Editors' Introduction

This 18th issue of *New Voices in Translation Studies*, which coincides with the 6th IATIS International Conference 2018, contains two substantial articles, one from Iran and one from Russia, four book reviews and a set of PhD abstracts from recently submitted PhD theses in the field of Translation and Interpreting Studies.

For those who are new to this journal, let us give you a brief introduction. We are indexed with *MLA*, *Elsevier*, and *EBSCO*, and listed with *TS Journals*. Our focus on new researchers in the field means that *New Voices in Translation Studies* and our editorial process help new and early-career researchers have their voice heard. At present we have an international team of six editors, based variously in Greece, Hong Kong, Malaysia and the UK. All our editors are volunteers but also experts in their fields, with combined decades of academic experience. Via our mailbox, based in Dublin City University, we receive submissions of articles on Translation and Interpreting Studies and related fields from around the world. The quality of the submissions is extremely variable, but every submission is read, and a response sent back to the authors.

Through our association with the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS), we have the support of outstanding academics in the role of external peer reviewers, many of whom have been IATIS members. It is especially rewarding to receive positive reports on submissions which go on to be published, as we know that, in some cases, we may be launching researchers' publication careers. However, our status as an indexed journal, our rigorous editorial process and our expert suite of peer reviewers means we stand alongside more established journals as a venue for ambitious PhD researchers and early-career professionals seeking publication and dissemination of their research.

New Voices in Translation Studies has always welcomed and initiated continued collaborations with various stakeholders in the field of translation and interpreting with a view to encouraging and providing a platform for early career scholars to engage in high quality scholarly writing. This spirit of collaboration has led to *New Voices in Translation Studies* dedicating special issues to selected contributions presented at conferences, and the most recent being Issue 14 (2016)

which showcased proceedings from a conference organised by the University of Westminster, London in June 2014.

As the International Postgraduate Conference in Translation and Interpreting (IPCITI) inspired the establishment of this journal in 2004, *New Voices in Translation Studies* is delighted to announce that the next but one issue (Issue 20, May 2019) will be a special issue dedicated to '**Negotiating Power in Translation and Interpreting: Agency, Representation, Ideology'**, the theme of the IPCITI 2018 conference (https://ipciti.org.uk), which will be hosted by the University of Manchester in October 2018. Two members of the IPCITI 2018 Organising Committee, Deborah Giustini and Chonglong Gu, will be joining as Guest Editors for this special issue.

In this relation, we would like to announce an open **call for papers** to be included in the forthcoming special issue. We warmly invite submissions of papers from scholars who, for many reasons, may not be able to attend or present at the IPCITI 2018, focusing on, but not limited to, the following research areas: concepts and theories of power and ideology; methods for the description and analysis of power relations; policy, expertise, and the professional environment; culture, cooperation, and conflict; social media and group identity; censorship and media control as well as politics and activism.

Articles

The two articles featured in this issue have grown in length and scholarship during the editing and peer-review process. The first article titled 'Construction and Validation of a Computerized Open-ended Bi-functional Translation Assessment System (COBTAS)' by **Azam Akrami**, **Behzad Ghonsooly** (Corresponding author), **Mohammad Yazdani** and **Pouria Mohammad Alami** from the Imam Reza International University and the Ferdowsi University in Mashhad, Iran, describes and evaluates the use of a new interactive software tool in the translation teaching classroom. The article pivots on the theoretical and practical claim that advantages can be gained by bringing translation training and assessment into closer contact (Lantolf and Poehner 2004). The authors' awareness of a gap between instruction and assessment combined with the apparent lack of an effective model for translation quality assessment has led them to develop the new

translation-assessment software, which offers both diagnostic and instructional functions. The authors provide a critical comparison of work by Pym (2003) and PACTE (2003) on translation competence. Following Vygotsky's sociocultural theory and dynamic assessment approaches, the primary aim of their research project was to design a software tool to enhance translation students` learning experience and performance by providing pre-set instructional mediations in the form of graded, context-specific prompts. The article published in this issue contains a clear overview of the process with screenshots of the interface used by Iranian translation students. COBTAS allows diagnosis of students` actual and potential learning abilities with reference to the specified tasks. To ensure validity and reliability of the newly-developed software, the authors also used statistical tools. Their results show convincingly that, within the context described, COBTAS is a reliable instrument for demonstrating translation trainees` actual as well as proximal development. The software can enhance students' translation ability within the learning/testing context; it encourages students to monitor and control their own learning and allows assessors to diagnose the frequency and kind of specific translation errors. Subsequent analysis of group and individual profiles can assist the design and implementation of translation curricula and teaching plans tailor-made for individual learning needs and specific translation problems.

