

Translation

94-242 Fraser, Janet (U. of Westminster). Public accounts: using verbal protocols to investigate community translation. *Applied Linguistics* (Oxford), **14**, 4 (1993), 325-43.

Verbal accounts of the translation process have in the past been used almost exclusively to shed light on language learning activities, focusing primarily on lexical search strategies in second-language acquisition studies. This paper reports on the use of such accounts to identify broader strategies in the translation process and, more specifically, to assess what distinctive characteristics community translation for ethnic minority groups may have. Twelve community translators provided verbal accounts of their strategies while completing translations of a short leaflet from English into one of seven community languages. Their comments were invited on any issue which arose, but specifically on

the way in which they dealt with the cultural terms relating to British society and institutions. Rather than rely on theoretical ground rules for translation, the translators adopted approaches wholly oriented to the needs of the particular community they knew best and served, and the translation model which emerges from their accounts is markedly socio-cultural. It aims not only to ensure efficient transfer of information across languages and cultures, but also to increase the autonomy of minority language communities within British society, *inter alia* by retention of some English terminology. It also highlights the need for 'user education' for those using translation services.

94-243 Wang Yi Gun. Quelques réflexions sur la fidélité en traduction vue à travers la comparaison d'énoncés français et chinois. [Some thoughts on fidelity of translation, arising from a comparison of French and Chinese utterances.] *Babel* (Budapest, Hungary), **39**, 1 (1993), 30-42.

Based on a comparative analysis of French and Chinese utterances, this study suggests that given the fundamental differences between the linguistic systems, translation of languages as systems of signs is theoretically impossible. Translation is a process which operates under the constraints of both the source and target language to convey meaning as realised in speech acts. A comparative analysis of

syntactic and semantic differences links the fidelity of translation to its exploitation of the dynamic meanings as achieved in the original discourse. Although this meaning must be the starting point, inter-language differences in pragmatic features, e.g. rites, symbols and gestures, demonstrate the need for the translator to consider the extralinguistic factors which the reader uses to determine meaning.

Lexicography

94-244 Weber, Nico. Conception et élaboration d'un glossaire terminologique à l'aide d'un gestionnaire de bases de données: un essai en lexicographie assistée par ordinateur. [The design and implementation of a terminological glossary based on a database management system: a computer-aided experiment in lexicography.] *Cahiers de Lexicologie* (Paris), **62**, 1 (1993), 5-24.

Every dictionary user knows that it is always problematic to find the right dictionary (or dictionaries). The right dictionary is the one that exactly suits your needs and that will not let you down when asked really serious questions. In fact, dictionaries need not be bad in order to be incomplete. The vocabulary of special languages, or terminology, is especially hard to cover, for reasons such as recent origin (lack of standardisation), fast changing things and words (up-to-dateness), or an ever-increasing specialisation. General dictionaries

may at best cover the central core of a terminological system (like e.g. informatics and electronic data processing), whereas specialised glossaries sometimes fail to live up to classical dictionaries' comfort of use and quality standards.

Computer-readable dictionaries offer no way out as long as they remain unchangeable, once bought. Users should be enabled to modify ready-made computer dictionaries by deleting obsolete words and adding new ones, in order to adapt them to their individual needs and to rapidly developing

lexical and terminological requirements. The introduction of Desk Top Lexicography (DTL – modeled on Desk Top Publishing) is recommended to back up electronic dictionary consulting, editing and manipulating tools. Such tools could be either dedicated electronic dictionary managers or general-purpose database management systems available on personal computers and configured for the task. DBM programs have the advantage of being already available in many cases and for various applications.

This paper describes the experiment of compiling

a trilingual glossary with about 1200 trilingual entries related to EDP (OS, word processing, DBM, file managing, programming) on IBM PC. After a short outline of database structure and functions, some interesting linguistic (lexical, semantic) problems are discussed in more detail. An overall study aiming at a general problem determining and solving typology is a valuable base for the design and implementation of fully interactive PC dictionary management systems.