

Call for papers



New drivers of translation – a challenge for professional translators

Field grown translation studies
Fourth conference
Paris, June 18, 2011

Nicolas Froeliger and Colette Laplace, based
on an initial idea by Richard Ryan



Translation is generally considered as a profession that can be described in precise and dispassionate terms. And yet, possibly more than one would expect, translation is also driven by a state of mind, a view of the outside world, of diversity, of the written word. Sometimes, people throw themselves into translation because they are driven by a sudden desire, an irrepressible urge to translate something for themselves or for others. And as we shall demonstrate, this state of mind, which can lead to hypersensitivity to criticism, is not confined to literary translators. We shall also explore the motives and parameters that give some people this passion to translate in every possible field. Nor is it specific to professional translators, as it clearly extends to all those enthusiastic amateurs who wish to share a text they love.

This extensive definition of translation, however, does not sit easily with the way professional translators see themselves. But that doesn't mean we are returning to an era in which there were no professionals and any amateur, enlightened or otherwise, could claim to be a translator. The current trend is driven by changes in technology and in society. Anyone now has access to free tools such as automated translation, terminological resources and software tools of all kinds, which used to be the preserve of professionals. In addition, the culture of open source is changing the very definition of ownership, not restricting it to resources that are acquired for money but on the contrary, extending it to resources that can be shared by the largest number.

All this poses a number of new challenges to both professional translators and translation courses that can be summarised in the following question: who can rightfully claim to be a translator? Not for the first time, changes in the world around us are forcing us to rethink the value of our profession.

New drivers of translation – a challenge for professional translators, such is the topic that we shall set out to explore during our fourth **Field grown translation studies** conference.

True to our founding principles, the conference will give teachers, academics, students and practitioners of translation a further opportunity to engage in learned debate, explain their approach and share their insights, with a focus on examples, debate and putting things into perspective. The conference will be held on **June 18, 2011** and it will be organised jointly by UFR EILA (ILTS masters – Language Industry and Specialised Translation – and CLILLAC-ARP laboratory of Université Paris Diderot) and CR-Trad (Translation Studies Research centre) of ESIT (École supérieure d'interprètes et de traducteurs – Université Paris 3 – Sorbonne Nouvelle). It will take place **at ESIT, Centre Universitaire Dauphine**, Paris, and the proceedings will be more widely circulated through publication in a translation studies journal.

Please send the outline of papers for workshop discussion and/or publication, in English or in French (500 words or so) in Word or Word-compatible format to Nicolas Froeliger (nf@eila.univ-paris-diderot.fr) and Colette Laplace (LaplaceCol@aol.com) by 21 March 2011.

Participation in the conference is free of charge, but please let the organisers know if you wish to attend

For further information, please contact:

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