

## *Some thoughts on the relation between COVID-19 and Community Translation*

Amid the vast and rapid outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot emphasise enough the importance of disseminating related healthcare information to members of minority groups who heavily rely on translation to protect themselves, their family and the community from the virus. This pragmatic nature of translation of healthcare information is one of the goals that can be achieved via Community Translation – to socially include minority groups by giving them language access to information crucially important to protection of their human rights. The pragmatic nature of social inclusion of Community Translation is usually not achieved directly through other types

of translation, such as translation of novels, business agreements/contracts.

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic also reminds us again that “infectious disease does not recognise language or social class” (Roat & Crezee, 2015, p. 241). Hence, language barriers, if they exist, may pose threatens not only to the health rights of members of minority communities, but also to the integrity of public health. This is one of the reasons for which we propose, promote and welcome input related to research and practice of Community Translation.

### WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2:

- ◆ ICTRG Members' Research in Progress! — *The Interpreting for Perinatal and End-of-Life Care*
- ◆ Congratulations to Our New PhD Degree Holder — *It makes sense, but I just don't get it.*

Page 3:

- ◆ Our members' in-progress PhD study — *Virtual-Reality Hajj guide as a pre-training medium*

## *Keynotes and panel discussion from ICCT 2019 — Now Available on Youtube!*

Thanks to our AUSIT and RMIT colleagues, Erika Gonzalez, Despina Amanatidou and Miranda Lai, people who could not attend the 2nd International Conference on Community Translation (ICCT 2019) in December last year can now view and share the video of the two keynotes and panel discussion on Youtube.

[Please click here](#) for **Prof. David Katan's keynote** address on "The battle to intervene: Core cultural competencies for community translators". Prof. Katan spoke about translatorial intervention being investigated with the Iceberg model in terms of translator's competencies, suggested that the ultimate ability the translators require is to achieve a balance in the constraints and intervention between the source and target cultural features.

[Please click here](#) for **Associate Prof. Ineke Crezee's keynote** on "The important role of Community Translation in the promotion of health literacy". She used New Zealand as an example to explain challenges that a country with a rich diversity of linguistic groups can face, and suggested that community translators are expected to be intercultural experts, representatives of end-users, and translation for communities is expected to be culturally appropriate and easy to understand.

[Please click here](#) for **the panel discussion**. The discussion focused on quality assurance in community translation, was chaired by Mustapha Taibi and involved speakers from different sectors and organisations: Erika Gonzalez (RMIT University), Nora Sautter (NAATI), Quintin Ridgeway (Translation Service, Department of Internal Affairs, NZ), Ismael Akinci (All Graduates), Emiliano Zucchi (Transcultural & Language Services | Narrun Wilipgiin Aboriginal Support Unit), Sonia Sanchez Moreno (Professional Translator) and Michael Camit (NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service).



## *ICTRG Members' Research in Progress!*

### **Project:**

**The Interpreting for Perinatal and End-of-Life Care (IPEC)**

### **Researchers:**

**Katarzyna Stachowiak-Szymczak (University of Warsaw)**

The Interpreting for Perinatal and End-of-Life Care (IPEC) project aims to enrich knowledge about the current state and areas of possible improvement in community interpreting in perinatal and end-of-life care (IPEC) units, in Poland as compared to the US. Community interpreters (CIs) conduct oral translation in (usually) public institutions to enable and/or facilitate communication between parties who do not (fluently) speak the same language. For instance, CIs can interpret for healthcare professionals and allophone patients, to ensure the patients' access to information about their health status prognosis, treatment options, etc., as this affects patient dignity, autonomy and the quality of life and dying. Patients in perinatal and end-of-life care are particularly vulnerable and their treatment requires very good understanding of psychosocial, cultural and emotional needs, which translates into extra challenges

and training needed for healthcare interpreters. Problems in healthcare interpreting include inaccuracy of interpreting that can be life-threatening, lack of understanding of the specificity of a given care and the patient's non-medical (e.g. culture-bound, psychosocial) needs and the lack of professionalization of the interpreter profession, especially in Poland. The last one frequently boils down to the members of family serving as interpreters, frequently overburdening bilingual children. For this reason, there is a strong need to investigate and develop good practices and standards for CI. In Poland, the society is currently rapidly growing in minorities, including the Vietnamese population not fluent in Polish. At the same time, the Vietnamese minority, including inhabitants with Limited English Proficiency, is particularly large in Texas where IPEC has had long traditions. The project will be carried out at the University of Texas by dr Katarzyna Stachowiak-Szymczak, in collaboration with Prof. Sonia Kania and Prof. Alicia Rueda-Acedo from the University of Texas. The scholarship for dr Katarzyna Stachowiak-Szymczak has been funded by the Kościuszko Foundation.

