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**Third International Postgraduate Conference in Translation and Interpreting (TIPCITI), 2–3 November, 2007, Edinburgh, Scotland.**

The *Third International Postgraduate Conference in Translation and Interpreting* (TIPCITI) was held on the campus of the *University of Edinburgh*, Scotland on November 2-3, 2007. Following the great success of two conferences organized by *Dublin City University* in 2004 and 2005 this event has moved to Scotland this year and is marked by the added collaboration between two active research centers in the field of Translation and Interpreting in Edinburgh, the *School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures* at the *University of Edinburgh* on the one hand, and the *Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies in Scotland* at *Heriot-Watt University* (also Edinburgh-based) on the other. The conference was organized by PhD students Sharon Deane, Elizabeth Goodwin-Anderson and Pei Meng of the University of Edinburgh, Pablo Romero Fresco and Svenja Wurm of Heriot-Watt University, and Marian Flanagan, Susanne Ghassempur and Krisztina Zimányi of Dublin City University.

The TIPCITI was financially supported by the *Arts and Humanities Research Council* (AHRC), the *British Association for Applied Linguistics* (BAAL), the *Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies in Scotland* at *Heriot-Watt University* and the *Literature, Languages and Cultures (LLC) Graduate School* at the *University of Edinburgh*. *Multilingual Matters* and *St. Jerome*, two leading publishers in the field, acted as sponsors. Two presenters at the conference, Juliet Attwater from the University Federal de Santa Catarina in Brazil and Eszter Zsembery from the University of Szeged in Hungary, won grants from *The Royal Society of Edinburgh* to attend the conference.

Translation and Interpreting, both in theory and practice, are the subjects of an ever increasing discipline that is marked by its diversity and global relevance and that is home to a research community that is becoming larger, more prominent and visible. As its very name indicates, this conference is particularly addressing university postgraduate students of translation and interpreting and affiliated study programs. The conference was a great opportunity for postgraduate students, those who are new in the field, to present their research, exchange ideas and network. It was also a place where novice academics can get feedback

not only from their peers but also from more experienced researchers in the field. Participants from all continents, representing a vast variety of cultures, languages and research interests offer varying perspectives and backgrounds to the discipline. The organizing committee reported that there were more than 130 attendees at TIPCITI 2007, with 36 papers and 6 poster presentations, not to mention the valuable contributions by distinguished invited guests.

The conference was opened by welcoming speeches by Mr. Peter Graves, Head of School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh, and by Prof Graham Turner, Director of the Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies in Scotland (CTISS), Heriot-Watt University, who both emphasized the importance of this unique event, pointing out that Translation and Interpreting Studies is a young discipline, not yet fully established and recognized, but adding that with all the support that comes from young researches, who are constantly growing in number, the discipline does not have to fear for its future. After the welcoming speeches the first plenary lecture was offered, followed by a series of parallel sessions.

The first plenary lecture was given by Prof. Mona Baker from the University of Manchester, UK, a distinguished scholar in the field of Translation Studies. The lecture was titled: "Consensual and/vs. Conflictual Scholarship: Positioning the Translation Scholar in Society," and in it Prof. Mona Baker addresses the question of the responsibility of the translator and interpreter in shaping geopolitical relations. She objects against scholars that deal with issues of power and ideology drawing on historical examples that have largely lost their political 'sting' (such as Irish History; British colonization of India; gender and sexuality), and wants to direct their attention towards more contemporary conflicts, that are likely to be more 'divisive' and contentious. She emphasizes the central role that translation and interpreting play in shaping conflicts in Guantanamo Bay, the Palestine/Israel conflict, Iraq, Chechnya, the 'security' agenda and the so-called War on Terror. There are, however, strong indications that the next stage of development in the discipline will feature a focus on research that engages with those sensitive and potentially risky research topics.

On the first day, following the plenary lecture by Prof. Mona Baker, there were four parallel sessions, each dealing with a different field of research in Translation and Interpreting: literary translation; corpus-based translation research; translation, education and language acquisition; audiovisual translation; interpreting techniques and cognition. Some of the sessions were more specialized, dealing with e.g. translating children's literature or translating for authorities. The first day was wrapped up by a very enjoyable wine reception, an opportunity for all participants to socialize on a more informal level.

The second and last day of the conference started with a very informative lecture by Prof. Franz Pöchhacker from the University of Vienna, Austria, who is an expert in the field of interpreting. The lecture was entitled “Pathways in Interpreting Studies” and it gave an overview of the development of the field of interpreting from the very beginnings until the present day, focusing more on the developments in the 20th century, starting after the World War I. Prof. Pöchhacker emphasized that in the field of translation and interpreting, research always followed practice (and teaching). The first PhD program in translation and interpreting was initiated at the University of Paris in 1974 by Seleskovitch. It follows that the discipline is barely a little more than 30 years old! Prof. Pöchhacker pointed out that interpreting had always been seen as a form of translation. According to Seleskovitch, interpreting is a processing and communicative activity of transcoding a message from L1 into L2, whereby the main goal is to make sense. Prof. Pöchhacker talked about interpreting studies as consisting of a number of paradigms linking the profession and training with cognitive, social and linguistic sciences. Talking about current trends in Interpreting Studies Prof. Pöchhacker pointed out that Interpreting Studies is developing into a ‘softer science,’ and this transition is characterized by what he calls ‘going social,’ then by (re)turn to linguistics and by technologization (video/telephone interpreting). All of these trends can be linked to qualitative research. Prof. Pöchhacker closed his lecture by leaving the question of the future pathways in interpreting open.

The conference went on with parallel sessions on topics of interpreting in asylum settings and some challenging approaches to translation. After the first round of parallel sessions, there was a poster session, where six presenters (the author of this report included) were given the opportunity to present their work on a more informal basis. After the poster session, there were again parallel sessions, one on the topic of quality assessment in interpreting, and the other on literary translation.

The conference was concluded by a very lively and stimulating panel discussion, featuring Prof. Mona Baker, Prof. Franz Pöchhacker, and Prof. Ian Mason from Heriot-Watt University. Among the most interesting questions touched upon in the discussion were the question of research funding, the question of grants (or Why are there no grants for translation studies?), the progress and prospects of machine translation, then the new forms of interpreting such as e.g. telephone interpreting, and the question of ethics and responsibility of the translator and interpreter.

On top of all that, there was a post-conference workshop on “Preparing Academic papers for oral Presentation and/or publication” conducted by Prof. Ian Mason, which really nicely wrapped up the whole conference by giving doctoral

students some useful practical guidelines in how to write an abstract, how to prepare and give a presentation, how to prepare papers for publication etc.

In conclusion, we can say that the TIPCITI conference was successful and that it fulfilled its fundamental aim, and that is the creation of a supportive environment in which young researchers can present their work, receive encouraging feedback and generally exchange ideas on current themes and issues in Translation and Interpreting Studies. I think we can all agree with Peter Graves and Graham Turner who said in their welcoming speeches that with so many young researchers making their contributions to it the discipline does not have to fear for its future.