



Editorial

Titela Vilceanu*, Loredana Pungă, Verónica Pacheco Costa, and Antonia Cristinoi Bursuc

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 competition (or cooperative competition) and “an ethics of location” (to use Simeoni’s phrase 2000, 340) in a pluralistic, relativistic, kaleidoscopical 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.

The Editors

* Corresponding author: Titela Vilceanu, Department of British, American and German Studies, University of Craiova, Craiova, Romania, e-mail: elavilceanu@yahoo.com

Loredana Pungă: Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, West University of Timișoara, Timișoara, Romania

Verónica Pacheco Costa: Department of Philology and Translation, Pablo de Olavide University, Seville, Spain

Antonia Cristinoi Bursuc: ESIT (École supérieure d’interprètes et traducteurs), Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France

1 Notes on editors and contributors

Titela VÎLCEANU, PhD, phil. hab., Director of the Department of Publications and Media (2012–2016), Director of the *Translatio* Centre for Translation, Communication and Interpretation (2012–present), is a Professor at the Faculty of Letters, University of Craiova, Romania. Her main research interests lie in translation studies, pragmatics, intercultural communication, and English language teaching methodology. Titela Vilceanu is the President of the Romanian Society for English and American Studies (RSEAS) and a member of the European Society for the Study of English Board (ESSE) (2017–present). She has been a member of the editorial board of The Scientific Bulletin of the Politehnica University of Timișoara – Transactions of Modern Languages and of Annals of the University of Craiova. Series Philology: Linguistics; a reviewer with the Swedish Journal of Romanian Studies, University of Lund, Sweden, and with Open Linguistics; a member of the Scientific Council of Universitaria and Prouniversitaria publishing houses; and head of the Translation, Terminology and Corpus Analysis (CoTraT) research laboratory, Faculty of Letters, University of Craiova. Jointly with Muguraș Constantinescu and Daniel Dejica, she coordinates the publication of *A History of Translations into the Romanian Language* at the Publishing House of the Romanian Academy.

Loredana PUNGĂ, PhD, phil. hab., Dean of the Faculty of Letters, History and Theology, Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the West University of Timișoara, Romania. Her domains of expertise are translation studies, English lexicology, and applied and cognitive linguistics. She holds an MA in British and American Studies and a PhD in Philology from the university where she currently teaches, completed on the basis of research mostly carried out at the University of California, Davis, as a Fulbright scholar. Her publications include three books and seven book chapters in thematic volumes, most of them published abroad. She is a (co)-editor of three volumes published in the UK, and a member of the editorial or advisory boards of several academic journals, indexed in important international databases.

Verónica PACHECO COSTA, PhD, is a Senior Lecturer in Philology at Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville. Her research and teaching relate primarily to the analysis of literary works, mainly theatre and fiction, written in English by female writers in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the translation of these literary works into Spanish. She is the author of five books and over 40 papers published in specialized journals, book chapters, and translations of literary texts. In the last 10 years, she has focused on the suffragist theatre written in the UK and in the USA. She was awarded the Spanish National Prize on Theatre Translation 'Martínez Sierra' by the *Spanish Scene Director Association* in 2018 for her translation and publication of British Suffragist Theatre.

Antonia CRISTINOI BURSUC, PhD, is currently a full professor at Ecole supérieure d'interprètes et traducteurs (ESIT), Sorbonne Nouvelle, and a member of the CLESTHIA laboratory (language sciences – Language, Systems, and Discourse). She teaches translation and translation theory and methodology. Her research interests include translation theory and didactics, linguistic anthropology, language contact, lexicography, field linguistics, and language documentation. Since 2003 she has been conducting fieldwork in French Guiana on Palikur, an Arawak language spoken in French Guiana and Brazil. She is also a professional translator specialized in scientific translation, theatre, and translation for children.

Mona ARHIRE, PhD, is a Professor at the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Transilvania University of Brașov, Romania. She graduated from the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures (Arabic–English) at the University of Bucharest and earned her PhD in Philology from Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. Her teaching, research, and doctoral supervision activities fall within the scope of Translation Studies, Corpus-based Translation Studies, and Contrastive Studies. She has published books and book chapters with national and international publishing houses, as well as articles and book reviews in reputed journals. She is a member of the European Society for Translation Studies and the Romanian Society for English and American Studies.

