Review: Beatrice Fischer & Matilde Nisbeth Jensen (eds.) 2012. Translation and the Reconfiguration of Power Relations: Revisiting role and context of translation and interpreting.

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Published in:
Hermes - Journal of Language and Communication Studies

Publication date:
2014

Document version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Beatrice Fischer & Matilde Nisbeth Jensen (eds.) 2012. *Translation and the Reconfiguration of Power Relations: Revisiting role and context of translation and interpreting.* **Berlin: LIT Verlag, 290 pages. ISBN 978-3-643-90283-2**

Translation and the Reconfiguration of Power Relations: Revisiting role and context of translation and interpreting, edited by Beatrice Fischer and Matilde Nisbeth Jensen, is an anthology with contributions from 14 PhD students who participated at the CETRA Summer School in 2010. The anthology is initiated by two introductions: one by the editors of the volume and one by Sherry Simon, the 2010 CETRA Chair Professor. The anthology's contributions focus on a range of topics that in some way or another deal with translation and interpreting in relation to power. The anthology's contributions encompass a variety of topics such as censorship, institutional and ideological constraints, norms and actors in translation and interpreting. The variety of topics is reflected in the anthology's organisation into four parts which each deal with translation and power relations from different perspectives: *Translation as gatekeeping, Actors in the processes of translation, Constraints on multimodal translation* and *The role of translation in a globalised world*.

Part 1: *Translating as gatekeeping*

Franziska Heimburger: *Of Go-Betweens and Gatekeepers: Considering Disciplinary Biases in Interpreting History through Exemplary Metaphors. Military Interpreters in the Allied Coalition during the First World War*

In her article, Heimburger discusses the roles of military interpreters during the First World War through an examination of historical documents. In her analysis, Heimburger focuses on two metaphors, *go-betweens* and *gatekeepers*, in order to illustrate the work and situation of the military interpreter. These two metaphors have been chosen "because of their wide use" (p. 23) and because they are used in different settings: the former is often used by historians and the latter is often used in Translation and Interpreting Studies. Heimburger concludes that the two metaphors illustrate different aspects of the military interpreter's roles and that both are necessary to the characterisation of the military interpreter.

Roxana-Mihaela Antochi: *Behind the Scene: Text Selection Policies in Communist Romania. A Preliminary Study on Spanish and Latin-American Drama*

Antochi's article deals with the issue of censorship in translation in communist Romania and focuses specifically on the selection policies related to Spanish and Latin-American theatrical plays. Wary of the "reactionary potential of the theatre world", a complex selection mechanism was implemented by the state to identify and reject those theatrical plays that were considered to be potentially harmful to the regime. Data from the archives of Romanian national and state theatres indicate that plays by authors connected with the communist cause were represented in great numbers, however, several anti-communist authors quite surprisingly also passed the censorship board. The author points out that non-ideological considerations also played a role in the selection process.

In addition to the numbers Antochi presents for selected plays, it would have been interesting to know also how many were in fact rejected in the selection process, but these figures are most likely not very easily available.

Rosario Garnemark: *Institutional Constraints on Translation: Ingmar Bergman, Francoist Censorship and the "Apertura"*

During the years of *Apertura* (1963-1969), Francoist Spain opened up to foreign influence and as such also to the importation of foreign films to a greater extent than earlier. In her article, Garnemark explores the application processes for three movies by Ingmar Bergman and displays

the institutional constraints by the censorship bodies in Spain. While the distribution agencies that applied to have a movie imported into Spain, to some extent, could "[try to] anticipate or comply with the moral norms imposed by the Francoist regime" (p. 65), the censors enjoyed absolute power with respect to deciding which movies were accepted, to which audience it would be shown and if it would be released in a dubbed or a subtitled version. Subtitled versions were rare and most movies that were accepted for larger audiences had to be dubbed "in order to conform to domestic 'National-Catholic' values" (p. 66).

Part 2: *Actors in the processes of translation*

Irina Elena Tiron: *Politiques culturelles en Roumanie postcommuniste: Place de la traduction*

In her article, Tiron discusses the effects of political transition on translation. After the fall of communism in Romania in 1989, the Romanian translation market was no longer subject to the rules and regulations of the regime. The new socio-political context now defined a new role for translation in Romania, and dialogue, not only at the cultural level but also at the political, diplomatic and economic levels, brought on a surge in the amount of translated books. Figures from UNESCO's Index Translationum database indicate that the most popular languages of translation from 1989-2007 are English, French and German.

