developed later by Chesterman. He also makes reference to the work carried out by the Manipulation School.

In Chapter Eight Munday focuses on the different cultural approaches to the analysis of translation. Among them, Munday highlights the feminist approach, the postcolonial approach and Lefevere's ideological approach through his notion of rewriting.

Reviews

In the next chapter the focus of analysis shifts to the presentation of the concept of translation strategy and to the analysis of the role of the translator. Munday bases his analysis on the concepts of '(in)visibility', 'domestication' and 'foreignization' devised by Venutti, greatly influenced by Berman who was also in favour of keeping foreignizing elements in the translated texts.

Chapter ten encompasses the main philosophical approaches to the study of translation. The work of theorists such as Steiner, Ezra Pound, Walter Benjamin and Derrida is examined in this chapter.

In the last chapter Munday analyses the interdisciplinary nature of translation. He states that since Snell-Hoornby proposed her 'integrated' approach, interdisciplinary approaches to translation studies have spread and gained acceptance.

To conclude it can be said that Munday's strength lies in the formal and stylistic clarity with which he manages to compile a great number of the key notions and approaches, offering his readers a very rich picture of what Translation Studies are. Such clarity and precision makes Munday's book a valuable source for those wishing to acquire a sound theoretical grounding in the discipline and to discover its possible applications.