The monograph contains nineteen chapters on motion and emotion as aspects of physical and cultural embodiment in language. Seventeen papers by Polish scholars and two by contributors from Spain and Italy cover the space of 281 pages, which makes the volume a comprehensive representation of the subject matter.

The introduction by the editors provides brief descriptions of the individual papers and the analytic approaches employed by their authors. Unfortunately, the volume has not been divided into sections, for example second language teaching/acquisition, translation strategies, specialist languages, visual communication, etc. Their presence would make it even more accessible to the potential reader.

The adopted view of embodiment is broad. The analyses go far beyond the cognitive linguistic accounts of image schematic structures (Johnson 1987), theories of conflation and emergence of primary metaphors (Johnson 1997; Grady 1997), and the neural theory of metaphor (Narayanan 1997). At the same time, most papers deal with emotions as manifestations of embodied experience.

Some remarks on individual papers seem to be apposite. Thus, the first two texts — by Bożena Rozwadowska / Ewa Willim and Marcin Kuczok —
discuss linguistic expressions of emotions from the contrastive but complementary standpoints of grammar and the lexicon. Whereas the former adopts a partly formal perspective, the latter is set within the framework of cognitive linguistic analysis of emotions developed in numerous studies by Kövecses (1986, 2000, 2005). Marcin Kuczok’s paper certainly contributes to the overall study of emotions in cognitive linguistics, but it pays too little attention to the metonymic motivation for some emotion-related concepts.

The next five chapters deal with the impact of emotions on the process of foreign language learning. The first two of them again represent contrastive views because they deal with anxiety and self-confidence — the two poles on the scale of emotions that strongly affect the process of learning and its effects. The chapter by Elżbieta Krawczyk-Neifar analyses the whole spectrum of positive and negative emotions in the context of English-Chinese translation classes. The adopted method of questionnaire, as well as presentation of the results in the form of tables, make the argument lucid. The chapter by Anna Klimas, in turn, is less directly related to the topic of the volume because it focuses on motivational strategies. Although they do involve some emotion-related factors, such strategies are first and foremost a part of teacher’s competence.

The next six chapters discuss various issues related to translation and persuasion. Mariusz Kamiński’s contribution focuses on the relations between the use of reference tools such as dictionaries and language corpora, the quality of legal translation, and self-confidence of the translator. Though the outcomes of the analysis are largely foreseeable, the paper provides a convincing empirical confirmation of them. The chapter by Katarzyna Filipowska investigates ways of rendering emotions in Stanisław Barańczak’s translations of Philip Larkin’s poetry. The cognitive linguistic perspective rooted in Langacker’s (1987) framework allows the author to pair alternate image construals with various translation strategies, for example omission. The discussion thus reflects one of the major contributions of Cognitive Poetics to the analyses of literary texts (Stockwell 2003). The chapter by Olga Łabendowicz correctly describes the status of audio-visual translation/AVT methods in Poland, but — again — is only indirectly related to the leading theme of the volume. The question whether source or target culture should be represented in translation goes beyond the scope of emotion analysis. Also the paper by Magda Żelazowska and Magdalena Zabielska on translation in Polish-Russian patient-doctor communication does not seem to fit the volume well. Although it mentions empathy as a vital element of such communication, the study focuses mostly on translation problems. The papers by Anna Kuzio and Jessica Mariani remain out of the scope of the volume still more obviously — both apply elements of discourse analysis to the description of politics-related texts.
The remaining five chapters investigate the role of emotions in the understanding of proverbs, popular science headlines, patients’ and doctors’ narratives, internet communication, and comics. The paper by Michał Szawerna contains some discussion of multi-modal metaphors, which “rounds off” the cognitive linguistic perspective present in several other contributions to the volume.

The placement of most papers makes the overall organization of the volume clear and increases the force of their argument. The contrast between grammatical and lexical approaches to emotion in the chapters by Rozwadowska/William and Kuczok is, again, a good example of the above-mentioned effect. The same is true about the chapters by Katarzyna Rokoszewska and Małgorzata Serafin, which deal with opposite emotions in similar contexts. The paper by Anna Kuzio is an exception. Even though it is sometimes difficult to draw clear boundaries between the areas of research, it certainly should not have been placed among the translation-related contributions.

The book has been carefully edited. Some minor spelling errors present in the text, for example in the word wit instead of with on page 78 and elsewhere, do not lower its overall quality.

Finally, most papers in the volume go beyond strictly theoretical approaches and employ various empirical methods in their analyses, for example questionnaires or language corpora. This “linguistics in action” attitude, together with a broad range of issues covered, makes the volume a comprehensive, readable, and useful source of information on the topic. In spite of the above-mentioned shortcomings, it can certainly be of use in research.

References


