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A (Self-)Critical Perspective of Translation Theories
Una visión (auto)crítica de los estudios de traducción

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> The author introduces *MonTI* in its foundational issue and comments on the essential characteristics that should define this journal - internationalism, plurality, rigour and internal democracy, explaining how the editors attempt to achieve each of these goals.

> The concept of translation has changed dramatically in recent years: we have gone from absolute equivalence to a widening of the definition of this field which sometimes reaches unforeseen limits. Translation certainly reflects the kind of society which produces it and, thus, it is hardly surprising that a culture like our western culture – contradictory, hybrid and enriched thanks to migration but at the same time burdened with problems arising from cross-cultural clashes – offers a definition of translation as a never-neutral and ethically-complex process. The different current theories provide much help when pondering over these issues and reflect the choices which we, translators, constantly make, our negotiations and the margins of (in)fidelity between which we move, always around a core meaning which is no longer universal.

3. Olga Castro - "(Re)examinando horizontes en los estudios feministas de traducción: ¿hacia una tercera ola?" / "(Re-)examining Horizons in Feminist Translation Studies: towards a Third Wave" - (Spanish and English versions) - *MonTI* 1 (2009), pp. 59-86

Feminisms are one of those framework theories that have contributed powerfully to all areas of society, including Translation Studies. The most evident outcome of this interplay is the emergence, in the 1980s, of a Feminist Translation school in Canada, which placed gender in the spotlight. Despite criticism and subsequent redefinitions of the notion of feminist translation, the Canadian school is still generally regarded as the paradigm of interaction between feminisms and translation. The aim of this article is two-fold: firstly, to advance new approaches to the practice of translation and paratranslation from a feminist perspective (within the context of a third wave of feminist translation). Secondly, to open new debates by means of (re)examining topics of mutual interest for both Translation Studies and Feminisms on a conceptual, historical and critical plane, so that subsequent studies can be fostered.

4. Lea Cyrus - "Old Concepts, New Ideas: Approaches to Translation Shifts" - *MonTI* 1 (2009), pp. 87-106

This paper traces the development of the translation shift concept from its origins in the linguistics-oriented era of translation studies to its current revival in computer-based approaches: after a presentation of the traditional approaches by John C. Catford, Jean-Paul Vinay and Jean Darbelnet, Eugene A. Nida, and Kitty van Leuven-Zwart, several recent studies that have integrated the concept of translation shifts are introduced and discussed. This comparison of old and new approaches reveals that the attitudes towards shifts have changed from mildly prescriptive to neutrally descriptive. The paper concludes with a general evaluation of the place of linguistic approaches in translation studies.

5. Pamela Faber Benítez - "The Cognitive Shift in Terminology and Specialized Translation" - *MonTI* 1 (2009), pp. 107-134

This article offers a critical analysis and overview of terminology theories with special reference to scientific and technical translation. The study of specialized language is undergoing a cognitive shift, which is conducive to a greater emphasis on meaning as well as conceptual structures underlying texts and language in general. Terminology theory seems to be evolving from prescriptive to descriptive with a growing focus on the study of specialized language units from a social, linguistic and cognitive perspective. In consonance with this, new voices are beginning to be heard, which offer different and complementary perspectives on specialized language and translation.

6. Daniel Gile - "Interpreting Studies: A Critical View from Within" - *MonTI* 1 (2009), pp. 135-155

The paper describes and discusses the historical evolution of Interpreting Studies from a profession-driven, narrow-focused independent entity towards a wider academic discipline addressing all types of interpreting within the discipline of Translation Studies (TS). It explains its limitations and weaknesses in terms of size, environmental factors and human factors. It discusses the effects of the integration of IS into TS and concludes with a few suggestions to IS leaders in view to strengthen the discipline.

