

Applications of Linguistics, Selected Papers of the Second International Congress of Applied Linguistics. Edited by G. E. Perren and J. M. Trim, Cambridge University Press, 1971. 498 pp. \$32.50, £10.00.

This discouragingly expensive volume contains fifty-two papers presented to the Second International Congress of Applied Linguistics held at Cambridge on 8-12 September, 1969. Six hundred and forty-nine participants from some forty countries attended the congress and 153 papers were read. Because of the very large number of papers, two additional volumes are being prepared: *Research in the Psychology of Second Language Learning* and *Contrastive Linguistics*.

In the volume under review nearly thirty of the fifty-two papers are concerned with problems related to language teaching and language testing. The remaining twenty-one range from highly interesting and relevant articles for linguists to odds and ends which one would hardly expect to find in a volume on applied linguistics, e.g. "Tensions of television course-writing". It is unlikely that many translators will be sufficiently interested in language testing and language teaching to purchase such an expensive volume, and it is too bad that the editors could not have put out the articles in more selective arrangements. The scope of the papers does, however, indicate the vast spread of applications which modern linguistics is having. This review has selected a few items which may be of interest to translators.

Joshua A. Fishman, known for his work in sociolinguistics, writes on "The Uses of Sociolinguistics". He concentrates a good bit of his article on orthographies—why they succeed and why they fail. Fishman feels that an orthography fails, if it does, by failing to be part of a larger social revolution. Literacy brings about changes in a society, and an orthography may be quite adequate from a phonological point of view and still fail utterly due to its non-acceptance within the social and cultural values of the people for whom it was designed. He discusses orthographic reforms in such places as the USSR, Vietnam and Japan, and in connection with China he states, "The Latinized New Writing was abandoned sometime in the fifties." It would appear to the author that the traditional characters have been proclaimed as superior. There is apparently no clear-cut pattern to success or failure in orthographic reform. There have been successful revisions with and without revolutionary social change and also "revolutionary social change with and without successful follow-through of planned orthographic revision".

Translators concerned with lexical systems will find at least three articles given to this subject. Winfred Lenders in "Static and dynamic lexical systems" describes all too briefly what he calls a "dynamic lexica" in the form of a so-called cumulative dictionary presently being developed at the University of Bonn. J. Rey-Debove in an article entitled "Limites des applications de la linguistique à la lexicographie (Dictionnaires de langues monolingues)" examines briefly some of the contributions which modern linguistics has made to lexicography, and then goes on to explain that helpful as these have been, there are still numerous problems in lexicography that are not yet well defined. These include such things as the treatment of proper names, homonyms and lexical statistics. The author decries the paucity of contributions from linguistics to the field of semantics. This reviewer would suggest

that the growing number of publications on semantics and the seriousness with which many linguists are facing problems of meaning make for a much more hopeful future in our understanding of semantics and its applications to lexicography.

The best example of the above found in this volume is Eugene Nida's article "Semantic Components in Translation". Nida argues that the basic elements in semantic analysis are the components of meaning, regardless of what system of semantic structure one is dealing with. He states quite rightly that the common fault of translators is to deal with the components of a particular word instead of comparing meanings of a word with the meanings of other words which occupy the same or contiguous semantic domains. To do this one must operate with one meaning at a time rather than try to deal with all the meanings at once. The reason for this procedure is that related meanings of different words tend to be much closer than different meanings of the same word. He discusses the classification of components in terms of common, diagnostic and supplementary. The detailed treatment of Nida's approach to semantics will appear in his forthcoming book *Introduction to Semantic Structures*.

In conclusion the reviewer is happy that this volume has been produced, but it is not likely that many Bible translators will be able to afford it, and the lack of material directly related to the concerns of the translator makes it a less valuable tool. However, for the translator linguist with wide ranging interests here is a book which brings together some insights into what is going on in the applications of linguistics on an international scope.

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Plants and Animals of the Bible. A Help for Translators

In 1969 the United Bible Societies published a concordance workbook to help translators make intelligent decisions concerning the translation of plant and animal names and plant and animal products. Its format was also designed to help them keep track of such decisions by leaving room for the necessary notations right in the volume. This work, by Garland Bare,¹ lists every Hebrew and Greek plant name, animal name, and the words for their principal products, such as hides, dyes, etc., each with a brief identification. Then there are references to each occurrence of these words in the Bible and translations in the Authorized Version and Revised Standard Version. Then follow blank columns where the translator may record translations used previously in his own language, and his own decisions about translating these terms. Sample pages follow. There are complete indices as well, and the

¹ Garland Bare, *Plants and Animals of the Bible*. London: United Bible Societies, 1969. Translators may obtain copies by writing to their national Bible Society or to Translations Department, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, New York 10023, U.S.A. See the review in TBT Vol. 21, No. 2 (April, 1970), p. 102.