

Introducing Translation

Connecting theory, practice and industry, this innovative introduction to the complex field of translation takes a can-do approach. It explores the latest advances in both research and technology, considers the importance of different genres and contexts, and takes account of developments in our understanding of the mental and physical processes involved. Chapters cover four main areas: what we know and how we acquire knowledge about translation, what translation is for, where and how translation happens, and how to do it. There are forty illustrative exercises throughout, designed to cement understanding and encourage critical engagement, and recommendations for further reading are provided to allow more in-depth exploration of specific topics. *Introducing Translation* is a cutting-edge resource for advanced undergraduate and graduate students in languages, linguistics and literatures.

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Preface

Introducing Translation is a coursebook for use in translation and translation studies classes, those which form part of undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes in translation (studies), as well as translation classes and exercises that form part of programmes in linguistics and in language(s). The book will also be of interest to many students and teachers involved in taught programmes in literature(s) and comparative literature, because these often include components on translation and translation studies or explore translated literature. The book can also be used for independent study by aspiring or practising translators.

Introducing Translation is inspired by my experience within three different types of British university (redbrick, Oxbridge and ‘new’) where I have designed, led and taught courses and modules on translation and translation studies. My students have included undergraduates and postgraduates on a variety of study paths: undergraduate Modern Languages and Literature programmes, postgraduate programmes on Translation and Translation Studies or Applied Linguistics and Literature. I have guided numerous PhD students and visiting scholars. For some, translation was a familiar activity; for others, it was totally new. Many were surprised that a theory of translation existed and that it could inform practice, and that their practical experience turned out to be directly relevant to the formation of a theory. Many were delighted to see that a synergy exists between this most ancient and essential of human endeavours and other core areas of our humanities and science.

While *Introducing Translation* assumes no prior experience or knowledge of translating or translation studies, it does assume advanced skills in more than one language. The exercises, which are integrated in the chapter text, are designed to be used in groups, but individual use is also possible. The exercises enable readers to put into practice the knowledge and skills that the relevant chapter section presents, and they will also enhance understanding of issues in research, in ethics and in theory. Users will be able to use whichever languages they have advanced skills in, and many exercises encourage discussion and comparison of translations between different language pairs.

Unlike some coursebooks on translation, *Introducing Translation* is not structured in terms of the components of language, or in terms of the levels of language, or in terms of the history of translation and translation studies, or in terms of different approaches to translation. Rather, the structure of *Introducing Translation* reflects five central aspects of the translation phenomenon: First, what we know about translation and how that knowledge can be derived; secondly, the purposes translations may be made to fulfil; thirdly, the social, linguistic and human contexts that surround translation acts; fourthly, the practicalities and tools of translating; and fifthly, the processes of working with individual texts in different media. Throughout, translating is treated as a professional practice which demands both

PREFACE: ABOUT THIS BOOK

considerable skill and immense cognitive engagement, and which is therefore of interest both within academia and well beyond it, in the spheres of commerce and enterprise. The final chapter sums up, considers the status quo, and suggests what may lie ahead for translating and translators. The focus is not on solving translation problems but on the total translation process, including the physical, behavioural and cognitive aspects of making translations, the use of translation technology, and the practical aspects of translation management whether within translation agencies or by individual translators working on a freelance basis.

Each chapter begins with a preview and closes with a summary. Chapters also include suggestions for further reading and there is a full list of references at the end of the book.

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So this book is dedicated to Inigo, Storm, Sol, Viggo, Magnus, Max and Elliot, their lovely parents, and their aunt Krista and uncle Nils.

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