FROM THE EDITOR

INTRODUCTION
SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE *GRAY* ZONE: A COMPREHENSIVE VIEW ON TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING

Carmen Valero-Garcés
University of Alcalá, Spain
carmen.valero@uah.es

*T*he fourth volume of the *FITISPos International Journal* focuses on reviewing and analyzing the status of Translation and Interpreting in legal settings within the realm of Public Service Interpreting and Translation (PSIT). The main goal is to shed light on unfamiliar matters surrounding this field. *Shedding Light on the Gray Zone: A Comprehensive View on Public Service Interpreting and Translation* draws attention to the controversial issues surrounding the relations between PSIT and legal translation not only within the courts, but also in other public sectors. These include immigration services, family mediation services, and refugee offices. Other topics are also covered, including the status of legal translators and interpreters and how they are professionalized, trained, and accredited.

All of the content covered in this fourth volume revolves around two main ideas: 1) the idea of the so-called 'gray zone' in PSIT; and 2) the idea of a comprehensive view on PSIT and legal translation and interpreting (LTI) training.

The first point covered is the term 'gray zone' in itself, which is a concept that encompasses various areas. In their shocking article "The Code and the Culture: Sign Language Interpreting—In Search of the New Breed's Ethics," authors Granville Tate and Graham H. Turner (2002) claim that "grey goes with the territory." In a way, they imply that it would be better for professionals to learn how to deal with this gray zone and accept it as such. Comments such as these lead to much debate regarding the positive and negative aspects surrounding Public Service Interpreting (PSI). They also give reason to truly explore and research how it works, despite the numerous obstacles and setbacks Public Service Interpreting faces in establishing itself as a profession. This research will help in identifying the unique specializations and methods that characterize this field.

In 2013, Marjory Bancroft et al. focused on the use of legal interpreting in settings that go beyond courthouses in the article "Interpreting in the Gray Zone: Where Community and Legal Interpreting Intersect." The authors explored a "gray zone" in which certain rules and moral codes conflicted, leading to confusion among legal interpreters as well as interpreters working in other public service settings (e.g., police stations, social services, hospitals, etc.). The main conclusion drawn was that, regardless of whether or not legal interpreting is considered a freelance profession or a constituent of PSIT, training interpreters to conduct themselves professionally is of the utmost importance. In this manner, the voice of an interpreter can become a voice for justice.

In a recent article published in 2017 regarding the roles of interpreters in military conflicts, author Cáceres (2017) mentions a new perspective that has been adopted by researchers like Inghilleri (2010) and Baker (2010) when analyzing elements that affect an interpreter's ability to work in violent situations in which there is a great risk of physical and emotional harm. This is the so-called 'gray zone', which Wolf (2013: 4-5) defines as an area in which an uncooperative prisoner could face immediate execution, and the boundaries between good and evil are blurred. The article reveals other extreme situations in which interpreters face their own system of values and confront moral dilemmas to such an extent that they question their own identity as members forming part of a social realm in which they were brought up.

The second point regarding the idea of a comprehensive view on Translation and Interpreting stems from the controversy that is generated among certain groups surrounding the associations (or lack thereof) between PSIT and LTI. If using basic Human Rights as a starting point, finding links between PSIT and LTI is necessary; determining their relationship and corresponding limitations is another story. LTI and PSIT are two fields of study and practice that have similarities as well as differences and are therefore not mutually exclusive. An example of this includes the ISO International Standard 13611 regarding the guidelines and criteria for community interpreting, which was established in 2014. Although a crucial step in professionalizing the field, many doors were still left open. The opinions of various professionals, researchers, and trainers who are well-known within the field of PSIT demonstrate an ongoing debate attempting to reinforce a relationship between both fields.

Disregarding translation, authors Millán and Bartrina (2013: vii) believe that legal interpreting is not related to public service interpreting. Nonetheless, other authors claim that "legal interpreting" is a broader term than "court interpreting." They consider PSI to be its own specialization and not just a branch of legal interpreting. This holds true in countries such as Canada, which was one of the first to develop PSIT as a profession. Being from Canada, Sasso and Malli (2014: 43) identify some points that unquestionably link court interpreting to public service interpreting, which are summarized as follows:

a) Professionals who render their services in courts also tend to work in Public Services and healthcare settings.
b) Many interpreters working in the public sector are bilingual employees who, in addition to fulfilling their professional duties, must also act as interpreters, despite not being listed as professional interpreters.
c) Bilinguals frequently act as interpreters due to a lack of professional interpreters specializing in less widely-spoken languages.
d) A need for interpreting services dealing with legal issues can arise in any field of PSIT.