Mihaela COZMA, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the English Department in the West University of Timișoara, Romania. Her areas of expertise are translation studies, English morphology, and teaching methodology. In 2006, her research in the field of translation led to the publication of a book entitled *Translating Legal-Administrative Discourse: the EU Legislation*, a book which is based on the PhD thesis that she defended

in the same year. She is also the author of *English Grammar for Practical Purposes*, a book that deals with a wide range of issues specific to the English morphology from the point of view of their contribution to an accurate and effective type of communication. In addition to books, Mihaela Cozma has published, both in Romania and abroad, a wide range of scientific papers dealing with issues such as translation norms, translator's competence, translation evaluation, discourse analysis for translation purposes, or legal-administrative translations.

Ibrahim M. DARWISH is an Associate Professor of Linguistics at the Translation Department at Yarmouk University, Jordan. He holds a PhD degree in linguistics from Essex University, UK. His research interests include socio-pragmatics, phonetics, phonology, translation studies, localization, and media analysis.

Daniel DEJICA, PhD, habil., is a Professor in the Department of Communication and Foreign Languages and Dean of the Faculty of Communication Sciences, Politehnica University Timișoara. He is also a PhD supervisor affiliated with the Doctoral School of Humanities, West University of Timișoara, and Director of the Center for Advanced Translation Studies within Politehnica University Timișoara. His didactic and research interests include translation, discourse analysis, and intercultural and interlinguistic communication. He was part of the Doctoral Studies Committee of the European Society for Translation Studies (2009–2018). He coordinates the Translation Studies series within the Politehnica Publishing House, the Professional Communication and Translation Studies international conference, and is part of the editorial or scientific boards of numerous scientific journals. Together with Muguraș Constantinescu and Titela Vilceanu, he coordinates the publication of *A History of Translations in Romanian*, a series of volumes published by the Publishing House of the Romanian Academy.

Oana-Adriana DUȚĂ teaches Spanish linguistics and translation at the University of Craiova, Romania. She holds a PhD in Philology (University of Bucharest), a PhD in Economics (University of Craiova), and a post-graduate diploma in terminology (Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona). She has published over 60 articles in scientific journals and is the co-editor of four volumes, such as *inter alia, Sustainable and Solidary Education. Reflections and Practices* (Peter Lang, 2017). She has also been working as an external translator for EU institutions for 14 years, and her research interests include contrastive linguistics, cognitive semantics, and translation.

Marcela Alina FĂRCĂȘIU, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Communication Sciences at the Politehnica University of Timișoara and a freelance translator. She teaches Culture and Civilization, Writing Skills, Legal Translation, and English for Digital Media. She holds a PhD in courtroom discourse, has authored two books, and has written many academic papers and reviews. She has also been a freelance translator for over 20 years and has worked with many national and international translation agencies. She has also translated three books for the RAO publishing house and has subtitled many films and documentaries for AXN, E! Entertainment, and other TV stations.

Mihaela GAVRILĂ is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of British, American, and German Studies, Faculty of Letters, University of Craiova. She has a PhD in American Literature and holds a BA degree in English and Spanish and an MA degree in English Literature from the University of Craiova. She has participated in various national and international conferences and published several articles in English and Romanian. Her domains of interest include American and British Literature, Gothic literature, the aesthetics of death, the palimpsestic structure of the narrative, and the interrelationship between literature and the other arts.

Attila IMRE, PhD, phil. hab., is a Professor in translation studies at Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, Department of Applied Linguistics. His research interests range from American culture and civilization to cognitive linguistics, English morphology, and syntax, all combined and embedded in translation studies, mostly translation technology, terminology, and audiovisual translations. At present, he is busy creating and analyzing terminology databases of acronyms found in various TV series and online press. He has published several books, most recently, *A Logical English Grammar* (2019) and *An Introduction to Translator Studies* (2020).

Ramunė KASPERĖ, PhD, is a Professor and principal investigator of the research group *Language and Technologies* at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities of Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania. Within Translation Studies, her research interests include machine translation, post-editing,

translator competence, and translation project management. She is also working on topics of generative artificial intelligence tools, technopедагогy in languages, and eye-tracking methodology. She is an editor-in-chief of *Studies about Languages* and has been involved in several research projects on the impact of technologies in society as well as in international networks on research in crowdsourcing techniques for language learning and eye tracking methodology.

