

Oksana Yarema,
Associate Professor,
Department of English Philology and Methods of English Language
Teaching,
Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatiuk National Pedagogical University,
Ternopil, Ukraine
oksana.yarema.05@gmail.com
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7103-8565>

Review

The following is a review of “Pragmatics and Translation” (Amsterdam / Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing, 2023), edited by Miriam A. Locher, Daria Dayter and Thomas C. Messerli. 337 p. ISBN 978 90 272 1423 2 (Hb), ISBN 978 90 272 4941 8 (e-book). Price 165\$.

Pragmatics and translation share a close and intricate relationship, as pragmatics concerns itself with the examination of how language is employed within a given context to effectively communicate meaning, while translation involves the transfer of meaning from one language to another. The interplay between pragmatics and translation is of utmost importance in accurately conveying not only the literal significance of words, but also the intended meaning, tone, and communicative objectives of a text.

In the article by David Farwell and Stephen Helmreich “*Pragmatics and Translation*” we read that “pragmatics-based approach ... focuses on providing interpretations of a text that ensure a coherent account of the intent behind the text. Such an approach relies heavily on representations of the beliefs and other mental attitudes (such as expectations, hopes, likes, and dislikes) of the participants in the communicative process: the author, the translator, and their respective audiences (the addressees)” (Farwell D., Helmreich S., 1978).

The interconnection between language and meaning, as observed by linguistic scholars, is characterized by several fundamental facets. Firstly, the context in which communication takes place plays and intentions of both the speaker and the listener. Secondly, when translating a text, it is essential to consider the presuppositions and implicatures present in the original source to ensure that these are accurately conveyed in the translated text. Thirdly, understanding the illocutionary force and speech acts, such as assertions, requests, and promises to convey the communicative intent of the original

text can be preserved. Lastly, cultural and societal norms must be taken into account to avoid any potential misunderstandings or insensitivity in the translation process.

The emergence of a number of scholarly works covering the topics of literary pragmatics in translation such as “*Pragmatics and Translation*” (Hickey, 1998), “Translation and Relevance: Cognition and Context” (Gutt, 2000), *Multimodal Pragmatics and Translation* (Dicerto, 2019), *The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Pragmatics* (Tipton and Desilla, 2019), shows the constant interest in topic analysis and the cultural issues that change with globalization and internationalisation, as well as the new media texts and other forms of communication.

Some ‘classic’ issues related to the synergy of pragmatics in translation like interpreting and translation methods, intercultural differentiations and solutions of rendering will remain the same as the basis. However, they will build a fundamental resource for creating and testing new strategies, envisioning novelties in approaching the phenomena and incorporating tools that facilitate manual and machine translation for reaching higher performance and quality.

The document “*Pragmatics and Translation*” by John Benjamins Publishing Company is a comprehensive collection of research papers that analyses the relationship between pragmatics and translation across various contexts. The book is structurally divided into four parts which discuss the topics of 1) interpreting, 2) translation of both fictional and non-fictional texts, 3) audiovisual translation, and 4) translation in a broader context. The papers within this document tackle a wide range of topics including multimodality, interpersonal pragmatics, different types of translation, and the negotiation of discourses and power in translation.

The editors Miriam A. Locher, Daria Dayter and Thomas C. Messerli are known for their research interests in the field of pragmatics combined with interpersonal and intercultural communication, face-to-face interaction and speech acts (Miriam A. Locher), language use with a focus on the language of social media, computer-mediated communication, and digital discourse (Daria Dayter), facework, cross-cultural communication (Thomas C. Messerli). All of them have also contributed to the politeness theory and its communication effect in cultures across the world.

In the book, a set of publications dedicated to modern challenges of translation are presented making a holistic understanding from interpreting to understanding the cultures. Among those, some of the chapters attracted our attention with a new vision and approach to the problem analysis.

In the first chapter ‘Interpreting, translating, transferring: Introducing the collection *Pragmatics and Translation*’ by Miriam A. Locher, Daria Dayter and Thomas C. Messerli the challenges and complexities that are disclosed in the book are described. The authors mention that the views of the authors on the notion of translation utilize both a narrow and a wide sense.

