

GIOVANNI ADAMO (1953–)

“El traductor en entredicho” – “The translator in doubt” (2000)

Key words:

“Cientification”, glossary, pragmatism, technical writing, technology, terminology, theory and practice in translation, translation.

1. Author information

Giovanni Adamo is a professor of La Sapienza University of Rome and there he got a Humanities degree. Later on, he got a PhD in Italian Philology at the Complutense University of Madrid. He is a senior researcher of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) at the Institute for the Intellectual European Lexicon and History of Ideas (ILIESI).

His research is oriented to an investigation of Italian linguistics, especially in neology of technical and scientific terminology. He served as President of the Italian Association for Terminology (Ass.I.Term) and of the European Association for Terminology (EAFT), and as a member of the Scientific Board of the Department of the Italian CNR for the Cultural Identity. He is an author and editor of volumes, dictionaries, articles, contributions, reviews, and communication to national and international conferences.

2. Abstract

The author underlines an importance to unification of translation's terminology. He also shows the major causes of interlinguistic phenomenon of communication and relations between translation and terminology. What is more, the text is a clear explication of the process of translation, in which a translator needs an application of terminology.

He puts focus on a fact that translation consists of the comprehension and then an expression of ideas. The main scope of a text is to research a variety of lexicalization's levels which appears in different texts.

The author adds the table in which he analyzes the phenomenon of false friends in Spanish and Italian and enumerates the sources where these difficulties may be considered.

3. Terminology

Although the text is clear and it does not require outstanding language abilities, for better understanding it might be helpful to explain some basic terminology used in the text.

Source text	Meaning	Term in English	Term in Polish
Acervo lingüístico	Property that is or may be inherited;	Linguistic heritage	Dziedzictwo językowe
Pragmatismo	Approach that evaluates theories or beliefs in terms of the success of their practical application.	Pragmatism	Pragmatyzm
Glosario	Alphabetical list of words relating to a specific subject, text, or dialect, with explanations	Glossary	Glosariusz
Abreviación	Shorten (a word, phrase, or text)	Abbreviation	Skrót
Banco de datos	Data base	Data base	Baza danych
Propiedad intelectual	Intellectual property	Intellectual property	Własność intelektualna
Codificación	Convert into a coded form	Encoding	Kodowanie

4. Methodology

The text represents thorough research in two areas: translation and terminology. So as to describe the context and make the text clear and understandable, the author uses the examples, schemes and tables. His methodology is logical, in other words, one tense is caused by another. There are enumerated many sources to check if any difficulties with terminology in translation appear.

5. Links with other publications on the subject

- Alcaraz, E. and Hughes. 2002. *El español jurídico*. Barcelona. Ariel.
- Alcina-Caudet, M. A. and Gamero Pérez, S. 2002. *La traducción científico-técnica y la terminología en la sociedad de la información*. Castellón: Universitat Jaume I.
- Baker, M. 1992. *In other words: A Coursebook on Translation*. London/ New York: Routledge.
- Bassnet-McGuire, S. 1980. *Translation Studies*. London: Methuen.
- Cabré, M. T. 1999. *Terminology: Theory, Methods, and Applications*. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: J. Benjamins Pub. Co.
- Dubuc, R. 1985. *Manuel pratique de la terminologie*. Montreal: Linguatex.
- Duff, A. 1989. *Translation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Gamero, S. 2001. *La traducción de textos técnicos: descripción y análisis de textos*. Barcelona: Ariel.

6. Critical commentary

In my opinion, it is a really important text, however not well known, because of the language in which it was written and the area of its diffusion. The author explains clearly the need of introduction of the common terminology for scientific texts, so as to gain the maximum understanding and clearness in technical translation.

He explains that translation process should be based on a comprehension of terminology and a sense of the text, because it is the most important issue in writing in foreign language. Maybe his tips might be considered as very basic and obvious, but at the very

same time it is highly important to take them into consideration when we translate. This is the case of technical writing, but it has much in common with other specialized texts.

Moreover, he also analyzed the phenomenon of false friends in Spanish and Italian terminology using the case study of Umberto Eco's text, so that the reader could clearly see the importance of terminology in translation and its difficulties. It is really a good example so as to compare the differences in these two languages and to notice how significant the terminology is.

7. Quotations to remember the text by

“Asímismo resulta útil investigar sobre los distintos niveles de lexicalización: variantes formales, sinónimos, variantes de escuela, variantes geográficas, abreviaciones y siglas, para poner en evidencia los distintos matices que se perfilan en el interior de lo que se tiende a evaluar como un lenguaje unitario y monolítico.”

“What is more it is very useful to research various levels of lexicalization: formal variations, synonymous, school variations, geography variations, abbreviations and initials to demonstrate different shades of meanings which are correlated to become the unit and monolithic language.”

8. References

http://cvc.cervantes.es/lengua/hieronymus/pdf/09_10/09_10_085.pdf