7. Amrollah Hemmat - "Contemporary Hermeneutics and the Role of the Self in Translation" - *MonTI* 1 (2009), pp. 157-174

Hermeneutic investigations, which gained momentum by Schleiermacher in the early nineteenth century, seem to have led, by the close of the twentieth century, to a much deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the role of the translator. Various scientific and philosophical forces and moves have merged, reinforced each other, and ended in a confluence of theories which address the translator's concerns for the subjectivity of translation. This confluence is informed both by mainstream schools of thought such as Heidegger's and Gadamer's hermeneutic studies, Derrida's deconstructionism, Wittgenstein's adventures with language games, Michel Foucault's attention to reflexivity, and by more recent and less recognized works such as Gregory Bateson's systems and cybernetics thinking, Kenneth Burke's rhetoric and communication studies, Ervin Goffman's sociological studies, and finally Alton Lewis Becker's direct attempt in understanding the process of translation. This article synthesizes contemporary thought leading to such a hermeneutics understanding. It weaves together divergent approaches from different disciplines and draws an integrated perspective on the role of the translator. The author demonstrates that the long lived tension between traditional philology with its concern for the translator's fidelity to the original text and the contemporary hermeneutics view with its emphasis on the unique role of the translator as the co-creator of the text seems to have arrived at a relative reconciliation and ease through studies in self reflexivity

8. Eugene Albert Nida - "Understanding the Meaning" - *MonTI* 1 (2009), pp.175-182

This article provides an overview of the nature of meaning, emphasizing the associative character of lexical meanings. The essay also comments on the meaning-related difficulties the translator must often overcome in order to reach a coherent interpretation due to the dubious quality of many original texts. The author illustrates this point through texts from the European Union. He also discusses some exceptional situations, especially regarding religious and traditional

texts such as the Lord's Prayer, whose formal power, including the magical ring of words, seems to outshine the alleged universal need for coherence and signification. Thus, any attempt to promote an alternative translation is systematically rejected because although the new version might be more meaningful, it would also go against the symbolic power of the coined formula.

9. Tarek Shamma - "Postcolonial Studies and Translation Theory" - *MonTI* 1 (2009), pp. 183-196

What distinguishes postcolonial approaches to translation is that they examine intercultural encounters in contexts marked by unequal power relations. Herein lie their strengths as well as their weaknesses. Their major contribution has been to illuminate the role of power in the production and reception of translation. But it is not certain that the postcolonial framework can be applied to other interlingual exchanges with minimal inequality of power relations. Moreover, there is a general tendency to underrate the differences among (post)colonial contexts themselves. It is argued that insufficient attention to the socio-political background of translation has been reflected in postcolonial formulations of resistance, which are typically purely textual. It is also argued that some postcolonial perspectives, rejecting reductive appropriations of other cultures, may have been led to some sort of reification of difference, reflected in a rather pessimistic insistence on the inaccessibility of the position of the Other.

10. Reviews / Reseñas - pp. 197-215

10.a) CRONIN, MICHAEL. (2006) *Translation and Identity* Oxon: Routledge. 165 pages. ISBN 0-415-36465-5 (pb) 0-415-36464-7 (hb). Review by: Nuria Brufau Alvira (University of Salamanca (Spain), pp. 197-201.

10.b) KENNY, DOROTHY & KYONGJOO RYOU (eds.) (2007) *Across Boundaries: International Perspectives on Translation Studies.* Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing. 240 pages. ISBN 9781847182425. Review by: Aída Martínez-Gómez Gómez (University of Alicante (Spain), pp. 202-206.

10.c) PARADA, ARTURO & OSCAR DIAZ FOUCES (eds.) (2006) *Sociology of Translation.* Vigo: Universidade de Vigo. 230 p. ISBN 84-8158-331-6. Review by: Carles Biosca (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), pp. 207-210

10.d) SNELL-HORNBY, MARY. (2006) *The Turns of Translation Studies*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. 202 pàgs. ISBN: 90 272 1674 6. Review by: Anna Marzà i Ibànez (Universitat Jaume I, (Spain), pp. 211-215.

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