Annotated bibliography for translators of Primo Levi's works

This is a bibliography that is meant as a tool to help translators translate Primo Levi's works from the Italian original. It contains 39 articles, contributions, and selections from essays on Primo Levi's language and style. All the entries include brief descriptions of their contents and are classified according to tags that specify the stylistic and linguistic aspects that they cover. This bibliography is strictly restricted to linguistic topics rather than topics related to criticism, comparative literature, history, and the contents of Levi's works. Nevertheless, translators of Levi should be kept aware of past and current critical discussions about him. They can be helped in this task by consulting the general bibliography of criticism, which is also available at the web site of the International Primo Levi Studies Center (www.primolevi.it). What follows here is a concise and specialized reference tool.

This repertory includes only those essays that analyze one or more features of Primo Levi's style in a detailed way, often with examples. It does this irregardless of their potential usefulness or length. The longest article is Pier Vincenzo Mengaldo's essential 80-page *Lingua e scrittura in Levi* [Language and writing in Levi] and the briefest ones consist of newspaper articles a few lines long that focus on one characteristic linguistic usage or pun of Levi's.

Each entry contains a brief summary of its contents and an indication of its length. When pertinent, we point out the section of the text with the information that is most useful from our point of view. This bibliography is provided with a system of tags to signal the topics covered in each essay, similar to the tags in the general critical bibliography that we referred to above. However, the tags in this section differ in that they have been especially tailored for the use of translators in their work.

Many features of Primo Levi's prose and poetry can cause serious problems for translators. These include his incursions into the dialect and his use of specialized languages as well as his irony and frequent punning. In addition, the morphology and syntax of his language are often very different from those of other languages. This bibliography is a first repertory of reflections and useful examples, one that aims to enrich the discussion on Levi as well as to take on the various issues related to his works in light of what has been written about them so far.

Many of Primo Levi's own writings have to do with issues of language. In this repertory we include the notes that Levi wrote for the scholastic editions of *If This is a Man*, *The Truce*, and *The Periodic Table*. There is also one of the many essays that Levi wrote on languages and words where he addresses issues related to translation. (There are 10 essays on this in *Other People's Trades* alone.) He participated actively in the tasks of translation both as someone whose works were being translated into many languages and someone who worked as a translator form German, French, and Dutch into Italian. His essay is entitled *Tradurre ed essere tradotti* [*Translating and being translated*] and is an excellent example of the attention that Primo Levi paid to the translations of his works, which he used to check line by line along with his translators whenever he could. We limited ourselves to including only those writings of Levi that could directly help in the work of translators. Yet, this limited selection

of his works alone can help us realize how great a role words, the act of writing, and varieties of language (including linguistic games) generally play in his works.

This bibliography includes the contributions of those translators who were fortunate enough to have corresponded with Levi and who have written down their recollections of working with him, thus leaving us material of great interest and usefulness. Finally, there are a good number of articles that comment or correct earlier translations and so can serve as useful references for translators attempting to re-translate the original texts. We are counting on the collaboration of all our readers to update this research tool.

List of the topics chosen as tags for individual entries:

- ANALYSIS OF SYNTAX, MORPHOLOGY, METRICS, RHETORICAL FIGURES
- DANTE
- FAUSSONE
- HEBREW-PIEDMONTESE
- IRONY
- LANGUAGE: BUREAUCRACY
- LANGUAGE: TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE
- MULTILINGUALISM
- ONOMASTICS
- POETRY
- PIEDMONTESE
- PRIMO LEVI TRANSLATOR
- REGISTER: COLLOQUIAL
- REGISTER: FORMAL
- TITLES
- TRANSLATIONS: EARLIER
- WORD GAMES: PUZZLES, RIDDLES, PUNS

ESSAYS, EDITORIAL APPARATUS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Amalia Alesina, *La sintassi a gragnuola di Faussone*, «Libera Stampa», 13 giugno 1981
[**"Faussone's 'grainy' syntax"**]

Observations on writing in *The Monkey's Wrench*
FAUSSONE ; PIEDMONTESE

Daniela Amsallem, *Primo Levi in Francia*, **in Giovanni Tesio, ed.,** *La manutenzione della memoria. Diffusione e conoscenza di Primo Levi nei paesi europei* **(Torino: Centro Studi Piemontesi, 2005), pp. 33-43.**
[**"Primo Levi in France," in** *Keeping up the memory: The spread and the recognition of Primo Levi in European countries*]

and

Daniela Amsallem, *Primo Levi et la France*, **in Philippe Mesnard and Yannis Thanassekos, eds.,** *Primo Levi à l'œuvre. La réception de l'œuvre de Primo Levi dans le monde* **(Paris: Kimé, 2008), pp. 213-53.**
[**"Primo Levi and France, " in** *Primo Levi at work: The reception of the works of Primo Levi in the world*]**.**

Brief essays – the first in Italian, the second in French – that outline the critical and academic reception of Primo Levi in France. They include notes on the two different translations of *If This is a Man* into French and on Primo Levi's comments on the first translation.
DANTE; PRIMO LEVI TRANSLATOR; ON EARLIER TRANSLATIONS.

Francesco Ardolino, *Les traductions des œuvres de Primo Levi en espagnol et en catalan***, in Philippe Mesnard and Yannis Thanassekos, eds.** *Primo Levi à l'œuvre. La réception de l'œuvre de Primo Levi dans le monde***. (Paris: Kimé, 2008), pp. 185-96.**
["The Spanish and Catalan translations of Primo Levi's works" in *Primo Levi at work: The reception of the works of Primo Levi in the world***]**

Brief essay on the reception and translation of Primo Levi into Spanish and Catalan. Ardolino mainly goes over some of the choices made in the Spanish translation, such as the word used from the term *sommersi*, and disputes several errors. A long passage of the essay is dedicated to a virtually word-for-word review of part of the chapter, "The Canto of Ulysses," and (more briefly) to the Spanish translation of Dantean terms. The author uses the same procedure in relation to the translation of the multilingualism in *The Truce*, a passage of which he analyzes.
 DANTE; ON EARLIER TRANSLATIONS

Stefano Bartezzaghi, *Quando Primo Levi giocava con i palindromi***, «Tuttolibri»-«La Stampa», XIV, 603, 14 maggio 1988.**
["When Primo Levi played with palindromes"]

A brief page of *Tuttolibri* [the book review section of the newspaper *La Stampa*] that focuses on a phrase of "Lilith" and explains that it is a palindrome that was purposely disguised in Levi's story.
WORD GAMES: PUZZLES

Stefano Bartezzaghi, *Le Cosmichimiche***, in AA.VV.,** *Primo Levi***, numero monografico della rivista «Riga», 13, a cura di Marco Belpoliti, Marcos y Marcos, Milano 1997, pp. 267-314**
["Cosmicomics", an article on Italo Calvino's novel]

A dictionary of Primo Levi's "linguistic inventions." Bartezzaghi explains word roots and puns. He points out words derived from Piedmontese or other languages, acronyms, abbreviations, proper names, proverbs, slogans, and common places. This article is very useful as an inventory of words missing from a common dictionary, words that the article classifies and explains.
WORD GAMES: PUZZLES ; MULTILINGUALISM ; PIEDMONTESE ; HEBREW-PIEDMONTESE ; LANGUAGE: SCIENCE ; ONOMASTICS

Gian Luigi Beccaria, L'«altrui mestiere» di Primo Levi, in AA.VV., *Primo Levi. Il presente del passato. Giornate internazionali di studio*, a cura di Alberto Cavaglion, Franco Angeli, Milano 1993, pp. 130-36
["Primo Levi's *Other People's Trades*" in *Primo Levi, the present of the past: International Days of Study*]

A brief 6-page essay in which Gian Luigi Beccaria examines the theme of Primo Levi's love of language and then makes several useful observations on the language of Libertino Faussone, the protagonist of *The Monkey's Wrench.* Beccaria traces Faussone's Piedmontese dialect, which Levi introduces through Faussone's syntax even mmore strongly than through his lexicon. It is a Piedmontese that is more "city than country," one that is expressed for the first time in literature.
PIEDMONTESE ; FAUSSONE

Gian Luigi Beccaria, *Note all'edizione scolastica de «La chiave a stella»*, Einaudi, Torino 1983, «Letture per la scuola media» series.
["Note to the scholastic edition of *The Monkey's Wrench*"]

The notes are addressed to students and therefore clear and numerous. Beccaria clarifies and virtually "translates" into standard Italian all the Piedmontese words, the calques, the puns, and the vocabulary items that are Italianized English. The notes also explain place names and geographical references.
PIEDMONTESE ; FAUSSONE ; MULTILINGUALISM

Marco Belpoliti, *Le traduzioni dei libri di Primo Levi*, in *Opere*, a cura del medesimo Belpoliti, Einaudi, Torino 1997, volume II, pp. 1590-99
["The translations of books by Primo Levi" in *Collected Works*]

Notes on the translations of Levi abroad, especially on his relationship with his translators, on the close supervision that he made of their work, and on his disappointment with some of the results. Belpoliti's census of the translations is updated until approximately the mid-1990s.
TRANSLATIONS: EARLIER

Claudio Bura, *Primo Levi, «La chiave a stella»: lingua e stile*, «Gli Annali. Università per Stranieri», Perugia, 8, gennaio-giugno 1987, pp. 111-80 [“Primo Levi, *The Monkey's Wrench*: language and style”]

This essay provides many examples to illustrate the veins of regionalisms and technical language that run through the language of *The Monkey's Wrench.* It points out forms of adjectivization, the morphology and syntax of articles that are often used in abnormal word order (anacolutions), adjectives used adverbially, virtually untranslatable particles like *mica*, etc.
FAUSSONE ; ANALYSIS OF SYNTAX, MORPHOLOGY ; PIEDMONTESE

Mirna Cicioni, *Primo Levi's Humour*, in *The Cambridge Companion to Primo Levi*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2007, pp. 137-51

Essay on irony in Primo Levi's writings. It focuses on specific instances in the texts that illustrate how Levi brings his ironic or witty traits to the fore, how he uses parodies, pastiches, and playful language, such as puns.
IRONY ; WORD GAMES

Giampaolo Dossena, *« È filo teso per siti strani »*, in *La zia era assatanata, primi giochi di parole per poeti e folle solitarie*, Rizzoli, Milano 1990, pp. 131-37 [“Is cord tight for sites strange” (sic), in *The aunt was devilish: the first word games for poets and lonely fools*]

Observations on several riddles and puns of Levi's. Levi is never mentioned in the text, but only referred to as “my reader.” However, Levi can clearly be identified through some clues. The whole book is sprinkled with quotations and puns explicitly attributed to Primo Levi. [Note: “é filo…etc” is a “palindrome” – i.e. spelled backwards it reads “in arts it is repose to life.”]
WORD GAMES: PUZZLES

Giovanni Falaschi, *Ulisse e la sfida ebraica in «Se questo è un uomo» di Primo Levi*, «Italianistica», XXXI, 1, gennaio-aprile 2002, pp. 123-31 [“Ulysses and the Jewish challenge” in *Primo Levi's If This is a Man*]

The essay focuses on the discussion of the Ulysses in Dante's *Inferno* and its symbolic implications. The beginning of the essay and the last pages are of interest linguistically, where the essay traces the implicit and explicit quotations from Dante.
DANTE

Robert Gordon, *«Per mia fortuna…»: Irony and Ethics in Primo Levi's Writing*, «The Modern Language Review», XCII, 2, aprile 1997, pp. 337-47

This article does not have a specifically linguistic approach, but is focused on the important narrative sub-text of irony in the works of Levi. Gordon is also a translator of Levi's works.
IRONY

Anna Laura Lepschy, Giulio Lepschy, *Primo Levi's Languages*, in *The Cambridge Companion to Primo Levi*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2007, pp. 121-36

An essay introducing readers to the various languages that appear in the works of Primo Levi --the variety of languages spoken in the Lager and during the journey home, Italian dialects, and the macaronic discourse of characters like Cesare and Libertino Faussone when attempting to speak foreign languages. The authors examine the lexicon, the morphology, the syntax and the style in this clear essay intended for non-Italian general readers.
MULTILINGUALISM ; PIEDMONTESE ; HEBREW-PIEDMONTESE ; ANALYSIS OF SYNTAX, MORPHOLOGY

