INTRODUCTION TO THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TRANSLATION: A COURSEBOOK

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The author Bitola, 2021

Preface

Translation is an activity of enormous importance in the modern world and is a subject of interest not only to linguists, professional and amateur translators and language-teachers, but also to electronic engineers and mathematicians who work on devising more sophisticated means of electronic translation.

This book is designed to serve as a coursebook for undergraduate and postgraduate students of translation. It is organized in three sections. **Section I** is intended to provide students with some background information regarding the theoretical and practical aspects of translation. More precisely, this section consists of 12 chapters, each dealing with a specific topic, starting with the beginnings and history of translation (Chapter 1) and the constituting of Translation Studies as a separate academic discipline (Chapter 2). The following chapters focus on the different types of translation (Chapter 3). Then, the process of translation is elaborated on in some detail (Chapter 4), particularly the aspect of translation concerned with translation of lexis (Chapter 5) and translation of grammar (Chapter 6). The next three chapters deal with the challenges and strategies employed in translating prose (Chapter 7), poetry (Chapter 8) and drama (Chapter 9). The following chapter deals with translation of children's literature (Chapter 10), whereas the penultimate chapter of the coursebook focuses on the main features of specialised translation (Chapter 11). Finally, the last chapter dwells on consecutive and simultaneous interpreting (Chapter 12).

Each chapter in Section I begins with a short introduction into the topic, intended to inform the students what the chapter is about. All chapters end with a question section, comprised of 5 questions, based on the material presented in the respective chapter. A careful selection of questions is made so that the answers to those questions could serve as a neat summary of the main points discussed in each of the chapters. Eventually, a list of references is offered to instigate students to do further research into the selected topics.

Section II provides exercises for the students to put their translation skills into practice, and thus experience the translation process firsthand. It consists of 20 translation tasks for the students to practice and improve their translation skills. The selected assignments are either complete texts or excerpts from longer texts. Ten of them are in Macedonian and the other ten are in English. Thus, the students are given an opportunity to try their hand in translating texts into both L1 (their mother tongue - Macedonian) and L2 (their foreign language – English). The selected texts belong to different genres, i.e. they range from samples of newspaper articles, to reports, instruction manuals, poems, excerpts from novels and plays, recipes, legal, etc. Section II, apart from the translation tasks, includes a self-evaluation task too. Namely, after each translation task, the students are encouraged to reflect on their work and self-evaluate different aspects of their performance.

Section III is intended to enlarge students' L2 vocabulary and provides them with a glossary of crucial English terms from a variety of domains such as medicine, education, sport, politics, law and business. About 70 entries from each of these domains are depicted alongside with a note indicating the word class of the selected terms (e.g. noun

(n.), verb (v.), adjective (adj.), adverb (adv.), collocation (col.), etc.). The Macedonian translation equivalents of all the terms in the glossary are provided as well.

Overall, the book is intended to familiarise students with the different aspects and types of translation as well as the challenges that translation offers overall. Both the theoretical and practical sections of the book are aimed at enabling students to decide what type of translation they are best suited for or most interested in. The coursebook can be of use to Macedonian teachers of English too, as they themselves, in the course of their teaching career, constantly face various translation challenges, both in and outside the classroom. The book can help them make informed translation decisions, based not on intuition and conjectures but on knowledge and awareness of the intricacies of the translation process.

SECTION I

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND