NEWS TRANSLATION IN SINGAPORE

ABSTRACT

Translation has been a neglected art in Singapore. Systematic approach to its study has not been seriously developed. Without any formal training, translators always have to start from scratch, with few available guides, to grasp the gist of art after innumerable trial and error. Failure to transmit the knowledge by men with experience, for various reasons, further impedes the development in this field. A shortage of manpower well versed in translation attests to the existing problems.

News translation is an applied art. It is the bread and butter for those working with the mass media, and it requires something more than simple word to word translation. Having been actively involved in editing and translation in a leading Chinese daily and with Singapore Broadcasting Corporation for the last six years, I would like to discuss the many problems encountered in this practice.

The first chapter is an introduction concerning the aim of this thesis, the definitions of news translation, and the two major areas of news translation.

The second chapter is a brief description of news translation in the Chinese press. It deals with the contents and sources of local and foreign news, and also the problems of news selection.

The third chapter deals with news translation in Singapore Broadcasting Corporation. The preparation of radio and television news bulletins, and the task and responsibility of the news editors are also discussed.

The fourth and fifth chapters highlight the major problems of news translation in Singapore in both the printed and electronic media.

The last chapter concerns with proposals on how to raise the standard of news translation in Singapore.