Vittorio Marchis, *La meccanica come metafora. Alcune considerazioni intorno alla «La chiave a stella» di Primo Levi*, «Studi Piemontesi», XXXI, 1, giugno 2002, pp. 71-74
["Mechanics as metaphor: Some considerations on Primo Levi's *The Monkey's Wrench*"]

A short article that explains what a monkey's wrench is in a very detailed way, what symbols Primo Levi associated with the monkey's wrench, and why some of the earlier titles given to the book in the various translations are not always adequate.
TITLES ; TRANSLATIONS: EARLIER ; LANGUAGE: TECHNOLOGY

Giovanna Massariello Merzagora, *Il giudeo-italiano,* collana «Profilo dei dialetti italiani» a cura di Manlio Cortelazzo, n. 23, Pacini, Pisa 1977, p. 6 [*"Judeo-Italian" in Profile of Italian Dialects*]

A linguistic essay on the phonetic, morphological, and syntactic characteristics of the Italian dialects spoken by Jewish communities. Pages 1-24 are especially interesting for "Hebrew-Piedmontese."
HEBREW-PIEDMONTESE

Giovanna Massariello Merzagora, *La parlata giudeo-piemontese. Contributo alla conoscenza del lessico impiegato nelle comunità ebraiche d'area piemontese*, «Archivio Glottologico Italiano», LXV, 1980, pp. 105-36 ["Judeo-Piedmontese spoken language: A contribution to the knowledge of the lexicon used in the Jewish communities in Piedmont"]

This linguistic essay is useful for translators who have to work on the Judeo-Piedmontese discourse in "Argon," for example.
HEBREW-PIEDMONTESE

Luigi Matt, *«Scrivere è un trasmettere»: note linguistiche sulle poesie di Primo Levi*, «Linguistica e Letteratura», XXV, 1-2, 2000, pp. 193-217 ["Writing is transmitting: Linguistic notes on the poems of Primo Levi"]

Observations on Primo Levi's poetic writings grouped according to core topics and therefore easily accessible to those who are taking on the task of translation. The author provides many examples when analyzing the following topics: the rhetorical figures that appear in Levi's verses, alliteration, the use of adjectives, metrics, technical and bureaucratic jargon (here and there in the text, the range of registers from the formal to the colloquial), dialect usages, and the symbolism of sounds, which is one of the features that is hardest to convey in a translation. This essay has a wealth of detailed observations accompanied by many concrete examples that point out aspects of Italian that are often very problematic to translate.
POETRY ; LANGUAGE: TECHNOLOGY ; LANGUAGE: BUREAUCRACY ; ANALYSIS OF SYNTAX, MORPHOLOGY

David Mendel, *Primo Levi and Translation*. **Online:**
http://www.leeds.ac.uk/bsis/98/98pltrn.htm **(last visit 20 April 2010)**

In this article David Mendel, an American cardiologist who was a friend of Primo Levi's, presents lengthy excerpts from Levi's "Translate and Being Translated." He analyzes and comments on several cases from earlier translations, mainly into English. He points out, giving examples, some aspects of Levi's language that he feels have been translated inadequately: irony, clarity, puns, the titles of the books, and the language of Faussone. In some instances, he offers some alternative translations. In addition, Mendel discusses the activity of Primo Levi as a translator, focusing on his translation of Kafka's *The Trial*.
TRANSLATIONS: EARLIER ; IRONY ; TITLES ; FAUSSONE ; PRIMO LEVI TRANSLATOR

David Mendel, *Introduction* **a Primo Levi,** *The Truce***, tr. inglese di Stuart Woolf, disegni di Jane Joseph, The Folio Society, London 2002, pp. 9-17**

A smooth-flowing essay that rightfully focuses on Primo Levi's irony and vocation as a humorist, on the word games that often appear in the texts written after *The Truce*, on his "Piedmontese-ness," and on the sobriety of his writing.
IRONY ; PIEMONTESE

Pier Vincenzo Mengaldo, *Lingua e scrittura in Levi*, **in AA.VV.,** *Primo Levi: un'antologia della critica*, **a cura di Ernesto Ferrero, Einaudi, Torino 1997, pp. 169-242**
["Language and writing in Levi", in *Primo Levi: an anthology of criticism***]**

