Title: Linguistics and the language of translation

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Abstract: This book is for students of translation, languages and linguistics who would like to enhance their understanding of the relationships between these areas of study. The book uses explanation, discussion and practice to make explicit the forms of knowledge of language and of translation that makes translators successful. Chapters on the development of translation studies in the west and on contemporary approaches to translation provide the disciplinary context within which the processes and products of translating are studied. The theoretical and academic context for the chapters in which application is focal is provided by the book’s flexible and forward-looking approach to meaning and translation. Meaning is seen as a temporary relationship between participants in language events and translation as a creative activity that contributes to such events. From this position, interaction between language study, linguistics and translation studies is seen as mutually enriching. Five practical chapters cover sounds and rhythms, lexis, collocation and semantic prosody, texture, register, cohesion, coherence, implicature, speech and text acts, text and genre analysis, clausal thematicity and transitivity and the expression through language choices of ideological positions.

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The relationship between descriptive linguistics and translation studies has been heavily discussed by both translation scholars and descriptive linguists -- although it is worth pointing out that discussion has not infrequently included the question of whether the two disciplines are, in fact, concerned with related matters at all. From the point of view of translation studies, Toury states boldly that (1980: 29): ‘an exhaustive contrastive description of the languages involved is a precondition for any systematic study of translations’. Equivalence in difference is the cardinal problem of language and the pivotal concern of linguistics.