Leo, Hickey (ed.) *The Pragmatics of Translation*. Clevedon/ Philadelphia: Multilingual Matters, 1998, 242 pp.

The Pragmatics of Translation is a collection of thirteen articles compiled by author and editor Leo Hickey. Each individual author represents in his or her article a different approach to translation through the use of various translation theories and practices. The intention of these articles, according to Hickey, is to present the ways in which pragmatics relates to translation and how one may achieve what he calls "pragmatic equivalence". The authors attempt to answer various questions concerning the relationship between original texts and their translations, and what exactly these translations intend to achieve. Hickey claims in

his introduction that translators are not merely translators, but mediators as well. The job of the translator-mediator is far more complex than the simple task of substituting words for those of an original text.

In the first article in this compilation, the late Sándor Hervey introduces the term *illocutionary function*. According to Hervey, an illocutionary function is defined as what people "do" when making utterances, the actions that aid in the reader's comprehension of the intent of the utterance. In addition, Hervey also addresses the "cross-cultural puzzle" of cross-linguistic translation, or translation proper. He explains the difficulty of translating illocutionary functions across certain cultural boundaries due to cultural relativity.

In another chapter, Kirsten Malmkjær explains the notion of cooperation and literary translation by means of Grice's Theory of Meaning. Using examples from the Danish language, Malmkjær demonstrates how Grice's Cooperative Principle is limited because it is difficult for a reader to understand a translation that is attempting to convey a certain meaning between languages. The author attempts to find a solution to the problems that readers encounter when they try to distinguish between the literal and non-literal meaning of a text.

Like Malmkjær, Basil Hatim uses Grice's Cooperative Principle to discuss and explain the meanings of different translations. One of Hatim's main points is derived from Grice's principle, which says that meaning is determined at the exact point that an utterance is made; meanings are not predetermined. The author discusses the importance of contextual effects in creating a translation. He points out the three ways in which a contextual effect may either strengthen or weaken a translation: new information may lead to a new assumption; it can strengthen an existing assumption; or, finally, it might facilitate the abandoning of an existing assumption.

Juliane House's article is similar to Hatim's in that both authors address the concept of politeness in writing. They discuss how a good example of polite writing would not violate any of the maxims of the Gricean Cooperative Principle, which include: quantity, quality, manner, and relevance. Juliane House chooses to discuss politeness as both a pragmatic and sociocultural phenomena, saying that this sort of courtesy is one of

the basic social guidelines for human interaction (in a pragmatic sense) and it deals with the way consideration is shown to others throughout a specific society. House also refers to translation as a "cross-linguistic sociocultural practice".

In his article, Ernst-August Gutt distinguishes between the Interpretive and Descriptive use of language in relation to relevance theory. Gutt explains that an interpretive use of language is an utterance that describes what someone says or thinks. Descriptive use of language, on the other hand, refers to a description made regarding some state of affairs somewhere in the world. In addition, Gutt discusses the relationship between what the audience expects from a work, and what the author intends it to be. Gutt believes that there are various distinguishing words that categorize different literary works that are intended to coordinate the intention of the author with the expectation of the reader. It is interesting to note that every time Gutt mentions the translator, he describes that person as a woman, consistently referring to the translator as *she* and *her* in his article. Gutt, a male author, is overtly recognizing females as having exceptional translating abilities, which is a positive factor in his writing.

Authors Frank Knowles and Palma Zlateva are similar in their respective articles in that they use the Russian language as an example to illustrate their translation theories. Knowles discusses the manner in which language mechanisms such as inflection and word order are used to convey different meanings. He explains how the language in which the translation is being written needs to agree with the language of the original text to facilitate the replication of a work's themes, structure, etc. Similarly, Zlateva uses the combination of examples from Russian, Bulgarian and English to argue that there is difficulty in substituting certain words in different languages that are meant to convey explicitness in a range of utterances.

The translation of illocutionary force, which was previously mentioned in the article written by Sándor Hervey, is the focus of Ian Higgins' piece in which he uses examples from Racine's work *Andromaque*. He emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the illocutionary force of an original text is transferred to the translation. This is done, he claims, by making sure that the linguistic features, such as

word order and rhyme, which contribute to the illocutionary force of a text, are present in the translation as well.

This compilation of articles has the ability to open the reader to new processes and practices dealing with translation. The various authors illustrate different pragmatic approaches by discussing ideas such as the significance of politeness in writing, illocutionary functions, Grice's theory, and different contextual effects. Although at times the articles are difficult to comprehend because of the use of different languages that the reader may not understand, the examples used do illustrate the theories, practices, and points that the authors are trying to convey and aid the reader in understanding these approaches.

Nicole M. McManus
St. Lawrence University