



Lynne Bowker et. al (ed.). *Unity in Diversity*. Manchester, U.K.,
St. Jerome Publishing, 1998, 196 p.

Jane Koustas

Psychanalyse et traduction : voies de traverse
Psychoanalysis and Translation: Passages Between and Beyond
Volume 11, Number 2, 2e semestre 1998

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/037344ar>
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/037344ar>

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Publisher(s)

Association canadienne de traductologie

ISSN

0835-8443 (print)
1708-2188 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this review

Koustas, J. (1998). Review of [Lynne Bowker et. al (ed.). *Unity in Diversity*.
Manchester, U.K., St. Jerome Publishing, 1998, 196 p.] *TTR*, 11(2), 247–252.
<https://doi.org/10.7202/037344ar>

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As the title suggests, this collection includes recent studies from numerous geographical and cultural points of reference, including Japan, Scotland and India, and covers a vast range of subjects, from feminist to machine translation. By bringing together contributors from history, literature, philosophy, linguistics, information science and other fields, the editors attempt to counter the tendency to partition translation studies by illustrating that, in spite of a multitude of divisions along geographical, disciplinary and other lines, translation scholars and practitioners share unifying principles. The theme of unity in diversity was prompted by the Translation Studies Conference at Dublin City University in 1996 in which, it is assumed, the contributors to this volume participated.

Divided into five sections, the volume includes a valuable introduction and nineteen articles of no more than fifteen pages,

suggesting that they were originally presented as papers. As would be expected given the theme, the articles vary in scope and method : some, such as Luise von Flotow's, are more theoretical, those dealing with computer translation somewhat technical and others, such as Ian Brown's and Ceri Sherlock's, personal and anecdotal. The collection is thus of interest to a wide range of translation scholars and students depending on personal focus. While the book may not clearly identify underlying, unifying principles, it does illustrate the complexity and diversity of translation studies and, more importantly, the need for translation scholars and students to consider the field from a variety of perspectives and to apprise themselves of the contributions to translation studies from many disciplines.

In "The Nature of Translation", theoretical questions relating to the role and status of translation are explored in articles by Luise von Flotow and Susan Ingram. Von Flotow discusses "dis-unity" in feminist work in translation studies focussing in particular on the extent to which identity politics, positionality and historicity have affected translators, translations and translation reception. Her study exposes and condemns poor translations of third world women's texts, obscure, "elitist" translations of feminist literature and hypocritical translations in which feminist theory, which did not exist in the source text, is implanted. A search for consensus, however, would blur the cultural, ethnic and ideological differences that separate the authors and the translators suggesting, therefore, that disunity, and the discussion and interplay that it elicits, is preferable to false assumptions about unifying and shared values. Susan Ingram's article considers the different approaches taken to bilingualism, translation and the dual identity they can imply by authors Alice Kaplan and Eva Hoffman for whom writing is an act of translation. Ingram illustrates that while Kaplan views her dual identity/language as a privilege, Hoffman struggles with this schism in her life. Both authors however, are inspired by, and draw productive energy from the translation act.

In "Translation in National Context", the editors include articles on the role and status of translation in cultures in which language is strongly linked to politics, minority identity and power brokering. The translation of *Antigone* into Scots and Welsh for example, represented for translators Ian Brown and Ceri Sherlock an affirmation of linguistic and

cultural identity. Anikó Sohár's study on the "translation" of American style science fiction and fantasy literature illustrates the influence of the source language and model : Hungarian authors present original works as translations from American English because they sell better because of the prestige of American science fiction. Paul St. Pierre's study of translation policy and practice in India demonstrates how relations between languages and communities are realized and transformed through translation : some languages perceived to be more important or prestigious than others, are found more frequently in translation even in disproportion to the percentage of the population using that language. St. Pierre's article also calls into question the fundamental principle whereby translators translate into their mother tongue : in a plurilingual society, this greatly reduces the amount of translation and thus of cross-cultural contact. St. Pierre calls for studies which consider translation from the point of view of the locations of power within and between cultures. In an article which deals with marginal forms of translation in Japan, Judy Wakabayashi considers the use of adaptations, imitations and pseudo-translations to render foreign texts comprehensible to Japanese readers. Of particular interest is her study of the practice of "kambun kundoku" in which grammatical indicators and markers are used to render Chinese texts immediately readable for Japanese readers. She considers as well more familiar forms of cultural adaptation which, she suggests, may occasionally border on plagiarism. Eithne O'Connell's study of dubbing and subtitling considers the political, linguistic and social factors that motivate screen translation. While dubbing is technically more complex and more expensive than subtitling, now more popular and more politically correct, dubbing is used for translation into minority, and somewhat threatened, languages, such as Basque, in order to promote the national language.

