



Investigación

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**MARÍA FERNÁNDEZ DE CASADEVANTE
MAYORDOMO Y ELVIRA IZQUIERDO
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Reviewed by Darío Mantrana Gallego

Universidad de Alcalá, España

d.mantrana@edu.uah.es

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The covid-19 pandemic has changed our day-to-day life as we know it. Much has been learnt about the use of new tools and programs and even established working methods have been adapted to embrace this new scenario. The Translation and Interpreting field has also been marred in some way or other by the aforementioned changes. This book contains studies and reflections that delve into the major challenges facing professional translators and interpreters today.

This volume is divided into two parts: Part one, *Organismos Internacionales y Mediación* (International Organisations and Mediation), consisting of six chapters. Part two: *Aspectos teórico-prácticos de la traducción y la interpretación* (Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Translation and Interpreting), comprising eight chapters. Each chapter is written by professional

in Translation and Interpreting Studies and deals with a wide variety of current topics such as public services, legal translation, biosanitary translation, corpus and court and police interpreting, among others.

In the first chapter, Carmen Valero-Garcés explores the importance of translation and interpreting in humanitarian contexts. One of the essential keys for communication between different languages and cultures is professional translators and interpreters, yet in many occasions their work is undervalued. In her article, she covers seven crucial translation and interpreting points and concludes that there must be a strong commitment to each individual case. This approach should apply to all of the participants involved in a conversation exchange such as the relevant institution, translators, interpreters and immigrants or refugees. In this first chapter, Valero-Garcés seeks to highlight the importance of the professional translator and interpreter role in order to provide these professionals with some well-deserved recognition.

The second chapter, written by María López Medel, analyses the current position of female freelance translators and the precariousness and difficulties they face when applying for a position as a professional translator in EU institutions. The author provides a detailed description and analysis of the requirements that must be met to enter into the latest translation tendering procedures set out by the European Commission, the Parliament, the EU Court of Justice and the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the EU. The above analysis has highlighted the need for a thorough revision of the current model for outsourcing translations within the EU in order to facilitate access to professional translators and improve their working conditions, thus resulting in a much improved translation service. López Medel's article also seeks to reflect upon the absence of a robust gender policy. Were this to exist, it would undoubtedly help the large number of female freelance workers to access work in the translation sector.

Marcelo Rodriguez Rivollier centres his paper around the evaluation processes and conditions of the Organisation of the American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Defence College. The author presents the organisational charts and bodies which make up both organisms as well as the admission and recruiting process for the permanent body and the list of accredited and professional freelancers. Working as a professional interpreter in an international organisation is not always easy, as the author outlines in chapter three. Having said that, it is by no means impossible; it just takes a lot of preparation and perseverance.

Bilingualism is now a worldwide phenomenon. In the fourth chapter, Elvira Izquierdo Sánchez-Migallón studies bilingualism in the USA from an educational perspective. Here, she offers a definition of the general concept of bilingualism and follows up with an in-depth sociolinguistic analysis, which takes us up to the present day. Bilingual education has been conditioned by many socio-political factors such as migratory flows in the 16th century, the US-Mexican war in the 19th century, new migratory flows from Asia, economic depression and World War II, among others. Throughout history, the bilingual education in the USA has been somewhat erratic: there were times when nationalist sentiment downplayed the importance of other languages. Notwithstanding, bilingual education is nowadays a powerful reality in the

country due to those migratory flows which shaped this type of education and thus achieved a conciliation between social groups.

In the following chapter, María Fernández de Casadevante Mayordomo defines the term “culture” and discusses some of the ways in which it may shape the communication process. Cultural differences can often make communication more complicated or even lead to situations of conflict and misunderstanding, owing to the fact that individual societies have different cultural patterns and mind-set. Working with two different languages and ergo different cultures, the role of the professional translator and interpreter is of great importance in terms of providing an accurate translation between the two parties involved. Each culture has different linguistic factors, speech acts or even non-verbal communication. These very factors highlight that the translator and interpreter must not only have a great linguistic competence, but also a great command of the culture in question. It is through this process that effective and open communication, free of misunderstandings and confusion, can be achieved.

In chapter six, Carmen de las Heras Navarro provides a detailed overview of the great strides that the professional translators and interpreters have made with regard to asylum issues. The chapter includes a number of proposals for improving the quality of translation and interpreting services within this particular area. The profile of these specific professionals who deal with matters relating to international protection differs from other types of translation and interpreting, insofar as they are confronted with difficult and sensitive situations involving vulnerable groups. These situations require an immediate hands-on approach, often leaving little time for full assessment. COVID-19 has compounded this work and the profession still has no official registration or accreditation. In order to offer users a quality service and recognise the contribution that translators and interpreters offer, regulation of working conditions and training requirements must be formalised.

