

# Preface

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**Translation Studies: An integrated approach**

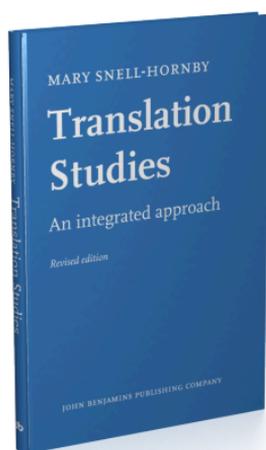
**Mary Snell-Hornby**

1988. x, 170 pp.

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## Note on the Reprint of 2006

This volume is an unchanged reprint of the Revised Edition of 1995, and therefore presents the state of the discipline of Translation Studies in the mid-1990s. When I was asked by John Benjamins a few years ago whether I would consider working on a third revised edition, I spontaneously answered that I would rather write a completely new book. So much had meanwhile changed in Translation Studies that a revision would even then have been completely inadequate.

Meanwhile the new book — *The Turns of Translation Studies. New paradigms or shifting viewpoints?* — has been published by John Benjamins and appeared in June 2006. The reader is referred to this publication — as a continuation of *Translation Studies. An Integrated Approach* — for a more up-to-date perspective of the discipline, including an extensive bibliography. However, as the first book continues to meet with interest on the international market, I agreed to an unchanged reprint. My thanks go to Isja Conen for her cooperation and support.

Vienna, November 2006

Mary Snell-Hornby

## **Preface to the Revised Edition**

When this book appeared on the market seven years ago, the author would never have believed it could achieve the circulation figures to merit a Revised Edition. The study started out modestly as an academic thesis presenting an approach — by definition a tentative word — and its topic still seemed then to be of marginal interest in the world of scholarship. Fortunately however the publication coincided with the breathtaking development of Translation Studies as an independent discipline, and the ideas offered here were able to make a contribution to a meanwhile prolific international discussion.

The revisions consist mainly in making the German quotations transparent for an English-speaking readership — either by translation or paraphrase. I have also added a comment on my “tentative prognosis” of 1987 on the future of Translation Studies — from the perspective of 1995. Some additions have been made to the Bibliography, but these were by necessity selective: to do justice to the wealth of publications that have appeared over the last few years, one would have to write a new book. And finally, an index of names and key terms has been added for easier reference — my thanks are due to Gudrun Huemer for compiling it.

I would like to thank the many colleagues who have made comments and suggestions for this edition, whether informally or in the form of reviews — these were where possible taken into consideration. And my sincere thanks go to John Benjamins Publishers, in particular to Bertie Kaal, for years of efficient and friendly cooperation.

Vienna, January 1995

Mary Snell-Hornby

## **Preface to the First Edition**

“Sprachwissenschaftlich orientierte Übersetzungsstudien können also kein grundsätzliches und theoretisches Angebot für die Erforschung der literarischen Übersetzung zur Verfügung stellen.” This statement was made in 1984 by scholars working on a long-term interdisciplinary project devoted to literary translation at the University of Göttingen.<sup>1</sup> For the past nine months the author of the present study has had the pleasure of working as visiting linguist with those same scholars and persuading them that their statement needs at least some modification. It is certainly true that the relationship of linguistics to translation studies, especially to literary translation, is complicated, that only a limited number of issues in linguistics are relevant for translation and that linguistic models can hardly ever be adopted wholesale. There are however approaches and methods originating in linguistics which have been successfully adapted for translation, and there are concepts developed from the study of language which have considerable potential even for literary translation. Some such approaches, concepts and methods are presented in this study, in the hope of bridging the gap between literary translation and linguistics. The conclusions are based on work done mainly in English and German, but the main principles, as the work in Göttingen has confirmed, should apply to some extent to any language-pair.

The author has an honours degree in German Language and Literature, one research degree in German Literature and another in English Linguistics. She has worked as a translator in various fields (mainly from German and French into English) and has taught translation at university level to students of English and to trainee translators; she has also lectured in translation theory in various European universities. Some results of the practical work in translation were published in her two books *German Thought in English Idiom. Exercises in Translation and Style for Final Year Students* (München: Hueber 1967, <sup>3</sup>1977) and *German-English Prose Translation* (München: Hueber, 1972, <sup>2</sup>1978). What is presented here is an integrated concept based on the combined experience in the theory and practice of translation, in the

hope that it will make some contribution to the development of this exciting new discipline.

Meilen, May 1987

Mary Snell-Hornby

### **Note**

1. Sonderforschungsbereich 309, "Die Literarische Übersetzung", Hauptantrag an die Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, 1984, p.16.