

Isadore Pinchuck. *Scientific and Technical Translation*. André Deutsch, London, 1977. 264 pp. Boards R8.25.

Both the theoretical analysis of sound translation practice and the actual process of translation are regarded in this book as a branch of applied linguistics – an approach with which few theorists of translation would quarrel, but which might be less acceptable to practising translators, who tend to work intuitively. The peculiar characteristics of service texts are explored, and this involves a consideration of a certain amount of basic linguistic theory and of different views about the nature of translation. All approaches, from the naïve word-bound approach behind the first attempts at machine translation to the concept of translation as a highly sophisticated activity involving a transfer of meanings, are covered. The units of translation, the scale of equivalence and the pitfalls of synonymy and interference are competently discussed.

The language barrier and the five levels at which a translator works are dealt with comprehensively, from the point of view of a translator working from German to English. (Indeed, German is the source language and English the target language of the examples throughout the book.) Translators working in other languages will nevertheless find much that is of interest. The remarks on collocation – one of the most complex of translating problems – are illuminating.

The characteristics of technical language of various types are explored. While I found the distinctions drawn between 'scientific', 'workshop' and 'sales' language rather artificial, the remarks on the criteria for technical terms are extremely cogent.

The full range of translation procedures and the criteria for successful translation are covered.

After some concrete observations on what help a translator can expect and what constitutes an adequate terminological dictionary, a few valuable hints on the extralinguistic resources available are supplied.

This work provides an invaluable insight into what translation is all about, and is highly commended to the student of translation. The practising translator should also benefit, even though much will be familiar ground.

A.A. Robinson

Peter Trudgill (ed). *Sociolinguistic Patterns in British English*. Arnold, London, 1978. pp. 186. Boards R23.15.

At the last count, there were about 358 million English-speaking