
Koller, Werner *Einführung in die Übersetzungswissenschaft*: 4th Revised Edition, Wiesbaden, Quelle & eyer, 1992. First Edition 1979.

Einführung in die Übersetzungswissenschaft (Introduction to Translation Science) is perhaps not the best book for someone who is just beginning with translation studies on a formal base. It presupposes a knowledge of a specific translation theory vocabulary, which is not always known by a layman in that field. However, the author himself is aware of the translation theory terminology

issue when he says that there are really moments in which the students are willing to give up on formula and go directly to the translation itself.

The book is divided into two chapters (amazingly exactly half and half): 1. "Grundlagen" (*Basis*) and 2. "Äquivalenz" (*Equivalence*) preceded by a preface to the 4th edition and an introduction. Interesting to note that in the introduction itself, before the author explains the contents of the book and to whom it is addressed, he defines translation as science and explains to which fields it is applied (to the process and to the product). In order to define translation as a science, similar to the

authors of linguistic theories that have to define linguistics as a science, he spends a lot of wording and references trying to convince the reader. Still in the introduction Koller is very specific on the subjects that are not going to be dealt with (i.e. translator training, translator competence, etc.) in his book, which is good so it doesn't frustrate expectations.

The "Grundlagen" chapter deals mainly with the basic problems and extent of translation itself. It is divided into nine sub-chapters. Although item 1.5 (What is translation?) seems to repeat that what was said in the introduction, the question of "textreproduction" is very well developed there. In item 1.6 the author summarizes the various translation models (Catford, Nida/Taber, Oettinger, Wills, Jäger, etc.) mainly criticizing them. Going through all those theories and critics someone could expect that the author would come up with his own model of translation, which never really happens. The "Grundlagen" chapter ends with a review of E. A. Nida's "Toward a Science of Translating" (1964) as a support to his point to discuss linguistic fundamental problems, linguistic translation and linguistic communicative principles.

The second chapter ("Äquiva-

lenz"= Equivalence) is dedicated to the process of translation itself as we can see through J. C. Catford's citation at the beginning: "The central problem of translation-practice is that of finding TL translation equivalents. A central task of translation theory is that of defining the nature and conditions of translation equivalence." Right next he makes 4 sub-divisions worth to be referred to individually. Item 2.1 discusses the problem of translatability giving the opinion of various authors (O. Kade, Bloomfield, Wandruszka, etc.) and their theses about it. He makes an interesting parallel to Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis (The principle of linguistic relativity). In item 2.2 the relation of equivalence between ST and TT are broadly considered and exemplified, and the principle of irreversibility (= Unidirectionality) is pointed out. The different types of equivalence are described in item 2.3. The way the author does it, through a wide range of examples, too many perhaps, makes the reading/understanding quite difficult. The last item is mostly dedicated to the distinction of text types (literary X non-literary) and their implication on translation. Related to text type, the chapter ends, and so does the book, with the reviews of three books: *Theorie der literarischen*

Übersetzung (1967) by R. Kloepfer and *Die literarische Übersetzung. Theorie einer Kunstgattung* (1969) about literary translation, and *Die Übersetzung naturwissenschaftlicher und technischer Literatur* (1961) by R. W. Jumpelts about non-literary translations.

With the final remark that “a translation is not only a confrontation of a source text with all the linguistic and textual means and possibilities of a target language,

the author reminds the reader that he wanted to introduce him into translation science. However, the way he does it corresponds to another remark that he makes in 2.4.4 that “many non-literary texts, regarding language, style and content, are by no means always clear, efficient and economical”.

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