

Ávila-Cabrera, José Javier, *The challenge of subtitling offensive and taboo language into Spanish. A theoretical and practical guide*. Bristol/Jackson: Multilingual Matters 2023. 156 pp.

The interest in audiovisual translation (AVT) has been rapidly growing over the last few decades, partly due to the significant amount of audiovisual content that is available online and the multiple combinations of AVT modalities offered. The need to train translators in this field has made scholars concentrate on the technical, linguistic and cultural aspects that converge within it and that make it especially complex.

Offensive and taboo language are among the most common pitfalls in AVT and, in particular, in subtitling, and also one of the most difficult to overcome. There is no translator, academic or student who has not wondered at some point: Should I translate offensive and taboo language, and if so, to what extent and how? These questions about what is considered offensive and taboo language, how to classify it and mainly what to do about it are answered in this fascinating monograph: *The challenge of subtitling offensive and taboo language into Spanish. A theoretical and practical guide*.

Ávila-Cabrera is a renowned scholar for his pioneering studies on the translation of this type of language. He displays his absolute mastery of subtitling taboo and offensive language in this book which becomes a compilation of the extensive research he conducted over the last several years. The title of the book does not mislead as it focuses on the subtitling of taboo and offensive language.

*The challenge of subtitling offensive and taboo language into Spanish. A theoretical and practical guide* is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is a statement of intent by the author in which he makes clear to whom this theoretical-practical guide is addressed (namely, university students, researchers, academics and AVT professionals). It fully describes the contents of the volume and anticipates the complexities involved in linguistically offensive and taboo language.

Chapter 2 opens with a brief overview of AVT. Then, the general theoretical framework provides a literature review of subtitling with some of the most influential and recent studies such as Díaz Cintas and Remael's (2021) and Talaván, N. and Lertola, J. (2022). It introduces basic guidelines for subtitling including the formal appearance of subtitles, punctuation and orthotypography, as well as providing a complete practical list of stylistic strategies for condensing the source text (Roales Ruiz 2017). The chapter continues by exploring the ideological manipulation and censorship imposed in the US, the UK and Spain. And at the end, there are 20 exercises of text reduction to reinforce the theory previously presented.

The third chapter delves into the topic of offensive and taboo language itself. A review of previous research works leads to the development of a taxonomy of offensive and taboo language that brings together the proposals of major researchers in this field (Wajnryb 2005, Allan and Burrige 2006, Hughes 2006 and Jay 2009). The taxonomy, proposed in this chapter, of offensive and taboo language with their subcategories carefully explained becomes practically useful for their translation in subtitling. The author highlights the importance of tone and modulation examining concepts such as euphemism, orthophemism and dysphemism. In addition, the chapter proposes an approach to (im)politeness and the impact and treatment of offensive and taboo language and gives recommendations to help subtitlers in their task. In Chapter 3, Ávila-Cabrera expands on the impact of culture in the translation of offensive and taboo language and dedicates a section to its translation in subtitling. Finally, 30 exercises based on the theoretical concepts introduced in the chapter are included.

Chapter 4 is first devoted to future translators who can find a number of translation operations. The author distinguishes between subtitling strategies and subtitling techniques. They are well defined in two sections, which include their corresponding taxonomies and several examples that illustrate their use in the subtitling of offensive and taboo language. However, the greatest contribution of this chapter is the author's proposal of a model of analysis for offensive/taboo language. The author introduces a sophisticated and attractive research design for subtitling offensive/taboo language taking into consideration the purpose, conceptual framework, research questions, methods and sampling procedures. It ends with 40 exercises where the reader can put into practice the strategies and techniques for the translation of the offensive/taboo categories and subcategories.

The volume closes with the answer keys to the exercises presented in the previous chapters, the references, filmography, TV series and web addresses included and an index that makes it easy to find the main topics and key words in the book.

In this book, Ávila-Cabrera generates a serious and detailed discussion of theoretical approaches to offensive and taboo language and offers a wide range of translation strategies and techniques in line with the proposed taxonomies. The author masterfully combines theory and practice in each chapter. Another asset of this volume is the incorporation of complete and comprehensive explanations to the answer keys provided with the aim of enlightening the reader, regardless of whether they belong to the academic or professional world.

In conclusion, *The challenge of subtitling offensive and taboo language into Spanish. A theoretical and practical guide* does not disappoint in any of its chapters and serves as a handbook for translators, academics and students of AV and, in particular, subtitling. The author succeeds in presenting a thorough and extremely comprehensive research study, while keeping the reader engaged and eager to read on.

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