This is the essay that is most essential for translators. It takes up all the main aspects of Primo Levi's style, including the lexicon, syntax, range of registers, and quotations.
It is not divided into paragraphs but clearly identifies and defines topics one by one. These topics can be listed according to the order in which they appear: 1) the linguistic means through which Levi obtains clarity, economy and brevity; the traces of literature and formal register; 2) the playful and spectacular features of his language, including his use of spoken language, 3) puns, the technique of accumulation; 4) pastiches; 5) specific observations on individual works (*If This is a Man*, *The Truce*, *The Monkey's Wrench*, and the short stories); 6) scientific and technical terms; 7) metaphors and analogies; 8) the oxymoron as the rhetorical feature that is the foundation of his entire poetics. Mengaldo's language is very technical, but the many examples he provides are on the mark. The linguistic cases he takes up are distinguished from each other with great subtleness and precision. They illustrate syntactic and stylistic constructions that are typical of Italian and absent in other languages.
ANALYSIS OF SYNTAX, MORPHOLOGY, RHETORICAL FIGURES ; PIEDMONTESE ; FAUSSONE ; LANGUAGE: TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE ; LANGUAGE : BUREAUCRACY ; MULTILINGUALISM ; REGISTER: FORMAL ; WORD GAMES: PUZZLES.

Philippe Mesnard, *Déboires d'une œuvre ouverte*, **in** *Primo Levi à l'œuvre. La réception de l'œuvre de Primo Levi dans le monde*, **Philippe Mesnard and Yannis Thanassekos, eds. (Paris: Kimé, 2008, pp. 421-32).**
["The disappointments of an open work," in *Primo Levi at work: The reception of the works of Primo Levi in the world***]**

Mesnard comments on the French translations of *If This is a Man* and other works of Levi's, criticizing several linguistic and lexical choices. Translators may be interested mainly in the first 3 pages of the essay, which afterwards tend more towards literary criticism than linguistics.

ON EARLIER TRANSLATIONS

Jane Nystedt, *Lunghezza della frase e interpunzione: mezzi stilistici in Primo Levi*, «Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata», XXI, 1-2-3, 1992, pp. 85-106 ["Length of the sentence and punctuation; stylistic means in Primo Levi"]

This essay is based on computerized linguistic analysis. Thus it has a wealth of statistics and quantitative observations. Within this framework the essay leads us to profitable observations on the length of phrases and on the use of punctuation. Thus these two stylistic means manage to produce the effects of clarity, expressiveness, and "body" (prosody, rhythm and tone). Many languages have rules different in kind from those of Italian, which is relatively free mainly in the use of punctuation. This study helps us understand what the features are that make up "the Levi style" and its varieties in his works and how much translators should be aware of these features – within the limits of the target language -- as they go about the act of translation.
ANALYSIS OF SYNTAX, MORPHOLOGY

Jane Nystedt, *Riprese tematiche: motivi palesi e celati nell'opera di Primo Levi*, "Settentrione", nuova serie, Turku 1994, pp. 121-26 ["Thematic refrains: overt and covert motifs in Primo Levi's works"]

Jane Nystedt conducted a computer analysis on the entire corpus of Levi's works. Doing so, she identified several fixed expressions, collocations, and motifs that recur often in the same form here and there in Levi's writings. The article can provide a useful reference point for choices to be made before translating, especially in reference to the question of whether those repeated phrases should be translated in the same way or not.
ANALYSIS OF SYNTAX, MORPHOLOGY

Jane Nystedt, *On Lexical Indices: Illustrations from Italian Texts*, «Rivista di linguistica», V, 1, 1993, pp. 103-27

In this essay Swedish scholar Jane Nystedt attempts to measure the "lexical wealth" of three of Levi's works using especially dedicated statistics and indexes -- *If This is a Man*, *The Truce*, and *The Drowned* and *the Saved*.
ANALYSIS OF SYNTAX, MORPHOLOGY

Lene Waage Petersen, *Primo Levi in Danimarca*, **in** *La manutenzione della memoria. Diffusione e conoscenza di Primo Levi nei paesi europei*, **Giovanni Tesio, ed. (Torino: Centro Studi Piemontesi, 2005), pp. 229-42.**
[“Primo Levi in Denmark,” in *Keeping up the memory: The spread and the recognition of Primo Levi in European countries***]**

Essay on the critical and editorial reception in Denmark. On p. 232 there is a note on the translation of the titles of *If Not Now, When?*, *The Truce* and *If This is a Man*.