The first one suggests that “translation historically has been understood as a (mainly) written activity aimed at equivalence (invariance) between two texts, the source text (ST) and the target text (TT)” (p. 2). In its broader sense “translation is interested in any set of experiences that are transferred into a different kind of practice and modality” (p. 3).

The provided excerpt elucidates the exploration of pragmatic themes within the field of translation studies. These themes include mediality and multi-modality, interpersonal pragmatics, close and approximate renditions, interpretese and translationese, participation structure, and discourses and power. By focusing on various datasets, this exploration aims to contribute to the advancement of the field of translation.

Interpreters encounter a multitude of challenges when it comes to preserving the intentions and subtleties of speakers during communication. One of the primary difficulties lies in the accurate conveyance of the speaker's intended meaning while considering cultural nuances and contextual factors. This task necessitates a profound comprehension of both the source and target languages, as well as the ability to swiftly process and interpret information in real-time. Moreover, interpreters must deftly navigate the pragmatics of language, encompassing aspects such as tone, emphasis, and non-verbal cues, in order to ensure precise and effective communication. This chapter provides valuable insights into these challenges, highlighting the importance of interpreters' role in facilitating clear and meaningful dialogue between individuals who do not share a common language.

The articles under consideration cover the question of synergy that exists between pragmatics and translation studies. These chapters, in their own unique way, provide us with nuanced insights into the profound impact that translation has on interpersonal relations. Consequently, they offer a fresh and enlightening perspective on the intricate nature of relational work. Furthermore, the text briefly touches upon the diverse range of methodologies employed within these chapters. Notably, these methodologies encompass multimodal conversation analysis, as exemplified in Chapters 7-10, as well as corpus linguistics, as demonstrated in Chapters 2 and 4.

Among the chapters provided in the book, one of worthy attention is Part 3 of the esteemed publication “Pragmatics and Translation”. It explains the peculiarities of audiovisual translation (AVT). This multifaceted field encompasses various modes of translating audiovisual content, such as subtitling and dubbing. AVT poses a distinctive set of challenges as it amalgamates the visual and auditory dimensions of communication with the linguistic intricacies of translation.

Within the confines of Part 3, several key points are expounded upon. 1) The significance of intersemiotic translation in AVT is thoroughly discussed, particularly emphasising how the visual and auditory elements exert influence over translation choices. 2) The pragmatic considerations involved in subtitling are meticulously examined. It is duly noted that the

constraints of space and time play a pivotal role in shaping translation decisions within this domain. 3) The chapter delves into the role of AVT in rendering content accessible to diverse audiences while simultaneously honouring the original intentions of the creators.

The article “Adding connectives to manage interpreted discourse: A corpus-based examination of Hungarian to English interpreting” by Andrea Götz attracted our attention by a multilingual analysis with the use of corpora. It comprises a carefully selected segment of a research paper that delves into the meticulous examination of connectives in Hungarian to English interpreting. The study, in its entirety, endeavours to investigate the frequency and variations of connectives across different modes of interpreting, namely L1, L2, and relay interpreting. The primary objective of this research is to address a number of inquiries that have arisen in the field, such as whether connectives are more prevalent in interpreted discourse when compared to the original text, and whether there exist any gender-related disparities among interpreters. In order to accomplish this, the study formulates various hypotheses and employs rigorous statistical tests to meticulously analyse the collected data. Consequently, this research significantly contributes to our understanding of the pivotal role that connectives play in enhancing the quality and coherence of interpreted discourse.

In summary, the book “Pragmatics and Translation” presents a comprehensive analysis of the various components involved in scholarly communication within the field of translation studies. It offers insightful recommendations on how the translation process is combined with various modalities and methods to get the most qualitative result of the output. By doing so, it introduces a critical and constructive review of the complexities existing in the translation area. This work holds immense significance for individuals who possess an interest in the future of translation and scientific dialogue within the humanities. Moreover, this book encourages researchers to contribute their valuable insights and expertise to the collective effort to advance knowledge and innovation. The significance of their involvement cannot be overstated, as it will undoubtedly bolster the progress being made in various fields of study.

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