Reseñas/Book Reviews

Legal Translation in Context.
Professional Issues and Prospects

Anabel Borja Albi, Fernando Prieto Ramos (eds).
Bern: Peter Lang, 2013. 315 pages. ISBN: 978-3-0343-0284-5.

In recent years, legal translation research has reached high degrees of excellence. Gone are the days when contributions, though valuable, were fragmented, lacking in theoretical framework, and showed a great chasm between academic theory and professional practice. The present situation is characterized by a fruitful combination of theory and practice, with scholars who have often been (or still are) practising translators, as exemplified by the present volume.

The book is divided into three main sections. The first, devoted to legal translation in the private sector, starts with JAN ENGBERG's "Comparative law for translation: The key to successful mediation between legal systems", which argues for the usefulness of comparative law when it comes to solving specific translation problems and distinguishes between multilingual legal terminology, which is the really complicated task because of asymmetries, and legal translation, a much more feasible task which becomes easier if the translator is aided by consultation of scholarly debate between legal experts.

"Certified translators in Europe and the Americas: Accreditation practices and challenges", by FRANCISCO VIGIER, PERLA KLEIN and NANCY FESTINGER, deals with the always controversial issue of the requirements and standards demanded from those responsible for producing valid legal translations. A look at European countries and the Americas reveals a great diversity of practices, from countries where there is no specific title for official legal translators as such to others with specific, government-endorsed titles, and with backgrounds ranging from no specific training to university degrees plus membership of professional associations.

In "Freelance translation for multinational corporations and law firms", ANABEL BORJA ALBI makes a detailed analysis of the figure of the freelance translator, which starts with the initial decision to abandon general projects and embrace a specialized area (in this case, law), and includes necessary steps like networking with specialists and interacting with clients, and, as hinted in other chapters in this book, a comparative knowledge of specific areas of law in order to respond to the demands placed upon them. Issues like text genres and CAT tools also become relevant, and the use of validated bilingual texts is recommended, either in general or in order to develop personal glossaries through extraction software.

The last contribution in this section, "Challenges of the freelance legal translator: Lifelong learning, ethics and other key professional issues", by JOÃO ESTEVES-FERREIRA, deals with training and ethical problems, which first and foremost include not accepting projects for which one is not qualified – a recurrent dilemma in the present crisis situation. Another important topic, seldom addressed in academic literature but certainly with an influence upon the end result, is pricing and the conflict between time spent (including research and documentation) and word-based pricing (favoured by clients for cost-control and budgeting reasons).

The second part of the book focuses on national public institutions, starting with "Translating for domestic courts in multicultural regions: Issues and new development in Europe and the United States of America", by JUAN MIGUEL ORTEGA, CYNTHIA GIAMBRUNO and ERIK HERTOG, dealing with criminal proceedings and the right to fair trial after landmark decisions of the ECHR. Here the authors discuss quality issues and, especially, the future changes after Directive 2010/64/EU on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings.

LEO HICKEY, in "Translating for the police, prosecutors and courts: The case of English letters of request", comments on the drafting of LoR's and the relationship between the translator and investigators. A detailed analysis is made of the various parts of the document, with an emphasis on official names and pre-existing translations, but also with remarks on the translator's choices between foreignization and naturalization, and the variety of styles (police style, legal styles) within documents.

RAMÓN GARRIDO NOMBELA's "Translating for government departments: The case of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-Operation" starts out pointing out the extent to which translation degrees ignore the

public sector, with its specific requirements, including teamwork and anonymity, intertextuality and formal restrictions.

The section ends with a contribution by JEAN-CLAUDE GÉMAR, "Translating vs co-drafting law in bilingual countries: Beyond the Canadian odyssey", and aptly explains why a discipline like jurilinguistics was born in such a complicated context. Examples are shown which illustrate the mechanics of co-drafting, leading to solutions which would be unthinkable in "traditional" translation. The merits of co-drafting are praised in contrast with translation, including the added – but by no means minor – advantage that the two texts are placed on an equal footing.

The third part looks at legal translation at international organizations and starts with a joint paper by SUSAN ŠARČEVIĆ and COLIN ROBERTSON, "The work of lawyer-linguists in the EU institutions". The chapter focuses on lawyer-linguists, specialized lawyers with high-level language abilities responsible for translation but also for revision and legal advice. Some of the tasks described are the translation of references for preliminary rulings to the Court of Justice of the European Union, the monitoring of legislative quality and revision of draft Commission decisions, and early intervention in cases where drafters are not native speakers of the language used.

