

'Dutch Translation in Practice'

Essential Strategies for Translation and a Wealth of Resources

This practical and comprehensive translation handbook is aimed mainly at learner-translators from Dutch to English with CEFR level C in Dutch and native or near-native competence in English. As the authors point out in their introduction, globalisation, EU enlargement and the European Commission's New Framework Strategy for Multilingualism (2005), plus student mobility and multilingualism, have led to an increased interest in translation and a need to rethink teaching. Some 27 million people worldwide speak Dutch, either as a mother tongue or as a second or foreign language. Yet when Dutch texts are translated into English, the most widely spoken language in the world, with an estimated 1.8 billion speakers, they become accessible to a much larger public. Hence the importance of training good Dutch–English translators.

Dutch Translation in Practice can be read from beginning to end or can be dipped into as needed. That said, as chapter one sets out the authors' approach and outlines the basic principles of translation, it is certainly advisable to take it as your starting point. There are nine chapters in total, each built around a particular theme reflecting contemporary life and culture in the Low Countries. The themes range from people and places to Dutch language and culture, literature, employment, finance and economics, media and communications, art history and exhibitions, fashion and design and, lastly, the Earth, energy and the environment.

As mentioned, chapter one lists the various steps involved in translation: firstly, an initial read-through of the text with research and reflection on the target audience; secondly, an analysis of the various linguistic features of the text plus word and sentence meaning; and thirdly an assessment of the style of writing, and the importance of style for the target text and its audience. After the initial assessment, step four is to make a first draft of the translation. The fifth and final step is to read

through and revise the translation, an absolutely essential step, for which time should be set aside, as the authors point out. Chapter 2 offers a summary of the revision procedure and the conclusion to the book explains in more detail how to go about it, including strategies for dealing with tight deadlines when it might not be possible to revise every word.

Each chapter starts with a page or two of introduction to the chosen theme and then offers two texts on that theme which one of the authors has at some time been asked to translate. Some of these texts come from the Netherlands and others from Flanders, while in chapter 2 there is a text from Surinam, so they illustrate a wide range not only of subjects but also of both styles and vocabulary. Readers are taken through an in-depth analysis of each of the texts. The format is always the same, firstly, decide on your translation strategies and techniques: what are the first things you notice about the text, and what do you know about the target audience for your translation and how it will affect your translation? These aspects are then discussed at length, offering background information and a wealth of resources - most of them online and therefore easy to access - which can be used for the research necessary for the text concerned.

In step 2 of the analysis, text and language, there is a discussion of various words and expressions occurring in the text that may be unfamiliar or difficult to translate, including names, subject-specific terminology, compound nouns and so on, as well as advice on working out the infinitive of verb parts. Complicated sentences are broken down into clauses to aid comprehension and facilitate translation, with strategies for dealing with structures that differ in Dutch and English. Step 3 is a stylistic analysis of the text and an assessment of the style appropriate to the target text, bearing in mind that the style appropriate to the target audience might differ from that of the source text. Finally, after the discussion of each of the texts there is a sample translation of it.

Between the two texts and their treatments there is a practical tips section in each chapter

which provides a more in-depth discussion of some of the translation issues, through background information and more resources. Sometimes the emphasis is on source text comprehension and sometimes on target text production. Punctuation is also dealt with, stressing the importance of correct punctuation for comprehension.

Chapters close with a third text, for which a sample translation is offered at the end of the book. In the concluding pages there is a list of grammatical terms and a section on useful resources for problems that the authors have not covered - grammars, reference works on translation and online translation resources. Finally, an index that includes the various topics dealt with and the different points of language and grammar makes for easy reference.

To sum up, *Dutch Translation in Practice* is a really excellent, comprehensive and useful textbook that teaches the development of translation strategies to guide decision making during translation and offers a wealth of resources for reference. If readers apply the advice and use the information contained in it, they are certain to achieve what the authors regard as the goal of translation: to produce texts in English that function effectively for the purpose for which they are required. A must-buy for (aspiring) Dutch-English translators. Beware though, a quick look at online vendors reveals that prices vary hugely from very expensive to very reasonable, so be sure to look at a variety of different sites. Some sites also offer an electronic version, which makes searching for information very easy.

LINDSAY EDWARDS

Jane Fenoulhet & Alison E. Martin, *Dutch Translation in Practice*, Routledge, Oxford, 2015.

Dutch and Other Languages in Seventeenth-Century Britain and the Dutch Republic

Two Monographs by Christopher Joby

What we have before us here are two substantial scholarly monographs by one British academic, both focussing on the history of Dutch in contact with other languages, in the Dutch Republic of course, but especially also in early modern Britain. Both adopt the cultural-historical perspective on European multilingualism as developed in Peter Burke's seminal contributions, and combine this with Peter Trudgill's approach to historical, socio- and contact linguistics. And both remind us how near England has always been, in close contact and competition with the Low Countries. Just two days'

