

Fernando Prieto Ramos (Editor) (2021) *Institutional Translation and Interpreting: Assessing Practices and Managing for Quality*, London and New York: Routledge, 230 pp. ISBN 9780367210236 (pbk) \$39.71.

Evaluating translation service and practice has been a major concern for translation offices and an intriguing line of study for researchers in the field for many years. Despite some notable exceptions (Williams 2004, Munday, 2012, House 2015, Bittner 2020), a research gap in the field of quality management in institutional translation and interpretation still exists, which makes *Institutional Translation and Interpreting: Assessing Practices and Managing for Quality* (2021) edited by Fernando Prieto Ramos a particularly welcome and timely publication.

The book is framed in two parts, with each part further divided into five case studies authored by well-versed researchers from geographically different contexts. If read in one sitting, it becomes conspicuous that this succinct edited volume brings together the topic of translation and translation quality assessment with a designated focus on institutional translation and interpretation. The book is absorbing and well worth reviewing as it utilizes a wide range of research methodologies including corpus-based research, experimental and quantitative approaches. The authors take stock of innovative studies in the field of institutional translation and interpreting.

Thematically, the first part of the book ‘Translation and interpreting for national and regional institutions’ is broken down into five chapters. The primary focus of the first chapter is the status of translation and interpreting for national and regional institutions. In ‘A comparative approach to assessing assessment: revising the scoring chapter for the authorized translator’s examination in Finland’ (pp. 9-25), Lenna Salmi and Marja Kivilehto evaluate the assessment system for the Authorized Translator’s Examination in Finland before and after 2017. As a basis for their assessment, Salmi and Kivilehto draw on Australian National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters. The results show that error types frequently made by the translators are similar in both contexts.

The second chapter, ‘Lexical readability as an indicator of translation quality within the Swiss multilingual legislation’ (pp. 26-43) by Paolo Canavese, presents a corpus-based study,

which investigates readability, and comprehensibility of the multilingual Swiss legislation context. The impetus for writing this chapter was that Swiss multilingual legislation can be regarded as a concrete example of legal drafting. Cavanese compiled a corpus covering the period 1974–2018 with three sub-periods including 1974–1992, 1993–2006 and 2007–2018. Analysis of these sub-corpora demonstrates that the three periods had divergent lexical profiles, which suggests that clarity was a central issue for Swiss legislation branch.

Flavia De Camillis wrote the third chapter, ‘Assessing translation practices of non-professional translators in multilingual institutional settings (pp. 44-61)’. She links two different, but interrelated areas of translation: institutional translation and non-professional interpreting and translation (NPIT). To this end, she carried out a survey among civil servants who were responsible for translating administrative documents in the bilingual province of South Tyrol, Italy. The results of this study shed light on the professional profiles, experience and practice of civil servants who performed these administrative translations. Based on the interviews and survey results, the author concludes that translation management of non-legal texts in this context relied mostly on civil servants who were not competent or trained translators.

To shed light on interpreting services in US courts, the fourth chapter, ‘Translation in the shadows of interpreting in US court systems: standards, guidelines and practices’ (pp. 62-83) by Jeffery Killman, investigates the various translation strategies, guidelines and standards, which are prerequisite for the Federal and National courts. Killman concludes that, given the budget shortcomings and the sporadic nature of translation services in US courts of law, it is rarely possible for the courts to establish highly developed translation practice. Nevertheless, the pressure from the Federal Court as well as better defined guidelines have raised awareness regarding high-quality translation services in the courts of law in the USA.

The last chapter of the first part ‘Developing an evaluation tool for legal interpreting quality control: the inter-q questioner (pp. 84-108)’, Maria Jesus Blasco Mayor and Marta Sancho Viamonte propose a tool called INTER-Q as one way of validating the quality of legal translation and the professional behavior of translators and interpreters in real conditions. The tool is based on “objective, quantifiable parameters from a statistical point of view that provide reliable, valid and useful tests” (p.85). INTER-Q comprises a questionnaire that should be distributed in written format to legal experts who participate in criminal proceedings immediately after the interpreter’s intervention. INTER-Q initially came into

being out of a questionnaire distributed to legal professionals and is now considered a reliable method to differentiate between professional and non-professional translators/ interpreters in the field of law.

