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2nd International e-Conference on Translation

TRANSLATION, MEDIATION AND
ACCESSIBILITY FOR LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

TRADUCCIÓN, MEDIACIÓN Y ACCESIBILIDAD
PARA LAS MINORÍAS LINGÜÍSTICAS

 24-25 September 2020 

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2nd International e-Conference on Translation

Traducción, mediación y
accesibilidad para
las minorías lingüísticas

Translation, mediation and
accessibility for
linguistic minorities

Universidad de Córdoba – Leibniz Universität Hannover

24-25 September 2020

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SALA / ROOM 3: POLÍTICAS E IDEOLOGÍAS LINGÜÍSTICAS / LANGUAGE POLICIES & IDEOLOGIES

Globalisation, linguistic diversity and English as a Lingua Franca: The role of the translator as an intercultural mediator

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BIODATA: Valeria Hernández García es graduada en Traducción e Interpretación (Español/Inglés/Alemán) por la Universidad de Córdoba (España). También cursó el Máster de Traducción Especializada de esta misma universidad, formación que compaginó con su trabajo como traductora, y se especializó en el ámbito jurídico-económico. Actualmente, se encuentra realizando la tesis doctoral, con la que está investigando acerca de la traducción de contratos en el contexto del comercio internacional.

ABSTRACT: Globalisation, despite it began to brew in the early fifteenth century, did not flourish until the late 1960s as a result of the intensification of global interconnectedness (Robertson, 1992: 58-59). Such ongoing phenomenon has overcome the spatial barriers, increasing the mobility of people among nations (Bielsa, 2005: 131), and consequently the rates of migration. These migration flows have propelled the linguistic diversity, meaning the coexistence of different languages in a particular community or country (Wei, 2018: 16). In this multilingual context, the need for broader communication, which Saussure (2011: 205-206) calls “force of intercourse”, has led to the emergence of the English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) (Grewal, 2008: 73), becoming a symbol of integration in contemporary societies. ELF is a “contact language” used among speakers who do not share either a common native tongue or a national culture (Firth, 1996: 240), and for whom English consists of the communicative medium of choice, and frequently only option (Seidlhofer, 2011: 7). Given that situation, this paper aims to analyse the role of the translator as an intercultural mediator in this type of “exolingual” communication. The traditional notion of texts originated in a specific linguistic and cultural context and addressed to a defined target audience is no longer applicable (Taviano, 2013: 160). Therefore, translators increasingly have to translate hybrid texts, which result from overlapping rhetorical and discourse norms between different cultures and languages (Taviano, 2010). Considering that the readership is a supranational community, translators must produce culturally and linguistically neutral texts in order to enhance the intelligibility. Such neutral linguacultural mediation in ELF poses a relatively new challenge for translators, whose profession is changing because of the globalisation. As can be seen, the impact of globalisation on translation is a reality.

The Mirandese conundrum: the Portuguese minority language

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ABSTRACT: Mirandese is most probably one of the few minority languages in Europe whose linguistic rights were acknowledged at the end of the last millennium, in 1999 (Law no. 7/99). As a language that was also spoken in Portugal, alongside the national language, it was “discovered” at the very end of the 19th century by philologist Leite de Vasconcellos (1900, 1901). For centuries, it was the first or only language spoken by people living in the northeast of Portugal, particularly the district of Miranda do Douro. As a critically endangered language, it lacks many of the dimensions it requires to survive: firstly, it has not conquered the “screen” (Ferreira & Martins, 2012) as Catalan or Scottish, being that the control of mass media is of the utmost importance for the survival of a minority language, as Cormack (2004) upholds. Secondly, although teaching the language at public schools began in the school year 1986/87, it remains an optional subject in Miranda do Douro alone and it has not yet leapt into higher education, thus teachers of Mirandese are not properly trained at universities, as those of other languages, and there are no officially trained translators. This is closely linked to what we call the traductological capital of Mirandese (Ferreira & Martins 2017). As Cronin (2003) states, minority languages are intensely translated as target languages and not the other way around, unless they achieve some symbolic capital, which does not to Mirandese. Therefore, its traductological capital includes the translation into Mirandese of the Bible and some examples of Portuguese canonical literature (e.g. “The Lusíads” by Luiz de Camões and “Message” by Fernando Pessoa), as well as other renowned literary forms. Moreover, despite the spelling agreement established in 1999, no more linguistic works have been added to consolidate its language policy. Finally, migration, which occurred either within Portugal or abroad, has always been an underlying factor in the fragmentation of the Mirandese community and, as a result, the weakening of the language, among other sociological factors (e.g. social shame) (cf. Martins & Ferreira, 2019). Bearing all this in mind, we seek to reflect upon these dimensions and how their development would increase Mirandese's visibility in Portugal and elsewhere, as well as what the future might hold for this minority language.

About heroes and villains in political discourse analysis and their representation through translation (EN>ES). The case of Donald Trump's 2018 State of the Union speech

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BIODATA: María del Carmen López Ruiz is a PhD student in Translation and Interpreting at the University of Córdoba (Spain). She is benefiting from a Predoctoral Grant for the Training of University Teaching Staff, and develops the related teaching and researching tasks within the Department of Translation and Interpreting, Romance Languages, Semitic Studies and Documentation Science at this university. EN/FR/ES translator and proofreader. Her research interests in Translation Studies encompass different domains: Translation of Political Discourse, Discourse Analysis and Didactics of Translation. Amongst her recent publications are La TAV como