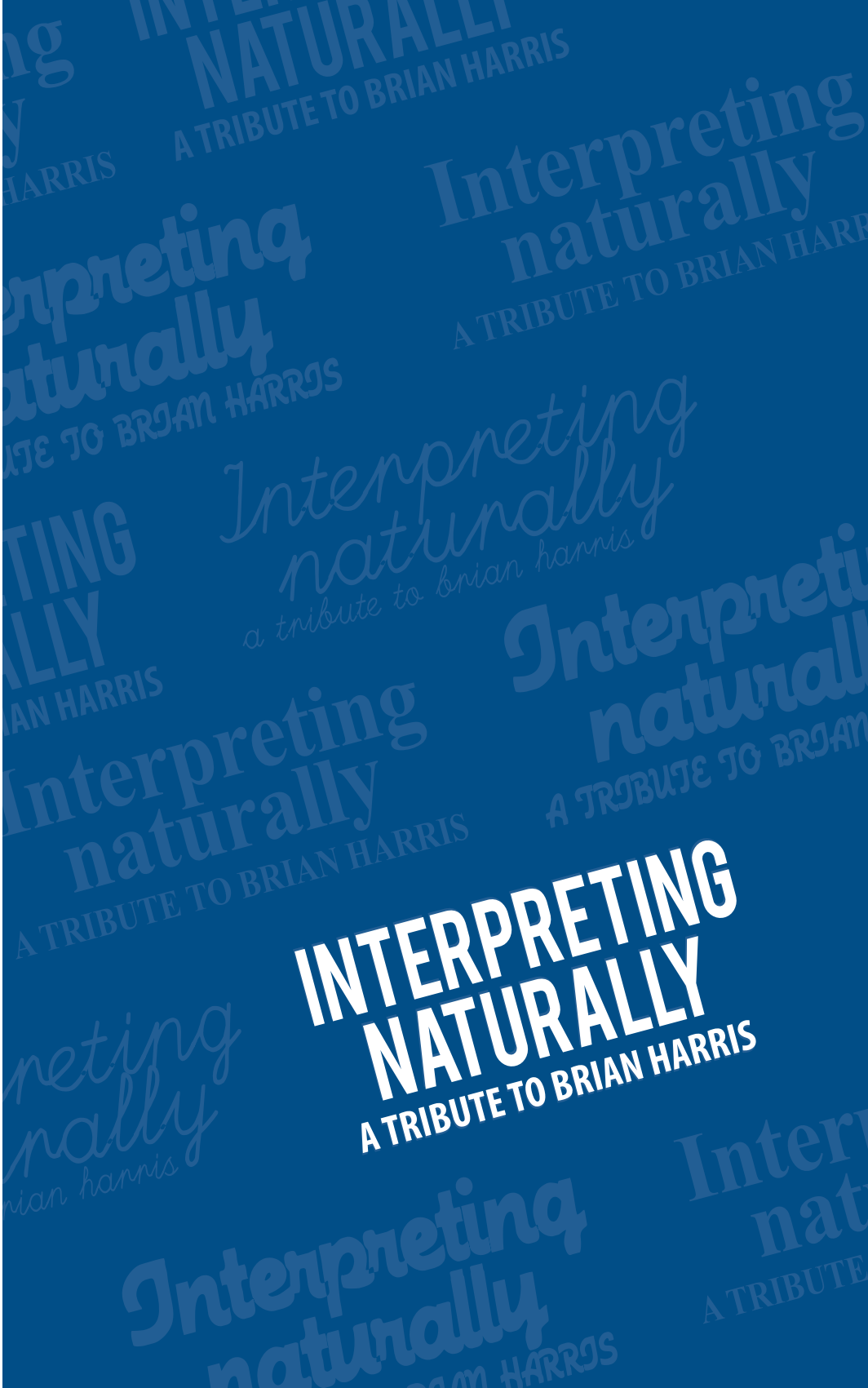

MARÍA JESÚS BLASCO MAYOR & MARÍA AMPARO JIMENEZ IVARS (EDS.)

