Translation Studies occupies a prominent place in the array of linguistic studies. Despite being a field in its own right, it derives its diversity and potential from the partnership with other disciplines. Being an interdisciplinary field by nature, it has been constantly enriched by virtue of the multiplicity of the contacts it establishes. Translation interferes with potentially all the fields of life to transfer information and to facilitate intercultural exchange and communication. Moreover, the interdisciplinary character of Translation Studies keeps on strengthening while intertwining with fields of study traditionally standing at the remote end. It is, for instance, the case of Translation Studies joining disciplines from the exact sciences, such as Information Technology. It is this kind of interdisciplinarity that lies at the core of the book entitled *Traps of Translation. A Practical Guide for Translators* by Attila Imre.

Although not structured as such, there are two distinct parts that can be identified in Imre’s book. One consists of the first four chapters, which offer an overview of some essentials of Translation Studies, and the other – chapters V-X – is devoted to the presentation of a variety of technological aspects and electronic tools in relation to the process of translation.

At the beginning of the book, the reader is introduced to the increasing importance of translation in the context of globalisation and fast development of technology and science. The author continues to pinpoint the evolution of translation from printed material to web pages and electronic support. The title *Traps of Translation* is accounted for in the first, introductory, chapter. In Imre’s view and in broad terms, the translator is chiefly confronted with a threefold trap. The first trap is deemed to occur at cognitive level, a consideration which relates to the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. The translators seem to be constrained by the way of thinking in their native language. The second trap stems from the much-
debated problem of (un)translatability, especially when poetry is concerned. Last, but not least, technology represents a genuine trap to translators if they are unaware of the current need for adaptation to rapid technological change. This last trap opens up the path to a substantial discussion of translation technology that unfolds in the latter and larger part of the book. The author’s main goal is to offer a possible clue to establishing a balancing act between the human translators and information technology, which is increasingly taking over some of the translators’ traditional tasks.

In Chapter II the author provides some definitions of translation, drawing on both traditional and modern considerations of the translation process and product. It continues to discuss the claimed impossibility of translating classical texts. In this context, the issue of poetry is in the focus of attention. The author looks into the evolution of the theories on the translation of poetry, observing “a gradual shift from impossibility towards relative translation” (p. 30). Further, the modality and features of translation, the relation between translation and culture, and the distinction between translation as an art and as a craft are tackled in separate sections. Another subchapter offers an insight into the relation between original and translation approached in scholarly work. Imre touches upon the problem of fidelity in translation and the dichotomy between a translator adhering to the artistic form or to the content when one of them needs to be sacrificed in the target version. Despite the inherent losses entailed by the interlinguistic and intercultural transfer, the author agrees to Steiner’s (1998) and Dimitriu’s (2006) view that the survival of the original is dependent on translation.

A brief diachronic approach to translation is adopted in Chapter III, which reminds of some ‘milestones’ in the history of translation. It begins with the discussion of the translation of some religious texts and presents interesting statistical data of religious text translation around the world, also providing essentials of the period between BCE and the fifteenth century. A subchapter is dedicated to each of the following centuries, and the 1960s–1970s are granted special attention, since that was the period when Translation Studies acquired the status of a fully-fledged discipline. The final section in this chapter deals with the unavoidable issue of equivalence, recalling both well-known theories and recent considerations of such theories. As the author claims, from the translators’ angle, “equivalence is no longer an option” (Dimitriu 2006: 28) due to the fact that practitioners work as cultural mediators under ideological constraints. Being in line with Venuti (2000), the author’s concluding remark is that: “identity in details between source text and target text is impossible, we can only strive for a similar effect” (p. 75).

Chapter IV addresses the issues of the translator’s task, role, and responsibility. Several, at times, contradictory voices are objectively synthesized. Some scholarly views support the idea of cultural adaptation in translation, whereas others are in
favour of the translator being primarily involved in the act of translation proper while disregarding the readership of the target language text if necessary. This chapter makes the transition to the second part of the monograph, which focuses on the involvement of technology in the translator’s activities.

