

Editorial

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Editorial special issue: Translation times

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Translation may no longer be considered the magic buzzword that best features the globalized world and its assorted challenges, a buzzword that is, nevertheless, hard to define or to contain in a unified definition. Its ubiquity is related to its dynamism, paralleled by the proactive positioning of Translation Studies within interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary landscapes.

Translation is a matter of faith and long-term commitment. Its complex nature, relevance, and impact call for reflection, and theoretical insights should go beyond interdisciplinary confines, covering topical issues such as meaning, purpose, identity, and the relationship “between ideas; between texts; between individuals; between individuals and texts; between communities; between texts and communities; between different times and places; and between exercising force and experiencing influence,” taking “us into a surprisingly broad range of territories” and confronts us “with the most fundamental of questions” (Blumczynski 2017, ix). The notions of *context* and *contextual clues* become relevant not only at the individual level (interpersonal dimension) but also at the collective level (as situated practice) where the acting and inter-acting participants are supposed to show some degree of perspective-taking in order to meet others’ expectations, negotiate meaning, and coordinate their socially accountable actions.

Likewise, the versatile, dynamic nature of Translation Studies, shaped by coopetition (or cooperative competition) and “an ethics of location” (to use Simeoni’s phrase 2000, 340) in a pluralistic, relativistic, kaleidoscopic framework should be emphasized. Under the circumstances, we have to acknowledge that the discipline might be characterized by resourcefulness, coupled with an increasingly wide and diverse range of writing about translation and translators in ever more systematic and insightful ways. Translation matters are investigated both in depth and breadth while allowing for focused readiness. Furthermore, we ascertain that Translation Studies has developed mutually enriching relationships beyond any rigid epistemological compartmentalization of sciences or ‘disciplinary heredity’ (Cohen and Lloyd 2014). It has become a fact that the fluidity of the twenty-first century scholarship favors inter-, multi-, and transdisciplinary research as a dynamic and creative force. It will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Translation Studies is no exception to this trend. The interference zones will move boundaries, and the common core of humanities will grow in size, shape, and quality in more rewarding and mutually enriching patterns. From a reversed perspective (transfer from other sciences to translation studies), we think that translation will continue to benefit from fresher, timely, desirable, and interesting inputs – to our mind, transterminologization will be an overarching phenomenon, thus solving “the instability of the metalanguage specific to the Translation Studies domain” (Pungă 2023, 931). If, in its evolution, Translation Studies has experienced several turns – the hermeneutic perspective, the linguistic approach, the descriptive paradigm, the functional theories, the Cultural Turn, and, more recently, the digital impact – “relegating or, on the contrary, elevating older ideas, theories or methods, establishing living connections with present ideas and future challenges” (Vilceanu 2017, 11), it is quite natural to expect translation turnaround times.

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