In this book, we aim to bring together seminal approaches and state-of-the-art research on interpretation as a tribute to Brian Harris' influential legacy to Translatology and Interpreting Studies. Whenever Harris has sat down to reflect and write, he has paved the way to new approaches and promising areas of research. One of his most outstanding contributions is the notion of natural translation, i.e., the idea that all humans share an intuitive capacity to translate which is co-extensive with bilingualism at any age, regardless of language proficiency. This contribution has proved pivotal to translation and interpreting research. In a world where most individuals speak more than one language, and therefore millions of translational acts are performed every second by untrained bilinguals, the concept of natural translation provides the arena for T&I scholars to discuss issues directly related to or stemming from it, such as bilingualism, language brokering, community/public service and diplomatic interpreting, all of them paramount to interpreting research and the future of the profession.

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INTERPRETING NATURALLY

MARÍA JESÚS BLASCO MAYOR &
MARÍA AMPARO JIMENEZ IVARS (EDS.)

INTERPRETING NATURALLY

A TRIBUTE TO BRIAN HARRIS

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Preface

The dimension to these essays, which makes them significant, is that they reflect the career and interests of Brian Harris. Worthwhile professions have a strong, and often quiet, core of individuals who influence the profession as a whole. These are people who educate, in the true sense of the word, their contemporaries and future generations; safeguard standards; initiate positive developments and nurture others. Above all, they establish and maintain the integrity and ethos of the profession by paying informed attention to both the general and the particular with courage, sensitivity, grace and generosity of spirit.

The following short biography of Brian comes from the text of the International Symposium on Interpreting Studies, held in his honour at the Universitat Jaume 1 in November 2009. It illustrates an international and multi-faceted career, which combines not only his work at the cutting edge but also the solid teaching, learning and organisation required to underpin progress. With Brian's support, there are many who have found themselves achieving things they would never have thought themselves capable of - and hugely enjoying the process - which is what education is about.

Ann Corsellis

Cambridge, December 2010

Life of Brian Harris

BRIAN HARRIS was born and brought up in London, where he took degrees in Classical Arabic and in Middle East History at the School of Oriental and African Studies. He also studied at the American University in Cairo, and did postgraduate work on Lebanese history under Bernard Lewis (the leading Western authority on the Ottoman Empire).

He first visited Spain in 1947, and returned to work there in the tourist industry in the 1950s.

In 1965 he emigrated to Canada and taught English as a Second Language at the National Film Board of Canada.

From 1966 to 1972, he worked as a research assistant in the Machine Translation Project at the Université de Montréal under French computer scientist Alain Colmerauer (inventor of the programming language PROLOG and now a *Chevalier de Légion d'Honneur*). He became for many years a member of the International Committee on Computational Linguistics and co-organised its conference in Ottawa in 1976.

Brian Harris in Valencia

In 1972 he moved to the University of Ottawa, where he started a computerised documentation centre for linguistics and did research on information retrieval.

Having come to the conclusion that "the problem with research on machine translation is that we don't know enough about translation," he turned to researching the translations done by children. He coined the term 'translatology' for the scientific study of translation. In 1978, he and an assistant, Bianca Sherwood, published 'Translation as an Innate Skill', which has been described as the seminal article on natural translation (translation by unskilled translators).

In 1974, he began teaching translation theory at the University of Ottawa's School of Translators and Interpreters. From 1975 to 1979 and again from 1992 until his retirement in 1994, he was Director of the School.

In 1980, with Roda Roberts, he started the School's conference interpreter training program, which has trained a generation of young Canadian interpreters and is still the only university conference interpretation programme in Canada.

Soon afterwards, also with Roda Roberts, he started the first Spanish translation degree program in a Canadian university. This eventually led to a very beneficial collaboration with the Universidad de Valladolid and to visits from other Spanish academics.

He taught Arabic to English translation for a year at the University of Jordan in Amman, and at the King Fahd Advanced School of Translation in Tangier. He has also taught and lectured in other countries (Cameroon, France, Singapore, Germany, United States…).

In 1988, he published one of the first articles on translation memories (which he called 'bitexts') and designed software for them.