A similar, but much wider sphere, is discussed in XINGMIN ZHAO and DEBORAH CAO's "Legal translation at the United Nations". The chapter offers attractive information on the recruitment and training procedures and the training provided. After a brief analysis of the most usual text types translated, major issues are discussed, such as the diversity of issues and the occasional problems caused by different options in various languages. In the conclusions, the authors point out the need for better use of information tools and improved training, especially for exchange between translators and academics and among translators themselves.

The practices of an always controversial body are analyzed by ALEXANDRA TOMIĆ and ANA BELTRÁN MONTOLIU in "Translation at the International Criminal Court", where the requirements vary from the basic documentation in the working or official languages, to the most intricate problems caused by the "situation languages" arising from each specific case. In these contexts, there is a procedure in place which allows the court to use complete glossaries of terms in less standardised languages.

MURIEL MILLET's "Legal translation at Interpol" is a complete description of the practices at Interpol, including instances of non-translation (in the case

of notices), the translation techniques used, a trend towards monolingualism in English, and the implications of the need for speed and quality, leading towards self-revision and partly solved through enhanced access to documentation.

The sphere of trade and business is represented by the chapter by FERNANDO PRIETO RAMOS, whose "Legal translation at the World Trade Organization" offers valuable information on the types of texts translated and the high demands placed on translators in terms of quality and deadlines, which are reflected in the recruiting procedure, often implying double qualifications in law and translation.

The last chapter, "Technology at the service of specialized translators at international organizations", by OLIVIER PASTEUR, focuses on the tools available to WTO translators, including translation memories, terminology databases, digital dictation and speech recognition, and ultimately machine translation, although the author expresses serious doubts regarding the false idea that it may render human translators unnecessary.

In sum, this is an interesting volume, one of whose strengths is the fact that many of its contributors are practitioners themselves and, therefore, their insights combine the professional perspective with a sound theoretical framework. Another detail which will sure contribute to help towards the success of this publication is that, despite the wide variety of issues and bodies covered, the focus on institutional legal translation is maintained throughout, which will make all sections attractive to scholars, practitioners and students, especially because of the balance between general topics (with an emphasis on professional demands) and specific case studies. Mention must be made of the extensive bibliography given, which makes this book an invaluable starting point for further research.

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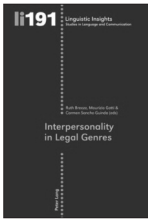
Interpersonality in Legal Genres

Ruth Breeze, Maurizio Gotti, Carmen Sancho Guinda (eds).
Bern: Peter Lang, 2014. 393 pages. ISBN 978-3-0343-1524-1

Interpersonality draws attention to the fact that writers do not simply produce texts but use language to offer a credible representation of themselves and their work, and to establish social relations with readers. Research on interpersonality has been mainly carried out on texts in academic, scientific and technical genres (e.g. Latour & Woolgar, 1979; Hyland, 2004, 2005; Hunston, 2005). However, as the editors point out in the introductory chapter, the interpersonal aspect of language still remains under-researched, dispersed and limited to a narrow range of genres and to a restricted notion of interpersonality in legal contexts. The present volume is intended to fill this gap and is therefore a valuable contribution to the study of the interactional dimension of language across specific legal genres. Adopting a genre approach, the contributions offer a systematic linguistic analysis of the realisation and distribution of interpersonal features in specific legal texts. Throughout the volume, the contributors convincingly offer a wide range of theoretical frameworks and combined approaches. The contributions investigate various aspects of the interpersonal, dialogic and interactive domain, applying their own taxonomies and extending existing models on dialogic interaction in different legal contexts to various linguistic and discursive features.

When writers adopt a point of view, a kind of dialogic engagement takes place. *Monoglossic* formulations involve only the single voice of the writer and ignore the multiplicity of alternative views and voices, as opposed to the *heteroglossic* point of view, in which the utterance operates in a communicative context with multiple voices and viewpoints (Martin & White, 2005: 575). This dialogistic perspective and the notion of heteroglossic engagement are instantiated in the number of legal genres investigated in this volume. Legal experts choose to emphasise their visible presence by manifesting a level of authority in a text, which becomes central to building a convincing discourse. Alternatively, writers choose to position themselves close to readers in non-expert circles, which contributes to their invisibility, thereby showing consideration and deference to the lay reader.

