

国外翻译研究丛书之十

# DESCRIPTIVE TRANSLATION STUDIES AND BEYOND

## 描述翻译学及其他

GIDEON TOURY



上海外语教育出版社

SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS

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*Tel Aviv University*



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## 出版说明

近年来,国内翻译研究取得了很大进展,有关翻译研究的丛书也出了多套。不过,长期以来,国内引进的原版翻译著作匮乏,不少研究都是根据二手资料;另外,学习翻译专业的研究生人数越来越多,这种状况若继续存在,将十分不利于学科的发展和翻译人才的培养。鉴于此,上海外语教育出版社约请了多名国内翻译研究著名学者分别开列出最值得引进的国外翻译研究论著的书目,并对这些书目进行整理、排序,最终确定了准备引进的正式书单。该丛书涉及的论著时间跨度大,既有经典,也有新论;内容的覆盖面也相当广泛,既有翻译本体的研究,也有跨学科的研究。这套丛书的引进将会满足翻译专业研究生教学原版参考书和翻译理论研究的需要。

上海外语教育出版社谨以此丛书献给我国的翻译学界。

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## 借鉴和创造

### (代序)

上海外语教育出版社自成立以来一直是我国外语教育最优秀的后勤部和侦察部。因为它不但为我国各个层次(尤其本科与研究生层次)的外语教育提供了多种高水平的教材、教参和工具书,而且还出版了多学科、多语种和多系列的中文版和外文版的学术著作,比如“现代语言学丛书”、“牛津应用语言学丛书”、“美国文学史论译丛”、“外国文学史丛书”、“剑桥文学指南丛书”、“当代英语语言学丛书”以及列入国家及教育部规划的人文社科重点项目的外国语言文学、文化等方面的图书等。为了适应我国现代化建设和教育改革的需要,还出版了一批国际金融、对外贸易、涉外保险、国际经济法、国际新闻和管理科学等方面的教材与专著。这些著作在外语的学科建设与学术研究以及复合型人才培养等方面都在发挥着强有力的侦察、调研和指导作用。这是外语界有口皆碑的。

随着中外文化交流的纵深发展以及我国现代化建设对人才的需求,对比语言学和翻译学近些年来在我国有了较快的发展,最突出的证据就是①外语类硕士博士点上研究对比与翻译方向的学生在逐年迅速增多,而且我们的高校已经有了翻译学院和翻译系(当然还太少)。②外语专业的学生考中文、法律等其他人文社科专业的硕士、博士以及反方向的走向已经起步。这种跨学科的人才已成为人才资源竞争的最主要对象,因此发展趋势定会看好。上海外语教育出版社为适应这种高层次人才培养和新学科建设的需要,不但积极出版国内关于对比研究和翻译研究的专著和论文集,最近又推出了原版“国外翻译研究丛书”,这套丛书时间跨度从古代到现代,所选书目皆为译学发展史上有里程碑作用的名家名著,堪称译学经典。他们计划分批出版,以满足读者的需求。



这套丛书的出版首先可以解决国内翻译教学原版参考书多年匮乏的困难,真可以说是我国翻译教学与理论研究的及时雨。我想学习和关心这个学科的师生和其他人士定会对这套书的引进为之欢呼,为之祝贺。

这套丛书的价值还在于能大大促进我国翻译学科建设的发展。译学学科的发展依赖于研究者在三个方面的深入研究和结合。一是对本国译学的继承性研究;二是对外国译学的借鉴性研究;三是对翻译实践和翻译教学中新问题的探索性研究。只有这三者研究深入并结合好了,才可能从经验与技巧逐步升华为具有科学性的译学理论。这三个方面的研究,改革开放以来,在我国已取得了很显著的成就,这是有目共睹的。翻译学在我国已于20世纪80年代末有了独立学科的初级形态,90年代又有了新的发展,对学科的独立性以及理论体系的结构与功能有了更多的探讨。依照学科建设的规律和研究现状,我们尚需在上述三个方面加大研究力度,而这套丛书就是借鉴性研究的主要资源。从这个角度讲,这套丛书的引进也是我国文化基本建设的重要工程之一。