In her book *Community Interpreting*, author Hale (2007: 64-91) devotes an entire chapter to describing the legal framework in which interpreters work. Special focus is given to the traits they share and the need for mutual understanding and collaboration among legal interpreters and other legal professionals in order to achieve optimal results.

When making reference to Community Interpreting in a legal context, Hale states the following:

This specialized branch of community interpreting is frequently referred to as "legal interpreting," which comprises an array of legal services such as police interviews and interrogations, lawyer-client meetings, court hearings, proceedings, and trials (Hale, 2007: 65).

The following articles contained in this volume provide more information regarding the gray zone and the idea of a comprehensive view:

- "El papel del intérprete judicial desde la perspectiva de los juristas: el caso de los abogados del turno de oficio de la provincia de Cuenca" (The Role of a Legal Interpreter through the Eyes of a Lawyer: A Case Focusing on Public Defenders in the Province of Cuenca) by Carretero García. This case study focuses on the right that people who do not speak Spanish have to a certified interpreter in order to receive high-quality services in court. The results obtained are based on the responses provided by a group of public defenders and their overall levels of awareness regarding the roles of interpreters and the complexities surrounding their duties.
- "La profesión de traductor jurídico en España: titulación y conocimientos exigidos para su ejercicio a raíz de la creación del título universitario de licenciado en traducción e interpretación en 1991" (Legal Interpreting as a Profession in Spain: The Required Qualifications and Knowledge needed for this Profession provided by the Creation of a University Degree Program in Translation and Interpreting in 1991) by De las Heras. This study focuses on legal interpreting as a profession in Spain in order to identify the qualifications and abilities that are required to work professionally as a legal translator. It concludes that there is a current lack of coherence and organization regarding this profession, leading to disarray.
- "El proceso de modernización del lenguaje jurídico en el Reino Unido, Estados Unidos y España y su reflejo en el lenguaje utilizado por los jueces" (The Process of the Modernization of Legal Language in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Spain and its influence on the Language used by Judges) by Relinque Barranca. As the title suggests, this study analyzes the various movements and actions that have taken place in an attempt to simplify legal language. It goes on to reveal that English-speaking countries have been more progressive in this aspect, which is a trend that is also evident in the drafting of EU documents. Contrariwise, little progress has been made in Spain, despite government efforts.
- "Interferencias culturales en los procesos de Traducción e Interpretación en los Servicios Públicos: el caso de los procesos de interpretación de la lengua árabe en los registros civiles" (Cultural Interference in Public Service Translation and Interpreting: A Case Focusing on Arabic Intepreting in Civil Registry Offices) by Saleh Hussein. This article analyzes an interpreter's role and influence in cases dealing with civil marriages between Spanish citizens and those of Arab-Muslim descent. Special focus is given to the procedures that precede the actual marriage, including the spousal interviews conducted by a judge.
- "Análisis de sistemas de organización de conocimiento para futuros traductores e intérpretes del ámbito jurídico (español-rumano-inglés)" (Analysis of Knowledge Organization Tools for Future Legal Translators and Interpreters (Spanish-Romanian-English)) by Vitalaru. This article provides a classification of the different types of terminology and knowledge organization tools that are useful for future legal translators and interpreters, and analyzes three types of the tools mentioned: thesauruses, concept maps and ontologies.

The section "Entrevistas" (Interviews) includes a report by Liese Katschinka, who acts on behalf of the Executive Committee of the European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association (EULITA). In it, Katschinka compares and contrasts the similarities and differences that are evident between PSIT and LTI. She comes to the conclusion that there is a need for more comprehensive and specialized training in both of these fields in order to satisfy new labor demands and societal challenges, which consequently call for cooperation among all parties involved.

The "Sección de Reseñas" (Book Review Section) includes comments on a number of recent books on diverse subjects (training, ethics, gender violence) and different fields (medical, legal, administrative, educational) by the editors Uría Fernández, Rösner, Johnson and Torrent (2012); Borja and Del Pozo (2014); Eurrutia Cavero (2016); Valero-Garcés and Tipton (2017), Valero-Garcés et al. (eds.) (2017) and the authors Creeze and Ng (2017).

