

TURKISH STUDIES IN TECHNICAL TRANSLATION

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The number of publications in the field of technical translation is not enough to fill the gap in the field of translator training. It may be for this reason that technical translation courses do not appear even in the schedules of translator training courses in higher education. They are generally taught under the coverage of specific field knowledge and translation. However, the underlying reason in the foundation of the departments of Translation Studies in Turkey, as well as its acknowledgement by the academic environment was to improve and develop translation skills, especially in the field of scientific and technical translation. In fact, today, developing competence in the field of technical translation is one of the greatest demands of both academia and those in the applied field, due to the expectation of societies towards keeping up with technological advances. On the other hand, what differs translation studies from the departments of linguistics, philology and second language teaching programs is, in fact, technical translation. In other words, we can claim technical translation is one of the discerning features of the field of translation studies. It will flourish and develop its autonomy as long as it demarcates its borders from other disciplines. At this point, doctoral theses have a great share in shaping the subfields of TS, however, their impact is limited since most of them generally deal with translator training, or literary translation. Besides, they are only open to scholars. In fact, the dissertations dealing with technical translations have contributed to fill the gap in the subfield of technical translation.

Bearing these concerns in mind, I have decided to cooperate with three scholars holding office in different universities of Turkey. Two of the authors have received PhD degrees from Istanbul

University in the field of technical translation, and the third author held PhD degree from the field of computational linguistics. Luckily, I have supervised the two PhD theses of the authors and our scholarly relation during the course of dissertation developed into academic cooperation as colleagues. In fact, it is this cooperation during the course of doctoral studies that we come together and seize the chance to publish a book on technical translation. That is to say, our relation between us as supervisor and PhD student has developed into a fruitful scholarly cooperation, which we hope to pioneer publications in the field of technical translation and draw attention to the lack of technical translation courses in Translator Training programs. In short, it is this cooperation during the course of doctoral studies that has brought us together.

After these introductory remarks, it would be helpful to give brief information about the contents of this book. The book consists of four parts. The chapters follow a logical sequence extending from the introduction of the field of information technologies in technical translation to the issue of quality assessment in technical translation. Accordingly, they are arranged according to their contents as follows:

Prof. Dr. Mine YAZICI

TURKISH STUDIES IN TECHNICAL TRANSLATION

Chapter One

İnönü Korkmaz – Introducing Information Technologies in Technical Translation

Chapter Two

Mine Yazıcı – Terminology Formation and Translation Procedures in Turkish

Chapter Three

Sevda Pekçoşkun Güner – Integrating Corpora into Terminology Courses

Chapter Four

Edip Serdar Güner – Automatic Term Extraction Using Machine Translations

The first chapter of this book, entitled “Introducing Information Technologies in Technical Translation”, deals with the historical development of information technologies in the field of translation and its applications starting from the early machine translations up to the new trends dealing with the integration of artificial intelligences with the translation practices. Along the process of applying information technologies into translation practices, we have witnessed significant milestones such as the building term banks, creating terminology management systems and corpora usage in the practical field of translation. Emphasizing the place of technical translation in the translation market, this chapter specifically draws attention onto the application of different information technologies in technical translation.

The second chapter titled “Terminology Formation and Translation Procedures in Turkish” deals with the stages involved in creating scientific jargon and terminology in the labyrinth of history of

science as well as with the mechanisms operating in terminology formation as different from word formation in the course of time. Accordingly, it is not only a theoretical account of terminology formation, but also a historical account of linguistic and terminological problems in practice, especially in transition from Arabic script to Latin Script by the proclamation of Script Reform in 1928.

In Chapter 3 titled “Integrating Corpora into Terminology Courses”, Sevda Pekçoşkun Güner focuses on the use of corpora and corpus analysis tools within the scope of terminology-related courses at Translation Studies departments. She argues that both translation tutors and trainees could benefit from the use of corpus-based approaches in gaining terminological, contextual and conceptual knowledge about specialized fields. These approaches may also contribute the students to render more acceptable and functional target texts especially in technical fields.

In chapter 4 titled “Automatic Term Extraction Using Machine Translations”, the author uses Formal Concept Analysis method to determine the lexical similarities in the translations of a source language expression retrieved from four different machine translation systems and uses these similarities in automatic term extraction. As a visualization method proven to have the capacity of increasing the persistence of learning, Formal Concept Analysis is integrated into translator training via using concept lattices which are the visual outputs.

In conclusion we hope this book dealing with different aspects technical translation will serve not only as a textbook, but also as a reference book addressing to those interested in technical translation, which will widen their horizons in dealing with terminological problems they encounter during the course of translation.

On this occasion I would like to inform my special thanks to Prof. Dr. Alev Bulut, a colleague, for her support as the originator in the publication of our book.