在新的世纪,文化(包括各类科学技术)会多方面快速深入人类的日常生活,各国之间的交流会空前深广,因此翻译的功能会逐步扩大,实用性翻译人才的需求量定会空前增加。这就要求我们除了做好高层次研究型人才的培养以外,还应十分重视实用性人才的培养和应用译学的研究。我想出版社一定会关注和引导译学建设的理论研究与应用的发展趋势。

杨自俭

青岛海洋大学六三居室

2001年3月28日



## 出版前言

翻译研究学派创始人之一詹姆斯·霍姆斯(James S. Holmes)于1972年在哥本哈根举行的第三届国际应用语言学大会上提出应将翻译学视作一门独立的学科,并指出该学科可分为纯翻译学(pure translation studies)和应用翻译学(applied translation studies)两大部分。前者可包括理论翻译学(theoretical translation studies)和描述翻译学(descriptive translation studies)两个分支。遗憾的是,描述翻译学这一分支并未引起翻译界应有的重视,有些翻译理论家在感慨翻译研究中理论与实践脱节的同时故意贬低对具体翻译实践和翻译成果所作的描述性研究。

吉迪恩·图里所著的《描述翻译学及其他》一书力主在翻译学范围内建立基于方法论的、系统的描述翻译学分支学科。本书以实际的翻译行为及其结果作为研究对象,探讨了建立这一分支学科所涉及的主要问题。

作者清晰地表明本专著并非仅仅是他1980年出版的《翻译理论探索》(*In Search of a Theory of Translation*)一书的续编,实际上是该书出版十几年来他对翻译理论的新思考,因而在某种程度上有取而代之的作用。

本书第一部分阐述了描述翻译学这一分支在翻译研究中应处的重要地位。第二部分进行了系统的方法论探讨,构建了描述翻译学的理论依据,为随后的个案研究作了必要的铺垫。第三部分范畴广泛的个案研究均遵循同一个指导原则,即将每个问题都置于更高层次的上下文中加以研究,既考虑整个文本和行为方式,又考虑文化背景。第四部分提出了一个关键问题:对翻译进行描述性研究获取的知识有何用处?由于为翻译实践活动制定法则和提供启示超越了目前描述翻译学的研究范围,

作者将另外加以阐述。本书中的“及其他”即源于此。

由于作者旨在填补翻译理论与实践之间存在的鸿沟,因此本书对从事翻译理论研究的人员和从事翻译实践的读者均有指导意义。



# Contents

## INTRODUCTION

<b>A Case for Descriptive Translation Studies</b>	<b>1</b>
---	----------

## PART ONE

<b>The Pivotal Position of Descriptive Studies and DTS</b>	<b>7</b>
--	----------

1. Holmes' 'map' of the discipline
2. The internal organization of DTS
3. Between DTS and Translation Theory
4. Between Translation Studies and its applied extensions

## PART TWO

<b>A Rationale for Descriptive Translation Studies</b>	<b>21</b>
--	-----------

### Chapter 1. Translations as Facts of a 'Target' Culture

<b>An Assumption and Its Methodological Implications</b>	<b>23</b>
--	-----------

1. Approaching translation within a target-oriented framework
2. Translations as cultural facts
3. In need of proper contextualization
4. The notion of assumed translation and its contents
5. Discovery vs. justification procedures

<b>Excursus A. Pseudotranslations and Their Significance</b>	<b>40</b>
--	-----------

1. Some uses of pseudotranslating
2. Pseudotranslations and Translation Studies
3. The enlightening case of *Papa Hamlet*

<b>Chapter 2. The Nature and Role of Norms in Translation</b>	<b>53</b>
---	-----------

1. Rules, norms, idiosyncrasies
2. Translation as a norm-governed activity
3. Translational norms: An overview
4. The multiplicity of translational norms
5. Studying translational norms

