

## *ICTRG Event: ICCT 2019*

### *2nd International Conference on Community Translation*

In conjunction with the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT), ICTRG will hold the 2nd International Conference on Community Translation at RMIT, Melbourne in December 2019. We cordially invite researchers, translators and educators to participate and share their research and/or practice outcomes in Community Translation (Public Service Translation) in general and, in particular, on the following topics:

- ◇ Advances and innovations in Community Translation research;
- ◇ CT curriculum design, teaching practices and learning outcomes;
- ◇ Situation of language policies and community translation services in different parts of the world;
- ◇ Community translators as social agents;
- ◇ Translating for refugees and in conflict zones;
- ◇ Community Translation and healthcare awareness;
- ◇ CT-relevant aspects of legal translation;

- ◇ Community translation and new technologies;
- ◇ Quality assurance in community translation;
- ◇ Community translation reception and community feedback.

For abstract submission, key dates, plenary speakers and more detailed information, please [click here, ICCT 2019](#).

### **WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE**

Page 2:

- ◆ Members' latest publications—

*Discourse in Translation*

*Phonology Matters in Interpreting*

- ◆ Technical text in plain language

Page 3:

- ◆ Upcoming conferences

## *It matters how interpreters sound -*

### *Studies on phonological transfer in simultaneous interpreting*

Phonological transfer stands for the transfer of one speaker's phonological features onto another one's speech, and it occurs on a daily basis in different language users. In bi- and multilinguals, as well as language learners, it proceeds not only from their mother tongue onto the foreign language but also vice versa. While in general it is not desired to have one's native pronunciation modulated by L2, some groups of language users need to be characterized by an excellent ability to "keep the phonologies" of two languages "apart". These groups include simultaneous interpreters in whom the constant activation and inhibition of two languages needs to be excellent to ensure on one hand source language understanding and on the other – the perfect production in target language.

Put succinctly, phonological correctness does matter in the interpreter's work, as it ensures the listeners' understanding, subjectively perceived professionalism and elegance of speech, and the comfort of listening. At the same time, the cogni-

tive effort related to simultaneous interpreting and non-selective language access make the (simultaneous) interpreter prone to phonological transfer. That notwithstanding, phonological training still remains understudied and rarely constitutes a formal element of interpreter training curriculum, while there is a strong need to pay attention to the phonology of the interpreter and the interpreter-to-be.

To investigate phonological transfer in simultaneous interpreting, I embarked on three studies revolving around: 1) phonetic transfer, 2) prosodic transfer and 3) the end user's assessment of target text speeches in the light of phonological transfer. The main goal of study 1) and 2), including interpreters working in the Polish-English combination, was to determine whether the native phonology (i.e. Polish) of professional simultaneous interpreters may be affected by the phonology of their L2 (i.e. English).

The first study, aiming at vowel and consonant features, investigated 20 professional interpreters, and observed no phonetic transfer, except for slight and statistically insignificant transfer of aspiration and the shift from Polish clear to English-like dark L sound (such as the dark L in "tale" versus clear L in "late") in the Polish target texts of some participants. The second study analysed and compared 40 professional interpreters' intonation and pauses to those of the source text speakers. The outcome of the study showed statistically significant intonational transfer and significant differences in the number, type and length of pauses between the interpreter (native Polish speaker) and the speaker (native English speaker). Interestingly enough, some interpreters produced intonational patterns that are prescriptively deemed non-existent in Polish, possibly also due to the prosodic transfer.

**Continue on PAGE 2**

### From PAGE 1 // It matters how interpreters sound

Finally, the aim of the third study was to verify whether intonational transfer may be associated with the subjectively perceived quality of interpreting. The interpretations were shown to independent judges acting as the audience, randomly selected from the Polish population. The judges were asked to assess the professionalism, nativeness of

speech, comfort of listening and the quality of interpreting as a whole. The results showed that while the subjectively perceived quality of interpretation in general does not depend on phonology, prosodic transfer can be associated with the comfort of listening. Hopefully, irrespective of its impact on the state of knowledge in Interpreting Studies, the outcome of the project will prove to be useful in interpreter training and upskilling.

The studies were funded by the Polish National Science Centre, within the following research project: "Foreign language influence on native pronunciation in simultaneous interpreting (2016/19/N/HS2/03400)." Results can be found in Stachowiak, Katarzyna. 2018. *Phonology matters in interpreting*. Peter Lang.