The "Rincón del Investigador" (Research Corner) includes various doctoral dissertations that have recently been presented regarding numerous topics, confirming that progress is indeed being made, although a lot still needs to be done due to the unclear boundaries still surrounding PSIT. The titles of the following recommended publications speak for themselves:

- *Pautas para la mejora de la comunicación bilingüe y bicultural en salud mental: terminología especializada y elementos pragmáticos* (*Guidelines for Improving Bilingual and Bicultural Communication when dealing with Mental Health: Specialized Terminology and Pragmatic Elements)* by Bruno Echauri (2016).
- *Sobre la traducción jurídica y judicial. Estudio de la variación aplicada a la terminología del Derecho Penal y Procesal español (Legal and Sworn Translation. A Study on the Terminological Variation Applied to Spanish Criminal and Procedural Law* by Khatima El Krirh (2016).
- *El estatus del intérprete profesional: una investigación sociológica sobre la profesión de la interpretación (The Interpreter's Professional Status: A Sociological Study on Interpreting as a Profession)* by Paola Gentile (2016).
- *Traducción judicial en España y Marruecos. Propuesta de elaboración de un diccionario jurídico en materia penal árabe-francés-español (Legal Translation in Spain and Morocco. A Proposal for the Development of a Legal Dictionary on Arab-French-Spanish Criminal Law)* by Sarah Khay (2016).
- *La prensa y la Traducción e Interpretación en los Servicios Públicos (Press and Public Service Interpreting and Translation)* by Nour El Islam Sidi Bah (2015).
- *Interpretación de guerra: un estudio de caso sobre EUFOR BiH Althea (Interpreting at War: A Case Study on EUFOR BiH Althea* by María Clementina Persaud (2016).

Two research and development projects are also included. One focuses on analyzing communication in correctional facilities, while the other looks into integrating new ICT-based tools in corpuses used for specialized translation.

Innovative tools related to PSIT are mentioned as well. These include *Refugee Speaker* and a handful of applications like *Nurse Speaker Web App, Universal Women Speaker Web App,* and *Universal Women Speaker for iPad,* which are all developed by Universal Doctor Speaker. Lastly, a list of references of some of the many events that are organized regarding PSIT has been included. These events help promote the continued cooperative work and efforts that are demanded in modern times.

The "Trabajos de Investigación" (Research Papers) section of this fourth volume is also worth mentioning due to the great quality and diversity of contributions. These contributions help throwing more light on that gray area that seems to involve PSIT and support to that integral perspective that we mentioned at the beginning. This section includes the working papers by Arcos Álvarez, who pays attention to changes in society and focuses on the legal field in her paper "Adaptación a la nueva realidad sociocultural en España: propuestas para la mejora de la asistencia en traducción e interpretación jurídica en los Servicios Públicos." / "Adapting to the New Spanish Social-Cultural Context: Improving Proposals for Legal Translation & Interpreting Assistance in Public Services." Perez Estevan writes about a topic of full relevance nowadays in "Interpretación en contextos de asilo y refugio: una lucha hacia el bienestar."/ "Interpreting in the Field of Asylum and Refugee: A Fight towards the Well-Being". Rodríguez Galán, in her paper "Terms and Judicial Formulae: Building a Spanish-French Glossary. Developing and Process", shows the complexity of judicial translation to develop specific resources for judicial PSIT. And finally, Vargas Lobé writes about the international criminal court with the suggestive title of "La corte penal internacional: traducción, interpretación y terminología propia." / "International Criminal Court: Translation, Interpreting and Specific Terminology".

References

Baker, M. 2010. "Interpreters and Translators in the War Zone". *The Translator, Special Issue on Translating Violent Conflict*, 16 (2): 197–222.

Bancroft, M., Bendana, L., Bruggeman, J. and Feuerle, L. 2013. "Interpreting in the Gray Zone Where Community and Legal Interpreting Intersect". *Translation & Interpreting*, 5 (1): 94-112.

Cáceres, I. 2017 "Interpreters in History: A Reflection on the Question of Loyalty". Valero-Garcés, C. and Tipton, R. (eds.) *Ideology, Ethics and Policy Development in Public Service Interpreting and Translation*.

Hale, S. B. 2007. *Community Interpreting*. Hampshire: Palgrave MacMillan. Translation into Spanish Valero Garcés, C. and Cobas, R. 2010. *La interpretación comunitaria: La interpretación en los sectores jurídico, sanitario y social*. Granada: Comares.

Inghilleri, M. 2010. "You Don't Make War Without Knowing Why". *The Translator, Special Issue on Translating Violent Conflict*, 16 (2): 175-196.

Millán, C. y Bartrina, F. 2013. *The Routledge Handbook of Translation Studies*. London, New York: Routledge.

Sasso, A., Malli, K. 2014. "Trying to Fit a Square Peg in a Round Hole". *FITISPos International Journal*, 1 (1): 42-50.

Tate, G. and Turner, G. H. 1997. 2002. "The Code and the Culture: Sign Language Interpreting – in Search of the New Breed's Ethics". Pöchhacker, F. and Shlesinger, M. (eds.) *The Interpreting Studies Reader*. London: Routledge: 372 – 383.

Wolf, M. 2013. "German Speakers, Step Forward! Surviving Through Interpreting in Nazi Concentration Camps". *Translation and Interpreting Studies*, 8 (1). Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing: 1-22.