Book Review

Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies
By Mona Baker and Gabriela Saldanha (eds.)

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Routledge is a world's renowned publisher of academic handbooks in Humanities and releases major theoretical works regularly. Their *Encyclopedia of Translation Studies* is no exception. The book has been considered as one of the most authoritative and complete collections of literature in translation studies to date. With 131 entries, this is a vital read for any scholars interested in the subject and has benefitted from updates and revisions in each edition according to developments in the field. The first edition was published in 1998, the second in 2009 and the edition under examination, the third, in 2020. This recent edition has categorized three types of translation: oral, written and audiovisual. Each entry contains definitions and concerns theory or questions, varying between 1- 5 pages each. However, most entries seem to overlap or share core issues despite being about different types or fields — making this rich but somewhat confusing reading for beginners.

Mona Baker, the first editor, is a Professor Emerita of Translation Studies and her research emphasizes translation and citizen media. Gabriela Saldanha, the second editor is also a lecturer in Translation Studies, focusing on translation and practice. Once their fields are known, it is understandable why new entries with a focus on media and social studies have been added to this edition. It covers topics as diverse as Activism, Actor-network theory (ANT), Cosmopolitanism, Technology, War.

The Encyclopedia of Translation Studies offers thorough and relevant advances and challenges in translation studies and many related fields. With a global and interdisciplinary approach, the new additions to this edition are mostly terms from sociology, and media, and literary studies rather than purely translation theory with a conventional linguistics framework. This shows that the editor and contributors wanted to shape the encyclopedia to the existing applications in translation studies in different but current context. Some entries are modified to be more inclusive. For example, 'Comics' has been changed to 'Comics, Manga and Graphic novels'. Ongoing socio-political issues have been added to new entries such as 'Activism', 'Minority', 'Social Systems', and 'War'. What is more commendable is that previously unrecognized modes of translations such as 'Fan Audiovisual Translation', 'Crowdsourced Translation' and 'Fan Translation' have been added. Literary terminology that questions the dynamics of authority in cultural fields is also discussed in entries like 'Authorship', 'Canonization', 'Orality', 'Orientalism', 'Paratexts', 'Postcolonialism' and 'World Literature' etc.

However, as mentioned earlier, *The Encyclopedia* could be slightly difficult for beginners to use. Many closely-related terms are separated into their own entries. For example, 'Buddhist Text', 'Coran', 'Christian', 'Islam'

and 'Jewish' should have been grouped together as 'Religions and Religious Texts' and then divided into sub-entries. It is also worth questioning why only these specific texts and religions are highlighted. Hinduism, one of the oldest religions, features numerous complex languages in its vast religious literature and should have been included to provide a more interesting and comprehensive comparison between the use of translation in major religions.

In general, *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies* is a well-balanced work in terms of global translation, compared to Routledge's *The Translation Studies Reader* published in 2000 which is a heavily Eurocentric history of translation with only a few exceptions like the work of Gayatri Spivak about politics of translation. Moreover, due to the criticism of the Eurocentricity of the *Encyclopedia*'s first and second editions referred to in the introduction of the second and third editions (Baker and Saldanha, 2020, p. xxi-xxii, xxiv-xxvii), the editors and contributors decided to cut out all country- or region-specific histories of translation from the first two editions. The editors also claimed that they had received feedbacks about the vast differences in the status of translators in each cultural territory. In some countries, translators have been an elite position historically. In other countries, translators were workmen and marginalized due to xenophobia. With these differences in mind, the editors decided not to include any country-related data about translation history in the current edition.

However, even with a reasonable directory, not featuring historical context and cultural richness of each country could potentially counterbalance the global concern of the *Encyclopedia* and even of translation studies more widely. In order to better understand localization, one needs to understand one's own culture in comparison to that of other countries. Thus, scholars should also read the second edition of the *Encyclopedia* to understand the regional context of translation history.

In conclusion, *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies* is an authoritative and up-to-date theoretical publication in translation studies. Despite some difficulty in finding the correct grouping for technical terms, it is a vital read for both beginners and translation professionals looking to build a more comprehensive knowledge of translation literature.

About the Author

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