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Expertise and Explicitation in the Translation Process

Birgitta Englund Dimitrova

Expertise and Explicitation in the Translation Process

Birgitta Englund Dimitrova
Stockholm University

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Expertise and Explicitation in the Translation Process

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Expertise and Explicitation in the Translation Process
by Birgitta Englund Dimitrova

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For my parents

List of abbreviations

L1	first language
L2	second language
LS	language student
LTM	Long Term Memory
PR	professional translator
STM	Short Term Memory
SL	source language
ST	source text
TA	think-aloud
TAPs	think-aloud-protocols
TL	target language
TS	translation student
TT	target text

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

Translation has always been important in the history of written language and has played a decisive role in the historical development of many languages and literatures. Still, it is probably no exaggeration to say that it has never been more widespread and significant as a communicative activity than in today's information society, and there is no reason to believe that its importance will diminish. In new and old types of communication media, texts of various kinds are written and/or spoken, and quite often translated, by man or machine, in spoken or written form, to be made available to new readers in various forms: printed and published, on a screen, on paper, etc. All kinds of texts are translated: serious and not-so-serious literature, language for specific purposes for specialists and for the general public, spoken and written texts, well-written texts and texts of poor quality. Translation is a vital part of international trade and co-operation and absolutely necessary for international organizations, such as the UN and the EU.

The steady growth in the number of texts being translated is leading to a growing professionalization of the job of translator, as well as its diversification into specialities, such as subtitler, localizer, etc. An increasing number of people are engaged as professionals in such work, and together with the expansion of university education in most countries, this has resulted in the establishment internationally of a large number of translator training programs of various length and character.

In this context, a central issue is the translator's professional knowledge and competence. Although very often other professional categories are also involved and influence the final shape of the text, such as specialists and terminologists, editors, revisers and publishers, the person who translates a text obviously plays an important role in the whole process of producing the translated text. The translator produces a target text (TT) on the basis of a source text (ST), and the translator's competence in various areas, as well as previous experience in translation, will have a decisive influence on the translation process and its outcome, the TT. The present study focuses on the issue of what characterizes the translation process of individuals with different

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