The third section, entitled "Descriptive Studies", is comprised of articles based on practical experiments and studies in translation. Using Halliday's model of linguistic functions, Irena Kovacic considers the complexity of subtitling by examining the differences in the work of six different subtitlers. Her study focuses on differences in the number and organization of subtitles, text reduction, language registers and structure in parallel translation and speculates as to the impact of these variations on audience reception. Christina Schäffner explores the use of parallel translation in the classroom. She suggests a functional approach through

the use of a comparative analysis of parallel L1 and L2 texts of equal informativity produced in similar communicative situations, such as tourist brochures and instruction manuals. Recognizing that the bilingual dictionary is an insufficient tool for translators, Carol Peters and Eugenio Picchi outline procedures to establish, manage and use bilingual reference corpora, both parallel and comparable, demonstrating that such tools can provide valuable sources of data for both practical and theoretical translation work. A similar interest in an empirical investigation of translation motivates Sara Lavisio's study on the use of a monolingual English comparable corpus to illustrate the differences between translated and original texts. Focussing particularly on range of vocabulary, information load and sentence length, she identifies simplification as an important characteristic of the translated text.

"Computer-Aided Translation", the fourth part, provides new insights into the once vilified area of machine translation. Now considered an essential part of any translation program, CAT tools make available the extraordinary developments in information science. Sharon O'Brien studies translation memories and text alignment systems in the software localization industry. Arguing that the re-use of previous translations in the localization industry frees up the translator's time, the author calls for greater cooperation between developers of CAT software and their translator clients. Matthais Heyn further elaborates on the many types of users of translation memories and illustrates how these profiles can be linked to the different functional extensions of the technology. The article explores the numerous, and too frequently discounted, technical complexities of translation memories and considers future applications of CAT tools and their impact on the field. One of the benefits of translation memories is consistency : sentence fragments, sentences and other recurrent passages, such as those found in instruction manuals, can be retrieved and thus reproduced exactly. Magnus Merkel considers the extent to which translators, project leaders and clients value this capability. He found that translators disagreed on what version constituted the best translation suggesting that it may be difficult to encourage translators to accept memory-based programs. Resistance to machine translation is the central to Reinhard Schäler's study. Arguing that CAT tools are now an integral part of translation practice, the author suggests ways in which translation technology can be integrated into programs at all levels. He promotes as well the establishment of Translation

Technology Centres and advocates for greater support of joint industrial and academic projects. Paul Bennett compares the processes involved in machine translation (MT) to that involved in human translation (HT). The author concludes that MT does not, in general, produce human-like input and recognizes that HT is difficult to analyse. His study raises, but cannot answer, the question of whether there is a human equivalent of complex transfer and suggests directions for further study along these lines.

The book closes with three articles on interpreting. Franz Pöschhacker attempts to identify common ground in a field characterized by diversity. Starting from the premise that there is general agreement about what is to be studied, but less consensus on how that object of study should be approached, he explores the differences between the scientific and more liberal arts-oriented methods. He argues for an approach that considers both perspectives thus turning diversity into a unifying strength. Jorma Tommola and Marketta Helvä challenge the long-held notion that interpreters translate into their mother tongue. Their study of twelve trainee interpreters translating from a minority language (Finnish) focuses on text complexity and suggests that performance may be more accurate and fluent, demonstrating less information loss, when complex and technical texts are translated towards the B language. Anna-Ritta Vuorikoski's study considers the customers of interpreting services. A study of user response at five different settings, the article explores users' perceptions, considering, for example, whether informational accuracy is more valued than fluency, and underlines the need for quality, and consistent, evaluation.

As could be expected in a collection of nineteen articles grouped under a broad rubric, the contributions vary considerably with respect to content, method and depth and rigour of analysis. The brevity of some studies, due perhaps to the original "paper" format, prevents the authors from formulating any decisive conclusions: in several cases, contributors refer to the need to pursue further research. Somewhat problematic as well is the limited sample size used in several studies which draw on statistical analysis. Indeed, the broad range of subjects and approaches suggests diversity. The collection does signal, however, the importance of interdisciplinarity in translation studies by highlighting contributions to the field from a variety of disciplines. Unity is thus perhaps achieved in that the questions raised are of interest to all translators and translation

scholars suggesting that they should unite in their efforts to explore and promote translation studies and practice from many perspectives.

Jane Koustas
Brock University