

ROMUALDEZ AT DE VEYRA: DALAWANG PILIPINO. by Ponciano B.P. Pineda.
Manila: Surian ng Wikang Pambansa, 1976. Pp. IV, 17.

Reviewed by Vladimir A. Makarenko, Moscow State University

These are two lectures on the public and linguistic activities of Norberto Romualdez and Jaime C. De Veyra dedicated to the centenaries of the scholars and now combined in one volume. The author is the director of the Institute of National Language since 1970 and a prominent Pilipino linguist. His book is very informative and important because materials and data on the bibliography of Tagalog and Philippine linguists are very rare. Both these scholars and public figures took an active part in introducing the National Language (Wikang Pambansa) and in establishing the INL in the pre-war period. It was a period of formation of Filipino sociolinguistics. The *Language Situation of the Philippine Islands* (1931) by Cecilio Lopez became the first professional landmark of this science in the Philippines.

The book by Ponciano B.P. Pineda consists of two parts: (1) Si Norberto Romualdez: Ama ng Batas ng Wikang Pambansa (Father of the National Language Law, pp. 1-10) and (2) Don Jaime C. De Veyra: Tagapagtatag ng Wikang Pambansa (Founder of the National Language, pp. 11-17).

Norberto Romualdez (1875-1941) was a magistrate, member of the National Assembly, and the chairman of the National Language Committee during the Commonwealth of the Philippines. The author analyzes some articles and speeches by N. Romualdez, namely: 'Pambansang Pagsasadambana ng Wikang Tagalog' ('National Consecration of the Tagalog Tongue'), 'Our Common Language' 'The National Language Problem' and others. Romualdez began his agitational campaign for a National Common Tongue in 1914 as a member of the Academy of Filipino Language. He had phrased his proposals in precise terms for Act No. 184: 'The preparation and adoption of a Filipino national language based on one of the existing native languages . . .' (1937). He proposed this goal for the Institute of National Language according to the Constitution of 1935.

Jaime C. De Veyra (1873-1941), a professor of UP, was the first director of INL in 1937-1941. He was a prominent scholar, philologist, folklorist, linguist, writer, and editor. His public activity began in the Society of Tagalists (Samahan ng mga Mananagalog) in 1908 and was continued in the Academy of Filipino Language (1915) and in Balagtasiana (1932). De Veyra grounded the selection of Tagalog as the basis of the national language of the Philippines in coordination with Lope K. Santos.

It would have been more useful if this book had included the biodata and bibliographies of Romualdez and De Veyra.

SINING NG PAGSASALING-WIKA, by Alfonso O. Santiago; 1976; Manila, Philippines.

Reviewed by Elmer Wolfenden, Summer Institute of Linguistics.

This work by Santiago is a very useful addition to the teaching of translation principles in the Philippines. The book is written in Pilipino and the title can be freely translated as ART OF LANGUAGE TRANSLATING. The book is well written and so far as I know the only one yet printed in a Philippine language on this subject.

As a developing nation the Philippines is discovering many opportunities for new economic, scientific, and educational ideas. Some of these have undoubtedly also occurred to enterprising people in other parts of the world and the Philippines can build on that information if it can be made available to them in easily digested writings. That surely means translating into Pilipino, the national language, which in turn requires Filipino translators who understand the methods of translation, the languages of the original articles, and the needs of their specific audiences. People with these talents already exist in the Philippines but are in short supply. The training of new translators is a dire need. Thus this book should be instrumental in helping train people to fill that need.

There are seven chapters and four appendices in the book and these are preceded by a foreword and a preface besides the table of contents. A list of reference works is appended at the end of the text.

Chapter I is a brief overview of the history of translation. The author draws on experiences and illustrations to translators of Greek epics, Roman history and various other works from Europe and the Middle East, beginning with the translation of Homer's ODYSSEY by Andronicus about 240 B.C. and continuing down to works of the last century.

Chapter II is primarily an annotated bibliography of translated works in Philippine languages which the author has looked at or has information about.

Chapter III begins to get down to the subject of actual translation principles. He discusses translation as an art and sets forth four distinctives a translator must acquire (Mga Katangiang Dapat Angkinin Ng Isang Tagapagsalin). They are: (1) Adequate knowledge of the two languages involved in a translation, (2) adequate knowledge of the subject being translated; (3) adequate knowledge of the cultures of the two nations connected by the translation; and (4) adequate knowledge of the grammars of the two languages involved in the translation. The distinction between (1) and (4), says the author, is that (1) is concerned with the ability of the translator to use the two languages and (4) is concerned with a knowledge of the contrast in grammatical structures between the two languages.

In this chapter the author discusses problems of equivalents and what to do when equivalents between the two languages cannot be found. He notes that exact equivalents do not exist, and when one-word equivalents cannot be found he suggests the use of synonyms, phrases, and other alternate possibilities. A few illustrations are given, but I would like to see more of them and especially illustrations from Philippine languages. A lengthy discussion appears in this chapter concerning the need of the translator to achieve in his translation the ability to provoke the same feelings or reactions in the reader as the original work produced in its readers. He also discusses here the difference between a literal translation and an idiomatic one. Translation by a committee is also mentioned here as one way to obtain all the necessary skills needed to produce a good

translation if individual translators with all the skills in one person are not available.

