
Gentzler, E. (1993) *Contemporary Translation Theories*. Routledge, New York.

Contemporary Translation Theory is an effort to provide an overview of the theories of translation, with special focus on the application of translation for breaking cultural barriers. The book contains a total of 7 chapters: 1) Introduction; 2) The American Translation Workshop; 3) The "Science" of Translation; 4) Early Translation Studies; 5) Polysystem Theory and Translation Studies; 6) Deconstruction and 7) The future of Translation Studies. By means of these topics, Gentzler focuses on both the theory and practice of translation.

In the introduction, Gentzler

points out the relevance of translation theory and explains how it manifests itself in contemporary translation. Although it is a bit difficult to link and process all the ideas of theorists, philosophers and linguists regarding the nature of translation, this ambitious chapter is a well-conceived foundation for the rest of the book and encourages the reader to discover more about developments in this field. In the chapter on the American Translation Workshop, Gentzler presents various prominent approaches to translation in the 1960s and '70s as proposed by I. A. Richards, Ezra Pound, and Frederic Will. Gentzler discusses the Translation Workshop and its contribution to the translation phenomenon. The third chapter of the book deals with the construction of a translation scien-

ce by means of the highly-influential grammar theories of Noam Chomsky and Eugene Nida. Additionally, the influence of these theories in Germany, where the science of translation predominated, is pointed out. Thus, the author deals with a number of fundamental and basic aspects concerning translation work. Gentzler goes back to the seventies in chapter 4, where he provides an overview of the field of translation in those times, emphasizing the contribution of the translators to the development of the field in the eighties. One important part of this book is the combination between Polysystem Theory and Translation Studies, presented in chapter 5. But the most interesting part of the book, although the most difficult to follow, deals with *deconstruction*, in chapter 6. The author brings ideas about translation work, according to some philosophers such as Michel Foucault and Derrida, which claimed that source-texts "go beyond the limits of language". He, also in this chapter, evaluate deconstructionist approach and points out that this project is relevant to questions about translation work and that the

ideas proposed by theorists concerning deconstruction are very important for the understanding of problems of translation process. The final chapter focuses on "the future of Translation Studies", where the author posits the possibility of a new methodology of translation, considering the developments within this area.

Finally, one characteristic of this book is that none of the chapters can be considered weak, since each provides an important contribution to the understanding of the translation field. In addition, through explanations, discussions and critics about each particular translation theory, Gentzler emphasizes the need of alternative approaches and states that deconstruction is a first step for arriving at a "real intra- and intercultural communication". On the negative side, the book is admittedly a hard read, information dense, and rich with references. It's definitely not a book for the novice in Translation Studies, however it is worthy to read for anyone with a serious interest in the field.

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