

Intercultural Translation in a Global World: Foreword

La traducción intercultural en un mundo global: Prefacio

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Translation studies keeps evolving and expanding its field of inquiry. The intellectual debate that shaped the integration of linguistic and cultural perspectives is far behind, and the development of pragmatolinguistic approaches, critical discourse approaches to ideology and power, narrative approaches, multimedia perspectives and contrastive studies of cultural practices, have shaped translation as a site of agency where cultures –social practices– meet and are born. Especially, translation is now seen as a crucial dimension of the cultural, political and social networks of relations that take place in local and global contexts, which are no longer seen from the ideal perspective whereby messages are conveyed between stable systems and catalogued norms, but as ambivalent processes of negotiation. Perhaps the most interesting development has been to recognize the role that representation has in the constant re-shaping of communication; a picture emerges in which communication is not taken for granted and the model of translation between close languages and cultures, such as European languages and cultures, is no longer privileged. It becomes clear that there are indeed incommunicable, untranslatable elements everywhere, and these may be simple concepts or whole narratives. A model of translation as a technical adjustment in an otherwise smooth and almost automatic re-codification is replaced by a model in

which communication is a creative act with an elusive aim, never completely fulfilled and always determined by many actors: authors, translators, editors, audiences, media factors, etc.; as well as their goals and the versions of reality and the world they assume.

The essays collected in this two-part volume focus on specific contexts: specialized domains (legal, commercial, scientific, medical, literary, socio-political discourse) in which local features often have global implications and may be applied in a wider framework. One of those implications is that cultural and ideological differences are pervasive along the continuum of genres and domains, and prone to upsurge in a variety of ways thus showing what in the 1990s Michael Agar called «rich points», defined as points that mark the boundaries between two «languacultures» (Agar 2008) or «culguages» (Faiq 2010, 2014), as Said Faiq has recently called them in the context of Translation Studies. All the articles in this first volume of CLINA have in common their authors' attempts to identify and describe such rich points.

Reyes Albarrán Martín's article, «Ideological Features in the Translation of Alternative Medicine Texts» approaches a largely unexplored subject: the translation of «alternative» medical texts that do not belong to «official» medicine, thus putting into practice certain pragmalinguistic strategies dealing with their peculiar epistemic relation to «scientific truth», and which may be culturally determined.

Marisa Carrió's essay, «Mapping the Cultural Interference of Term Variation» analyses the semantic use of terms in a corpus of scientific texts in English and their translation into Spanish in order to explore to what extent term interpretation varies and interferes in cross-cultural communication.

Innocent Chiluya's «'Occupy Nigeria 2012': A Critical Analysis of Facebook Posts in the Fuel Subsidy Removal Protests» is a ground-breaking analysis of social network posts in a situation of conflict: the widespread protests and demonstrations that followed the Nigerian government's removal of oil subsidies in January 2012. Code-switching, translation and other linguistic strategies between standard Nigerian English, pidgin Nigerian English and local languages, especially Yoruba, raise interesting issues about the use of translation and multilingualism in the creation of in-group solidarity.

Alenka Kocbek's «The Decalogue of Legal Translation – Contracts in Intercultural Legal Communication» approaches a common obstacle in law translating: variation between legal systems that operates at various levels, and which may be paradoxically more acute in cases where the parties resort to English as a *lingua franca* «which may lack any direct correlation with the legal culture(s) underlying the contract». She proposes an organized and very useful ten-stage method to approach the translation of legal contracts.

M. Carmen África Vidal Claramonte's «Hacia una traducción 'escribible': *Between*, de Christine Brooke-Rose» tackles the difficulties of translating into Spanish one work by the late British experimental writer Christine Brooke-Rose. *Between* is a novel in which several «languages» coexist, a 'writable' translation into Spanish or any other

language has no choice but to recreate the wealth of spiralling registers and codes in what Vidal terms, following Deleuze and Guattari, a *rhyzomatic* translation.

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