<b>Chapter 3. Constituting a Method for Descriptive Studies</b>	<b>70</b>
1. Assumed translations and their acceptability	
2. Types of comparison at the initial stage	
3. Coming up with the appropriate source text	
4. (Translation) solutions and (source) problems	
5. Prospective vs. retrospective stances exemplified by metaphor	
6. Uncovering the underlying concept of translation	
<b>Chapter 4. The Coupled Pair of Replacing + Replaced Segments</b>	<b>87</b>
1. The need for a unit of comparative analysis	
2. An exemplary analysis of one pair of texts	
3. Justifying the use of the coupled pair	
4. Testing the coupling hypothesis in real time	
<b>Chapter 5. An Exemplary 'Study in Descriptive Studies'</b>	
<b>Conjoint Phrases as Translational Solutions</b>	<b>102</b>
1. The phrases' significance assured	
2. The use of binomials in translated texts	
3. Shifts, relationships, first-level generalizations	
4. Second-level generalizations and further research prospects	
5. Applying research findings in actual translation	
<b>PART THREE</b>	
<b>Translation-in-Context</b>	
<b>An Assortment of Case Studies</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Chapter 6. Between a 'Golden Poem' and a Shakespearean Sonnet</b>	<b>114</b>
1. Prior to 1916: A meaningful void	
2. 1916-1923: Modified 'Golden Poems'	
3. 1929: An alternative point of departure	
4. Moving away from the Golden Poem	
5. 1943 onwards: A mixed situation	
6. A glimpse into the future	
<b>Chapter 7. A Lesson from Indirect Translation</b>	<b>129</b>
1. Mediated translations as an object for study	
2. The 'German' period in Hebrew literature	
2.1 <i>The concept of translation</i>	
2.2 <i>The symptomatic status of indirect translation</i>	



- 2.3 *The role of German culture as a supplier*
- 2.4 *Translating English literature via German*
- 3. Moving into the revival period
  - 3.1 *The 'Russification' of Hebrew literature*
  - 3.2 *The position of German and English*
  - 3.3 *The Russified model and translation from other languages*
- 4. The Anglicization of Hebrew literature

## Chapter 8. Literary Organization and Translation Strategies

### A Text Is Sifted Through a Mediating Model 147

- 1. Added rhymes and verbal formulation
- 2. Adding a [fictional] epic situation and tightening the overall structure
- 3. What was so wrong with the original model?
- 4. A mediating model and its origin
- 5. External source vs. internal legitimation
- 6. Enhancing the translation's acceptability
- 7. Was there any alternative?
- 8. Appendix: "Das Schlaraffenland" and "Gan-Eden ha-taxton"

### Excursus B. 'Translation of Literary Texts' vs. 'Literary Translation' 166

- 1. The two senses of 'literary translation'
- 2. 'Linguistic', 'textual' and 'literary' modes of translation
- 3. 'Literary translation' and target-orientedness
- 4. Cultural distance and the gap between the two senses of 'literary translation'
- 5. Appendix: 27 English translations of the "Crow" haiku

## Chapter 9. Studying Interim Solutions

### Possibilities and Implications 181

- 1. Trying to close in on the 'little black box'
- 2. Tracing the emergence of a translation
- 3. Possible implications for Translation Theory

## Chapter 10. A Translation Comes into Being

### Hamlet's Monologue in Hebrew 193

- 1. The materials under study
- 2. Prosodic constraints and the unit of consideration
- 3. Using revisions to uncover constraints
- 4. Conclusions and implications



<b>Chapter 11. Translation-Specific Lexical Items and Their Lexicographical Treatment</b>	<b>206</b>
1. Translation specificity	
2. Translation-specific lexical items	
3. Translation-specific lexemes as candidates for the dictionary	
4. The 'meaning' of translation-specific items	
5. Submitting translations to lexical study	
6. Towards exemplary dictionary entries	
<b>Chapter 12. Experimentation in Translation Studies Achievements, Prospects and Some Pitfalls</b>	<b>221</b>
1. Empirical sciences and empirical methods	
2. Product-oriented empirical studies	
2.1 <i>Cloze tests</i>	
2.2 <i>The use of questionnaires</i>	
3. Process-oriented empirical studies	
3.1 <i>Thinking-Aloud Protocols</i>	
4. Concluding remarks	
<b>Excursus C. A Bilingual Speaker Becomes a Translator A Tentative Developmental Model</b>	<b>241</b>
1. Nature vs. nurture in the making of translators	
2. An innateness hypothesis is not enough	
3. The making of a 'native' translator	
4. How would a developmental model be validated?	
5. Possible implications for translator training	
<b>PART FOUR</b>	
<b>Beyond Descriptive Studies</b>	
<b>Towards Laws of Translational Behaviour</b>	<b>259</b>
1. Non-lawlike generalizations	
2. The probabilistic nature of translational laws	
3. Two exemplary laws	
3.1 <i>The law of growing standardization</i>	
3.2 <i>First steps towards a law of interference</i>	
<b>References</b>	<b>281</b>
<b>Subject Index</b>	<b>301</b>
<b>Author index</b>	<b>308</b>