ON EARLIER TRANSLATIONS

Bruno Porcelli, *Cerniere onomastiche nei racconti del Lager di Primo Levi*, **«Giornale Storico della Letteratura Italiana», CXX, 591, 3° trimestre 2003, pp. 408-13.**
[“Onomastic points of connection in Primo Levi’s stories”]

Note on the origins and meanings of the proper names of the characters in Levi’s works.
ONOMASTICS

C. Riatsch, V. Gorgé, *Né sistema né periodico: appunti per la lettura di «Il sistema periodico» di Primo Levi*, **«Esperienze letterarie», XVI, 4, ottobre-dicembre 1991, pp. 65-81.**
[“Neither a system/table nor periodic: notes towards a reading of *The Periodic Table***”]**

An extremely detailed analysis of several rhetorical figures that appear in *The Periodic Table*, this essay can serve to enhance the understanding of those who are already acquainted with articles like Mengaldo’s.
ANALYSIS OF RHETORICAL FIGURES

Cesare Segre, *Primo Levi nella Torre di Babele*, in AA.VV., *Primo Levi as Witness*, Proceedings of a Symposium held at Princeton University (April, 30 - May 2, 1989), a cura di Pietro Frassica, Casalini, Fiesole (Fi) 1990, pp. 86-97 ["Primo Levi in the tower of Babel"]

This essay of 10 pages treats the multilingual aspects of Primo Levi's works. It focuses on the various languages that appear in his works seen as a reflection of the "tower of Babel" of the Lager. It also focuses on dialects and technical languages – "Judeo-Piedmontese," the "Judeo-*Romanesco*" [dialect of Rome] of Cesare in *The Truce,* and the working-class (rather than rural) Piedmontese of Libertino Faussone, the protagonist of *The Monkey's Wrench*
MULTILINGUALISM ; PIEDMONTESE ; HEBREW-PIEDMONTESE

Raffaella Simone, *L'«arte di raccontare» e d'ascoltare: «La chiave a stella» di Primo Levi*, «La Scrittura», 10-11, 1999, pp. 12-16 ["The art of telling stories and listening: Primo Levi's *The Monkey's Wrench*"]

A brief article that contains observations on the language of *The Monkey's Wrench.* Quotations mainly from Segre, Cases, and Mengaldo.
IRONY ; FAUSSONE ; PIEDMONTESE

George Steiner, *Contabilità della tortura*, tr. it. di Domenico Scarpa, in AA.VV., *Primo Levi*, numero monografico della rivista «Riga», 13, a cura di Marco Belpoliti, Marcos y Marcos, Milano 1997, pp. 152-55 ["Book-Keeping of Torture", trans. by Domenico Scarpa into Italian from the London *Sunday Times*, Apr. 10, 1988]

For linguistic purposes, only the last sentence is interesting, where he signals a mix up in an earlier translation of *The Drowned and the Saved.*
TRANSLATIONS : EARLIER

Jean-Charles Vegliante, *Primo Levi et le problème de la traduction «radicale»,*, «Les Langues Néo-Latines», LXXXVI, 282, 3° trimestre 1992, pp. 31-55. ["Primo Levi and the problem of *radical* translation"]

This is an essay with more of a critical and theoretical approach rather than one that is linguistic and practical. It focuses on the topic of translation, the ability to communicate and multi-lingualism in the Lager. However, it makes several linguistic points, above all on the insertion of dialects and other languages into Levi's texts.
PRIMO LEVI TRANSLATOR ; MULTILINGUALISM ; FAUSSONE

LEXICONS, DICTIONARIES, CATALOGUES

Alberto Cavaglion, *Primo Levi: Così parlava lo zio Oreste. Inedito. Il vocabolario portatile dello scrittore, lo yiddish-piemontese del suo «vecio parlar»*, **«La Stampa», 12 giugno 2008, pp. 34-35. Now published:** *Primo Levi: il glossario per Armand Lunel*, **in** *Ebrej, via Vico. Mondovì XV-XX secolo. Studi in memoria di Marco Levi*, **edited by Alberto Cavaglion, Zamorani, Torino 2010, pp. 217-21.**