What can be read on the following pages of Imre’s book is a fairly substantial survey of technological input of various kinds in the translator’s professional activity. In Chapter V, taking a realistic approach, the author reflects upon the disadvantages of the translator’s having to cope with electronic tools in translation and especially keeping updated with the constant changes. As he puts it: “Change is inevitable, and those who shy away from technical upgrades will inevitable be left behind” (p. 132). In other words, since the “days of paper, pencil and rubber are over” (p. 90), the effort is not an option in the twentieth century, but a necessity if translators want to keep pace with the translation industry. This chapter focuses on aspects of computer hardware and software with a view to offering the necessary basic knowledge to enable translators to further understand and effectively use the electronic tools particularly designed for translation purposes. The evolution of the technology applicable in translation is outlined from its beginnings up to present, ranging from the basics up to advanced resources. It covers problems related to computer hardware, such as: central units, computer peripherals, computers and notebooks, while computer software issues comprise operating systems, desktop environments and text-editing matters. It is noteworthy that the author moves beyond traditionally acknowledged technological equipment, being concerned with broad-ranging technological means that the translators should engage in nowadays. Thus, a number of valuable computer devices are presented which might be used by translators in (more or less) ‘niche’ activities, such as: voice-overs, testing tools, text-editing and publishing software especially when the layout is of utmost importance (in brochures, flyers, posters, ads, etc.). Thereby, a wider perspective unfolds to translators who search for opportunities other than the customary ones. The chapter also includes useful tips for auxiliary translation activities, such as speech recognition, optical character recognition, search programmes and format converters, as well as storing devices, back-up techniques, maintenance, etc., all of which help translators with their work and protect their working equipment.

*Evolution of Translation* is the title given to Chapter VI, which deals with dictionaries and thesauri as opposed to specialized books and other printed materials, coined by the author as ‘translation hardware’. There are brief descriptions of recommended dictionaries, as well as instructions about how to handle some critical issues in translation, such as the equivalence of ethnographic realia. Next, the translation software section in this chapter first deals with translation memory software, incorporating descriptions of a number of different brands. Some useful links guide to bilingual and multilingual translation software.
Additionally, the author provides a critical evaluation of online dictionaries. The final subchapter offers useful hints at computerized searches in accessing either the World Wide Web or the personal computer databases. The distinction among simple search engines, professional search and metasearch is also outlined in this section.

More specific information on translating various text types and translation modes are included in Chapter VII, the first section of which is a brief treatment of the specific features of literary translation in contrast to translating ‘modern text’. Imre uses the denomination of ‘modern text’ in order to label four categories giving the bulk of translation materials in modern-day times, namely, specialized translation, audiovisual translation, localization, and internationalisation and globalisation. The merit of this chapter lies in its offering a perspective of the different approaches that can be adopted for each text type within the broad area of specialized translation. A distinction is made between general and technical translation, then the chapter includes brief accounts of legal, medical, scientific, financial, commercial, pedagogic translations, and others. Audiovisual translation is also presented in its division into subtitling, dubbing, voice-over, surtitling, scanlation, and fan translation, the author offering some up-to-date scholarly considerations, definitions, classifications and approaches in this matter.

The topic of Chapter VIII is machine translation (MT). After the definition of the concept itself, the historical evolution of MT is overviewed with its advantages and drawbacks. Issues of testing MT and post-editing in relation to machine translation are also raised. After referring to various scholarly opinions and presenting findings on the validity and usefulness of machine translation, the chapter concludes with the author’s prediction that, in spite of the obvious benefits of MT, “the quality of machine translation will not reach the standard of a mediocre human translation for a very long time” (p. 195).

The chapter on MT is followed by Chapter IX, devoted to terminology and Translation Memory (TM) and incorporates a thorough outline of Term Bank and Term Base in one of the sub-chapters. It deals with the usefulness of resorting to previous translations while human judgment is called for reasonable acceptance or rejection of the offer. It is especially the in-house translator that is advantaged by taking a collaborative stance and sharing views with other translators.