## INTRODUCTION

### A Case for Descriptive Translation Studies

In contradistinction to non-empirical sciences, empirical disciplines are devised to account, in a systematic and controlled way, for particular segments of the 'real world'. Consequently, no empirical science can make a claim for completeness and (relative) autonomy unless it has a proper *descriptive branch*. Describing, explaining and predicting phenomena pertaining to its object level is thus the main goal of such a discipline. In addition, carefully performed studies into well-defined corpuses, or sets of problems, constitute the best means of testing, refuting, and especially modifying and amending the very *theory*, in whose terms research is carried out. Being reciprocal in nature, the relations between the theoretical and descriptive branches of a discipline also make it possible to produce more refined and hence more significant studies, thus facilitating an ever better understanding of that section of reality to which that science refers. They also make possible the elaboration of *applications* of the discipline, should one be interested in elaborating them, in a way which is closer to what is inherent to the object itself.

Whether one chooses to focus one's efforts on translated texts and/or their constituents, on intertextual relationships, on models and norms of translational behaviour or on strategies resorted to in and for the solution of particular problems, what constitutes the subject-matter of a proper discipline of Translation Studies is (observable or reconstructable) facts of real life rather than merely speculative entities resulting from preconceived hypotheses and theoretical models. It is therefore empirical by its very nature and should be worked out accordingly. However, despite incessant attempts in recent decades to elevate it to a truly scientific status, as the empirical science it deserves to become Translation Studies is still in the making. This is clearly reflected in that, among



other things, it is only recently that deliberate efforts have begun to establish a descriptive branch as an integral part of its overall program, i.e., as a vital link between successive phases of its own evolution as well as between the discipline itself and its extensions into our world of experience. Consequently, translation scholars still find themselves in a tight spot whenever they are required to put their hypotheses to the test, insofar as the hypotheses themselves are formed within the discipline to begin with, and not imported wholesale from other frameworks, be they even those regarded as “Voraussetzungswissenschaften für die Übersetzungswissenschaft” (Kühlwein et al. 1981: 15).

The main reason for the prevailing underdevelopment of a descriptive branch within Translation Studies has no doubt been an overriding orientation towards practical applications, which has marked – and marred – scholarly work ever since the sixties. Thus, whereas for most empirical sciences, including even Linguistics, such applications – important as they may be – are presented merely as extensions into the world, the immediate needs of particular applications of Translation Studies have often been taken as a major constraint on the formation of the theory itself, if not its very *raison d'être*. Small wonder that a scholarly framework geared almost exclusively towards applicability in practice should show preference for prescriptivism at the expense of description, explanation and prediction.

What the application-oriented variety of Translation Studies normally amounts to is an admixture of speculation, if not sheer wishful thinking, and research work pertaining to some *other* discipline which, for one reason or another, is considered more prestigious, sometimes just more fashionable, for a limited period of time. By contrast, it tends to shun research within its own terms of reference. In fact, many writers on translation still look down on studies into actual practices and their products, the more so if these studies are properly descriptive, i.e., if they refrain from value judgments in selecting subject matter or in presenting findings, and/or refuse to draw any conclusions in the form of recommendations for ‘proper’ behaviour. Somewhat paradoxically, it is precisely writers of this denomination who are also the first to lament the yawning gap between ‘theory’ and ‘practice’. Even though gaps of this kind are best bridged by taking heed of the full range of real-life behaviour (practice!), along with the factors underlying, and conditioning them (theory!), the lack of a truly descriptive-explanatory branch within Translation Studies has never really bothered these writers. Often quite the contrary. After all, this attitude spared them the need to justify their own preferences in the face of the fact that in real-life