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## A Review Article of the Book "Translation: Theory and Practice"

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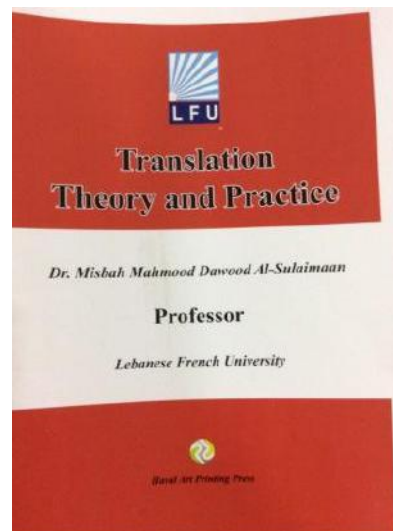
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The idea of this book initially grew out of a series of lectures of more than ten years of academic experience in teaching Theories of Translation at the University of Mosul/ College of Arts/ Department of Translation (B.A, M.A and Ph.D. Levels).

With the increased use of translation, much is being written about it. Hardly a day goes by without new works being published on the subject. I have nonetheless chosen to add to this long list of publications because my practice, teaching and research of translation have convinced me that there is a need to explain the underlying process involved and to demonstrate its universal nature regardless of the language pairs used or the authors translated. This sets out to show that good translators ultimately apply the same process whatever the languages or the text they are working from, for all translating is based on the identification of sense and its re-expression. In this book, I do not claim that my aim is to propose a new translation theory or to promote any single current approach, but to give access to some of the main ideas and views in the fields of translation, interpreting and theories of translation. In fact, one of the objectives of this book is to focus on the relationship between theories of translation and other disciplines such as phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, semiotics, pragmatics, stylistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, logic, literature among many other disciplines. The dependence of translation on these disciplines can be drawn in many various ways and the relative benefits of each have given rise to a vivid theoretical dispute in the literature in the last ten decades. The book also presents a standard and relatively orthodox view of modern theories, models and approaches of translation in what I have hope is a clear, stimulating, and accessible format. This book rests upon a simple premise: that everything is a matter of interpretation. And translation is no exception. For far too long and far too often translation has been relegated to a language exercise, construed as a switching from the words and sentences of one language to those of another. Yet successful translation requires that texts be interpreted drawing on extra-linguistic knowledge. The theoretical points are illustrated with copious authentic examples taken from books of translation, semantics, stylistics, semiotics, pragmatics, real life interactions, English Satellites, and my own experience in teaching theories of translation, semantics and pragmatics.





Another objective of this book is to provide students of translation, Semantics and pragmatics with a sound, basic coverage of most topics dealt with in courses described as approaches, methods, theories, models, strategies and procedures of translation. In regard to the linguistic nature of the book, it can be said that this is an important work which brings a new degree of precision into the analysis of what is involved in translation from one language to another. Starting from the assumption that any process concerned with human language can be illuminated by applying to it the latest insights into the nature of language. A current British framework of descriptive linguistics is outlined and can be applied to the analysis of translation. Translation is shown to be the analysis of texts. Translation is shown to be a much more complex matter than is commonly realized, while at the same time it can indicate important new ways of approaching it. The book is a valuable addition to the literature of a subject which has only recently begun to receive the scientific treatment it deserves. This book also can be considered a clear and wide-ranging introduction to theories of translation, dealing even-handedly with a good variety of theories, approaches, models, procedures, strategies and situating the discipline in its historical and intellectual context. This accessible and engaging text introduces the field of theories of translation, the study of the relationship between linguistic meaning, context and their impact on translation. The book also surveys the development of theories of translation from the very beginning to the present day, and engages with many of the most recent debates in the field, including topics such as experimental pragmatics and (im) politeness theory and their relations to translation. This readable text focuses on core theoretical aspects of translation, but also considers how theories of translation have been applied to different text-types and various aspects of language in use, such as inferences, entailments, presuppositions and implications. In regard to the encyclopedic nature of this book, it presents the insights of a number of different approaches to translation in an unbiased, non-partisan way. With more than 700 references, this essential work provides the reader with a snapshot of a rapidly developing discipline, based on work produced in several languages (English, French, German, and Arabic). This work provides a comprehensive and highly accessible survey of translational, textual, sociolinguistic, cultural, semantic, pragmatic, stylistic, literary, philosophical terms and concepts. Each term is presented within the context in which it first occurred and given a clear and informative definition. Major entries include a discussion of relevant viewpoints as well as comments on how the usage and application of the term have developed subsequent to its coining. The focus of this study is on building and justification of an integrated model of the process of translation. This model links the decoding of the source language text to the creation of a language universal semantic interpretation and its subsequent re-encoding as the target language text through a multistage process involving syntax, semantics, pragmatics and cultural norms of both languages. This is a set within a more general model of human information-processing and a systemic theory of language form and language use. Assuming no specific prior knowledge, this comprehensive study will prove invaluable to practicing translators as



well as students of language and linguistics. I believe that this is the sort of book that many people have been waiting for: trainers, students and teachers of translation and interpreters alike. It is stimulating interactive and full of novel ideas about how to improve teaching translation, practicing translation, how to improve techniques, methods, strategies of translation. Each chapter in this book presents a technique, together with examples, tasks and review questions for the reader to complete, true to the motto "learning by doing". The book uses English throughout, explaining how and where to locate material for other languages. It thus constitutes a course which offers student interpreters in any language combination a sound and adaptable base on which to build as they develop their skills. It will also be a valuable resource for interpreter trainers looking for innovative ways of approaching this core element of interpreter competence. The twenty chapters in this book show how translation, skill, art, science, taste, and product, is affected by pragmatic factors such as the acts performed by people when they use language, how writers try to be polite, relevant and cooperative, the distinctions they make between what their readers may already know and what is likely to be new to them, what is presupposed and what is openly affirmed, time and space, how they refer to things and make their discourse coherent, how issues may be hedged or attempts made to produce in readers of the translation effects equivalent to those stimulated in readers of the original. Particular attention is paid to scientific, literary, legal, political, religious, poetic and other texts. As for the structure of chapters of the book, each chapter comprises an introduction outlining the translation theory or theories, illustrative texts with translations, a chapter conclusion, review questions and suggestions for further reading. The book includes an extensive bibliography in the major areas of translation theory, theoretical linguistics, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, translation studies, cultural studies, among many other disciplines. I owe a great considerable debt to the sources mentioned there. It is sincerely hoped that students and teachers of translation, and other specialized or interested in translation will benefit from the present book with the very latest issues and ideas, the writing of which has actually been motivated by B.A, M.A and Ph.D. students in the undergraduate and postgraduate translation programmes at Iraqi universities, Arabic universities as well as foreign universities. Finally, the author of this book admits that he has made use of works of M. Shuttleworth and M. Cowie, P. Newmark, E. A. Nida, J. C. Catford, A. Chesterman, J. Munday, M. Baker, J. House, M. Lederer, M. Shaheen, Y. Y. Aziz, M. S. Lataiwish, Snell-Hornby, L. Hickey, A. B. As-Safim, M. M. D. Al-Sulaimaan, D. Crystal, among many others. He admits responsibility for any misunderstanding or misrepresentation.

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