Interesting lexicon of the Judeo-Piedmontese of Primo Levi and his ancestors, useful because many of the terms listed here appear in "Argon."
HEBREW-PIEDMONTESE

Alberto Cavaglion, Primo Levi: *Il glossario per Armand Lunel*, **in** *Ebrej, via Vico. Mondovì XV-XX secolo. Studi in memoria di Marco Levi*, **Alberto Cavaglion, ed. (Torino: Zamorani, 2010), pp. 217-21.**
["Primo Levi: Glossary for Armand Lunel," in *Jews, via Vico. Mondovì 15th-20th centuries: Studies in memory of Marco Levi***]**

Presentation of a collection of terms from the Jewish-Piedmontese lexicon that Levi had collected mostly from his Uncle Oreste Colombo and Mrs. Nilda Jachia. Levi made this lexicon available to Armand Lunel, author of *Juifs du Languedoc, de la Provence et des États français du Pape* (Paris: Albin Michel 1975). [Jews of Languedoc, Provence, and the French Papal States]. It was first published under the title "Così parlava lo zio Oreste" in the newspaper *La Stampa*, June 12, 2008.

PIEMONTESE; EBRAICO-PIEMONTESE

Ernesto Ferrero, *Pensare con le mani,* **prefazione a Primo Levi,** *La chiave a stella,* **Utet, Torino 2007**
["Thinking with the hands: Preface to Primo Levi's *The Monkey's Wrench***"]**

An essay with a critical rather than linguistic approach. However, it contains a useful list (p. xvii) of dialect terms translated into standard Italian, which can be used when handling Faussone's language.
FAUSSONE ; PIEDMONTESE ; IRONY

Jane Nystedt, *I forestierismi nel lessico di Primo Levi*, **in AA.VV.,** *Italianistica scandinava 2. Atti del Terzo Congresso degli Italianisti scandinavi*, **Turku/Åbo, 4-6 giugno 1992, a cura di Pauliina De Anna, Giuseppe La Grassa, Lauri Lindgren, Università di Turku, Turku 1994, pp. 301-14**
["The use of terms taken from foreign languages in Primo Levi's lexicon"]

With the aid of computational linguistics, the essay compiles a list of foreign-derived words that Levi introduced in his works. Furnishing many examples, Jane Nystedt lists the words from Levi's texts alongside their translations. The words from the following languages are listed in this order: German, English, Italian English, French, Latin, Slavic languages, Yiddish, and Piedmontese.
MULTILINGUALISM, PIEDMONTESE

PRIMO LEVI ON HIMSELF

Primo Levi, *Tradurre ed essere tradotti,* da *L'altrui mestiere* (1985), now collected in *Opere*, edited by Marco Belpoliti, Einaudi, Torino 1997, volume II, pp. 730-34 ["Translating and being translated", from *Other People's Trades*]

Three pages about the linguistic problems of translation that do not provide us with any particular instructions as to how to translate Primo Levi. Levi does not make any value judgments on the translations that he was able to check. Instead, there are general and anecdotal observations. In any case, this is a brief and brilliant read, which is often quoted in many other essays in this bibliography. It shows the attention that Levi paid to linguistic and inter-linguistic issues and the passion he had for them.
PRIMO LEVI TRANSLATOR

Primo Levi, Note alle edizioni scolastiche di *Se questo è un uomo* e *La tregua,* both published – respectively in 1973 and 1965 – in the «Letture per la scuola media» Einaudi publisher series [Notes to the scholastic editions of *If This is a Man* and *The Truce*]

These notes should be read if not for any other reason but that Levi himself wrote them. In particular, there are useful directions concerning the quotations of Dante, especially those that are implicit –i.e. those not signaled through quotation marks or italics; concerning the foreign language works that recur; and concerning the intentions that impelled him to choose some terms rather than others.
MULTILINGUALISM; DANTE; LANGUAGE: TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE ;
LANGUAGE : BUREAUCRACY

Primo Levi, Note all'edizione scolastica de *Il sistema periodico*, Einaudi, Torino 1979, «Letture per la scuola media» series [Notes to the scholastic edition of *The Periodic Table*]

