

## Translations Conference

27/28 June 2013

### Conference Participants

A total of 47 doctoral research students from the UK, Europe and overseas universities attended the conference. Thirty one of the participants were from the following schools at Cardiff University:

- Cardiff Business School
- Cardiff Law School
- Cardiff School of City and Regional Planning
- Cardiff School of English, Communication and Philosophy
- Cardiff School of European Studies
- Cardiff School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies
- Cardiff School of Music
- Cardiff School of History, Archaeology and Religion
- Cardiff School of Social Sciences
- Cardiff School of Nursery and Midwifery
- Cardiff School of Psychology

Other conference delegates attended from the following Universities: Universidad Pablo de Olavide (Spain), University of Leeds, King's College London, St Patrick's College, Dublin City University, Baghdad University (Iraq), Loughborough University, Aksaray University (Turkey), Jadavpur University (India), University of Hull, Chelsea College of Art & Design, Keele University, University of York and Harbin University (China) .

### Keynote Address

**Panel 1a:** Translation in practice and communities

Chair: Polina Baum-Talmor

- **Kate Attfield, Cardiff University**, *Translation Methodology across Cultures: the Deaf Collective and a Hearing Researcher*

- **Laura Goodwin, Cardiff University, *Translational Issues in UK Maternity care; An Exploration of Exclusion, Culture, and Reciprocity***

The title of this panel is “Translation in practice and communities”, and it was intended to present the practical uses of translation in everyday life and in academic research.

The first paper, titled “Translation methodology across Cultures: the Deaf Collective and a hearing researcher”, presented by Kate Attfield from Cardiff University presented her experience of researching a deaf collective in the UK. She presented an interesting picture of a unique society, accentuating the different ways in which deaf people see themselves when compared to the way other – hearing - people see them. Whereas deaf people are seen in society as having a problem, lacking an important sense that others have, the deaf people see themselves as having a “gift” and use the sign language as a capital. Kate presented her experience of working with deaf people as part of her research and mentioned several challenges she had as a hearing researcher, although these challenges could be dealt with due to her background as a social worker.

Similarly, the second paper, titled “Translational issues in UK maternity care: An Exploration of Exclusion, Culture and Reciprocity” presented by Laura Goodwin from Cardiff University, presented the methodological issues of translation in a multi-cultural environment. The researcher focused on hospitals in UK, where women from different countries were facing maternity care in the UK. The translational issues arose as a result of the different cultural backgrounds of the researcher and her participants, who were mostly women from non-English speaking countries. This issue needed consideration, taking into account the need of a third party interpreter, who was posing additional ethical and methodological considerations to the research.

**Panel 1b: Translations: Exploring the Spatial Dimensions**

Chair: Saeed Ahmed

- **Jessica Kent, Cardiff University, *'Spaces of Dialogue: Interfaith Engagement within the City'***
- **Caroline Roubardin, Chelsea College of Art and Design, *'Le Sens de la Translation: Understanding Geometrical Translation as an Embodied and Sensory Practice'***

This panel was formed combining the papers exploring the theme of translations in spatial terms. There were two papers and both of them tried to highlight the interpreting and translating space.

The opening paper, 'Spaces of Dialogue: Interfaith Engagement within the City', elaborated the importance of spaces in terms of cities and buildings in shaping and facilitating dialogue between different cultures. The paper explored Cardiff as a case study city and further discussed different religious buildings that are helping in breaking the odd perspectives about other cultures and making different cultures come together.

The second paper was 'Le Sens de la Translation: Understanding Geometrical Translation as an Embodied and Sensory Practice'. This author explored the word 'translations' in its fundamental sense of transferring or conveying something without altering it, and applied in physical terms and explained in terms of Euclidean geometry. Unlike other paper, the understanding of translation was based on subjective experience.

The panel got good response from the audience, specially the issue of interfaith dialogue and the role of space in it was much related to many and was discussed thoroughly.

