

Presentation

This volume brings together texts from two activities: position papers from the seminar “The Future of Research on Translation and Interpreting” held in Tarragona in December 2008, and selected presentations from the graduate conference “New Research in Translation and Interpreting Studies” held in Tarragona in October 2007.

The two parts speak to each other as two sides of the process of training researchers. The voices in the first part belong to professors teaching or supervising research in our international doctoral program in Translation and Intercultural Studies. Those in the second part are doctoral students or young graduates, presenting research projects that are underway or have recently been completed. Both kinds of voice should ideally be paying some attention to the other.

The professorial part of the dialogue comes from a seminar that asked the following questions about research in Translation Studies (which we take to include Interpreting Studies):

1. What specific problems need to be addressed by research?
2. What specific methodologies are needed?
3. How should we be training researchers to focus on those problems and to use those methodologies?

The various answers concern both how we should be training researchers (particularly in contributions by Daniel Gile and Andrew Chesterman), and what areas are opening up for future research projects (most of the other papers in that first part). A few more fundamental questions about where we have come from, and thus where we might be headed, are raised in Gideon Toury’s survey of the first twenty years of the Translation Studies journal *Target*, which has long been the most prestigious place of publication for European Translation Studies.

The papers in the second part have far more to do with the hard realities of actually doing research at the present time. The points of non-correspondence with the professorial desiderata are numerous; the ties with traditional approaches and local needs are more obvious.

Our hope in publishing these two sets of papers is that the different perspectives might enter into exchange, ideally beyond the level of platitudes. The seminar on “The Future of Research on Translation and Interpreting” was held in response to numerous doubts about the nature and direction of our own doctoral program: endemic topics, poor research designs, limited awareness of where the results of research might go, high levels of non-completed projects, attacks of non-scientificity from petty empiricists on the

one hand, and a willful dissolution of the translation concept from autodidact intellectuals on the other.

The questions, I believe, were timely. May they eventually lead to a few answers.

Anthony Pym
Tarragona, February 2009

Aknowledgements

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