



Book Review

Scarpa, F. Translated and adapted by M. A. Fiola (2010). *La traduction spécialisée: Une approche professionnelle à l'enseignement de la traduction*. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press. 464 pages. ISBN: 978-2-7603-0698-1. Also available as ebook www.press.uottawa.ca

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Federica Scarpa's *La traduction spécialisée: Une approche professionnelle à l'enseignement de la traduction* [*Specialized Translation: A Professional Approach to Teaching Translation*] translated from the Italian into French by Marco A. Fiola is an important and welcome publication on teaching specialized translation, for, as the translator rightfully claims in his preface (p. vii), this volume responds to a need for new textbooks on specialized translation in countless language combinations. Specifically, in her foreword to the second edition, the author asserts that in 2004 a mere 10% of books published on translation dealt with specialized translation (p. x). The two editions of her book—2001 and 2008—respectively foreshadow and follow up on the revival of interest in the topic.

Scarpa's approach to translator training is unabashedly and resolutely professional, with an emphasis on translation quality. Central to her approach is the concept of qualitative norm that is as pertinent to translation didactics as it is to the translation industry (p. x). Yet her approach is holistic, for it also considers translation as service and puts the onus on the translator to deal ethically with both the text to be translated and the multiple actors in the translation network. In other words, her integrated approach strives to help professional translators find solutions to the real problems with which they are confronted on a daily basis in order for them to conform to the highest quality standards possible, while dealing ethically with their text and clients. The result is an up-to-date "how to" book on translating specialized texts that marries theory and practice. As such, it does not preclude or exclude synergies between academia and the translation industry, for both sectors must work together to raise the professional profile of the translator, not only in Italy, but throughout the world.

The table of contents of this well-conceived textbook includes a translator's preface, the foreword to the second edition written by the author, and the following chapters : I) Particularités et caractéristiques générales des langues de spécialité [Features and general characteristics of languages for special purposes (LSPs)] 1) Aspects linguistiques des langues de spécialité

[Linguistic aspects of LSPs] 3) Caractéristiques générales de la traduction spécialisée et préparation à la traduction [Broad features of LSP translation and preparing to translate] 4) La traduction opération [Translation operations] 5) La qualité en traduction [Quality in translation] 6) La compétence traductionnelle [Translation competence] 7) Le traducteur, ses outils et sa profession [The translator, his tools and his profession]. A comprehensive 41-page bibliography and a useful 14-page index complete the volume.

Chapter 1 presents text types and genres to highlight the features of LSPs in terms of degree and field of specialization, as well as the conditions of specialized communication—intention condition, knowledge condition and code condition, with an emphasis on the latter (pp. 24-28). The point of view of this chapter is intertextual, whereas that of the next chapter is intratextual. In Chapter 2, Scarpa's comparative top-down study outlines the similarities between LSP texts and general language texts in addition to the differences that set them apart, with a three-fold emphasis: a) the textual and rhetorical characteristics of specialized texts, b) morphosyntactic aspects of LSPs, and c) lexical and terminological aspects of text types. Chapter 3 deals squarely with translation of LSPs. From approaches to the study of translation, to the differences between literary and LSP translation, translatability and equivalence, cultural aspects of translation, norms and conventions, parameters guiding the choice of a translation macrostrategy, this is a key chapter, worth reading in its own right. Reminiscent of comparative stylistics, Chapter 4 outlines translation methods and procedures from literal translation to paraphrase (transposition, modulation, adaptation, etc.) and textual strategies. Chapter 5 delves into the thorny—and often subjective—issue of translation quality, depending on who is evaluating a translation and to what end. That said, the chapter concludes with a list of translation errors useful not only in a pedagogical setting but also in a professional one (pp. 276-277). A key message to be retained from Chapter 6 is the aim of a translator training programme. Rather than teach students the “best” way to translate, translator training programmes should help students identify the method of translating that they find most productive by introducing them to a variety of methods from which to learn and choose (p. 322). In addition to discussing opportunities in the field of LSP translation, among other important aspects of the profession, Chapter 7 reveals that non-text-related professional behaviours tend to be the source of claims for compensation on the part of clients. As a result, it recommends liability insurance for professionals to protect them in the event of lost documents, libel, copyright infringements, etc. Not surprisingly, the responsibility is greater for the owner of a translation company than for the freelancers to whom he (or she) subcontracts translation work. Of course, professional associations keep their members up to date on such matters, and useful information can be found on their websites. However, it is important to make students aware of these important issues while they are taking their translation courses, because they may very well be freelancing without necessarily being a member of a professional translators association.

Considerable adaptation was required to transform an English to Italian translation textbook into an English to French translation textbook so that it would be of as much use to French-speaking translation students as it already was to Italian-speaking students. Marco Fiola rose to the challenge and accomplished a remarkable and thorough feat by replacing references to the specifics of translating into Italian with references to the specifics of translating into French, as well as by including appropriate examples of translation. In essence, he has successfully adapted the textbook to the needs of translators working into French, with special attention to the (French-

)Canadian context. As the translator remarks in his preface, even though the French and Italian languages are members of the same Romance family, translating into them from English presents different challenges. Subsequently, the applied part of the book had to be rethought. By contrast, the theoretical content was simply translated. In fact, one of the significant and original contributions of this book is its introduction to Italian translation studies theory, for many of the excerpts included in the book had yet to be translated into French. Thanks to this textbook, French readers now have access to some of these writings. In addition, Marco Fiola has, predictably, expanded the bibliography, although not in the way that one might have expected. The impressive bibliography boasts numerous references from professional journals, and includes a good many Italian and German titles in addition to English ones. The German and Italian titles will likely be new to many French-speaking readers. So as not to compromise the integrity of the original work, Fiola left Scarpa's bibliography intact. Instead, he opted to add new reference materials, often in French, to the end of each chapter.

We are eager to read an English translation of this textbook—perhaps dealing with the French to English combination—that will not only prove useful in translator training settings, but will also be an important reference book for researchers, professional translators and their clients, and hope that it will not be long in coming. Certainly, Marco Fiola's French translation, like Federica Scarpa's Italian original, are noteworthy publications in the growing collection on LSP translation.