



**Taibi, Mustapha and Uldis Ozolins. *Community Translation*.  
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**Jobey Wills  
University of Alberta**

*Community Translation*, written by Mustapha Taibi and Uldis Ozolins, offers extensive theoretical and practical insight into an emerging subfield of Translation Studies. When considering the practices and politics of community translation across multilingual and multicultural societies, Taibi and Ozolins call for functional approaches rooted in critical considerations of the sociological context and dimensions of community translation. They argue that translation as a community practice traverses traditional classifications within Translations Studies due to socio-cultural issues and the relationship between the producers of a text and the audience. *Community Translation* offers a clear and comprehensive conversation concerning what constitutes community translation and the essential role it plays to empower communities of minority language speakers by “making information available and communication possible in a multilingual form” (165). Through a number of examples from countries like Australia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Canada and Japan, the book explores both theoretical perspectives and practical applications for students, professors, and practitioners of Translation Studies.

The *raison d'être* of community translation centers around the empowerment of minority members who belong to certain communities that may not otherwise fully speak, read, and/or write the principal or official language of the community in which they work, live, or

visit. Community translation, as defined by Taibi and Ozolins is a “language service intended to empower communities of minority language speakers—be they citizens, temporary residents or newly arrived migrants—by making information available and communication possible in a multilingual written form” (165). *Community Translation* is an important text that advocates for the participation, and most significantly, the empowerment of people who may find themselves on the peripheries of a specific community enabling more people to have “full access to public service information and to participate actively in different realms of the society in which they live” (65).

Despite the fact that community translation is still in its infancy as a subfield of Translation Studies, Taibi and Ozolins present the reader with diverse and extensive works. The authors cite research by Katharina Reiss, Anthony Pym, and Harold M Lesch; they also employ a limited number of visual graphs and charts throughout the text. The charts and explanations prove to be valuable to specific community translation considerations. I particularly appreciated the visual of the pro-forma explained in chapter seven, “Translation Revision” (127). I found the classifications to be really useful so as to avoid broad generalizations. Moreover, the final chapter, “Community Translation Resources” (149), provides the reader with several more resources required to further the campaign of community translation as it continues to emerge. As a theoretical and practical tool, this book offers a comprehensive overview of several different types of texts, approaches, and the socio-cultural issues that should be considered when carrying out community translation. For a graduate student with interest in both community service learning and translation, *Community Translation* allowed me to seriously consider ways in which I may further engage with and practice community translation.

Perhaps the only area of confusion centers around chapter four, “Translating Official Documents” (77). The authors state, “whereas other areas of community translation largely provide information, and often persuasion, warning or instruction, official documents are a gateway to having rights of status recognized” (79). Taibi and Ozolins also suggest that through the act of translating official documents, minority members within a larger community will have increased means of mobility and access to employment. However, because the chapter includes several common approaches and strategies for translating official documents into the host (or official) language rather than into a minority language, I found it difficult to distinguish between technical translation and community translation. Though important for minority members of the community to have access to technical translations, it was not wholly clear how translating official documents specifically pertains to community translations.

Overall, *Community Translation* provides the reader with a comprehensive and well-written overview of the emerging subfield that is community translation. The theoretical and practical examples throughout the entirety of the book are specific to community translation and significantly enhance the readability and effectiveness of information available to the reader. Taibi and Ozolins’ articulation in regards to what constitutes community translation and how

it may serve to empower communities of minority language speakers is clear and consistent throughout. In the same way that community translation seeks to serve minority communities through greater access to information and increased participation, *Community Translation* as a resource represents the role and mission of community translation as a whole. As the world becomes more and more interdependent through persistent globalization and the increase of migration worldwide, *Community Translation* will continue to be a relevant resource for years to come.