

# 1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Translation and Knowledge Transfer (TRAK): New Trends in the Theory and Practice of Translation and Interpreting

A review of all the talks

Aida Gregorio Rodríguez  
University of Córdoba

Received: 30/04/2020  
Accepted: 22/05/2020

## *Key Words*

Translation, interpreting, transfer, language, communication.



On the 17th and 18th of October 2019, the 1st International Symposium on Translation and Knowledge Transfer took place at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Córdoba and was organised by the research group Oriens HUM 940 and the Academic Commission of the Master in Specialised Translation, both from the University of Córdoba. It consisted of two days full of talks on the topic of new trends in the theory and practice of translation and interpreting. The speakers were professionals and/or professors specialised in several translation fields.

## *Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>*

The symposium began with the opening act carried out by the dean of the faculty, Ricardo Córdoba de la Llave; Mar Ogea and Carmen Expósito, codirectors of the Symposium and professors of the Department of Translation and Interpreting from the University of Córdoba. They welcomed the attendees and speakers and thanked all the people that collaborated or were part of the organization of that meeting.

*Session 1: Turns, shifts and new forms of knowledge transfer*

The opening presentation was a plenary session performed by Christiane Nord, a renowned translation scholar that has worked in a myriad of universities around the world. She discussed the concepts of meaning, sense, and function, using examples to illustrate the advantages of a skopos-oriented approach for the theory, the teaching, and the practice of translation. Functionalist translation theory (Skopostheorie) postulates that meaning and sense are constructed by the receiver in the act of reception. Her presentation was followed by a number of papers by international authors who will be presented below.

Christine Lombez is a professor of comparative literature from the University of Nantes whose research lines are the history of translation, wartime translation and poetic translation. She gave a presentation describing the work done by TSOcc program, its methodology and how it observed new avenues for reading Francophone literary history. Understanding translation in wartime can teach us more about literary history of the countries concerned.

Gisele Dionísio da Silva, proof-reader, and freelance translator from the University of Lisbon, gave a talk about how translation is viewed and exercised in an institutional scenario as the university. She maintains that Brazilian scholarly community has been shaped by specialised knowledge produced in other languages and cultures. Gisele aimed to reflect on the current role of translation within academia in a period when English is the global lingua franca.

The next conference was presented by a translator and teacher of translation, Aleksandra Ozarowska, from the University of Warsaw. She talked about how opera surtitles can be based just on the libretto (isosemiotic) or can consider other elements of the production as the stage design or the acting (diasemiotic). She analysed those surtitles provided by the most important opera houses and checked which was the role of surtitles, preserving the coherence or lending new significance.

Adriana Şerban is a lecturer in translation specialized on film and literary translation from the University Paul-Valéry Montpellier. She takes Kaija Saariaho's opera, *L'Amour de loin*, and the DVD subtitled version as a case of study to focus on the transmission of literary knowledge through opera and its translation. With this study, she shows how opera and its translated

performances contribute to bringing literary heritage to contemporary spectators.

To finish this session, Lucía Ruiz Rosendo, a professional conference interpreter and a teacher of interpreting from the University of Geneva, shared the results of a study that explores different experiences of interpreters working in conflict zones. Her research is about how emotions influence interpreter's performance, particularly in extreme conditions. She concluded by establishing that the affective shapes the interpreter's positionality.

### *Session 2: Interculturality and transculturality*

Session 2 was started by Véronique Bohn, a lecturer from the University of Geneva who defended a thesis in translatology on the production of political texts by political parties. In multilingual contexts, traditional terms and conceptual tools given by translatology only partially end themselves to the analysis of these situations, so she proposed the concept of “interlinguistic coordination”, its definition and its various facets.

The following paper was presented by Manar Rouchdy, a professor, translator and interpreter from the University Ain Chams. Her study was inspired by her own translation of Alan Corbin's masterpiece “Le Miasme et la Jonquille”. The aim was not to alter any detail of France's cultural identity.

In this plenary session, we had the pleasure of attending the presentation given by Sylvie Monjean-Decaudin, professor and lecturer from the University of Sorbonne with a PhD in French Law and a PhD in Spanish Law. She is specialized in “juritraductology” an interdisciplinary study combining the theory of law and the theory of translation. In her lecture, she applied this interdisciplinary study to the translation of the legal term “capitalidad” into French.

The plenary session was followed by a paper presented by Míriam Seghiri and Andrés Jiménez, both prominent lecturers from the University of Málaga whose lines of research include specialised translation and ICT tools. They have developed a research concerning a selection of fragments from the legal thriller *The Appeal* and its translation to Spanish in order to use it for introducing the teaching of legal translation in the classroom. They have used different ICT tools to analyse and tag their corpus.