Parallel to his academic career, he has also had a professional career as an interpreter. He began as a tourist and business interpreter in Barcelona and London in the 1950s and then took up conference interpreting when he moved to Canada. He interpreted at the Olympic Games in Montreal in 1976, for the Canadian Council of Ministers of Education, etc. He is still certified as a translator and conference interpreter under the laws of the province of Ontario.

He served as president of the Association of Translators and Interpreters of that province and as president of the national Canadian Translators and Interpreters Council, and was a member of the Council of the International Federation of Translators. He is still on the Reading Committee of the FIT journal *Babel*.

Having become interested in court and community interpreting, he founded and chaired the Canadian national organizing committee of the first and second editions of the International Conference on Interpreting in the Community (the Critical Link series).

He has known Spain on and off since he first visited it in his student days in 1947 and he has had a nostalgia for it ever since then. So when, despite his having retired, the Universidad de Valladolid invited him in 1999 to be a guest professor, it was an offer he couldn't refuse. He came with his wife, his laptop computer and five cats.

Introduction

We are particularly delighted to edit this volume dedicated to Brian Harris. This volume is a celebration of his life and work, which in his case go inextricably together. First and foremost, Brian is a professional interpreter and translator. But he is many, many more things. We met Brian a few years ago at a conference organized at our home institution, Universitat Jaume I. He kept on rising his hand to ask questions to each speaker, but he did it so elegantly and respectfully that he managed to keep everyone in the audience actively involved, to the delight of the speakers who enjoyed a debate stirred by Brian Harris' illuminating arguments and impeccable logic.

The book is a collection of essays in Interpreting Studies, which present the evolution and state-of-the-art of concepts coined by Prof. Brian Harris. They are the plenary lectures in a recent Symposium held in his honour at Universitat Jaume I. In this book, we aim to bring together seminal approaches and state-of-the-art research on interpretation as a tribute to Harris' influential legacy to Translatology and Interpreting Studies. Whenever Brian Harris has sat down to reflect and write, he has paved the way to new approaches and promising areas of research. One of his most outstanding contributions, the notion of natural translation, i.e., the idea that all humans share an intuitive capacity to translate which is co-extensive with bilingualism at any age, regardless of language proficiency, has proved pivotal to translation and interpreting research. In a world where most individuals speak more than one language, and therefore millions of translational acts are performed every second by untrained bilinguals, the concept of natural translation provides the arena for T&I scholars to discuss issues directly related to or stemming from it, such as bilingualism, language brokering, community/public service and diplomatic interpreting, all of them paramount to interpreting research and the future of the profession.

I Machine Translation

Thus, the opening chapter of this volume could only be authored by Brian Harris himself, who in his paper entitled ***¡Cuéntame cómo pasó!* – A Memoir of Machine Translation in Montreal circa 1970**, he alludes to personal memories of events that took place against the background of the Quiet Revolution in Quebec (c.1960-1970), a particularly eventful historical period, while in the foreground he relives the beginnings of machine translation (MT) research. He also pays tribute to the pioneer researchers who started with him. The constraints on MT led him to reflect on the need to do research on very simple translations; while observing the translating done by the young bilingual children of colleagues in the MT project surprised him by their skill, a natural translation skill. As he puts it, behind the technical description of any period of research and its achievements lies another history, that of the people who were involved and of those who were the leaders; and of the social and cultural milieu that supported them and in which they thought and moved. Harris recaptures memories of the events and people who guided that research. The project was initiated in 1965 by a Canadian Government project aimed at automatically translating parliamentary proceedings. Its partial success in 1971 was achieved thanks to a team composed of mathematicians and linguists.