An interesting approach worth mentioning in relation to the interpersonal aspect of communication, be it oral or written, is the concept of language as dialogue (Weigand, 2009, 2010), which entails that language is used for communicative purposes and is always performed dialogically. In Weigand's view, dialogue is a sequence of an initiative and a reactive action (what she calls the *dialogic action game* or *mixed game*). There is an internal interdependence of the initiative and the expected reactive action in cultural surroundings, which is to be negotiated in dialogic interaction (Flowerdew, 2014: ix).

The book comprises 14 chapters grouped in three sections, each offering studies centred around texts as sites of interaction on three levels of interaction: among legal experts, between legal experts and mixed audiences, and between legal experts and lay people. The contributions are preceded by an introductory chapter: "Framing interpersonality in law contexts", by the editors, RUTH BREEZE, MAURIZIO GOTTI and CARMEN SANCHO GUINDA, who provide the reader with an illuminating overview of the topic in which they masterfully contextualise the theme and describe the interpersonal features that characterise legal discourse. This introduction facilitates the understanding of the topic, especially to those readers who are not familiar with the genre and may find legal texts complex and a bit dry. The book is organised as follows. The first section explores four genres used in expert contexts, where the interpersonal resources of interaction may seem highly formalised in some cases, while in other contexts experts appear to use stance and engagement devices with the aim of persuading their addressees. The first chapter by DAVIDE MAZZI investigates interpersonality in judicial language at crucial moments in the decision-making process in common law and non-common law contexts. In the second chapter, TARJA SALMI-TOLONEN analyses an EU directive, i.e. a prescriptive document belonging to the category of legislation used to direct the legislators of the member states to take measures that will implement their purpose. This genre presents an extensive use of interpersonal and interactive metadiscursive devices with a persuasive function on the recipients' side. In chapter three, MARÍA ÁNGELES ORTS LLOPIS reports findings of a research carried on charter parties, i.e. the contracts made out between ship owners and the persons who charter a vessel, and the interactions that take place between the *dramatis personae* involved in them. Drawing on a corpus of legal research articles, MICHELE SALA explores interrogative formulations as interpersonal resources that presuppose and reveal a recognisable dialogical framework between the

writer and the readers. Finally, CHRISTOPH HAFNER investigates interpersonal resources in the barrister's opinion, a document intended to provide a balanced legal view on a particular case for the solicitor representing the client involved. The author compares opinions written by experienced barristers and those composed by postgraduate law students.

The genres analysed in the second section focus on how experts in the legal field interact with ordinary citizens. Such context affects the type of interpersonal strategies used to engage with heterogeneous audiences holding different expectations and legal background knowledge. The first and second chapters of this section present two studies whose aim is to show how legal texts can be accessible to the general audience. In the first one, VIJAY BHATIA analyses interpersonality in statutory writing by offering two different versions of the text: a simplified version written for the general public and an *easified* version for specialist audiences. In the second chapter, CARMEN SANCHO GUINDA analyses a corpus of legal decisions on aviation accidents and incidents issued by the National Transportation Safety Board of the USA. Through the use of engagement choices, writers manage to reconcile *accessibility* and *informativeness*. The subgenre of legislative drafting guides and manuals is examined by CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS, who explores the interpersonal aspects of guides intended for people involved in drafting legislation, namely the questions of authorship and readership. The next two chapters analyse genres on intellectual property: domain name arbitration awards and patents. The first study by IGNACIO VÁZQUEZ-ORTA offers a critical discussion of the way in which arbitrators get engaged in a dialogue with the parties going for arbitration and with a wider professional community of practice. Finally, drawing on a corpus of US patents, ISMAEL ARINAS PELLÓN focuses on how the interpersonal metafunction serves the persuasion strategies that patent drafters use to overcome the objections of two adversarial audiences: those concerned with *validity* and those worried about *infringement*.

The third section includes four studies dealing with legal interactions between legal experts and lay people. In this context the lawyer has a double task: to gain the cooperation of lay people and to involve the lay participants into the legal discourses. In the first chapter RUTH BREEZE analyses letters of advice and opinion considering the writer's stance and use of relational resources at each stage of the text. In his chapter, MAURIZIO GOTTI examines interpersonality in mediation discourse, a form of dispute resolution. The author analyses oral transcripts from mediation cases and

identifies the negotiation strategies commonly adopted by mediators. PATRIZIA ANESA focuses on the delivery of instructions to jurors in US courts to observe the way experts and lay people interact in the jury instruction phase of trials by reviewing the generic 'pattern' that jury instructions widely used in US courtrooms. Rounding up this final section, ISABEL CORONA explores the genre of the press release in international arbitration cases, which were published in circumstances conditioned by the rhetorical need to defend and justify the company's actions. Various dialogic resources are used to argue for the legitimacy of the company's actions and reactions against the other party's (re)actions.