Chapter IV presents problems encountered in the translation of poetry and compares the merits of translating poems into poems in the receptor language as over against translating them as prose. For this he draws principally from the experience of European translators. He notes that there are no perfect translations and a translator must be open to revising his work as he goes along. Professor Santiago chooses to translate poetry into poetry in the receptor language since it has a better chance of reflecting the impact of the original poem as a piece of poetry. But he also recognizes that there may be reasons for translating a poem into prose. For one, a student may need to know the content of a poem in another language for one of his classes, but never really be interested in reading it for its esthetic impact (p. 47). For that person a prose translation may do very well.

Chapter V is a discussion of the special problems involved in the translation into Pilipino of works originally written in English. Translating from English is probably the most common translating work being done in the Philippines today.

The chapter is divided into two sections. The first section deals with translation problems in the field of science and technology. The second section discusses the practices or trends (*mga suliranin*) of borrowing words from English. The first section is a discussion of the problems of creating new words for the very technical vocabulary of science and technology. Here the author reviews the guidelines for forming new words set down by the National Science Development Board and briefly comments on what he considers the 'weaknesses' and 'strengths' of the guidelines. In section two he discusses the kinds of borrowings coming from English and takes several pages to go over the problems of deciding how to spell them. The latter topic is apparently a much-debated subject among scholars in Pilipino. Here he also raises the question of which dialect of Pilipino should be used for translations.

Chapter VI titled, freely translated, 'Fore-thoughts in language translating' (*Mga Simulain sa Pagsasaling-Wika*), gets down to the nitty-gritty of translation principles and its thirty pages are the best part of the book in the opinion of this reviewer. The author has done his homework well and capably discusses the opinions of earlier translators from other parts of the world and then writes of his own experiences and resulting opinions. He offers a definition of translating first (p. 81) as follows: 'Sa payak na pagpapakahulugan, ang pagsasaling-wika ay ang paglilipat sa pinagsasalinang wika ng pinakamalapit na katumbas ng diwa o mensaheng isinasaad sa wikang isinasalin.' Freely translated this says, 'Simply stated, language translating is the transferring to a receptor language of the nearest equivalent of a thought of message expressed in the source language'. (Receptor and source are technical terms I am taking the liberty of using in place of the more literal translation of the terms used by the author: 'language being-translated-into' and 'language being-translated-form'.)

The author elaborates on this definition stressing that it is a transferral of a thought or meaning of the original message and not the literal rendering of a word-for-word equivalent into the receptor language (pp. 81, 82). He warns of the need to respect the peculiar structure of the receptor language and not to try to copy into it the structure of the source language. This, as a matter of fact, has been often neglected in translations read by this reviewer so I applaud the author's emphasis here. Another important point he calls the reader's attention to is the need to decide for whom the translation is intended, i.e., who is the expected audience (p. 83)? A single translation will seldom serve all audiences. Consequently, the author takes a few paragraphs here to discuss different kinds of translations.

The remaining contents of this chapter, and actually the bulk of the chapter, are a set of twenty-three guidelines (mga simulain) for the translator to keep in mind as he translates. Here are samples: (1) Every language is rooted in the culture of the indigenous people who are using it. (2) Every language has its own distinctive characteristics. (7) In translating, always keep in mind the economizing of words. Concluding the chapter, the author outlines five suggested steps to follow in translating into Pilipino materials written in English.

Chapter VII is the last chapter and is a brief discussion of ways of testing a translation. A good test, he says, is to expose the translation to readers of the receptor language and to note the problems which arise from their reading of the translation. He suggests some of the problems to look for: problems of word order, wrong use of a word, discourse connections, lack of naturalness in the grammar, and a few others. Interestingly, he also suggests at the end the possibility of making a back-translation into the source language and comparing that with the original work to see if the meaning is equivalent. This latter procedure is a technique devised for the benefit of checkers of a translation who do not handle the receptor language with facility. A translator who is checking his own translation would probably not benefit too much from this procedure. The possibility of inviting another translator to look over his work is another type of check which a translator might find helpful but which is not mentioned by the author.

This reviewer is very favorably impressed with the breadth of Professor Santiago's discussion of the translation methods. He deals fairly with opposing viewpoints, and gives his readers opportunity to choose for themselves depending on their needs. Most importantly the book sets forth reasoned methods rather than just philosophical suggestions. It is also of great importance that the book has been presented in Pilipino in view of the growing need for training translators in problems found locally in the Philippines. In this vein, the text would be enhanced if there were more illustrations of specific problems encountered in translating into Philippine languages. However, the book is still a very welcome text as it is and should have wide use in the training of Filipino translators.

There were only two significant typographical errors for the reader to correct: Pages 44 and 45 are in reverse order; the reader should procede from p. 43 to p. 45, then to p. 44, and then on to p. 46. The other one had to do with a reference to Appendix C on p. 94. The author there invites the reader to inspect the various senses possible with the English verb 'run'. The reference should be to Appendix D, section V (A) where those senses are listed.