

These few remarks show that the general understanding of Acts remains unaltered, but there are some changes of opinion and a greater hesitation to declare a verdict on controversial issues. Thus updated, the commentary will continue to fulfil its function for many years to come; it still has no rival in what it seeks to do.

I. HOWARD MARSHALL

Peter Newmark, **A Textbook of Translation**. New York and London: Prentice Hall International 1988.

Peter Newmark's new book is perhaps the first major textbook written especially for professional or technical students of translation in various academic institutions offering translation courses. It differs in this way from Dr. Nida's texts which are aimed primarily for translators of the Bible or sacred literature. This textbook is a successor to Newmark's *Approaches to Translation*, of which Newmark says "it is in many respects an expansion as well as a revision". It is clearly very detailed and extensive, covering more topics and aspects of translation theory than are usually covered in related texts. Its 292 pages include twenty chapters varying from "The Analysis of the Text," "The Process of Translation," "Language Functions, Text Categories and Text-Types," "Translation Methods," "The Unit of Translation and Discourse Analysis," "Literal Translation," "Other Translation Procedures," to "The Use of Componential Analysis in Translation," "The Application of Case Grammar to Translation," "Translation of Neologisms," "Technical Translation," "Translation of Serious Literature and Authoritative Statements," "Reference Books and their uses," "Translation Criticism," etc.

These form Part I of the book and are concerned with a discussion of principles of translation. Part II of the book deals with methods of translation and consists mainly of a review of thirteen texts for translation criticism. These are however limited to English, French and German. This section is valuable and useful for those who work in those languages and is of little help to those without knowledge of them.

Newmark's purpose in writing this textbook was "to offer a course in translation principles and methodology for final-year degree and postgraduate classes as well as for auto-didacts and homelearners" (p. 3). He claims to address non-English as well as English students but his examples and experience seem to be limited to three European languages, namely English, French and German. The text is therefore for this reason of special value to speakers of those European languages and perhaps also of related European languages. Its value to non-European languages is somewhat limited. A translator working in non-European languages

may however benefit from the general principles discussed and applied to this narrow group of languages. The range of ideas and principles discussed is a particularly attractive feature of this work.

Newmark describes himself as a "literalist" on the grounds of his support for truth and accuracy. He allows for a deviation from literalness in translation only when such a move can be defended on "good semantic and pragmatic reasons." This view is only plausible when one is operating within a particular language family as Newmark obviously is. One can be for "truth and accuracy" and still not claim to be a literalist in Newmark's sense. Working across unrelated languages and language families easily convinces one of the need to go beyond literalness or the 'absolute primacy of the word' to the primacy of meanings and the way these are communicated naturally in different languages. Actually Newmark's examples do not violate the principle of naturalness or functional equivalence—working as he does in languages which are linguistically and culturally very close. He is however led to conclude: "I do not regard language as a component or feature of culture. If it were so, translation would be impossible" (p. 95). Consequently for Newmark "Universal words such as 'breakfast,' 'embrace,' 'pile,' often cover the universal function but not the cultural description of the referent." I am sure Newmark will be surprised if he were told that "it ain't necessarily so," such words as he quotes or any words for that matter are not universal but culture-bound!

Whatever the case this is an excellent, informative, controversial and wide-ranging text. It may reasonably be called Newmark's *magnum opus*. Newmark himself refers to it as his last book on translation. It is a book which will stimulate and provoke Translation Consultants to re-thinking the basic principles and their application. It is highly recommended.

A.O. MOJOLA

Crystal, David: **The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Linguistics**.
Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press 1987. vii + 472 pp.,
£25.00. ISBN 0-521-26438-3.

This is a massive work which fully merits the title of "encyclopaedia". As we would expect from a writer of the stature of David Crystal, it is well written and factual. The book is divided into eleven parts containing sixty-five selections, each of which is further divided into subsections. A sample of subsection headings will give the potential purchaser an idea of the range of topics covered: Japanese male and female speech, black English vernacular, criminal codes, the history of lexicography, South American Indian languages, television advertising. . .

We cannot expect to find everything covered in a single volume;