II Natural Translation

Natural Translation being the core theme in our homage to Brian Harris, the following paper explores the concept and seeks to enrich analysis with contributions stemming from the latest research in cognitive science. In his paper entitled ***Nomen mihi Legio est.* A cognitive approach to Natural Translation**, Ricardo Muñoz Martín discusses the basic features that allow bilingual people to translate, such as multiple perspectivization and paraphrasing, which are sustained by human, possibly innate capabilities such as abstract-

ing and comparing. The author argues that, fostered by the acquisition of literacy, bilinguals develop their metalinguistic awareness beyond usual levels and in such a way that it has an impact on their cognitive development. This, in turn, improves their performance and results when interpreting in tasks such as language brokering and other forms of paraprofessional translating. Muñoz highlights the fact that expert interpreting and translating tends to demand further cognitive adaptations to successfully perform professional tasks which natural translators have not developed. This perspective sheds light on some possibilities to improve the formal training of translators and interpreters.

In a similar cognitive vein, Robert Maier takes the experimental psycholinguistic research path to Natural Translation. In **Towards a psycholinguistic model of Translation processes: Directionality in Natural Translation**, Maier locates translation within the area of *linguistic* processing. After presenting theories of linguistic aspects of translation and current psycholinguistic models of linguistic processing, relevant psycholinguistic findings and methods are outlined in more detail. The author develops an approach to this complex field of research through adaptation and application of an existing experimental paradigm from methods of psycholinguistic research that is employed in a set of experiments that compare certain psycholinguistic parameters between translations into and out of a native language. The experimental results presented in this paper indicate that there is a clear difference in the processing of target productions depending on the native language of a natural translator. This provides a contribution to the discussion of directionality in translation that is based on empirical, non-judgmental evidence.

Claudia Angellelli, on her part, sets her departure point in the question first posed by Harris in 1977: are interpreters born or made? Angelleli reminds us how in that seminal paper Harris called attention to the talents and abilities of young "ambassadors" forcing the discipline to look beyond the surface and shedding a different light on interpreting. In her paper **Expanding the abilities of bilingual youngsters: can translation and interpreting help?**, Angelelli touches upon the issue of youngsters who grow up in minority language communities in many parts of the world

and are frequently called upon by their families to assist them to communicate in many different kinds of settings. In the framework of a study funded by the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented she carried out an ethnographic study which shows that those who act as interpreters with no training whatsoever exhibit high degrees of functionality in the tasks they perform. No wonder that, as she points out, only the most talented bilingual children serve as interpreters for their families. Angelelli proposes a curriculum designed to teach translation and interpreting skills to bilingual high school students. She argues that teaching them translation and interpreting skills in schools may enhance and nurture the linguistic, cognitive and social talents they already possess. The benefits of such programmes would go beyond the individual and would serve society as a whole.

III Professional vs. Non-Professional Interpreting

One of the realms of non-professional interpreting, a topic favoured by Harris' in his latest research, is looked at by Carmen Valero Garcés and Nerea Martínez Gutiérrez in **The Student-Tutor: A natural interpreter in the 21st century**. In their paper the authors set out to describe the new schooling scenario for immigrant children within the educational setting of three different Spanish regions, and in order to do so they carry out a survey to collect empirical data with which to construct a general overview of the interpreting which is performed by immigrant youngsters in the Spanish educational system. Valero Garcés and Martínez Gutiérrez collect data from 70 participating children regarding interpreting practices in their everyday schooling: percentage of children interpreters, features of their interpreting, emotional implication, ethical practices and the influence of their interpreting on their Spanish language proficiency. The results presented here by Valero and Martínez's study describe the future educational scenario for immigrant children in Spain and provide some food for thought for those involved in developing linguistic policies in the Spanish education system.

Ann Corsellis hits the professional arena, a field often visited by Brian Harris during his career, in **Seven EU Projects – a journey towards a regulated language profession**, where she defends that language practitioners are more important than they or their clients may recognise. She suggests that it is time that they took a collective stand to take responsibility for protecting themselves, their standards and their clients. The author proposes that language practitioners, especially interpreters and translators, should become regulated professions similar to medical doctors, lawyers and nurses. Her paper reflects on how her argument has been supported through the findings of seven European projects, which focused on establishing standards in legal interpreting and translation, although the basic principles could apply to any context. The reasons for such an approach are considered, together with a possible model for implementation to produce national, and possibly international, professional structures for factors as standards, assessment and accreditation, registration with codes of conduct and good practice and systems for liaison with governments, other professions and individual language practitioners.

