

M. A. Dorao Conejo, M. García Doncel, R. Krauel Heredia, B. Ozieblo Rajkowska, B. Shaw, P. Suárez Lafuente, M. Socorro Carrera Suárez y J. Tally. *La mujer en el mundo de habla inglesa: autora y protagonista*. Málaga: Servicio de Publicaciones de la Diputación Provincial de Malaga, 1989, 203 pp.

The study of feminine writing has for a long time and until recently been neglected by the academic establishment which, since its beginnings, labelled the most of it as «low culture.» One of the chief aims of feminist criticism comprehends the rediscovery and the close examination of those feminine authors forgotten or ignored by the academic world. Besides, the research which many of us are carrying out on literary works written and produced by women leads us to the consciousness of being not only passive users of culture but active producers of it. In this sense it is of basic importance the study of what Teresa de Lauretis calls the «technology of gender» and its cultural representation, because, as Nelly Furman points out, if sex is an anatomical concept, sexuality is an ideological construct. Such constructs can be unmasked if women transform themselves in producers of a different culture. This intellectual attitude points to change the cultural values imposed by what Althusser defined as the Cultural State-Apparati and its ideological representation of the gendered subject. Showing the feminine point of view—the *other's* point of view—helps to introduce in the literary world the presence of women intellectuals, while, at the same time, underlines their capacity to give shape to a different vision of reality and attack the notorious dichotomy between high and low culture. The purpose of this book—a collection of essays on the woman seen as both subject and object of writing—is that of introducing the reader to a cultural project whose interest and importance are doubtless. The essays contained in the book help him/her to follow the path of the history of a literature where women are the protagonists. We can also discover a way of feeling that shows us the other part of the world, a world that had nearly always been depicted by men and according to their sensitivity. The issues covered by the authoresses range from marriage, voyages and bull-fightings, to black women's narrative and contemporary american feminist theories. María Angeles Conejo («El factor socio-económico en la obra de Jane Austin») and Rosario García-Doncel («Charlotte Brontë: amor y matrimonio») face the subject of marriage from two different points of view. The first one examines the idea of marriage in the works of Jane Austin and demonstrates, analyzing her novels, how the socio-economic factors influenced the writer's view. The latter takes the problem from a more intimate perspective and, with the help of the letters Brontë wrote to one of her lovers and to some friends, develops a diachronic study of what love and marriage meant to the writer in different moments of her life. The essay of Marisol Dorao, «E. Nesbit y sus cuentos maravillosos,» gives us the chance to enter a world in which feminine creativity has been able to grow free and without obstacles. We are referring to literature for children. Dorao's contribution helps us to discover the work of a writer that started to create fairy-tales to support her family and was able to give life to a charming and fantastic world. She examines the whole bulk of the authoress's production, leading us to know the animals and the peculiar dragons to which Nesbit gives life and ends up loving as if they were her own children. Blanca