These are essential notes because they were written by Primo Levi himself. His notes were intended for very young readers and therefore they mostly serve to clarify cultural references and terms that were considered not immediately understandable, mainly those that come from scientific and technical environments. The notes to the first story *Argon*, contain several references to the Hebrew-Piedmontese of Primo Levi's ancestors.
LANGUAGE: TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE ; LANGUAGE : BUREAUCRACY ;
HEBREW-PIEDMONTESE

REMEMBRANCES OF OTHER TRANSLATORS

Doina Condrea Derer, *Primo Levi in Romania*, **in** *La manutenzione della memoria. Diffusione e conoscenza di Primo Levi nei paesi europei*, **Giovanni Tesio, ed. (Torino: Centro Studi Piemontesi, 2005), pp. 149-56.**
[**"Primo Levi in Rumania," in** *The spread and the recognition of Primo Levi in European countries*]

Derer, the translator of *The Truce* and *If This is a Man* into Rumanian, informs her readers of her letter exchange with Primo Levi, who was then commenting on her translation of *If This is a Man.*

PRIMO LEVI TRANSLATOR; ON EARLIER TRANSLATIONS

Ruth Feldman, *Primo Levi's poetry: Darkness & Light*, **in Susan Tarrow (ed.),** *Primo Levi, Reason and Light. Essays on Primo Levi*, **a cura di Susan Tarrow, Cornell University, Ithaca (NY) 1990, pp. 142-47**

And also

Ruth Feldman, *Moments of Reprieve*, **in AA.VV.,** *Scritti in memoria di Primo Levi*, **numero monografico de «La Rassegna Mensile di Israel», LVI, 2-3, maggio-dicembre 1989, tr. it. di Guido Lopez, pp. 207-13**

Observations on Primo Levi's poetry by their translator, Ruth Feldman
POETRY

Nevin Özkan, *Primo Levi in Turchia*, **in** *La manutenzione della memoria. Diffusione e conoscenza di Primo Levi nei paesi europei*, **Giovanni Tesio, ed. (Torino: Centro Studi Piemontesi, 2005), pp. 357-68.**
[**"Primo Levi in Turkey," in** *Keeping up the memory: The spread and the recognition of Primo Levi in European countries*]

Özkan is the translator of *If Not Now, When?* into Turkish. She devotes a good deal of time mainly to the reception of Primo Levi in publications by editors, in the Jewish communities, and in the academic world. Page 364 has an interesting comment on the translation of *If This is a Man.* She notes that the book lost an entire chapter, its preface, numerous paragraphs, and several terms, such as *Muselmann.* She also notes that the translation was not from Italian but from Turkish.

ON EARLIER TRANSLATIONS

Raymond Rosenthal, *Translating Primo Levi*, in AA.VV., *Primo Levi as Witness*, Proceedings of a Symposium held at Princeton University (April, 30 - May 2, 1989), a cura di Pietro Frassica, Casalini, Fiesole (Fi) 1990, pp. 76-85

Rosenthal, the American translator of *The Periodic Table* provides both anecdotes and scholarly observations while dwelling on the process of translating Primo Levi's language. He makes special references to the features of rhythm, dialect, the range of specialist languages, and irony.
IRONY ; PIEDMONTESE ; TRANSLATIONS: EARLIER

Stuart Woolf, *Primo Levi e il mondo anglosassone*, in AA.VV., *Primo Levi. Il presente del passato*, a cura di Alberto Cavaglion, Franco Angeli, Milano 1991, pp. 197-202
["Primo Levi and the English-speaking world"]

The first part of this brief contribution is especially useful in that it is focused on the collaboration between Primo Levi and his translator Woolf during their work on the text of *If This is a Man*.
TRANSLATIONS: EARLIER ; PRIMO LEVI TRANSLATOR

Stuart Woolf, *Tradurre Primo Levi*, «Belfagor», LXIV, 6, 30 novembre 2009, pp. 699-705.
[Translating Primo Levi]

Woolf remembers the experience as a translator of *If This Is a Man* and *The Truce* and his relationship with the author.
TRANSLATIONS: EARLIER ; PRIMO LEVI TRANSLATOR