Editorial. Stronger Than The Pandemic

Oumarou Mal Mazou, Carlos Djomo Tiokou

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Oumarou MAL MAZOU
CIRTI/Université de Liège

Carlos DJOMO TIOKOU
ESIT/Université Sorbonne Nouvelle

Abstract

This non-thematic production draws on the momentum from the inaugural issue. It features contributions from both scholars and practitioners all over the world. Made up of 9 articles and one review, this 2021 issue of *Critic* is a rich and eclectic collection, with contributions in English, French and Spanish. Topics covered include neuronal machine translation (NMT), ergonomics in the language industry, literary and legal translation, drama translation, as well as epistemology, and functionalist approaches to translation studies.

Keywords: *translation studies, translator training, literary translation, neuronal machine translation, translation journal*

Editorial.
Stronger Than the Pandemic

This issue is published amid the global pandemic of coronavirus (COVID-19) as a result of hard times, made even more challenging by different restrictions we have all been subjected to. Fortunately, we come out stronger than the COVID-19 pandemic and, for that, we are grateful to the entire community whose dedication has made this wonderful and noble journey possible.

This issue is made up of nine articles and one review; it is a rich and eclectic collection, with contributions in English, French and Spanish. Topics and research interests covered include neuronal machine translation (NMT), ergonomics in the language industry, literary and legal translation, drama translation, as well as epistemology, and functionalist approaches to translation studies.

The first article covers the evolution/revolution of the language industry, from the manuscript to neuronal machine translation (NMT). Drawing from fifty years of professional experience as a translation practitioner, the author discusses this (r)evolution powered by technologies, especially word processing suites, the Internet, translation memories and machine translation, with a focus on translator training. The second paper, which is also practice-oriented, provides insights into the ergonomics of tool use in video game localisation. It features findings from a study with more than 1,000 respondents and highlights challenges in the use of CAT tools, terminology databases, as well as specialised corpora.

In the next contribution, poetry translation is examined through the lens of the eternal dilemma about the content and form duality. The author brings out the reflection of some poets and translators, and draws enlightening conclusions about the old debate. In the same light, the fourth paper discusses the very long debate on source-oriented/target-oriented dichotomy in relation to

literary translation. The article reviews methods and processes used in translating idioms from Arabic into French, leveraging the translator's genius and know-how.

The fifth article is based on a comparative and contrastive study of what makes literary and legal translation both similar and different. The aim is to define both types of translation, beyond misconceptions about how conflicting they are. Therefore, the contribution pays a special attention to the perspectives of receptors of both translations, who share the same aspirations and expect translated texts to be functional.

The sixth article sheds light on text analysis for translation purposes. It discusses the three levels (holistic, atomistic and hol-atomistic) of text analysis after describing a widespread perspective in German translation studies, although it is less known – and oftentimes criticised – in French-speaking circles. The contribution compares both original texts and their translation, as made by some scholars such as Gerzymisch-Arbogast and Mudersbach.

Antonio Gramsci's thoughts on translation, especially his translatability of scientific and philosophical language, are the core discussion of the seventh article. Authors consider the epistemic difference as one of the major challenges in contemporary translation theory. Therefore, they explore new perspectives on both the translatability and the epistemology of translation.

Ancient texts translation is examined in the eighth article as a way to get a better knowledge of old civilisations, from both an anthropological and literary perspective. The author equally discusses the dissemination of such texts, especially the ones written in Latin, and suggests a new, dynamic and interactive translation approach that better highlights ancient ways of life and thinking.

The next contribution discusses the translation of contemporary drama, paying due attention to orality in Jean-Luc Lagarce's works. The author uses a cross-functional approach to translation by Henri Meschonnic which, she believes, applies to both poetry and drama. She comes to the conclusion that drama translation has to follow three axes, namely sense, rhythm and auctorial syntax.

The last contribution is a review of the French version of Christiane Nord's pivotal book on translation as a purposeful activity. It provides a history of functionalist theories, their repercussions beyond German-speaking circles and their relevance for translator training, as well as a critical assessment of such approaches in view of the ever-changing nature of translation studies.

As a matter of fact, this is a diverse compilation of contributions from Belgium, Cameroon, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, and South Africa, which alternate between theoretical considerations and practical issues in translation. We hope, you will enjoy this volume. Stay safe and remember that together, we are stronger than the pandemic.

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Oumarou Mal Mazou
and Carlos Djomo

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