Janko Trupej: *Translating Racist Discourse in Slovenia during the Socialist Period: Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

In the comparison of Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and two translations into Slovenian, the first from 1948 and the second from 1962, Trupej examines the translation of racist discourse and finds that the meaning potential of the original could be distorted in several places as the translators either intensify or soften racist discourse. In the 1948-translation, racism is found to be intensified, more so than in the 1962-translation, "which likely happened because of the anti-US-American sentiment of the time period" (p. 105). As a possible explanation for the reduced anti-American tone of the second translation, Trupej thus points to the improvement of political relations between Slovenia and the United States in the time between the two translations.

While the article refers to many places (if not all) in the translations where translation shifts occur that relate to racist discourse, a quantitative overview, for instance in the form of tables, would have made it even more clear how and to what degree the two translations differ from each other (and from the original).

Dainora Maumevičienė: *Linguistic Insights into Localisation*

In this article, Maumevičienė explores definitions of localisation and discusses localisation from the perspective of traditional translation theory. Examining the concept of localisation from a linguistic perspective, the author considers it in a Lithuanian context where localisation, or *Lithuanisation*, is deeply embedded in the language. Defining localisation as "a multifaceted phenomenon where language, culture and technologies come together" (p. 123), concepts from Translation Studies are discussed in the light of linguistic aspects of localisation. The author emphasises that localisation should be considered a paradigm in its own right within Translation Studies.

Ana Isabel Foulquié Rubio: *The Lawyer and the Interpreter in Police Settings*

Much interpreting research focuses on interpreting from the perspective of the interpreter; this article focuses on interpreting from the perspective of another actor in the interpreting process: the lawyer. The article reports on questionnaire data from 84 lawyers who work with interpreters. The lawyers were asked a series of questions on interpreting services in police settings. To the question of what characterises the interpreter, impartiality was identified by the majority of lawyers as a key quality. In response to which criteria are most important when choosing an interpreter, half of the

lawyers point out that the interpreter should hold a degree in Translation and Interpreting. This is often not the case, as untrained bilinguals often act as interpreters. Finally, with respect to the tasks of the interpreters, the majority of the lawyers responded that the interpreter should explain difficult terminology to the foreign detainee, but, the interpreter should not add or summarise information. These findings are particularly interesting to the ongoing discussion of interpreter qualification as there is often disagreement between lawyer expectations and interpreter qualifications.

An example of the questionnaire used would have been helpful to those wishing to replicate or build on the research discussed in the article, and might have been provided in an appendix.

Part 3: Constraints in multimodal translation

Elisa Moroni: *The Representation of Orality in the Translation of Russian Epics*

Russian oral epics, known as *byliny* in Russian, have traditionally been passed on orally from one generation to the next by storytellers. Having been transcribed in the 19th and 20th centuries, these oral epics are considered a specific genre in its own right with a particular style which is manifested, for instance, in repetition, hypocoristics, formulaic phrasings etc. The translation of bylini is therefore argued to be quite challenging, and in her article, Moroni looks at how this has been done into Italian focusing on the rendition of oral features. Moroni points out that while preservation of orality is a central aim of this type of translation, it will never be completely identical, since orality becomes frozen during the process of translation.

Giovanna Di Pietro: *More Than Words: A Study of Paralinguistic and Kinesic Features of Humour in Dubbed Sitcoms*

In her article, Di Pietro looks at the interplay between verbal and nonverbal communication in dubbed sitcoms. Focusing on the transfer of humour in the Italian version of an episode of the American sitcom *How I met your mother*, Di Pietro discusses if and how cohesion between language, paralanguage and kinesics is similar or different between the original and the dubbed versions. Of the nine examples examined, Di Pietro's analyses demonstrate how paralanguage and kinesics both reinforce (six occurrences) and contradict (two occurrences) verbal language. In one case, paralanguage and kinesics contradict each other. The Italian actors' desire to reinterpret their roles is considered a key explanatory factor for the differences between the original and the dubbed versions, and the discrepancy between the two versions is very likely to have a negative impact on the humorous effect. The author's explicit thoughts on how to avoid this sort of loss in the translation of humorous elements would have been interesting; however, the reader has to deduce that from an otherwise thorough description and analysis of examples of transfer of humour in dubbing translation.