This volume is highly recommendable to both researchers and scholars working in the field of legal discourse and the interpersonal component of legal genres. I feel that the suggestions and innovative perspectives of the different studies will bring awareness of how textual voices act interpersonally in law contexts.

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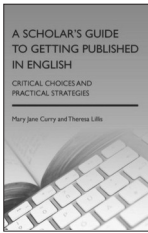
A Scholar's Guide to Getting Published in English. Critical Choices and Practical Strategies

Mary Jane Curry, Theresa Lillis.
Clevedon: Multilingual Matters, 2013. 192 pages. ISBN: 9781783090594.

MARY JANE CURRY and THERESA LILLIS have repeatedly shown their commitment with open participation in and access to published academic writing, as well as with the quality of researchers' manuscripts, especially of those who are compelled to write in English when this is not their first language.

The interest of MARY JANE CURRY and THERESA LILLIS for the difficulties of speakers of additional languages to write in English is at the core of their careers as researchers. This is not the first time they work together, and as in previous articles, chapters and books, the result of this collaboration is always insightful and thought-provoking. *A Scholar's Guide to Getting Published in English* is a practical manual for novel researchers who need to publish in international journals as well as for teachers and supervisors who support others to publish.

As the authors indicate in the "Introduction" to the book, proficiency in English alone is not a guarantee of success in publishing. For this reason, CURRY and LILLIS use a different approach to other books addressed to the same readership, such as the classical handbooks by Swales (1990) or Swales and Feak (2000). Instead of focusing on the linguistic and rhetorical strategies of academic writing for publication, they try to help scholars to engage in the larger social practices. One of the aims of this book is to encourage academic writers to participate in current debates and adopt a critical view, so that they can make informed decisions regarding their future publications. This new approach is summarized in the second part of the title of the book: *Critical Choices and Practical Strategies*.

The concept of "social practice" becomes central in this book. Academic writing develops into a routine for the author, but this routine has to account for the ever-changing expectations of institutions and structures that hold

the power related to knowledge production in a field, and also the language of dissemination within that field. Social practices surround and wrap academic writing: participating in projects, conferences and networks, choosing an appropriate journal to get published, understanding and responding to reviewers, etc.

One of the strengths of this book is the "text-ethnographic" empirical research it is based on. The writing and publishing practices of actual scholars have been used to illustrate and to present evidence of the several aspects dealt with in the book. After 13 years collecting data from scholars located in 12 institutions in four European countries (Hungary, Slovakia, Spain and Portugal) and two academic fields (education and psychology), CURRY and LILLIS have been able to track down a good number of texts towards publication or rejection. The complete research was published in *Academic Writing in a Global Context: The Politics and Practices of Publishing in English* (Lillis & Curry, 2010). Even though presenting wide evidence from real scholars has to be acknowledged and praised, it also leads to limitations. The evidence is found just in four countries and all of them European, and in two fields from the social sciences. The authors recognise the constraints of selecting nationalities and fields. However, they point out that informal communications with scholars in other fields have made them believe that "the choices and strategies we present in this guide will be relevant to scholars and post graduates in many disciplines" (page 10). It may be so, but further research and more evidence are needed from other fields of research as well as other locations in order to confirm the data. In addition, it would also be useful to learn about the opinion of researchers in academic writing in the countries where the sample of scholars come from. As an example, there is a wide range of publications in Spain about this topic, such as those by Moreno, Rey-Rocha, Burgess and López-Navarro (2012) and Lorés-Sanz, Mur-Dueñas and Lafuente-Millán (2010), just to give two examples.

Each chapter of the book has been structured into six sections: an introduction to focus the chapter; data, questions and comments; questions that make the reader reflect about the relationship between the data and their actual work; ideas about how the reader could proceed and learn more about the topic; useful resources, and related research. The seventeen chapters in the book as well as the well-designed framework in each chapter lead the reader along and across the publishing process track, from the identification of journals interesting for publishing one's research to the roles of reviewing and editing. This book is a very complete guide for future academic writers,

very useful also for supervisors and supporters of novel researchers; an ideal complement to other publications more focused on the linguistic and rhetorical perspective.