Interpreting in the Cold War: military, political and diplomatic settings, by Mariela Fernández, dwells into the history of interpreting in an untapped period, the two first decades of the Cold War. This paper reveals to which extent interpreting mattered in maintaining international dialogue in a bipolar world order. Both untrained and professional interpreting are presented. In the Korean Armistice negotiations most interpreters learned the skills 'on the job', by trial and error, showing exquisite natural translation skills. On the other hand, the paper also focuses on high level diplomatic interpreting between the top American and Soviet leaders of the time. Fernández discloses numerous instances of situations where both bilingual military and professional interpreters alike found themselves trapped by their mediator role as "true interpreters" and the risk of losing face as full participants in face-to-face hostile communicative events. The interpreter's power and responsibility is brought to the fore.

IV Norms in Interpreting

The enriching academic debate so much revered by Brian Harris is once again stirred by Miriam Shlesinger, who revisits Brian Harris' 'true interpreter' norm, which "requires that people who speak on behalf of others, interpreters among them, *re-express the original speakers' ideas* and *the manner of expressing them* as accurately as possible and without significant omissions, and not mix them up with their own ideas and expressions", as the *leitmotif* for her paper entitled **The 'True interpreter' revisited: On(im)partiality and (in) consistency in court interpreting**. She argues that even the most honest and true interpreters may risk their "own ideas" imposing themselves on the ideas of the original speakers even thought they genuinely have a sincere determination to adhere to the ethical demands of their profession. Shlesinger's contribution is based on her own experience as a consecutive interpreter in a series of court depositions. She reviews the interpreters' handling of the ideologically charged terminology used in the context of the fundamental notion of impartiality and in relation to the vocabulary of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The paper shows how hard impartiality becomes when interpreters are forced to choose between two non-neutral alternatives. The author suggests the need of pre-sessions in mediated legal proceedings to provide interpreters with background information relevant to the case, to establish the "ground rules" of procedure, to share interpreters' concerns and finally to elicit the attorneys' views on the options available especially when controversial terminology is involved.

V Interpreting Taxonomies

Another milestone in Brian Harris' academic pursuits has been Interpreting Taxonomies, and in **NT and CI in IS: Taxonomies and Tensions in Interpreting Studies,** Franz Pöchhacker pays homage to Harris' pioneering groundwork by reviewing the for-

mer's taxonomic survey of interpreting, which inspired terminological groundworks from 1982 and 1994, when the question of diversity and plurality in interpreting practice and research was raised. He presents a solid and successful attempt to strengthen the conceptual foundations of Interpreting Studies. Two taxonomies are proposed: a taxonomy of interpreting modes and a revealing multidimensional scheme with numerous top-level dividing lines rather than a branching taxonomic tree. In the latter, interpreting is represented in seven dimensions comprising medium, setting, mode, languages, discourse, participants and interpreter, and each dimension represents a continuum. This multidimensional scheme serves as a starting point to identify tensions in the relationship between community interpreting and natural translation, on the one hand, and for the status of community interpreting as a domain within the discipline of interpreting studies on the other.

We sincerely believe the selected papers present in this volume honourably represent Prof. Harris' major interests during his career, and certainly do him justice. Prof. Harris himself narrates how his research in machine translation led to the natural translation concept; Ricardo Muñoz Martín further develops and updates the concept of natural translation from a cognitive perspective, and Robert Maier uses psycholinguistic research methods in a study on natural translators. Claudia Angelelli deals on the subject of language brokering in bilingual children, and so do Carmen Valero Garcés and Nerea Martínez Gutiérrez when describing a tutoring project for immigrant children in Spanish schools. Mariela Fernández Sánchez talks about professional/non-professional diplomatic interpreting during a momentous time in history; Miriam Shlesinger reignites the norms in interpreting debate she and Harris held two decades ago, and Ann Corsellis puts forward the advances in the regulation of public service interpreting in Europe, while Franz Pöchhacker revises the field of Interpreting Studies and updates Harris' taxonomies.

