

<書評>

BOOK REVIEW

Deborah Cao *Translating Law* (Topics in Translation 33; Series Editors; Susan Bassnett and Edwin Gentzler), Ceedon/ Buffalo/ Toronto: Multilingual Matters Ltd, 2007, xii+189 pp. ISBN-13: 978-1-85359-945-5 (hbk)
<http://www.multilingual-matters.com>

Reviewed by Dr. Yuri Furuno (The University of Queensland)

‘The translation of law has played an integral part in the interaction among nations in history and is playing a greater role in our increasingly interconnected world today’ writes the Hon. Justice Michael Kerby of the High Court of Australia, in the foreword of this book. The author, Dr. Cao, examines legal translation from an interdisciplinary perspective, and the book covers both theoretical and practical grounds of translation as well as linguistic and legal issues. The author also analyses legal translation competence of various types of documents; i.e., contracts and statutes. It should, therefore, certainly prove very useful to translators as well as translation students, lawyers, linguistic and legal scholars working in a bilingual legal context.

The book explores the important aspects of legal translation, and provides a theoretical and practical guidance for the study and the practice of legal translation. It has analysed and discussed the topic in terms of cross-cultural and inter-lingual communicative act and also as a complex human and social behaviour.

Chapter 1 is the introduction; Chapter 2 presents the different views and arguments on law and language; Chapter 3 investigates translation competence of the legal translator; Chapter 4 examines legal terminological issues; Chapter 5 explores the translation of private legal documents; Chapter 6 addresses the translation of domestic legislation; and Chapter 7 focuses on the translation of international legal instruments, both bilateral and multilateral, and the various legal and translational aspects involved.

Building the international rule of law is a great challenge for the 21st century. And, as Dr. Cao points out, we must also be ready to cross the barriers erected by history, culture and institution. This book addresses a problem we are facing today of great importance; for the future of law and the life of the citizens of the world. It is concise and the style of writing is very clear, therefore, highly recommendable for both students of translation and interpreting as well as

professional translators and interpreters working in the field of law.

About the author:

Dr. Cao is affiliated with the School of languages and Linguistics and the Socio-legal Research Centre, Griffith University, in Queensland Australia. She was originally trained and qualified as a UN simultaneous interpreter and was educated both in China and Australia. She holds a PhD in translation studies and has published in the area of translation studies, legal translation, court interpreting and linguistic analysis of Chinese law and legal culture.