

Editorial

Titela Vîlceanu* and Daniel Dejica

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Abstract: This is an introduction to the Special Issue: Translation Times, edited by Titela Vîlceanu and Daniel Dejica.

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Translation as an intellectual and social venture is at least two millennia old, although it was recognised as an academic discipline only in the 1970s. With both retrospective and prospective views, *contact*, *fluidity*, *local*, and *global scales of influence* can be said to shape the many contexts and voices of translation.

Biel et al. (2019, 1–2) emphasise the growing maturity of the field. Although the authors' comments specifically refer to legal translation, we think that they can be generalised: "The discipline has been gradually taking on board an ever-growing variety of quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods approaches, including corpus-based, corpus-driven and corpus-assisted approaches, process research and experimental methods, workplace studies, practitioner research, critical discourse analysis (CDA), sociological and ethnographic studies, perspectives based on knowledge communication theories and post-structuralist and critical approaches."

In an attempt to delineate boundaries and acknowledge borderlines, Nicolau (2019, 5) states that "In the epoch of convergence and performativity, the competition, but also the interpenetration of disciplines, have become inevitable." Admittedly, versatility and pluralism feature transcultural communication, and the status and condition of satellite-like and interdisciplinary canons are questioned.

Complementing these views, Dejica and Dejica-Carțiș (2020, 45) point to the multidimensional translator assuming various roles and responsibilities: "In today's globalised society, when more than 7 billion people divided into 189 states use between 6,000 and 7,000 languages to communicate (Council of Europe, 2020), translation has become more important than ever. Its importance in people's personal and professional lives has been highlighted in many scholarly books, educational websites, official national and international bodies, to name just a few of the sources."

In this climate of opinion, the *Special Issue Translation Times* is a collection of articles addressing various aspects of translation theory and practice within interdisciplinary landscapes, yet, achieving conceptual and methodological coherence. For instance, the overarching notion of *equivalence* is part of the common core of interest, going beyond the confines of linguistic approaches, in close relation with the translatability of culture-specific items and idiomatic language, building an evidence-based mechanism through parallel corpus analysis. It is also important to note that besides the more "traditional" (sub)fields of literary translation and of specialised translation (technical translation), transmediation is also discussed in relation to intersemiotic reinterpretations and the computational translation of literary texts,

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as aligned with the latest enhancements in Digital Humanities. Furthermore, the sociology of translation is a major concern on account of the fact that translation, irrespective of its type, has managed to strengthen its social relevance and impact, being demand driven, and raising the question of its quantitative and qualitative values in the dynamic knowledge-based society. The very fact that all the articles use the language pair English–Romanian for theoretical and practical considerations is indicative of contextualising Translation Times, and of boosting translation research conducted by Romanian scholars while, hopefully, creating wider synergies at the international level.

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