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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In the preface of the book, Jean-François Joly, President of the International Federation of Translators (FIT), which published the book with the assistance of UNESCO, states that the aim of Translators through History is twofold: to bring translators from the ancient and recent past out of oblivion and to illustrate the roles they played in the evolution of human thought (p. xiv). This aim has been plainly achieved for the
book does take the reader to a journey in History through Europe, the Americas, Africa, India and China, always focusing, of course, on the work carried out by translators as a means for the development, enrichment and promotion of languages and literatures and, consequently, for the spread of education and knowledge.

*Translators through History* is divided into nine chapters, each one devoted to a specific topic which highlights the area in which translation work has been most outstanding: 1) Translators and the Invention of Alphabets; 2) Translators and the Development of National Languages; 3) Translators and the Emergence of National Literatures; 4) Translators and the Dissemination of Knowledge; 5) Translators and the Reins of Power; 6) Translators and the Spread of Religions; 7) Translators and the Transmission of Cultural Values; 8) Translators and the Writing of Dictionaries and 9) Interpreters and the Making of History. Each of the nine chapters/topics has been written by an international team of historians headed by a principal author. It should be pointed out here that the nine teams did a very good job in associating the historical facts and personalities (Martin Luther and the Reformation in Germany, for example, broadly examined in Chapter 2) with principles and methods of translation (Martin Luther’s target-culture approach advocating translation as interpretation, also examined in Chapter 2) in a concise and coherent way. In addition, many illustrations have been provided by means of practical examples of how languages and literatures evolved (for example, the original meaning of the verb “to fast”, examined in Chapter 1, and how Chaucer founded an English poetic tradition on adaptations and translations, described in Chapter 3).

If, on the one hand, one should praise the effort of the FIT Committee for the History of Translation in covering such broad areas from the most remote times until the twentieth century in barely 300 pages, on the other hand, as translation is not an isolated phenomenon, too many historical events, periods, dates, institutions, wars, movements and personalities involved in the history of translation do make the reading somewhat confusing and monotonous some-
times. Inasmuch as the book does not necessarily follow a chronological order, the reader many times feels somewhat ‘lost’ in time and space. Also, in spite of being necessary and helpful, the too many explanations that have been added in most chapters “either in the text or in endnotes, to clarify allusions to specific historical events or cultural features that might not be familiar to every reader” (Introduction, p.3), break the fluency of the reading.

Nevertheless, as stated by the editors Jean Delisle and Judith Woodsworth in the Introduction, the book is an excellent guide to the field of translation history, also because it contains a “Further Readings” section at the end of each chapter so as to help readers find more information on that particular topic. In addition, a complete bibliography at the end of the book and an index of proper names are also provided, thus facilitating its use.

Translators through History not only provides a broad overview of the work carried out by translators through the ages, but also contains important information of linguistic and professional value for those that are engaged in translation and/or translation studies. Furthermore, it discusses issues that are always updated such as how power can use translators and how translators are related to power (Chapter 5), and raises questions such as translators as prospectors, explorers of foreign values (Chapter 7). Therefore, it could, in my opinion, be adopted by Translation Courses of undergraduate level. It would certainly enrich the courses and the students would have a lot to gain through the reading of its pages.

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Imagine the misery of an English native speaker discussing an essay with her/his teacher of Arabic as a foreign language and listening to the following: your ideas are excellent... you have a lot to say