#### **Panel 2a: Translating the "Other"**

Chair: Malgorzata Rutecka

- **Saudamini Deo, Jadavpur University**, From Hindustani to English: The Limits of Translating the Language of Partition
- **Xin Zhang, Cardiff University**, Translating Other: A Theoretical Approach to History of Media Representation of Chinese in the UK
- **Zachary Esterson, Cardiff University**, *Translation as Transfer*

This panel focused on issues of translating the "Other". In the opening paper Saudamini Deo, an MA student from Jadavpur University, examined the politics of translation and identities in three short stories of S'adat Hasan Manto and Ismat Chughtai, both in its

original Urdu and in English. She attempted to use Austin's speech-act theory to analyse how translation not just describes but also changes the reality of the text especially when the translation takes place from a 'vernacular' language to a 'colonial' language. She argued that such translations, while making these texts available to a wider audience, depoliticise them (especially in blatantly political narratives) and render the text's resistance to colonialism ambiguous (in the context of modern Indian sub continental history.)

The second paper, "Translating Other: A Theoretical Approach to History of Media Representation of Chinese in the UK" was delivered by *Xin Zhang from Cardiff University*. Xin gave a brief introduction of historical background of the UK's Chinese population, such as immigration history and policy and social positions and identity problems. She used Edward Said's Orientalism as the theoretical approach on representing Other, followed by several theories in post-colonial studies such as stereotypes, Subaltern discourse, cultural differences, hegemony and power. She also addressed recent political strategies on multiculturalism in the UK, which shift the way of representing and teaching Other culture by a political translation.

The third presenter, Zachary Esterton from Cardiff University in his paper "Translation as Transfer" explored the issues of the church fathers' exegesis being seen more and more as a quasi-colonial act, intended to appropriate a particular set of writings from one group, whose dispossession is both figurative and literal. He argued that, while a post-colonial critique has been applied to almost every discipline in the humanities, the church fathers have largely escaped unscathed. He mainly focused on Jerome melding several kinds of transfer: ethnic, spiritual, cultic, religious and political (which are intimately connected with Jerome's own colonial situation in the Holy Land) and on his highly ambiguous relationship with the local collaborators.

## **Panel 2b:** Art in Translation: Monolingual and Bilingual Perspectives

Chair: Catherine Han

- **Heather Connelly, Loughborough University**, '*Speaking through the Voice of Another: An Exploration of Translation through Art Practice*'
- **Corbett Miteff, Cardiff University**, '*Translating Anime into Animation*'

- **Matteo Fabbretti, Cardiff University, 'Translation Otaku: Japanese Subculture Travels Abroad'**

This broad panel examined art performed in multiple languages alongside the transition of art works from one cultural context to another. Heather Connelly, who is doing a PhD in fine art practice, presented her piece “Speaking Through the Voice of Another”. The audio work consisted of layered recordings of different speakers saying the same sentence—“this is me”—in multiple languages. Over this audio track, Heather read aloud a rumination of the process of translation from her monolingual position. After the performance, Heather gave a brief exposition of her work. In the second paper, Corbett Miteff delivered his paper “Translating Anime into Animation”. Discussing the history of Japanese animation and its introduction into North American culture, Corbett focussed on the work of amateur fan translators and their attempts to provide accurate, but bootlegged, translations of these foreign films. Corbett drew numerous conclusions about the process but concluded his lack of Japanese did not impede his research. Instead, he foregrounded the primacy of the visual when studying such material. The subject segued smoothly into the third part of the panel, Matteo Fabbretti’s “Translating Otaku: Japanese Subculture Travels Abroad”. Fabbretti described the “Otaku”, fans of manga and anime, whose appreciation for these forms have led to much underground activity, including non-mainstream publishing. Furthermore, the phenomenon has led to non-Japanese fans to ape the style and appearance of these works. Despite the diversity of topics, the ensuing question and answer session resulted in a lively debate. Both panel members and delegates considered issues that included: the demise of traditional forms of authorship; the ethics of cultural appropriation; the relationship between mainstream and cult; and the consumption/commodification of amateur translations.

