

Readers consequently produce their own creative metaphysical discourses and experience an authorial role in the reading of metaphysical texts.

This volume is innovative, in that it encourages imaging readers to perform their own cognitive-functional analyses on a variety of metaphysical genres and registers, through a reading approach that is both visual and kinaesthetic, interactive and hypertextual. Readers are invited not only to choose which reading paths to follow, but also to attach their own links and add new texts that they themselves may write. In this way, readers may become, in Barthes' (1974: 4) words, "no longer a consumer, but a producer of the text".

[Larissa D'Angelo]

References

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Eliot, T.S., 1923/1975, "Ulysses, Order, and Myth", in Kermode, F. (ed.), *Selected Prose of T.S. Eliot*, London, Faber and Faber: 175-178.

BERTUCCELLI PAPI, Marcella / CAPPELLI, Gloria / MASI, Silvia (eds.) *Lexical Complexity: Theoretical Assessment and Translational Perspectives*. Edizioni Plus, Pisa University Press, Pisa 2007, pp. 334, ISBN 978-88-8492-431-5, € 20,00.

This volume collects contributions focusing on lexical complexity, and provides analyses from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. These different viewpoints share the fundamental assumption that a language constitutes a "complex dynamical system" (p. 7) whose structures facilitate cognitive processes. The main aim is therefore to define a theoretical model for the analysis of lexicon as a 'complex dynamical system'. The privileged field of analysis is the translational perspective, with particular attention devoted to an in-depth study of the intricate relationship between functions and meanings, and the constraints that are imposed upon processes of 're-contextualisation' by cultural specificity.

Besides outlining the areas of interest, the introductory chapter provides a well-grounded discussion of the theories of 'dynamical systems' and their various applications, and demonstrates how lexicon can be defined as a complex system itself. Marcella Bertuccelli Papi and Alessandro Lenci also illustrate the phenomenon of lexical complexity and its practical relevance to the process of translation. This latter aspect is the main focus in the second section of the book. Juliane House offers some hypotheses as to the further development of translation

criticism on the basis of her analysis of the Systemic-Functional Model for Translation Criticism, and highlights the difference between linguistic description and social evaluation within this discipline. In the following chapter Christiane Nord describes her Four-Function Model for Pretranslational Text Analysis, emphasising the importance of an effective pretranslational source-text analysis as an important tool, with a significant role to play in informing a translator's choice of a translation type and translation system. The author also stresses the vital importance of adapting function markers to ensure that they conform to the standards of the target culture, so as to ensure that the relevant source functions are not altered by cultural differences. Marina Bondi examines the introductions of academic papers in historical disciplines, in order to investigate the lexical complexity of cross-cultural academic discourse. More specifically, she analyses the presence of statements of purpose in comparable corpora of opening sections written in English and in Italian, in order to identify disciplinary and cultural variations in metadiscourse. In her chapter 'Conceptual Integration and Translation', Annalisa Baicchi investigates the use of metaphors, particularly as a heuristic tool, used by the mind to structure human reasoning, and examines their treatment within the translation process. The Translational Projection Hypothesis model is presented as a tool employed by translators in order to transfer meaning from the source to the target text.

The third section of the volume is devoted to issues arising specifically from translation for the media. Silvia Bruti analyses lexical complexity in audiovisual translation, especially as regards the speech act of paying compliments. She also observes how linguistic omissions, variations and modifications can be recovered thanks to non-verbal elements. Elisa Mattiello offers a detailed analysis of the issues pertaining to the translation of slang, and reflects on the importance of maintaining lexical complexity when translating this type of language. She also observes that it is essential to maintain equivalence of meaning when translating varieties of language that are highly linked to cultural specificity. Veronica Bonsignori also deals with the theme of audiovisual translation, considering the process of dubbing. In particular, she emphasises the complexity deriving from the action of transposing the linguistic phenomenon of tag questions from English into Italian.

The fourth section of the collection comprises contrastive studies on lexical complexity in cross-linguistic mapping. Silvia Masi's contribution focuses on lexical and formal dialogic descriptors, and assumes that the same semiotic values are maintained on the varying linguistic levels of English source texts and Italian target texts. The following chapters move on to specific issues; Gloria Cappelli offers a detailed analysis of the translation of verbs of cognitive attitude, such as *to think* and *to assume*, from English into Italian. This chapter is followed by Sara Conti's contribution, which offers an insight into the role played by morphological complexity, and, more specifically, deals with the case of double-base *-ed*

derivatives in literary texts. Collocations of the verb *to see* are the central topic of Daniele Franceschi's study, which focuses on the case of the prepositional verb *to see about* and how its elements are semantically determined; the issues deriving from transposing this verb into Italian are also analysed. Similarly, Maria Ivana Lorenzetti offers a contrastive study of the English verb *to see* and the Italian verb *vedere*, which she uses to demonstrate one particular aspect of lexical complexity: the omission of the direct object in transitive verbs.

The concluding section of the volume deals with the topic of complexity in literary texts. Carla Dente focuses on the complexity of the language of drama, a topic extended further by Sara Soncini in her chapter on interlinguistic translation. Literary translation is the central issue of Mario Curreli's and Ilide Carmignani's contributions. The former is a comparative analysis of different versions of Joseph Conrad's works, translated by Gadda, Guidacci and Maraini, while the latter focuses on the complexities arising from the translation of lexical terms in *El otoño del Patriarca* by Gabriel García Márquez. The final chapter, by Roberto Di Scala, analyses the complexities that arise from translating certain terms such as *hobbit* and the proper noun *Bilbo Baggins*, present in Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*.

The volume presents a collection of contributions covering several related issues concerning lexical complexity and their implications in specific contexts. Interesting research models are presented, and well-grounded questions are helpfully set up for further investigation, making the findings and the analyses outlined in the chapters particularly relevant to both linguists and translators. The volume can thus be seen as a useful reference tool for further research in both fields, especially in a contrastive perspective.

[Patrizia Anesa]

WAGNER, Anne / CACCIAGUIDI-FAHY, Sophie (eds.), *Legal Language and the Search for Clarity*, Peter Lang, Bern 2006 [Linguistic Insights 37], pp. 493, ISBN 3-03911-169-8, US-ISBN 0-8204-8388-5, € 61,90.

The topic of vagueness and clarity in legal texts has attracted increasing academic interest in recent years. The year 2005 saw the publication of *Vagueness in Normative Texts* (edited by Vijay Bhatia, Jan Engberg, Maurizio Gotti and Dorothee Heller; published by Peter Lang), devoted to the discussion of linguistic indeterminacy, vagueness and ambiguity in legal texts. In the same year the 2nd International Clarity Conference was held in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, on the theme of *Clarity and Obscurity in Legal Language*. This successful conference was followed by the publication of the volume *Legal Language and the Search for*