

## Editorial

This second issue of Volume 16 of the *SKASE Journal of Translation and Interpretation* marks a transfer of editorship. From its founding in 2005 until the issue that appeared in July 2023, the journal has been edited by Štefan Franko. After his retirement, editorial tasks were taken over by a team of three editors, Pius ten Hacken, Renáta Panocová and Laura Giacomini. Pius ten Hacken and Laura Giacomini are professors at the Department of Translation Studies of the University of Innsbruck, Renáta Panocová is a professor at the Department of British and American Studies at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice and responsible for the Translation degrees offered by that department.

From its inception, the *SKASE Journal of Translation and Interpretation* has been an Open Access journal without publication fees. Maintaining a scholarly journal on this basis represents a challenge in more than one way. Many competing journals have a budget available for tasks that in a journal like ours cannot be financially supported. This is first of all a challenge to us as editors. We want to maintain a high standard of publication, but we have to rely on authors and reviewers doing their job as part of the job they get paid for or (if they are retired or between jobs) without being paid. As editors, we share in this effort. For authors, the resulting publication is the reward they get. Reviewers are generally less visible, as peer review is double-blind. However, we are dependent on them to write reviews that are helpful to us as editors in taking an informed decision on publication as well as to the authors in improving aspects of their papers where appropriate. It is our intention to publish in the journal every year a list of reviewers that have written a review in the past year. Peer review remains double-blind, but listing reviewers will show our gratitude and recognition.

At the same time as a challenge to us, the nature of the journal can also be seen as a challenge to academic publishers. Many academic journals work with a subscription model. This has been criticized with the argument that academics working at university receive a salary, often from public funds, with among other tasks the task of producing research articles, which subsequently cannot be accessed by colleagues and by university libraries without paying subscription fees. Other academic journals work with a model of publication fees. Here the publications are available in Open Access, but authors (or the institutions employing them) have to pay a fee for their articles to be published. This model has been criticized with the argument that it blurs the boundary between publication on the basis of scholarly merit and vanity publishing. By choosing Open Access without publication fees, our journal challenges publishers using these two alternative models in the sense that we want to show that also in our model it is possible to produce a high-quality academic journal.

One aspect in which we rely on others is the medium of publication. It is obvious that without subscription fees and publication fees, it is not possible to publish a paper version of the journal. For the publication and maintenance of the journal website and for the hosting of the website, we rely on the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice. We are grateful for this support.

On taking over as editors, we take the opportunity to present our view of the scope of the journal. By its title, the *SKASE Journal of Translation and Interpretation* assumes a broad view of its scope within translation studies. The journal is open to articles on written translation as well as on spoken or signed interpreting. However, we would like to specify that we only consider translation or interpreting of a source in one language into a target in another language.

This excludes broad interpretations of, for instance, translating a text into music or an experience into a text. It also excludes translation of a text into another register of the same language, for instance, when a novel is reworked for learners. Another constraint is that we will not consider manuscripts that present themselves as translation commentaries. A translation commentary is a discussion of a pair of a particular source text and a particular target text where what is included in the discussion is determined by what is in the source and target texts. The journal will publish book reviews if it receives books that fall within its scope.

It is our aim to publish two issues each year, one around June and one in December. The number of articles included in an issue can vary. As we do not have to consider the cost of printing, it will depend on the number of accepted articles we have. On receiving a manuscript, the editors will first check whether it falls within the scope of the journal and, if it does, send it out for review. As a rule of thumb, we aim to take a (first) decision on a manuscript within two or three months of submission. However, we are dependent on reviewers. We ask reviewers to send us their report within six weeks of receiving the manuscript. For some topics and languages, it may take longer to find appropriate reviewers, which may affect the time we need for a decision. We always ask two reviewers and generally try to find reviewers with complementary expertise. The decisions we take are of four basic types. *Acceptance* without any changes is generally rare on first submission. *Accept with minor revisions* means that the acceptance is conditional on certain modifications. On receiving the revised version, the editors will check whether this condition has been met. *Resubmit after major revisions* means that the revised manuscript will be sent to reviewers again, typically to the same reviewers as the first submission. *Rejection* means that we do not see any scope for a revision to produce a version that we can accept.

On the basis of this policy, we invite the submission of manuscripts and we hope for the support of the reviewers, whom we will ask to collaborate.

This issue of the journal is a thematic issue devoted to translation and interpreting for smaller languages. Smaller languages pose a number of common challenges for translation and interpreting. Although these languages usually have a relatively small number of speakers and are less frequently taught as second or foreign languages, they may have an established status as a national language. A number of specific topics and problems are typical of smaller languages. For instance, many translations from these languages are made into the translator's foreign language. These languages also often have limited resources available, and specialised vocabulary and terminology may be lacking in several domains. The four articles selected for this thematic issue deal with some of these problems.

The article by Ramunė Kasperė, Jurgita Mikelionienė and Dalia Venckienė, "Medical terminology issues: a feasibility study of machine translation in a low-resource language", analyses MT output of medical texts with a focus on terminology issues in translation from English into Lithuanian.

The contribution by Marta Kajzer-Wietrzny and Agnieszka Chmiel, "Into B or not into B? The limited impact of interpreting direction on target text fluency and complexity", concentrates on Polish as a language of limited diffusion and focuses on the analysis of fluency and text complexity as modulated by directionality in interpreting.

"Literary Translation from Basque: A Study of Contemporary Translation Flows" by Elizabete Manterola Agirrezabalaga discusses literary exchanges from a smaller language context and addresses the issue of cultural policies for the promotion of Basque literature abroad.

Amy Dara Hochberg is the author of “Writer-reader relationship in multilingual health information websites on HIV and TB diagnostic testing: features of non-translated and translated Catalan texts in comparison with non-translated and translated English and Spanish texts”. This article explores the writer-reader relationship in the Catalan versions of multilingual health information websites.

Taken together, these four articles address a broad range of issues. They discuss four different languages belonging to different language families and having a different status. Whereas Lithuanian and Polish are national languages with a limited diffusion outside the territory of that country, Catalan and Basque are minority languages spoken in regions of more than one country. The articles also discuss different types of translation, ranging from literary and specialized translation to interpreting. As such we consider them to constitute an excellent start of our period as editors of this journal.

*The editors*

Pius ten Hacken

Renáta Panocová

Laura Giacomini

*Email:* skase-jti@upjs.sk