Katarzyna Stachowiak  
University of Warsaw

## Members' Latest Publications:

### *Discourse in Translation, edited by Said Faiq*

This book explores the discourse in and of translation within and across cultures and languages. From the macro aspects of translation as an intercultural project to actual analysis of textual ingredients that contribute to translation and interpreting as discourse, the ten chapters represent different explorations of 'global' theories of discourse and translation. Offering interrogations of theories and practices within different sociocultural environments and traditions (Eastern and

Western), *Discourse in Translation* considers a plethora of domains, including historiography, ethics, technical and legal discourse, subtitling, and the politics of media translation as representation. This is key reading for all those working on translation and discourse within translation studies and linguistics.

Click [here for more information](#)

### *Phonology matters in interpreting by Katarzyna Stachowiak*

This book bridges the gap between phonological and Interpreting Studies. It first presents interdisciplinary studies on interpreters and interpreting receivers. The subsequent chapters discuss phonology, phonological transfer and bilingual processing. The author also touches upon expertise and quality in interpreting, including phonological development. The final chapter presents a

study on prosodic transfer in interpreting. Put succinctly, this book is about the role and importance of phonology and phonological processes in studying, practising and working on one's interpreting.

Click [here for more information](#)

"In creating a new act of communication out of a previously existing one, translators are inevitably acting under the pressure of their own social conditioning while at the same time trying to assist in the negotiation of meaning between the producer of the source-language text (ST) and the reader of the target-language (TT), both of whom exist within their own, different social frameworks."

(Hatim & Mason, 1990, p. 1)

## Technical Text in Plain Language —

### *A postgraduate study on Community Translation at Stellenbosch University*

This is a master's thesis completed with a title focussing on plain language and community translation principles — The re-translation of a technical text in plain language: a case study, by Adriaan Cupido, under the supervision of Prof Harold Lesch at Stellenbosch University.

The thesis was written in Afrikaans but here is a summary of the thesis in English:

In South Africa English is readily used as a preferred or bridging language in various public domains, including the banking sector. This trend presents problems, especially in light of statistics relating to language distribution in South Africa.

The South African Government has instituted various laws, including the Consumer

Protection Act and the National Credit Act. According to these laws, it is clearly stipulated that any written communication, particularly in the banking sphere, must be made available in plain language, and that banking documentation should be accessible to every client. It also determines that documentation should be available in the language the client understands. In the South African context it is not enough to translate these documents into the various languages, without making additional adjustments to accommodate the different literacy levels of the diverse clientele. This legislation was instituted to ensure that public participation and access to information should be promoted and encouraged. If clients do not understand the documents they receive, they are not in a posi-

tion to make informed decisions, or to participate actively in society.

The purpose of this research is to complete a re-translation of an existing banking text by applying the principles of plain language and community translation, thus producing a translation that is accessible and comprehensible to both the informed and the uninformed reader. The re-translation is annotated to highlight the differences between the original Afrikaans translation and the re-translation, and to emphasise the role played by plain language and community translation in making easy-to-understand documents available in the public domain, thereby promoting public participation and fair access to information.

## Upcoming Conferences

- ◇ ITI Conference 2019  
Institute of Translation and Interpreting  
Sheffield, UK  
10-11th May 2019  
For details, please [click here](#)
- ◇ 2019 NZSTI Conference  
—Multiculturalism and Multimodality  
New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters  
Christchurch, New Zealand  
1st-2nd June 2019  
For details, please [click here](#)
- ◇ ICCT 2019  
—2nd International Conference on Community Translation  
ICTRG & AUSIT  
RMIT, Melbourne, Australia  
13th-15th December 2019  
For details, please [click here](#)
- ◇ Translation and Interpreting 4.0  
—New Ways in the Digital Age  
German Federal Association of Interpreters and Translators  
(Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e. V.—“BDÜ”)  
Bonn, Germany  
22nd-24th December 2019  
For details, please [click here](#)

---

## ICTRG MISSION STATEMENT

- ◇ *To create an international research community capable of leading and conducting quality research into Community Translation;*
- ◇ *To facilitate cross-fertilization of ideas and international research partnerships;*
- ◇ *To raise awareness of Community Translation needs in different countries;*
- ◇ *To promote professionalized Community Translation services;*
- ◇ *To produce and disseminate quality research outputs that inform training, policymaking and professional practice.*

---

**[ICTRG WEBSITE!](http://communitytranslation.net/)**

<http://communitytranslation.net/>

**We make community translation accessible and  
understandable to communities!**