

Liu, Chuan. (2019). *An Introduction to Translatology of Industrial Engineering Interpretation and Translation*. Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press. pp. xii+617. ISBN 978-7-5446-5772-3.

I recently read the publication of *An Introduction to Translatology of Industrial Engineering Interpretation and Translation* which is among the first systematic studies to explore such a topic.

The book, divided into four parts, has altogether sixteen chapters. The first part discusses its definition, its brief history at home and abroad, its studies at home and abroad, and the theories applied in the monograph. Chapter 1 explores the three terms of “engineering and technology”, “Industrial Engineering Interpretation and Translation” (IEIT), and “Translatology of Industrial Engineering Interpretation and Translation”. The first term, on Chinese cultural background, is likely to induce ambiguities; the second is the definition made initially in translation studies, and is closely related to the serial services for imports and exports of industrial engineering projects (which comprise the core of international trade and the major form of China’s One Belt and One Road initiative); the third designates what is structured in this book as a new discipline. The last section of this chapter handles the similarities and differences between this new discipline and other translation studies. The next two chapters deliver a brief history of China’s and other nations’ IEIT, which make up the historical basis of this new discipline, a new valuable treat to researchers in the academic field. The systematic elaboration of these two themes acts as a vanguard in China’s history of translation studies. Chapter 4 is a literature review, from which readers can skim and scan the wide but weak essentials of this new field. Chapter 5 is gathered or borrowed from other theories which may benefit the discipline, particularly ISO9000 Quality Control System and the new-born Engineering Philosophy, of which many researchers fail to take notice.

The objective notion, from Chapter six to chapter nine, presents the context, discourse and register of IEIT, as well as its lexicology and syntax. Chapter 6 “The Context Field of IEIT” is unfolded as the starting point of the main body of Translatology of IEIT and focuses upon the Eight Schemas derived from experiences, which stand out not only as the knowledgeable rudiments of this new discipline, but as its special methodology. Chapter 7 “The Discourse Field of IEIT” divides the IEIT discourse into 17 sub-discourses, which greatly enrich the conception and variety of general discourse. Regarding the characteristics of IEIT discourse, due concern is paid to such particular two: the violent nature of the employer-supervision staff league’s discourse and the anti-violent nature of the contractor’s discourse. The last three sections go further into themes, turns and steps, with a sharp insight into transections. Chapter 8 “The Register Field of IEIT” establishes the modes of IEIT general register, special register, and its dialect register in which is proposed the theory of the Nine Dialect Districts of Global English from the perspective of Chinese interpreters and translators; meanwhile a new batch of issues or conceptions are explored: the degree of language purity, the communication rule of human discourse and its mathematic

mode, the reason/speed/scope of dialect register change, and the knowledge register of IEIT. Chapter 9 “The Vocabulary and Sentences of IEIT” initially expounds the general attributes and ethnic origins of IEIT vocabulary, which is then grouped into three categories as per customers, project documentation, and pragmatic scope, thus effectively facilitating translation/interpretation teaching and research. The latter two sections touch upon the difficulty degree of 5-type IEIT sentences and their distribution (with calculation cases). There emerges the conception of Interpretation/Translation Dollar, by which one can not only comprehend the difficulty degree of his/her tasks, but indicate their labor value.

The third part, the subjective notion discusses its translator, its translator’s cognitive process and thought field. Chapter 10 “Industrial Engineering Project Interpreter/Translator” presents a new method to scrutinize the Power and Ethics of Interpreter and Translator by mathematic degrees and curves in coordinate system, a more specific and accurate one which may challenge some liberal research that is done by personal impression. Their working style and identity are also tackled on the background of IEIT. Chapter 11 “The Recognition Process of IEIT” seems to be a nut, since no systematic efforts are found for the link between IEIT and recognition aptitude, let alone rare references. The innovation is focused on the Interpreter’s 4-turn Supervision/Repair Mechanism and the four-turn Supervision/Repair Mechanism, and their modes, as remarkable contrast with other theories in this field. Chapter 12 “The Thinking Field of IEIT” delivers three thinking stages and expounds such three thinking fields as abstract thought, image thinking and inspiration, particularly with insight into their Engineering Effect. This may be the debut of the newly-emerging Engineering Philosophy in translation studies.

The last part, including the remaining chapters of the holistic notion, expounds its natures, its standard system, its methodology and its education. Chapter 13 “IEIT Essence and Characteristics” applies ISO9000 industrial theory to translation studies with regard to its essence in five aspects and four characteristics, highlighting the proposition of IEIT Accuracy which tastes a nut in the academic circle. It points out the drawback of “traduttore traditore” (proposition of Inaccuracy) promoted by many liberal scholars in the light of natural philosophy, engineering philosophy, epistemology, and engineering projects. Chapter 14 “IEIT Standard System” establishes a 3-level IEIT Standard System with clear boundaries on such vague terms as standard, principle, specification, and recommended standard. There is framed the Technical Parameters of 3rd-level Standard, converting the traditional vague or personal estimate into a clear, specific math assessment. The system sheds foresight on the research in addition to its applicability, perhaps a sample for other interpretation/translation studies. Chapter 15 “IEIT Methodology” proposes the conception of the Meta Method and redefines on the higher cognition level (based on target, process and means) the current methods or skills; there are discussed seven newly-devised method pairs, apart from insight into machine translation and computer-aided translation. Chapter 16 “IEIT Education” gives a brief inspection to China's IEIT education before and after 2007, formulating three IEIT education goals

and its pathway, including the enforcement of IEIT curricula and degree system. Finally calls are uttered for the top institutions and universities nationwide to direct due concern to IEIT education on a long-standing term.

What impressed me mostly is its being the first. The book, the result of the author's years of research and working experience, is ground-breaking in the field of IEIT due to its professional and specialty features. It is the first systematic study on IEIT. It is the first to explore IEIT history at home and abroad. It is the first to present the Eight Schemas, the theory of the Nine Dialect Districts of Global English from the perspective of Chinese interpreters and translators, and the discourse field of IEIT (the violent nature and the anti-violent nature). And it is the first to study the recognition process of IEIT, the conception of Interpretation/Translation Dollar, the thinking field of IEIT, a 3-level IEIT Standard System and the Technical Parameters of 3rd-level Standard. The examples and case studies are selected from the author's first-hand materials. And it is the first to apply ISO9000 Quality Control System and Engineering Philosophy in IEIT research. All these are beneficial to train IEIT translators and interpreters and to teach students to do their research. Therefore, the book is a must for anyone with an interest in translation and interpretation training and research, especially IEIT training and research.

I'm very interested in the theory Translation Ecology which describes translation as an ecology. The author thinks IEIT as ecology, so attention should be paid to the balance of IEIT ecology (what, who, how and why), and try to answer the questions: What is IEIT? Who to do IEIT? How to do IEIT? Why to do IEIT? All these questions constitute the frame of the book.

However, there are a few slight flaws in a white jade. In order to test the difficulty degree of 5-type IEIT sentences, Chapter 9 puts forward the calculation parameter system and the calculation formula, but the formula proposed might be somewhat complicated not to be operated properly, and that needs to be simplified. The Technical Parameters of 3rd-level Standard proposed in Chapter 14 is only an empirical parameter which needs to be validated and optimized through extensive research and investigation.

To sum up, the book under review is an excellent one. It not only makes a contribution to IEIT research and provides for IEIT teaching and learning, but also broadens the perspectives of studying linguistics, translation studies and arts.

References

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