### **Panel 3a: Literature in Translation, Translation in Literature**

Chair: Catherine Han

- **Rebecca Dobson, King's College, London, 'Scenes of Instruction and Interpretation: Theories and Practices of Translation in Vercelli Homilies VII and XXIII'**
- **Sophie Battell, Cardiff University, 'Hospitality as Intralingual Translation in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* (1597)'**

This panel focussed on intersections between literature and translation. In the first paper “Scenes of Instruction and Interpretation; Theories and Practices of Translation in *Vercelli Homilies* VII and XXII”, Rebecca Dobson challenged received opinion on the practices and aims of Anglo-Saxon translators. In her presentation, she sought to expand the corpus of literature usually considered in relation to this topic. In doing so, she also refuted the conservatism of scholarship in this area. She ended with a discussion of how her chosen material provided intriguing evidence about the formation of the period’s conceptualisation of individual subjectivity. Leading on from this, Sophie Battell delivered a paper entitled “Hospitality as Intralingual Translation in Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice* (1597)”. Her work drew upon French philosophy for insights into the play to argue that the Venetian characters’ intralingual word play indicated the inhospitality of such language for the Jewish Shylock. The theoretical framework allowed Sophie to advance a bold reinterpretation of *The Merchant of Venice*’s courtroom scene. She suggested that the Shylock’s request for a “pound of flesh” indicated a desire for linguistic stability and fixity. In the question and answer session, both presenters and delegates perceived thought-provoking connections between the two papers. Subjects broached included: Anglo-Saxon gender constructions; subjectivity in both the medieval and renaissance period; Shakespeare’s use of an Italian setting; linguistic inhospitality in *The Tempest*; and the use and circulation of the *Vercelli* manuscript.

### **Panel 3b:** Theories in Context and Process

Chair: Yuqun Hong

- **Elisa Alonso-Jiménez, Universidad Pablo de Olavide**, ‘*Applications of the Transhumanisation Theory from Communication Studies to Translation Studies*’
- **Mirona Moraru, Cardiff University**, ‘*Translating between Public and Private – Multilingualism in Wales*’
- **Sumanta Barua, King’s College London**, ‘*Role of Contextual Knowledge and Interest in Interdisciplinary Translation*’

This was a loosely-joined panel. Mirona Moraru kindly offered to present when one of the presenter decided to withdraw.

Elisa Alonso-Jiménez from Universidad Pablo de Olavide started the panel by applying metaphor of transhumanisation to translation studies. She showed the way that translation has been undergoing de-humanisation, re-humanisation and trans-humanisation processes; and also pointed out that the tendency of ‘transtranslator’ penetrated all sort of areas in translation practice.

Mirona Moraru from Cardiff University was the second person to present in this panel. She overviewed multilingual and multicultural aspects of Wales. A case study, in a form of interview script, was given to audience in an attempt to illustrate her findings of challenges and benefits of being multilingual in Wales.

The third presenter in this panel was Sumanta Barua from King’s College London. Drawing from his PhD research, he explored the issues of translations in terms of contextual translations among different disciplines and in terms of translating research ideas and result into comprehensible information to wider audiences.

Seemly not interconnected, this panel sparked some interesting discussions of translation from various angles – traditional or modern, manual or mechanical, collaborative or standardised, educational or communicational, challenges or benefits, contextual or literal, etc.

#### **Panel 4a: Approaches to Translation: Connotations and Formulaic Sequences**

Chair: Yuqun Hong

- **Petya Yankova, University of York**, *‘Translating between cultures: the question of accessing information and reconstructing connotations’*
- **Rong Zhou, Harbin University of Science and Technology**, *‘Cognition foundation for translating English formulaic sequences into Chinese’*

This panel showcases language translations from both theoretical and practical aspects.

The first presentation was given by Petya Yankova from University of York, who translated a modern Bulgarian novel into English. She identified and gave examples of various difficulties

in her process of translations – translating names, exact translation of a certain word, translating idioms, and especially translating cultural knowledge.

