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Baker, Mona. *In Other Words*, London : Routledge, 1992. 301 p.

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Baker's *In Other Words* provides a general view of translation for teachers and students of the field. It attempts to guide and inform decisions translators have to make while performing their task. *In Other Words* interestingly develops hierarchically, from the simple level of the word to the most complex focus- language in context. Along the six chapters, Baker bravely brings to the text a wide range of authentic examples of translated texts, in various languages facilitating the reader's comprehension of the topics and strategies presented. The author has used back-translations as a matter of accessing the reader, since very few people speak all

the languages illustrated. Moreover, it is important to highlight the fact that most ideas are based on theorists such as Halliday, Hasan, Grice, Charrolle, Sinclair and others. The author explicits in the introduction that to be a translator requires practice, knowledge, and feeling.

*In Other Words* does a good job of introducing really basic concepts, since Baker does not seem to expect any knowledge of linguistics from the reader. For a start, chapter 2 deals with strategies to attempt to non-equivalence at word level. It presents the definition of word, morpheme, explanations of the type of lexical meanings and reminds that language is arbitrary. The lexical structure of a language, that is, the language above the word level is the topic of chapter 3, in which the author concentrates on two

main points: collocation; idioms and fixed expressions. In this chapter Baker deals with the difficulties that translators find in using appropriate lexical pattern of the source and target language. By discussing grammatical equivalence, a powerful aspect that determines the way to take in order to communicate easily and successfully, the author in chapter 4 outlines some of the main differences between lexical and grammatical categories. Then, she presents the diversity of these categories (number, gender, person, tense and aspect, voice) across languages. At the end of the chapter it is slightly presented a discussion of word order and text.

Chapter 5 addresses a general overview on textual equivalence based on the Hallidayan approach to information flow. Baker attempts to make readers aware of information flow and strategies to solve tension between syntactic and communicative functions, as very important aspects in translation. That is, the translator has to follow as much as possible the source text, but it cannot always follow its thematic organization (theme/rheme). Being the longest chapter of the book, coincidentally it is

where the concepts seem to become more complex. This chapter presents the position of the Prague School on information flow, which is referred to as functional sentence perspective. The latter tries to expose that certain syntactic structures, depending on the purpose of communication, may function in different perspectives. Baker delights the reader with a variety of strategies to soften this tension.

Cohesion is the topic of chapter 6. The author positively organizes the beginning of this chapter in such a way that it links with a feature of the previous chapter. Baker firstly defines cohesion as the "network of lexical, grammatical, and other relations which provide links between various parts of a text" (p. 180). Afterwards, five cohesive devices are exhibited: reference, ellipsis, conjunction and lexical cohesion, all of them highlighting its importance to translation. Chapter 7 is noticeably the most intricate chapter of the book. It addresses to pragmatics as "the study of language in use". Baker compares cohesion and coherence as being important networks in a text. Nevertheless, coherence deals

with the reader's perception of concepts or meanings in the text. Besides this, the chapter addresses the process of interpretation (implicature), used by Grice to refer to "what the speaker means and not what she/he literally says". Grice also suggests a general principal of communication, the Co-operative Principle. Yet in this chapter the author relates coherence, pragmatics inferences to the various problems and strategies in translation.

At a thick 304 pages, the author was able to well organize the text in a very comprehensive manner, maybe excessively basic for graduates of the field. Through a very coherent way of writing the writer had the ability to link the chapters as a chain. For

instance, at the beginning of each chapter, there is usually a brief summary of the previous chapter and at the end, a slight comment about the further chapter. I personally find this pattern followed by Baker highly relevant, since the reader may always be prepared for the next chapter and also review the former one. Through the several examples given in many languages the author encourages the reader to access the strategies presented in various contexts. Although *In Other Words* can be considered by a translator "a down-to-earth coursebook", to my mind it is still a little basic for professionals in translation.

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