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Corporate Discourse

Ruth Breeze.
London/New York: Bloomsbury, 2013. 216 pages. ISBN:
978-1-4411-2718-1.

Corporate discourse is a fascinating field of study within business communication, due to the increasing interest in examining corporate practices from a discourse perspective. Its main aim is to observe the way international firms communicate with individuals (being them customers or possible investors), or with other companies. To do so, *Corporate Discourse* focuses on language, analysing the way it works in business-related settings, and trying to understand how it is used in order to create a corporate identity. RUTH BREEZE, the author of this book, knows well this area of study and tries to offer a thorough examination of the pieces of discourse used by a number of companies operating in different sectors, aiming at pointing out current developments in corporate discourse in a globalized world.

This volume can be defined as an interesting and relevant attempt at analysing corporate communication, letting us know what is in the mind of those involved in the development of the different types of discourse introduced by the author. In the seven chapters of the volume, BREEZE tries to offer her readers a clear image of corporate discourse nowadays, paying special attention to Western cultures and mainly focusing on Europe and the United States. She observes how language is used to develop business relationships on an international scope. Accordingly, in her initial chapter she explains some basic concepts that will help the reader to clarify her understanding of general topics that will be developed throughout the volume. Namely, some previous knowledge on corporations, cultural values, corporate image and shareholding is necessary to understand the reconfiguration of society nowadays and how this can affect the vision of corporate discourse in everyone's lives. Then, in the second chapter, BREEZE offers her view on the different roles of discourse and the need to work on specific corporate discourse studies. These analyses can be, in the author's opinion, divided into two broad categories: those which start from a close analysis of the texts (often grouped under the heading of applied linguistics) and those developed from the context, placing a greater emphasis on the

social role of the texts. These two initial chapters are used to establish the general framework of the volume, whereas specific genres of corporate discourse are analysed in detail in the following chapters, particularly regarding form and participants.

Chapter 3 is mainly devoted to the communication relationship that any corporation tends to have with its employees, observing how to shape those discourse interactions. The author analyses job ads, which, in turn, will take candidates to complete recruitment processes. Then, she moves on to studying all the different processes implemented by firms to train new employees (induction seminars, guides/videos for recently hired candidates, testimonies in websites), closing with an analysis of in-house communication (newsletters or different socialization tactics). Chapter 4 analyses how companies communicate with investors, mainly dealing with Annual Reports. She tries to dig into these documents, observing how information is offered to current and prospective shareholders, analysing how positivity and optimism take a leading role while introducing both past results and future prospects. This chapter, relevant as it is, deserves a much more detailed study, due to its interest, and the increasing amount of literature devoted to the topic in recent years clearly points out so. In any case, BREEZE remarks are accurate and attractive for the reader.

Advertising discourse is analysed in chapter 5. After introducing what the author defines as advertising discourse, BREEZE assesses whether this is a new, creative genre, or rather, whether it takes bits and pieces from other more traditional genres, in what she defines as a parasite discourse. She then analyses product advertising, paying attention to specific examples taken from two areas (cars and perfume), examining some tendencies of advertising discourse out from a sample gathered for this purpose. In my view, her analysis on how local connotations can help to introduce specific products in some markets helps to understand how global advertising can be easily improved just by adapting the message to specific groups of customers. This need to communicate on a global basis is also observed in chapter 6, in which the author analyses websites and, more specifically, the "about us" section of large corporations, analysing how this is organised, the use of personality and impersonality, how the corporation tends to offer a positive image of itself and how multimodality is used to endorse that corporate image. Corporate mission statements, social responsibility reports and interactive reviews are also analysed in this chapter. Finally, the seventh chapter, based on an overview of the findings set out in the four prior

chapters, interprets corporate discourse from a critical discourse analysis perspective. She pays attention to discourse hybridisation, based on the continuous mixture of genres, which often blend and interact, generating new ones.

As a conclusion, *Corporate Discourse* offers a motivating introduction of different areas of business communication in today's world, and can be used as a starting point to explore some areas introduced by the author. As it is the case in this type of volumes, and depending on the reader's interests, some areas could have been studied with further detail, but I clearly understand that this was not the author's purpose. On the contrary, as she clearly points out in her introduction, she has accomplished her aim: offering us a snapshot of corporate discourse nowadays. It is, no doubt, a comprehensive account of some discursive interactions in today's firms and it can be used in many business communication classes.

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