Second presentation was given by Rong Zhou from Harbin University of Science and Technology. She explained the way that cognition metaphor theory are applied to relate English emotion formulaic sequences with five-stage procedures – calmness, existence, control, out of control and action. As a part of a large project, they intended to bridge the gap between English and Chinese emotion formulaic sequence using cognition metaphor theory.

#### **Panel 4b: Translating Cultures and Language Learners**

Chair: Polina Baum-Talmor

- **Graoui Hayatte, Cardiff University**, *"I Don't Care about Their Habits": EFL learners' Resistance to Target Culture*
- **Malgorzata Rutecka, Cardiff, University** *'Improved Communication or Conflict of Interest? Non-professional Interpreting in Schools in Wales*

The title of this panel is “Translating Cultures and Language Learners”, and it was intended to present different contexts in which translation plays an important part, especially in the study of English as a foreign language, whether it is adult learners or children learners.

The first paper, titled “‘I don’t care about their habits’: EFL Learners’ Resistance to Target Culture”, presented by Hayatte Graoui from Cardiff University, presented students’ experiences of learning English, emphasizing their active learning and often resistance to the hegemonic language/ culture. The speaker presented a few examples from her interviews with the participants, and showed their way of coping with another language that was not their mother tongue.

The second paper, titled “Improved Communication or Conflict of Interest? Non-professional Interpreting in Schools in Wales”, presented by Malgorzata Rutecka from Cardiff University, presented the ethical and practical issues of translation by non-professional interpreters, including children, in schools in Wales. The presenter showed several examples of non-professional interpreters from our daily lives, including children

that speak both languages, in cases that involve different levels of translation needed. The emphasis was on ethical issues concerning translation by children for adults, concerning different issues.

#### **Panel 5: Codes and Interpretations at Play**

Chair: Carey A.M. Wallace

- **Hiu Chan, Cardiff University, *Butterfly and Spinning Top: Translating Dreams through Film, a Cross-Cultural Reading of Inception***
- **Amal Hallak, Cardiff University, *The Literary Phenomenon in the wakes of Translations***

Hiu discussed her paper which explored translation in popular culture through a cross-cultural reading of the film *Inception*, a film that is notable for a dream structure that is embedded in its narrative. Most of the audience confirmed, via show of hands, that they had seen the film. Hiu indicated that since the 1970s, the main approach for dream interpretation in film had been dominated by psychoanalysis. But she argued that there were other ways to understand dream sequences in film texts which she believed was a Eurocentric framework. Dream aesthetics and philosophy also appear in other cultures, and so these dynamic thoughts are able to provide us different understandings of the relationship between dream and film. She discussed several theories on translation in film and culture. Firstly, Thomas Elsaesser's thoughts on translation in cinema, and secondly, Rey Chow's writing on "film as ethnography". She presented her evaluations of Elsaesser's and Chow's works, that a cross-cultural interpretation of texts is also one method of translation, in particular, cultural translation. She then adapted the ancient Chinese philosophy on dream by Zhuangzi (369bc – 296bc) and provided a cross-cultural reading of *Inception*, differing from traditional Western psychoanalytic discourse, Zhuangzi's thoughts on dream hold an opposite opinion – dreams are meaningless and structureless. She provided a detailed decoding of *Inception* using an Eastern approach, this presentation was a case study of cultural translation. The Presentation was well received.

Amal presented her work on the genealogy of "Literariness": The Transformation of Literary Criticism into Literary Theory She traced theorization of "literariness" between the 1940s and the 1970s, covering mainly French critics. She presented a critical investigation of the development of the concept and how studying literature came to be theorized. She discussed her research to date on when the issue of literariness started to be recognized theoretically, what is thought of as literary theory, what the literary in theory is, what space

literature occupies or what value it has within the context of critical theory, and whether theory was successful in containing literature. Her presentation was well received.