Brian turned eighty last year. He has a long, rich, and prolific personal, professional and academic life behind him. His mind is alert and witty; his approach is commonsense; and his foresight always accurately describing and constructing the future. His work is seminal work, so necessary to anyone who wishes to walk through

the research lane in such young discipline as Interpreting Studies. He is and should continue to be a role model to the interpreting and translation research community. His deeds and contributions to the field will be portrayed in the following pages, his interests shown and the new avenues for research based on his work introduced; so suffice it to say here that this is a collective homage from a group of T&I researchers who got together in November 2009 to celebrate Brian's eightieth birthday, and whose memories of the time spent together will linger in their minds forever.

¡A tu salud, maestro!

María Jesús Blasco Mayor
Amparo Jiménez Ivars
Editors
Universitat Jaume I
Castellón, December 2010

I

Machine Translation

Brian Harris, *Universidad de Valladolid*

¡Cuéntame cómo pasó! – a memoir of machine translation in Montreal circa 1970[1]

Introduction

Behind the technical description of any period of research and its achievements lies another history, that of the people who were involved and of those who were the leaders; and of the social and cultural milieu that supported them and in which they thought and moved.

When you have reached, to use a euphemism, an 'advanced age', you realise that you are the privileged repository of information of that second kind which will disappear with you if you do not set it down. Hence I have decided to relate here my own experiences as a junior member of a research team in an exciting period of research on machine translation (MT). All of it took place in the heady times through which the city of Montreal, the Province of Quebec and the country of Canada lived and rejoiced in the 1970s.[2] The technical description is already adequately treated in works like Hutchins (1986) and Colmerauer (1971).

This was before I switched my attention to the practice and study of human translation and interpretation in the 1970s. However, there was a link; and it was well expressed in a saying by Martin Kay, who was and still is a prominent figure in computational linguistics: "The trouble with research on machine translation is that we don't know enough about translation."

1 *Cuéntame cómo pasó* (Tell me what it was like) is the title of a very popular, long-running Spanish TV series in which an aging narrator recalls his early years in the Spain of the 1960s and 1970s.

2 The high point was the exciting Montreal Expo of 1967 on natural and artificial islands in the St Lawrence River. It still holds the record for the greatest number of visitors of any Expo: 50 million.

To start at the beginning, I arrived from England in December 1965. My decision to head for Montreal had been taken when an immigration officer at the Canadian High Commission in London looked through my papers and remarked, "So you know French. You should go to Quebec. You will have an advantage there." He was right. It was a decision I never had cause to regret. But little did I know then how quickly and strongly the advantage would make itself felt.

By the following year I was teaching English to adult French Canadians. One day the staff of the school where I was teaching received a visit from a professor of applied linguistics at the Université de Montréal (UM), which at that time was the sole French-speaking university in the city. His name was Guy Rondeau. He talked linguistics to them. Most of them were not interested or were suspicious of it, but it so happened that I had done a little linguistics while studying Arabic at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, where the professor of linguistics at that time was none other than Raymond Firth.[3] So I was able to have a discussion with Rondeau.[4]

A few days later, to my surprise, I received a call to go and see him at the university. He told me that he had just launched an MT research project and needed people who had some understanding of structural linguistics to work on the English grammar component. He forthwith offered me a job as an assistant and assigned me an office. I had been inducted into the *confrérie* of computational linguists.

Guy Rondeau and *La Révolution Tranquille*

Rondeau was a product of the period known in the history of Quebec as *La Révolution Tranquille* (The Quiet Revolution), which lasted throughout the 1960s.[5] It was a profound social revolution in the

3 In fact I did not follow courses with Firth but with his student, T. F. Mitchell, who later became professor of Arabic at Leeds.

4 Physically Rondeau was small. Because of an illness he suffered from – perhaps multiple sclerosis – his smallness was emphasised by his hunched appearance and stiffness in all his movements. It also made him look much older than his real age. I was surprised to learn later that he was actually younger than me.

5 Curiously enough, the French term seems to have started out as the translation of