

A TEXTBOOK OF TRANSLATION

翻 译 教 程

Peter Newmark

W
*MRtt

SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS



A Textbook of Translation

翻 译 教 程

Peter Newmark



SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS

A Textbook of Translation

Peter Newmark



Prentice Hall

NEW YORK LONDON TORONTO SYDNEY TOKYO

First published 1988 by
Prentice Hall International vUIO Ltd.
66 Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead.
Hertfordshire, HP2 4RG
A division of
Simon & Schuster International Group

(© 1988 Prentice Hall International >XK' Ltd

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission, in writing, from the publisher. For permission within the United States of America contact Prentice Hall Inc., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632.

All reasonable steps have been taken to contact copyright holders of materials used in this book. The Publisher would be pleased to make suitable arrangements with any whom it has not been possible to reach.

Printed and bound in Great Britain by A.
Wheaton & Co. Ltd, Exeter

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Newmark, Peter
A textbook of translation,
Bibliography: p.
Includes index.
L Translating and interpreting. L Title.
P306.N474 1987 418 .02 86-30593
ISBN 0-13-912593-0 (pbk.)

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Newmark, Peter
A textbook of translation.
1. Translating and interpreting
[Title]
418.02 P306
ISBN 0-13-912593-0

Published by arrangement with Pearson Education Limited.

Licensed for sale in the People's Republic of China only, excluding Hong Kong

*A Textbook of
Translation*

For my daughter Clare

Preface

This book has been five years in the writing. Sections of it have twice been stolen during travel and have been rewritten, hopefully better than the first time - the fond hope of all writers who have had their MSS lost, stolen or betrayed. Its 'progress' has been further interrupted by requests for papers for conferences; four of these papers have been incorporated; others, listed in the bibliography are too specialised for inclusion here. It is not a conventional textbook. Instead of offering, as originally planned, texts in various languages for you to translate, I have supplied in the appendices examples of translational text analyses, translations with commentaries and translation criticism. They are intended to be helpful illustrations of many points made in the book, and models for you to react against when you do these three stimulating types of exercise.

If the book has a unifying element, it is the desire to be useful to the translator. Its various theories are only generalisations of translation practices. The points I make are for you to endorse or to reject, or simply think about.

The special terms I use are explained in the text and in the glossary.

I hope you will read this book in conjunction with its predecessor, *Approaches to Translation*, of which it is in many respects an expansion as well as a revision; in particular, the treatment of institutional terms and of metalanguage is more extensive in the earlier than in this book.

I dislike repeating myself writing or speaking, and for this reason I have reproduced say the paper on case grammar, about which at present I haven't much more to say, and which isn't easily come by.

This book is not written by a scholar, I once published a controversial piece on Corneille's *Horace* in *French Studies*, and was encouraged to work for a doctorate, but there was too much in the making that didn't interest me, so I gave up. And a German professor refused to review *Approaches* because it had so many mistakes in the bibliography; which is regrettable (he was asked to point them out, but refused; later, he changed his mind and reviewed the book), but academic detail is not the essential of that or this book either.

I am somewhat of a literalist, because I am for truth and accuracy. I think that words as well as sentences and texts have meaning, and that you only deviate from literal translation when there are good semantic and pragmatic reasons for doing so, which is more often than not, except in grey texts. But that doesn't mean,