Then, Sabir Kadel, a jurist working in the Law Reform Commission of Mauritius and a lecturer and consultant in law, talked about the translation of legal terms in Seychelles and Mauritius from French into English due to their independence. With many examples, he wanted to demonstrate that the culture of the target country is enriched with this process and that using an approximate translation could be dangerous.

Nurten ÖzÇelik and Davut Divarcioğlu, from Gazi University, made a virtual presentation about the use of translation in foreign language acquisition. Their study aimed to know if translation plays a positive role among students learning a foreign language, if translation is a learning strategy they tend to use, if their views about translation have an effect on their trends to use it, etc. These scholars gave suggestions to redesign the translation lessons to serve the viewpoints and strategies.

#### *Friday 18<sup>th</sup>*

While Thursday's sessions were more theoretically oriented, Friday's sessions were mainly devoted to the practice and the professional environment.

#### *Session 3: New trends and the future of the translation and interpreting*

A lecturer and teacher specialized in audiovisual translation from the University of Valencia, Juan José Martínez Sierra, showed an approach to the audio description of humour in his presentation as a plenary session. He outlined its distinguishing features and requirements. The aim of his talk was exploring one of the key aspects of media entertainment in the field of audio description.

The next lecture was presented by Iris Guske, a translation and interpreting scholar with a high specialization in applied linguistics from the Kempten School of Translation & Interpreting Studies. The aim of her paper was to show how audio description could be used to enrich foreign-language and translation and interpreting classes. This could enhance listening, writing, speaking, and translating skills of students.

Paulina Pietrzak, a freelance translator and interpreter from the University of Lodz whose research interests include translator education and translator competence development, gave a presentation about various types of anxiety

that the contemporary freelance translator can experience in relation to translation technology as CAT tools. Her presentation is based on the results of a study into current trends in the use of these tools in the freelance translation market. The aim of this study is discussing strategies worth implementing in the translation classroom.

Heidi Verplaetse is an English lecturer in the domains of translation and writing from the Leuven KU who performed a presentation about resources and challenges that are relevant for translators and other language professional working with medical texts. She discussed the most important specialized resources from the domain of medicine. Also, she discussed some of the challenges and strategies concerning the terminological popularization when changing from specialized to lay target groups.

Perrine Schumacher is a translator and teacher assistant from the University of Liège and the University of Geneva, specialized in MT post-editing. In her presentation, she explained her study on post-editing and its consequences in academic contexts.

A teacher of specialized translation and lecturer from Rennes University, Franck Barbin, presented his study (made in partnership with more scholars and groups) to devise a method for researchers combining neural machine translation and human post-editing to improve the quality of academic articles. The aim of this study is to develop a methodology of translation for different journals.

Leticia Moreno-Pérez is a lecturer and professional translator from the University of Valladolid whose research focuses on the translation of specialized language from a functional approach. The aim of her preliminary study is to learn how approaches to translation of professionals and non-professionals differ in order to understand the effects that choosing one or another may have. Two groups of students and their translations have been used in this study.

#### *Session 4: Multimodality and multidisciplinary*

María Cantarero is a translator from the University of Salamanca working in a research focused on symbolic violence and translation. She showed how the new ways of communicating lead to new hybrid genres and discourses used by the advertising market. To develop her presentation, she analyzed different codes and advertising discourses.

Boris Vázquez-Calvo, from the University of Santiago de Compostela, gave a talk for the last plenary session of the symposium. He holds a PhD in Translation and Language Sciences and studies fan translation and how it can help fans learn languages. In his presentation, he explained what fan translation is and gives some practical examples to illustrate the communicative context and the purpose of the translation. The aim of his study is to try ameliorating the social portrayal of fans and assess the role of professional translators and their required skills.

Jean-Louis Vaxelaire is a linguist and professor from the University of Namur whose research focuses on semantics, translation, and epistemology. His lecture was about machine translation, the methods, the means, and its repercussions on translators' future.

#### *Closing session*

To close the symposium down, the directors Mar Ogea and Carmen Expósito gave the opportunity to debate. Then, they proceeded to mention the results and conclusions of all these academic conferences. Finally, they thanked all the participants for coming and participating in the first edition of this international symposium. As a collaborator and attendee, I must say that it was a really enlightening and instructive experience in order to become a better student and translator. I was really impressed with the perspectives presented by the lecturers and they inspired me to follow their steps in many ways.