

REPORTS

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REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “EMERGING TOPICS IN TRANSLATION AND INTER- PRETING – NUOVI PERCORSI IN TRADUZIONE E INTERPRETAZIONE”, TRIESTE 16-18 JUNE 2010

The international conference “*Emerging Topics in Translation and Interpreting – Nuovi percorsi in traduzione e interpretazione*” was organised by the Dipartimento di Scienze del Linguaggio, dell’Interpretazione e della Traduzione (DSLIT) in collaboration with the Scuola Superiore di Lingue Moderne per Interpreti e Traduttori (SSLMIT) of Trieste 25 years after its first edition. This was the occasion to celebrate two events marking the history of Italy’s oldest translation and interpretation school: the launch of a new Ph.D. programme in Scienze dell’Interpretazione e della Traduzione (Interpreting and Translation Studies) and the first thirty years of the Scuola Superiore di Lingue Moderne per Interpreti e Traduttori as a fully-fledged university faculty.

The almost 200 participants coming from all over the world – China, Russia, Canada, Australia, Jordan, Latvia and Brazil just to mention a few countries – were hosted in the present seat of the Faculty, the *Narodni dom*, a 1904 building designed by the internationally renown architect Max Fabiani. Before the five parallel sessions of which the congress consisted were started, participants were welcomed by a board of notable hosts: Hannelore Lee-Jahnke (President of CIUTI – Conference Internationale Permanente d’Instituts Universitaires de Traducteurs et Interpretes), Maurizio Viezzi (President of the organisational

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committee and Vice President of CIUTI), Lorenza Rega (Full Professor of Italian-German translation), Federica Scarpa (Director of DSLIT), Nadine Celotti (Dean of the Faculty), Laura Gran and John Dodds (the organisers of the previous congress held in 1986), Brian Fox (EU Commission) and Adele Pino (representative of the Town of Trieste).

The welcoming board expressed both its content at this new occasion for meeting and exchanging ideas and experiences and at the same time its hope for more frequent encounters. A sign of the deep change occurred in the last 25 years is certainly the speed at which technology and research nowadays progress; for this reason it is vital for such meetings to be held more often, possibly every year, if we want to keep track and take advantage of all innovations. Another point touched upon by the hosts is the issue of the limited resources available at present and the worldwide economical crisis, both of which put the future of young researchers and students at risk. In order to improve such situation – as suggested by Brian Fox – the resources used in the educational field should no longer be conceived as “costs” but rather be seen as “investments” for the future growth of countries.

As some of the hosts held their speeches in English and some in Italian, the participants in the opening session were provided with headphones and students of the school interpreted all interventions into both languages.

Each of the five sessions constituting the conference corresponded to the main areas of research interest of the members of the DSLIT department and had its own keynote speaker; the working languages were mainly English and Italian, though some interventions were also made in Spanish, and all of them were displayed through a power point presentation. Every session was structured so that every speaker had a 30-minute slot for talking and answering the floor’s questions, with breaks for coffee or lunch. Moreover, the first-year Ph.D. students of the faculty were given the opportunity to deliver a speech on their research interests and perspectives.

In particular, the sessions are:

1. Translation and interpreting as a human right (16-17 June)

Session 1 was centred on the idea that interpreting can and should be a means for granting minorities the right to understand and be understood when they are in a foreign country; in particular, papers focused on the role of institutions and universities in this field. Therefore, the news that the Europe-

an Union approved on 17th June a law granting citizens the right to receive interpretation and translation in their native language in criminal cases across the Union was welcomed with extreme enthusiasm by participants.

During these two days attendants had the chance to listen to 25 interventions, in which speakers offered their contributions and shared their findings and reflections on this important matter. Among the most notable names were Erik Hertog, Adolfo Gentile and Erich Prunč to mention but a few.

2. From interpreting theory to the interpreting profession (16-17 June)

Session 2 was focused on investigation into and discussion of research methodologies and techniques in simultaneous and consecutive interpreting. Special attention was paid to the professional world and the way findings can be applied to conference interpreter training.

This two-day session consisted of 23 speeches altogether in which insights in the role played by theory, the results of surveys and experiments and technology were provided to the audience. Participants could enjoy contributions by internationally renowned speakers like Robin Setton, Brian Fox, Franz Pöchhacker and Peter Mead.

3. Translation teaching: bridging theory and the profession (16-17-18 June)

Due to the richness of perspectives offered by this topic and the conspicuous number of speakers submitting papers, session 3 was divided into two parallel sub-sessions (3A and 3B). The aim of the session was to bring together translators, translator trainers and translation scholars to discuss ways to extend the currently limited area where their three domains overlap.

Session 3A was made up of 35 presentations, most of which aimed at informing the audience on concrete language teaching experiences, and they all appeared to have two important features in common: a student-centred approach and the extensive use of technology. Key-note speakers were certainly Hannelore Lee-Jahnke and the Grupo PACTE. Session 3B also offered a wealth

of interventions (26) and part of it was specially dedicated to subtitling, thus emphasising the growing importance of this new field, as well as to literary translation. Among the important guests of this session were David Katan, Anna Bączkowska and Daniela Almansi.

4. Interpreting corpora (18 June)

This session had the purpose of outlining the state of the art in the creation of corpora in the field of interpreting, focusing on issues such as collection, transcription, tagging, querying, usability and comparability of data.

The Aula Magna of the faculty hosted 12 speakers, and attendants could take advantage of the school's interpreters who worked throughout the session translating into English and Italian. Among the contributors there were Miriam Shlesinger, Annalisa Sandrelli and Francesco Straniero Sergio.

5. The right to see through words: audio description (18 June)

Audio description (a technique that gives access to people who are blind or visually impaired to the visual media) appears to be gaining ground rapidly among audiovisual translation techniques. This session aimed to map the current status of research in this area, and to draw attention to its social, cognitive, cultural, political and technological aspects.

This one-morning session was livened up by 11 contributions and speeches were simultaneously interpreted for all guests needing to understand either Italian or English. Among the key-note speakers were Pilar Orero, Bernd Benecke and Saveria Arma.

On 17th June the conference dinner took place at a local restaurant facing the Trieste gulf and allowing all guests (about 90 people) to enjoy Italian food and, above all, to keep exchanging ideas and impressions or starting new fruitful collaborations for the future.