Krauel («Cinco viajeras inglesas ante la ‘Fiesta Nacional’») describes the reactions against bull-fighting of five English ladies that visited Spain between 1842 and 1872. After going back home all the ladies wrote a book in which, according to the author’s opinion, they demonstrate not to have understood the fundamental aspect and meaning of the *Corrida* in Spanish society of the time. The last four essays represent a vivid sample of the liveliness that women studies is reaching in Spain. Ozieblo’s work, «La crítica feminista y los estudios norteamericanos» is at the same time a clear vision of what the study of American Literature has meant in the last century and a useful guide to move among the topics to which feminist contemporary theory is related. She underlines how feminist studies have managed to change the response to the representation of a male centred universe and calls for a theory which represents an alternative to what she defines the nihilism of Deconstruction and Pragmatism. Her point is that such a theory has to take into consideration the reader as well as the text and the author, and in Ozieblo’s opinion all these conditions are fulfilled by the Feminist Criticism. In the second part of her article Ozieblo introduces the reader to the main feminist theoretical works but she specially deals with the thought of Annette Kolodny and Elaine Showalter. Her invitation, following Ellen Messer-Davidow, to take into consideration the many different subjectivities existing in contemporary American literary world—like for example the Chicana poets or Black women writers—is a hope and at the same time a challenge. In the last paragraph of her essay she calls for a change in our programmes of American Studies and suggest to open the doors and our minds to authors that don’t belong to the classic academic canon but represent the real, divided and multiracial being of American society. Patricia Shaw («Mujer y sociedad en la novela inglesa de tesis de fines del siglo XVIII») demonstrates how some writers, as Mary Wollstonecraft or Thomas Holcroft among others, in the 18th century were already interested in women’s rights. Shaw analyzes some of their novels to evidence the authentic interest and commitment of these intellectuals to the cause of women. «A proper education» for women and their right to have an independence of thought are, among others, the topics developed in these works. It is useful to underline how such novels depict women characters who are very different from the ones described by Richardson, Fielding, Sterne and Smollett. In «Contra viento y marea: la mujer en la novela inglesa» by María Socorro Suárez and Isabel Carrera it is described the woman’s fight to be able to express her own creativity. They trace a quick and undoubtedly interesting story of the development of feminine writing in England. Through it, we can follow them while demonstrating how the construction of the feminine character/subject/subjectivity has meant a hard battle for women writers. The last essay, «La tradición literaria de la escritora americana de raza negra y el culto a ‘la mujer ideal,’» is about Black women writers. Justine Tally’s paper deals with novels written by Black women and explains how they have slowly broken the rules of a culture they did not belong to, and built a literature which represented their own racial identity. Books like this one give the common reader a general idea of the many fields in which women’s creativity is developing at present and developed in the past; at the same time, it is a clear example of the multiplicity of the positions present within the universe of women’s studies. Writing about women writers or women’s experience contributes to the task of

showing the reader the fragmentation and the loss of meaning of the words «woman» and «womanhood.» The construction of woman as a general term with an even more general and universal meaning does not have any reason to be kept alive. Feminine literature and Feminist Criticism explore these various worlds and help to deconstruct the binary thought and all the dichotomies on which patriarchal epistemology has based the ideological construct of the feminine subject.

Silvia Caporale Bizzini

María Antonia Álvarez Calleja. *Estudios de traducción (inglés-español): teoría, práctica, aplicaciones*. Madrid: UNED, 1991, 315 pp.

El gran auge que los estudios de traducción han venido registrando durante los últimos años no ha dado lugar a un número suficiente de libros de texto sobre la materia. Ante tal carencia, parece obvio acoger con satisfacción cualquier esfuerzo por cubrir tan lamentable laguna. Ahora bien, cuando el intento se ve culminado con éxito, resulta especialmente grata la tarea de recibir una obra que —además de ser necesaria para llenar un espacio en el campo de la docencia— presenta un nivel de calidad excelente.

*Estudios de traducción* es el fruto de un curso que la doctora Álvarez imparte anualmente a un centenar de alumnos, diseminados por toda la geografía nacional, usando la metodología propia de la enseñanza a distancia. Ante la inexistencia de un libro que pudiera servir de base para preparar la asignatura y las dificultades que suelen encontrar dichos alumnos para acceder a una extensa lista de fuentes bibliográficas, la autora decidió escribir el texto que ha utilizado a lo largo de dos años. Durante ese espacio de tiempo, amplió la primera versión e introdujo algunas modificaciones en ella, a la vista de la experiencia que iba adquiriendo al tutorizar directamente a los destinatarios de su docencia. Además, la dirección del Programa de Enseñanza Abierta de la UNED, basándose fundamentalmente en una detallada encuesta que fue respondida por los alumnos, evaluó este curso de una forma completa y lo juzgó de manera muy favorable. Así pues, aunque el volumen se acabe de editar ahora como libro, llega ya con el aval de quienes lo han empleado con plena satisfacción.

La obra se divide en tres partes bien diferenciadas. La primera trata de aspectos teóricos, tales como la definición del concepto de «estudios de traducción,» junto con los términos de traductología y transléctica; una perspectiva histórica desde los testimonios iniciales hasta la actualidad; un repaso de las principales aportaciones lingüísticas y literarias y, por último, una exposición de las nociones más relevantes de la lingüística aplicada a la traducción. La segunda parte —que versa sobre cuestiones prácticas— contiene un pormenorizado examen del proceso de la traducción y de sus diferentes modelos, un capítulo sobre la crítica de la traducción y otro con estudios de lingüística contrastiva, en el cual se estudian por separado el análisis léxico-semántico, el sintáctico