'Understanding the Dynamics of User-Generated Translation on YouTube: A Bourdieusian Perspective' by **Ekaterina Krasnopeyeva**, from Chelyabinsk State University, Russia, brings the power of Bourdieusian sociological analysis to bear on the field of digital sociology and online social media, with special reference to the high-profile phenomenon of YouTube-mediated user-generated translation (UGT). In the form of an illustrated case study, the article investigates the ten most popular UGT-focused channels which broadcast videos dubbed/subtitled into Russian. Krasnopeyeva explains how a 'prosumer' status of YouTube user-translators shapes their translatorial habitus, and how the pursuit of 'attention capital' defines their strategies as agents in the platform-wide online field. The term 'prosumer' refers here to the hybrid producer/consumer status of these user-translators. The investigation illustrates user-translators' trajectories, showing how they adapt their contribution streams to the dominant mode of content production to gain recognition in the platform-wide field; and how UGT-channels join the platform-specific struggle for legitimization of recycled (remixed) content. At a theoretical

level, this article engages with a major contemporary shift influencing the concept and practice of translation based on the rapidly developing and unpredictable interplay between social and technological factors in the online social media (OSM) environment.

Book Reviews

This issue of New Voices presents reviews on four new publications, all of which shed light on the role of translation as creative engagement with writing and as an activity which opens up fruitful critical thought on the wider politics of written representation. **Laura Linares** from University College Corke, Ireland looks at Rosemary Arrojos's *Fictional Translators: Rethinking Translation through Literature* (Routledge 2018) as a scholarly collection of essays which opens up thought-provoking questions around the role of translators and translation in the development of culture. **David Charlston** from the University of Manchester, UK discusses *Feminist Translation Studies: Local and Transnational Perspectives*, edited by Olga Castro and Emek Ergun (Routledge 2017) as a collection which focuses on the role of translation in the asymmetry of power relations, particularly the intersections between gender, class and culture. **Edmund Chapman** from the University of Manchester, UK draws our attention to *Translation Studies Beyond the Postcolony*, edited by Kobus Marais and Ilse Feinauer (Cambridge Scholars Publishing 2017) which sets out to explore and interrogate the links between Translation Studies and postcolonial theory in contexts of the realities of the contemporary (postcolonial) world. **Chris Song** from Lingnan University, Hong Kong examines *Telling the Story of Translation: Writers who Translate* (Bloomsbury Academic 2017) which presents a triad of modernists, namely George Bernard Shaw, Gertrude Stein, and Paul Auster, who also practiced translation at some point of their writing career.

PhD Abstracts

In this issue we include abstracts of four recently completed PhD theses. The abstracts are titled 'Optimizing Terminological Equivalence through Experimenting with Translationally-sustained Terminographic Work' by **Abbas Mehrpooya** of University of Isfahan, Iran; 'Legal Interpreters for Ethnic Minorities in Hong Kong: Identities and Cultural Mediation' by **Gurung Sangi** of Hong Kong Baptist University; 'Collaborative Translation in Online Communities of Practice: An Ethnographic Study of Yeeyan' by **Chuan Yu** of Hong Kong

Baptist University; and 'From Theory to Practice – A New Perspective on the Ethics of Translation' by **Joseph Lambert** of the University of Hull, UK

We would like to thank the authors for their strong and unfailing collaboration with us, our anonymous referees for their critical encouragement, and our book reviewers for their valuable input. We would also like to congratulate our four new Doctors for their achievement.

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