

SUMMARY

Author: mgr Magdalena Baczyńska

Title: Comparative analysis of the translations performed by sworn translators of English appointed prior to and following the Act on Sworn Translators of 2004. A study in the field of legal translation.

The issues related to Translation Studies have always received careful attention of humanists and linguists, thus mechanisms for determining the process of translation from the source to the target language have been widely discussed and classified into theories which nowadays constitute a reference point for scientists all over the world. The above dissertation is devoted to legal translation whose development and intensity, to a large extent, is conditioned by EU standards and cooperation between the member states. Certified translations performed by sworn translators play particularly important role in legal translation. The position and status of sworn translators are not consolidated within EU, but depend on domestic law and state regulations.

The above doctoral dissertation is an attempt to assess a profession of a sworn translator in Poland not only in the context of legislation but also in terms of quality evaluation and performance of a translation order carried out by the representatives of two groups of sworn translators appointed before and after implementation of legislative changes in 2004. Apart from the obvious conclusions resulting from the analysis of the survey on the translators' education, professional development and cooperation, the comparison of translations of a divorce judgment into English language performed by two research groups is an invaluable source of information about techniques applied by the translators, committed mistakes and challenges faced in the process of their work. The decision to use one, selected type of a document was consciously taken to obtain the most reliable results of the conducted comparisons.

The present thesis aims at assessing the quality of legal translation performed by sworn translators in Poland and may constitute the reference for other translators, specialists in legal translation and those who deal with educating potential translation adepts. The conducted research proves that introducing obligatory examination for sworn translators in 2004 contributed to the quality improvement of legal translations. The analysis of the research material showed what challenges and linguistic difficulties legal translators face and how important the movements to integrate and support the professional community are.

Formulating the draft of the model translation of a divorce judgment is an effort to unify the document which may serve as a useful pattern for translating similar texts. Furthermore, it is the direct after-effect of a thorough analysis of authentic translations.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, six chapters, the references, a list of tables and figures and appendices including samples of the research material and the model translation of a divorce judgment offered by the author.

The first chapter of the thesis defines the theory of Translation Studies and presents its development as a scientific discipline throughout the ages. It explains the notions and terminology characteristic for TS and classifies types of translations.

In the second chapter the attention is focused on translation of legal texts and particularly their kinds, features, characteristics as well as their grammatical, lexical and structural properties. Additionally, the methodology of research against the background of differences between *Civil law* and *Common law* is discussed.

The third chapter of the thesis describes the status of a sworn translator in Poland in the context of the European legislation and presents the main guidelines of the Act on Sworn Translators of 2004. The standards of assessment of legal translations and opportunities of translators' professional development are outlined there as well.

The subsequent, fourth chapter, includes research questions, description of research tools, the research procedure and presentation of the findings.

The fifth, comparative chapter, illustrates characteristic features and a structure of a judgment of divorce as well as the analysis and the comparison of translations performed by the representatives of two research groups in relation to selected linguistic problems, such as the translation techniques employed by the translators, the integrity of the translational solutions and the quality of translation.

The sixth chapter discusses the analysis of the surveys completed by sworn translators and includes concluding remarks summarising most worthwhile observations resulting from the conducted research.

The dissertation concludes with the references, a list of tables and figures, seven appendices including a survey form, the exemplary translation performed by a sworn translator appointed prior to and after introduction of the Act and a model translation of a divorce judgment developed by the author. At the very end, two summaries, in Polish and in English, are included.