The second part of this work of scholarship comprises five chapters on translation and interpreting in international institutions. The first chapter in this section, ‘Every second counts: a study of translation practices in the European Commission’s DGT’ (pp. 111-127) focuses on translation practice at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Translation (DGT). For this project, Maria Fernández-Parra observed 11 interpreters from September to November in 2017. The results obtained from the questionnaire suggest that “terminology and revision practices at the DGT in particular can contribute to raising awareness and updating the profile of institutional translators as a category of professionals in their own right, alongside freelance or in-house commercial translators” (p.126).

Chapter seven, ‘Ensuring consistency and accuracy of legal terms in institutional translations: the role of terminological resources in international resources’ (pp. 126-149), by Fernando Prieto Ramos, is an in-depth exploration of multilingual terminology and accuracy in translation and interpretation in institutional translation and interpretation. In this context, Ramos compiled an English-Spanish corpus of translation documents from 2005–2015 and 2016–2019. He used institutional terminological resources (ITRs) as a reference for evaluating the translations.

Chapter eight (pp. 150-173) by Lucja Biel and Izabela Pytel is titled ‘Corrigenda of EU legislative acts as an indicator of quality assurance failures: a micro diachronic analysis of errors rectified in the Polish Corrigenda’. A corrigendum is a tool, which refers to error in one or more language versions of the EU legal act. The authors analyzed, quantitatively and qualitatively, correction rates in EU legislation from a micro-diachronic perspective between 2004–2006 and 2015–2017. Having applied the tool in EU legislative acts, translations and interpretations, Biel and Pytel found that the Corrigenda contained a wealth of information on quality failures in EU legal acts.

Chapter nine by Fernando Prieto Ramos and Mariam Sperandio (pp. 174-189) is titled ‘The impact of translation competence on institutional translation competence.’ For this chapter, the authors drew on action research with the prime objective of scrutinizing the impacts of advanced translation/interpretation competence on translation workflow and quality in international institutional settings. Their study can be classified as ‘action research’ as they

utilized an intervention in a practical translation setting and measured its impacts on translation competence. Ramos and Sperandio argue that the smaller the setting and the budget for translation, the more acute the need will normally be to “tackle the most compelling competence and procedural deficits through the concentration of translation-related tasks into a central qualified profile” (p. 187).

The last chapter is titled ‘Interpreting at the United Nations: the effects of delivery rate on quality in simultaneous interpreting (pp. 190-208). The chapter by Lucia Ruiz Rosendo, Munica Varella García and Alma Barghout was an experimental study to investigate the rate of speech in simultaneous interpretation. For this study, the researchers observed ten UN interpreters at Geneva interpreting three 10-minute speeches from English into French with three different delivery rates including moderate (120 wpm), challenging (160 wpm) and difficult (200 wpm). The data analysis revealed that interpreters made a total of 18 omissions of segments and 61 omissions of words in 200 words per minute (wpm). At 160 wpm, 19 segments and 35 words were omitted. In the part delivered at 160 wpm, 19 segments and 35 words were omitted. However, in the part delivered at 120 wpm, 29 words were omitted. Overall, the results demonstrated that the rate of delivery of speech exerts an impact on the interpreters’ performance and is associated with a higher number of arbitrary omissions.

This book has many strengths. Prieto Ramos has successfully convened a lineup of preeminent and well-versed researchers from geographically diverse contexts to produce a compelling book, which adds substantially to the existing knowledge of the field. Moreover, this book includes a wide range of topics and research methodologies, including corpus-based, qualitative, quantitative, mixed method and action research. The selection of the topics warrants this book’s place as a top-tier resource collection in the field of translation and interpreting studies.

However, the book has some limitations. Chapter 3 seems to be less related to the topic of the overall theme of the book. The fourth chapter discusses translation services in US courts without reference to the background research or acquiring solid data. On the other hand, the specialized nature of each chapter means that some parts of the book may only behoove seasoned readers of the field.

That said, this absorbing book presents innovative practical and research-based perspectives on translator and interpreter competences. It offers inspiration by which scholars can conceptualise and carry out new research in the field as well as deepening their practical

competences. In addition, the volume has a high quality of print which makes it an enjoyable and accessible read. All in all, the book at hand is a serious and timely contribution which adds significantly to existing literature in the field.

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