

back to subalternity. But this is not what happens in Feroza Jussawalla's case, for she is unwilling to learn to live "in-between" the old carefully constructed, yet agonizing, society and the new explosion of emotions resulting from the terrorist attack. Her poetry and her cry against death amount to an answer to the question: Can the subaltern speak?

If we analyse the process of identity formation depicted in this collection from a Gramscian perspective, we can claim that the poet's autobiographical "I" takes shape by transmitting the reader the intimate process she has gone through in order to understand her own needs and fears and how important relations among individuals are in this process - *intimacy*, to borrow his own words. I would argue that the poem "My Mother" is one of the most touching illustrations of the intimate relations that Jussawalla transforms into textuality. Being herself a mother and struggling with cancer, the poet can finally come to terms with past emotions and write: "But older and wiser/now/I give myself and her/a new lease on life./Forgiveness" (42). In this sense *Chiffon Saris* is the manifesto of a successful negotiation between the poet's own identity, the people that surround her and the places in which she lives. It is a powerful life statement, where words become a path to the self-awareness that gives the author the power to act on her own destiny.

Works cited

Probyn, Elspeth (1993): *Sexing the Self. Gendered Positions in Cultural Studies*. London: Routledge.

Fernández Álvarez; M. Pilar and Antón Teodoro Manrique (2002): *Antología de la literatura nórdica antigua*. Salamanca: Ediciones Universidad.

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Few universities in Spain offer specialized courses on Old Scandinavian Languages and Literatures today. However, every scholar involved in Germanic Linguistics is aware of the historical relevance of Old Norse and the Sagas, which have played a vital role in the development of other Germanic languages, namely English. Although originally designed as a textbook, this elegantly edited anthology of Old Scandinavian texts can also serve as an excellent introduction to the history of Old Norse and Old Icelandic and to their respective literatures.

The book *Antología de la literatura nórdica antigua* can be clearly divided into three different sections: The first section (Chapter 0) offers a concise and clear-cut introduction to some literary and cultural aspects of Old Norse and Old Icelandic from a comparative European perspective. Here the authors comment on the origins of the early poetry and prose written in both languages along with their historical background. In the last part of this Introduction they also provide a coherent classification of the different Old Icelandic

documents, which traditionally have been divided into two genres: Eddic and Skaldic verse with their several variants (*fornyrdislág, málahátt, bölkr*, etc) and their inherent characteristics (alliteration, *helming*, etc). The second section, chapter 1, contains over two hundred pages of Old Norse and Old Icelandic texts with a parallel translation into Spanish, each text being preceded by a short historical and literary introduction. Finally, the third section (chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5) includes two dictionaries, the first one is actually an Old Norse and Old Icelandic-Spanish glossary while the second is a valuable dictionary of some proper terms used in the texts with their definition and a brief historical comment in Spanish. This section also contains a useful appendix summarizing the most important grammatical aspects of Old Norse and Old Icelandic such as tables with noun declensions and verbal conjugations. Finally, the authors supply a very detailed and descriptive bibliography including dictionaries, glossaries and general as well as specific studies about Old Scandinavian Literature.

Although many Spanish linguists, scholars and translators did previously research on the rich Old Scandinavian literature, outstandingly Francisco Uriz and Jose Antonio Fernández Romero through their translations, this book truly represents the first comprehensive work covering this field in Spanish with academic purposes and fills an important gap by providing students and teachers with useful material for the classes and for the in-depth study of Old Icelandic and Old Norse languages and literatures.

Schwarzl, Anja (2001). *The (im)possibilities of machine translation*. Peter Lang. Frankfurt am Main. 323 pages.

Reviewed by Silvia Borrás Giner

The (im)possibilities of machine translation is an introduction to the world of automated translation. The author presents in this work the essential theoretical characteristics of human and machine translation processes and she also evaluates the quality and output of several programmes from a comparative perspective. The first introductory chapter focuses on the existing degrees of automation and on the various machine translation generations that have been developed up to now. Schwarzl shows and comments on the evolution of these machines from the mechanical translation phase to the artificial intelligence stage, i. e. from the lexical substitution approach to the application of world knowledge into algorithmic based systems. The second section of the work deals with the two different processes representing machine and human translation, including a comparative analysis between both processes. As regards the machine translation process, various theories and models are suggested to know how direct, interlingua and transfer systems operate. Furthermore, the author illustrates the linguistic problems created by different types of ambiguity and explains the possible solution from a syntactic and semantic perspective. Concerning the human translation process, some hypotheses are considered so as to understand what happens in the translator brain when this process takes place. Although no