## *Congratulations to Our New PhD Degree Holder, Wei Teng*

*It makes sense, but I just don't get it.*

*Translators' and end-users' perspectives on the English to Chinese community translation of health texts*

*Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand*

On 9 April 2020 ICTRG member Wei Teng successfully passed his doctoral oral examination at Auckland University of Technology. Under Associate Prof. Ineke Crezee's supervision, Wei Teng undertook a PhD study on developing a set of assessment criteria that can be operable in the field of Community Translation. Based on his findings, he stressed the significance of assessing translation quality from the end users' perspective, and the importance of helping student translators to develop an awareness of the pragmatic functions of both the source and the translated texts. Please see below for the abstract of his thesis.

### **Abstract:**

This study aims to develop a set of assessment criteria aligned with the perspectives of end-users with a focus on the achievement of pragmatic equivalence in community translation (Taibi & Ozolins, 2016). Health translation (e.g. translation of healthcare texts) is of particular interest in this study as healthcare texts (e.g. healthcare pamphlets) often perform the pragmatic

functions of informing and persuading the target audience to take actions in relation to managing their own health (Fischbach, 1962). I have adopted the frameworks of functional translation theories, systemic functional linguistics and Vygotskian social constructivism to firstly explain the different pragmatic nature of the translation of religious and literary texts from health translation; secondly to explain the social significance of achieving pragmatic equivalence in health translation; thirdly to define the pragmatic functions of health translation; and finally to establish a set of assessment criteria by considering the social construction process of meanings. A corpus comprising 15 English>Chinese health translation texts distributed in New Zealand has been assessed using the criteria by 15 professional translators and 15 elderly Chinese immigrants in New Zealand. The assessment results reveal a rather conflicting opinion on the translation quality in that, while the translators have a higher tolerance of expressions which do not sound natural in Chinese, believing that unnatural expressions do not fail

pragmatic equivalence, the Chinese immigrants are more sensitive to unnatural expressions, and therefore are not informed or persuaded by the informational content delivered through the translations. In the light of ... **Continue on PAGE 3**

**The translators' and interpreters' professionalism hinges on the ability to take the role of the other; that is what they learn during their human socialisation in general and their professional socialisation in particular.**  
(Sergey Trylnev, 2014, p. 52)

**PAGE 2 Continued** ...In the light of these findings this study argues for the need to develop assessment criteria that can reflect translators' awareness of pragmatic functions achieved in both the original texts and translated texts. It also discusses the need to develop student translators' awareness that pragmatic equivalence is a product of both cross-cultural and cross-linguistic communication (House, 1981, 2001, 2006). The con-

clusion stresses the significance of looking at translation products from the end user perspective which involve holistic consideration of all three contextual meanings (i.e. ideational, interpersonal and textual meanings). After all, it is the end-users' perspectives that the set of assessment criteria proposed in this study is aligned with, and it is their perspectives that we should always bear in mind as a translator,

translation researcher and translation educator.

Wei Teng's thesis is available on the website of AUT Open Repository. You can [click here](#) to download the thesis.

## *Our members' in-progress PhD study*

### *Virtual-Reality Hajj guide as a pre-training medium for English-speaking pilgrims*

*Kholoud Munshi (Western Sydney University)*

**Abstract:**

Community translation for Hajj (Islamic pilgrimage) facilitates communication between the Saudi Hajj authorities and the pilgrims. The main purpose of translation in Hajj is to raise awareness among pilgrims about safety measures and to educate them about the religious duties related to Hajj. Community translation is used to facilitate other public services in Hajj, such as accommodation, transportation and health for pilgrims, while they temporarily visit the two cities of Makkah and Madinah. Managing such a mass gathering has always been a challenge for the government of Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately, there have been repeated incidents such as stampedes or fires, which resulted in deaths or injuries among pilgrims. The number of accidents during Hajj has been minimized in the last few years as a result of awareness campaigns, among other improvements. However, in view of

the advanced technologies of the 21st century, the traditional methods of disseminating translated information for pre-training foreign pilgrims are out-of-date.

The advanced technology of virtual reality offers a potentially effective medium for pre-training and awareness raising among future pilgrims. It could provide future pilgrims with a simulated Hajj experience, real-time information and deeper cultural experience before they start their pilgrimage. The experience facilitated by virtual-reality-based pre-training will equip potential pilgrims with the knowledge and understanding necessary for them to complete their pilgrimage correctly and safely. Thus, virtual reality can complement community translation in delivering timely, efficient, effective and functional translation.

This study aims to test a virtual-reality

Hajj guide (VR-Hajj) as a potential medium for community translation. It will compare the impact of printed, video and VR-Hajj awareness materials on participants who neither speak Arabic nor have performed Hajj before. The purpose of the study is to determine the most effective medium for community translation in terms of pre-training Hajj pilgrims. The study will measure and compare the knowledge of pilgrims after each individual group learn about Hajj from a different medium. In addition, the study will collect usability feedback from the participants of VR-Hajj. Four assessments factors will be used in this study: (1) impact on knowledge (2) pros and cons of each medium, (3) cultural understanding (Hajj norms) and (4) the function of translation.

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

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#### 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;*
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