Annamaria KILYENI, PhD, Associate Professor at the Department of Communication and Foreign Languages, Faculty of Communication Sciences, Politehnica University of Timișoara, Romania, coordinates the Translation and Interpreting BA study program. She teaches Terminology, English for Specific Purposes, English Grammar, and Translation. She is also a member of the Center for Advanced Translation Studies within Politehnica University. She holds an MA in Terminology and Translation Studies and a PhD in English Linguistics from the West University of Timișoara, Romania. She has researched and published regularly in the fields of terminology, ESP, applied cognitive linguistics, and discourse analysis, and she has been part of several national and international research projects. She currently coordinates the Politehnica University research team involved in the Terminology without Borders project of the Terminology Coordination Unit at the European Parliament.

Vilmantė LIUBINIENĖ, PhD, Professor of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities of Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania, passed away on 15 October 2023. Her research interests included linguistic localization and translation (machine translation in particular), new media language, digital culture and intercultural communication, system of universal values, and identity formation. She was especially devoted to researching digital practices of young children, the development of digital literacy, migration culture, media, and cultural studies. She was also arduously involved in a number of research projects dealing with the impact of technologies on children, research of migration cultures, digital literacies, and integration. Her work and contribution to the field of intercultural communication will be missed, as she was a trusted member of the research community.

Cecilia Mihaela POPESCU is a Professor and a doctoral supervisor at the University of Craiova, Romania. She developed her PhD and postdoctoral studies at the same university, in the field of Romance Linguistics. She has been a visiting scholar at Charles de Gaulle University, Lille3, Denis Diderot University, Paris 7, University of Rome 3, and Universidad del País Vasco. She has been a member of several national and international grants and projects, has organized various national and international conferences on historical linguistics and lexicology, and has edited various collective volumes. Her research interests include Romance linguistics and discourse markers.

Daria PROTOPOPOESCU is an Associate Professor in the English Department, University of Bucharest. She holds a PhD degree in Philology, *summa cum laude*, from the same university. She is the author of the books *Elements of English Terminology*, 2013, Editura Universității București, and a co-author of *New Perspectives on English Grammar*, 2014, Editura Institutul European Iași. Her research areas include translation studies, terminology, syntax, and the history of the English language.

Mihai Robert RUSU, PhD, is a Junior Lecturer in the Department of Physical Therapy, Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, University of Craiova. His research interests lie in vizează specialized languages (ESP, with a focus on medical English), medical translation, intercultural communication, and interdisciplinary studies. He has authored several papers in the field of translation: *Specialised Translation – Trends and Challenges* (2019, in *New Perspectives in Literature, Linguistics and Arts*); *The Role of Specialised Translation. A Multisided Perspective* (2019, in *Journal of Young Researchers*, Social Sciences, Art and Humanities), *The Literary vs. Non-Literary Divide* (2020, in *Journal of Young Researchers*, Social Sciences, Art and Humanities), *Coverage of Medical Translation and Empowerment of Medical Translators* (2021, in *Journal of Young Researchers*, Social Sciences, Art and Humanities), and *Diagnosing Medical Translation and Framing Current Challenges* (co-author) (2021, in *Synergies in Communication*).

Simona ȘIMON, PhD, phil. hab., is a Professor in the Department of Communication and Foreign Languages at Politehnica University of Timișoara, vice-dean of the Faculty of Communication Sciences, a member of the University Senate, and a founder member of the Politehnica Centre for Advanced Translation Studies – PoliCAT. She is also affiliated with the Doctoral School of Humanities at the West University of Timișoara. Her research interests are in the field of linguistics, interpreting, translation, teaching,

and verbal and non-verbal intercultural communication. She has performed many editorial and review activities at national and international academic journals. She has authored or co-authored books, dictionaries, chapters in edited volumes, translations, book reviews, and numerous scientific articles.

Nadina VIŞAN, PhD, is a Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature, University of Bucharest, Romania. Her main interests lie in the direction of historical linguistics and translation studies. She is the author of *A Discourse Representation Theory Analysis of the Perfect in English and Romanian* (Bucureşti, Editura Universităţii Bucureşti, 2006) and *Elements of English Lexicology* (Bucureşti, Editura Universităţii Bucureşti, 2015) and co-author of *New Perspectives on English Grammar* (Iaşi, Institutul European, 2014).

Sara H. AI-YASIN runs a translation center in Irbid, Jordan. She holds an MA degree in audiovisual translation from Yarmouk University, Jordan. Her research interests include audiovisual translation, technical translation, and interpreting.

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