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The Name and Nature of Translation Studies

Class 7 - 2020
Emerging discipline – setting its boundaries, claiming its legitimacy

After centuries of non-systematic attention from authors, philologians, literary scholars etc., the subject of translation has marked a constant increase in interest.

Putting an end to confusion by establishing a discipline and giving it a name.
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<th>Title</th>
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<td>The art or the craft of translation</td>
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<td>The principles of translation</td>
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<td>The fundamentals of translation</td>
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<td>The philosophy of translation</td>
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<td><em>The theory of translation</em></td>
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<td><em>Science de la traduction</em></td>
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<td>Fertility of the term “studies” to define new disciplines</td>
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Translation studies is an empirical discipline

To describe phenomena

To establish general principles by means of these phenomena

To establish relations with other disciplines, for cross fertilization
Pure translation studies

Descriptive Translation Studies: (maintains the closest contact with empirical phenomena under study)

Theoretical Translation Studies
DTS

- Product-oriented DTS: starting point is the description of existing translations
- Function-oriented DTS: description of the function of translation in the recipient socio-cultural situation
- Process-oriented DTS: what takes place in the little black box of the translator’s mind
Translation Theory

+ Using the results of descriptive studies, in combination with information available from other disciplines, to evolve principles, theories and models.

+ Ultimate goal: to develop a full, inclusive theory accommodating so many elements that it can serve to explain and predict as many phenomena as possible.
Partial translation theories

- Medium-restricted theories
- Area-restricted theories
- Rank-restricted theories
- Text-type restricted theories
- Time-restricted theories
- Problem-restricted theories
APPLIED TRANSLATION STUDIES

- Translators’ training
- Translators’ aids (technical, linguistic)
- Translation policy
- Translation criticism (overlaps with product-oriented DTS?)