Nicole Nolette: *Introducing Playful Translation: Some Notes from Backstage*

In this article, Nicole Nicolette explores how heterolingual theatrical plays can be translated. Looking at the Canadian play *Sex, lies et les Franco-Manitobains*, she presents and discusses the poles of possibility: either preserve the foreign elements or translate into a single language. The author points to "playful translation, including interpreters intervening in the new production, the redistribution of lines among actors (…) and the ludic use of surtitles" (p. 198) as possible strategies, and she notes that the translation of heterolingual plays may be even more heterolingual than the original.

Part 4: The role of translation in a globalised world

Eduarda Melo Cabrita: *English as a Lingua Franca in Legal Translation: The Early Stages of a Research Project*

English is the source language of by far the majority of translations into Portuguese. This article considers the influence of English in the specific of domain of legal translation in Portugal, and on the translation of legal contracts more specifically. The case of English-Portuguese legal translation is particularly interesting, since Portugal is embedded in a Continental Civil Law tradition whereas Anglo-Saxon countries use Common Law. As such, differences in genre conventions and lexical variation do not permit contracts to be straightforwardly transferred from one language to the other, the author argues. Focusing on two examples, *consideration* and *joint venture*, the author points out that a loan-word and a false friend are used to translate the two terms into Portuguese (*consideração* and *joint venture*, respectively), and she further points out that dictionaries, online databases and contract templates contribute to this interference.

Isabel Ferro Mealha: *English as the Language of Science and Academic Discourse in (Non-) Translated Medical Portuguese: The Initial Stages of a Research Project*

This article presents the background of the author's ongoing research project. It discusses English as the preferred language in medical communication in a Portuguese context and it discusses the project's main aim, which is to determine to what extent an increasing English dominance as a lingua franca influences text originally written in Portuguese as well as those translated from English into Portuguese.

Matilde Nisbeth Jensen: *Patient Information Leaflet Translators in the EU: Mapping the Hypothetical Competences of Professional Translators and Pharmacists-Cum-Translators*

In relation to communication of medical information, Jensen focuses on the competences of translators of Patient Information Leaflets (PIL). Knowledge asymmetry between the writer of PILs and its lay audience is highlighted as a potential problem in the translation process and one which is more easily recognised by professional translators than by pharmacists who actually carry out the majority of translation of PILs. Based on her analysis of potential differences between the two types of translators, Jensen hypothesises which competences they possess using PACTE's translation competence model and she concludes that pharmacists and professional translators are likely not to share the same sub-competences. More specifically, medical professionals lack knowledge about translation theory and method, knowledge about translation instruments and strategic knowledge, while bilingual and extra-linguistic sub-competences are shared by the two types of translators. The lack of sub-competences on the part of the pharmacists may possibly affect translation quality, but future research is needed to explore to what extent the theoretical assumptions of the paper can be verified empirically and to examine which of the two types of translators is ideal for medical translation.

Raquel Martínez Motos: *Models of Quality Assessment for Patient Package Inserts in English and Spanish: A Review from the Translation Perspective*

In this article, the author revisits current approaches to quality assessment that have been employed to study patient information materials, focusing in particular on Patient Package Inserts (PPI). Existing approaches use for instance readability formulas and user-oriented methods such as interviews and health literacy testing, but they do not take into account translation as a possible factor for the misinterpretation or lack of understanding of package inserts. The author thus proposes an alternative model for future assessment of PPIs in which translation is a key element. In this assessment, textual analysis is used to compare original texts with translated text, in order to determine to what extent translations of PPIs follow target language conventions. This analysis is followed by user-testing by means of a questionnaire. At the extratextual level, analysis of the professional setting of PPI translation is carried out to identify constraints during the professional's work.

The anthology spans a wide variety of topics and themes within Translation Studies. Despite the heterogeneous nature of the anthology with respect to topics, the 14 contributions converge in a couple of key points: they demonstrate theoretical thoroughness, methodological rigour and analytical depth. In addition, although the anthology's topics are of a diverse nature, the editors have managed to bring the contributions together into a coherent whole. Also with respect to the editorial work, it is clear that considerable effort has gone into the work of putting together the anthology. While typos and occasional misprints are unavoidable in any publication, the editors deserve praise for their attention to detail; the articles' consistency and uniformity with respect to formatting, structure, referencing, etc. is admirable. Overall, the anthology contains well written, high quality contributions which address a range of interesting and relevant topics, and as such these qualities make *Translation and the Reconfiguration of Power Relations* a very recommendable reading.

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