Part two of the book begins with a paper by Mohamed El-Madkouri Maataoui. This chapter introduces the reader to the linguistic, extra-linguistic and translational aspect of interpreting in the field of security and justice. The author mentions the peculiarities of the profession and analyses the sociolectal and idiolectal effects of a particular discourse in a judicial case. In conclusion, El-Madkouri Maataoui touches upon the three types of experience and skills that police and court interpreters require, in addition to their academic training. In this type of interpreting, it is not only the exchange of dialogue which is important but rather the inference and non-verbal communication, as this can often provide crucial, additional information to a case.

Moving on to chapter eight, Beatriz Soto Aranda takes us through the importance of translation and interpretation as an instrument of political, linguistic and cultural action in the 2011 Egyptian Revolution. This paper offers a detailed chronology of the aforementioned revolution that helps the reader to situate themselves in time. Moreover, it analyses the English subtitling of videos by Mosireen, an Egyptian collective of activist filmmakers, and specifically the series Words of Women from the Egyptian Revolution, which has subtitles in both English and Spanish. These examples show the important role that translation played in describing this

historical event and how non-professional translators used the art of translation as a tool for social and political action.

The concept of humour and how it is understood and rendered is dealt with in chapter nine by Santiago García Gavín. He tries to focus on a series of main characteristics based on works and studies that have been carried out on this subject. Humour manifests itself in a myriad of ways; therefore, trying to set limits on such a broad concept involving such an important cultural character poses a great challenge for the translator. With his proposed definition and his reflections, García Gavín invites further debate and research on the subject.

Legal translation requires a multidisciplinary and specialised professional translator who has experience in both Translation Studies and Law. In the tenth chapter, Jesús López de Lerma Galán studies the elements that define legal translation and legal language. As regards legal translation, the original content must be reproduced adhering to the legal intricacies particular to each country or society. The paper analyses the different perspectives from which legal translation has been approached and lists very useful techniques for dealing with difficulties that often occur with this type of translation.

According to Carlos Melches Gibert, there are new indicators available in order to approach specialised translations. These indicators are described in the Theory of Functionalism. The different types of text functions along with the study of the external and internal factors of the base text are both very important criteria for text analysis. In chapter eleven, the author analyses some of the aspects of functionalism criteria so that they can be applied in specialised translation. Furthermore, Melches Gibert uses them in a literary text entitled the Prologue of Act I of Jacinto Benavente's *Intereses Creados*. In this example he shows a possible application of these criteria to a literary translation.

In chapter twelve, Claudia Baaken uses Sketch Engine (an online tool for text analysis) to create specific corpora within the biosanitary translation field. In her paper, the author builds a monolingual corpus in Spanish and another in German, in which she explores each of the functions offered by this tool and also develops specific comparable corpora. All these functions are explained in detail and accompanied by images that help the lector to have a better understanding. Although the use of this tool is very useful within this translation field, the author also concludes that the professional translator needs to have a good command of their working languages.

Javier Arroyo Breña asks himself a big question in the thirteenth chapter: what is the future of Translation Studies? In an attempt to provide an answer, he tackles the subject by reflecting on transcreation; translation as a tool of rebellion and memes. Arroyo Breña argues for embracing creation within the translation field as well as avoiding the default need to search for the absolute equivalent. The digital era brings with it new changes and challenges, and for this reason it is fundamental that we both understand and adapt to the new textual paradigms and the new types of culture that are emerging.

The last chapter covers the influence of parallel, bilingual and multilingual texts in specialised translation. Katarzyna Popek-Bernat focuses on the linguistic and terminological aspects of several fragments of the Spain-Poland Agreement of 1979. The above analysis concludes that international treaties are a useful tool for the professional translator within the field of Legal translation, given that they can be used as both bilingual and multilingual parallel texts and thus serve as a resource for consultation or training. However, when a translator needs to rely on these texts as a template, they must consider that appropriate equivalences are not always found.

This volume has demanded both devotion and commitment by all of the authors concerned, a factor which is evident in the quality of this work. In some way or another, every chapter contributes to the world of Translation and Interpreting Studies and is testimony to the amount of work, effort and research carried out by each author. In this book, all concepts and explanations have a clear, understandable structure; it deals with issues of great importance that open debates and invite reflection. It is a relevant and up-to-date study, a means which is extremely useful for any researcher, professor or student who may wish to learn and research more about the huge challenges that translation and interpreting currently pose.