The last chapter, titled Computer-assisted Translation (CAT), first clarifies the difference between machine translation and computer-assisted or computer-aided translation. In Imre’s words, the distinction lies in that “machine translation produces a text ‘by itself’, awaiting human pre- and post-editing, whereas CAT-tools contribute to the quality of translation by offering a full translation environment to human translators” (p. 208). Imre uses the term translation environment to refer to multilingual word-processing, spell checkers, synonym lists, online dictionaries, reference sources, built-in machine translation, term base
and translation memory, all of which are granted separate attention. The chapter indicates sources for acquiring translation services, among which translators’ professional associations are preferred. Concluding this chapter, the author strongly advocates the recognition of the true merit of computerized translation, but also of the irreplaceable value of human involvement. It is especially the translation of literary texts that entails polysemy, suggestion, ambiguity, emotional content, etc., in which human reason must be fully exploited. Nevertheless, electronic tools can be of important help in literary translations as well. One of the suggested ways of retrieving information for translation options is the use of corpora and concordancers. The author uses English, French, Romanian and Hungarian examples to make his point in the way such tools can clarify semantic differences in false friends, for instance.

As a final remark, Imre pertinently draws attention to the risk for the book to become obsolete before long. Indeed, the information related to computerised tools will constantly need updating due to the dynamic technological development. But the tools are only undergoing changes for the better, being mainly upgraded and improved. Their replacement cannot occur abruptly, which is why professional translators or trainees can use the book as a practical guide to enhance the effectiveness of their translation skills. It is also recommended for translator trainers and translators who embark upon translation with IT support.

A distinctive feature of Attila Imre’s book *Traps of Translation. A Practical Guide for Translators* is that it discusses translation in relation to English, Romanian and Hungarian. The merit herein lies in integrating two less frequently discussed languages, Romanian and Hungarian, in the international flux of Translation Studies. Without making it a purpose in itself, the author conveys plenty of contrastive information with reference to the translation among the three languages discussed, the languages of two neighbouring countries – Romania and Hungary – and English, the latter being most of the times the reference language nowadays when translation is concerned.

As the title *Traps of Translation. A Practical Guide for Translators* suggests, the book primarily addresses practising translators and it can be used as a resource-book with an outline of the theoretical background as a starting point to each problem proposed for discussion. The information offered can serve as solid grounds to build up a framework of IT tools used in translation to be constantly updated and enriched. It is also the author’s qualification as experienced professional translator working in the languages Romanian, Hungarian and English that enriches the book with authentic examples and situations occurring during the translation process. The practicalities deriving from this knowledge lend the monograph authenticity and reliability. Much precious advice is grounded on the author’s personal experience not only as a professional translator, but also as associate professor of Translation Studies at Sapientia University in Târgu
Mureş, Romania. Being well-structured and offering clear instructions, the guide is recommended not only to practising translators, but also to translator trainers, for whom it can be particularly useful for didactic purposes.

The content structure of the book also deserves mention. Being chiefly theoretical by nature, the first four chapters do not directly address practising translators, as the title suggests. It is rather the second part that sets and achieves this goal, whereas the first part is of invaluable help for students attending translation courses. Imre's book also has the quality of raising its readers' awareness about the importance of technological resources in modern translation practice.

The rich and relevant bibliography can be divided into three distinct, yet sometimes overlapping categories: (i) classical reference material in translation studies, (ii) up-to-date references, and (iii) Hungarian and Romanian scholarly contributions. The first category includes prominent names of theoreticians (Steiner, Nida, Baker, Gutt, House, Klaudy, Lambert, Neubert, Newmark, Nord, Reiss, Snell-Hornby, Toury, Venuti, Dollerup, etc.). The most recent studies cover the last years immediately before its publication, up to 2013, and references in the Hungarian and Romanian literature list scholars such as: Klaudy, Károly, Prószéky, Albert, Kis, Pusztai, and Dimitriu, Pintilie and Tatu respectively. They all add value to the monograph, their contributions being presented concisely and in a manner pertinent to the subject matter. Prior to its publication, the book benefited from advice given by academics, freelance translators and a native English speaker. In support of his ideas and claims, Imre inserted many illustrations, figures, tables and statistical data. Besides, useful links to dictionaries and glossaries, electronic tools and software applications are attached to the book in the appendices. A list of professional translators' associations around the world and a list of the most reputed translation journals can also be consulted for additional information.

References