



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
CAMPUS DI FORLÌ

DOCTORAL CONFERENCE

WHAT'S **RESEARCH** GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Ultime frontiere della ricerca linguistica,
inclusione e impatto sociale

12–13 MAY 2025

Department of Interpretation and Translation
University of Bologna, Forlì Campus



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Keynotes

Olga Castro

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, University of Warwick

Olga.Castro@uab.cat

**The Social Impact of Translation Studies:
researching minorised gender and cultural identities**

Research has both the potential and the responsibility to contribute meaningfully to the shaping of contemporary societies, driving positive social change and fostering progress towards a more inclusive society. In European academic settings/academia, *social impact* has become an increasingly significant criterion for research assessment, as reflected in the priorities of evaluation bodies (examples include the UK's Research Excellence Framework and the Spanish Research Agency ANECA) as well as in the frameworks of various research funding schemes (including prestigious calls by Horizon Europe). Within linguistics and translation studies specifically, the emphasis on social impact is also gaining growing recognition. In this paper, I will begin by offering a definition of social impact, broadly understood as the transfer of academic knowledge to society. I will then focus on the social impact that research on minorised gender and cultural identities may have within the field of translation studies. Drawing on concrete examples from my own research projects —on feminist translation studies and on cultural diplomacy initiatives to promote translated literature from non-hegemonic contexts— I will outline ways in which social impact can be conceptualised and measured across three key dimensions: policy-making, capacity building and public engagement. I will finally assess the challenges and opportunities presented by these three dimensions, hoping that my reflections may prove useful to other scholars interested in designing research projects in linguistics and translation studies.

Key words: Gender and translation, cultural diplomacy and translation, translated literature from non-hegemonic contexts, policy-making, capacity building, public engagement.

Riconoscere e contrastare il narcisismo accademico, le *echo chambers* e i circoli viziosi della ricerca

Il titolo di questo convegno ci pone di fronte ad una domanda fondamentale, ossia *What's research got to do with knowledge production, with change-making, and with the mechanism of research itself?* Diventare ricercatrici significa, in primis, apprendere il modo in cui formulare domande e costruire risposte adatte per un interlocutore della propria comunità scientifico-disciplinare. Durante questo processo di apprendimento, a volte perdiamo di vista quella versione quasi 'originaria' di noi stesse che domina agli inizi di questo percorso. Quella che ascoltava con curiosità dal corridoio dell'accademia, ma che ancora abitava fuori da essa, e si poneva domande spontanee come "*I wonder if...*", "*come mai...?*", "*non ti sembra strano che...?*". Queste domande con il tempo iniziano a adottare abiti più formali, a cambiare forma per adattarsi progressivamente ai contenitori accademici già esistenti, costruiti da chi è venuto prima di noi, e che determinano come 'fare' e 'comunicare' la scienza.

Se *standing on the shoulders of giants* è certamente un privilegio, la metafora della verticalità può anche trarci in inganno. Piuttosto che aspirare all'altezza, dobbiamo rimanere presenti nel mondo che ci ha formate e in cui viviamo. A quel mondo dobbiamo un dialogo orizzontale, reciproco, etico. Infatti, se la *ricerca come lifestyle* lascia molto spazio all'originalità e unicità, la *ricerca come carriera* tende talvolta a imprigionarci in schemi ripetitivi, in convenzioni consolidate, lungo strade già battute. Ma è possibile superare questi limiti senza abbandonare il quadro della ricerca?

Questa presentazione offre cinque lenti teoriche—con annessi aneddoti—per esplorare queste tensioni e sfide che il mondo della ricerca ci pone: *intertextuality* (Briggs & Bauman 1992), *polyphony* (Bakhtin 1981), *scales* (Blommaert 2007; Carr & Lempert 2016), *rhizomes* (Deleuze & Guattari 1987), e *critique* (Pietikäinen 2016). Queste lenti rappresenteranno delle chiavi per aprire spazi di pensiero e dialogo collettivo al fine di rimettere al centro la responsabilità collettiva e individuale che abbiamo nel fare ricerca.

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Oral presentations

Success conditions for gender-fair language beyond reference

This paper introduces the foundations of a novel framework for rethinking Gender-Fair Language (GFL) programs and the conditions for their success.

The recent debate on GFL in Romance languages, including the latecomer case of Italian (Sulis & Gheno, 2022), reveals that both critics and supporters often prioritize linguistic reference as the sole measure of “fairness,” assessing innovative proposals primarily on these terms (see Rosola, 2024). This approach, I argue, rests on a reductive, hyper-textualist notion of “language”. Instead, I propose a more comprehensive framework for GFL, structured around five core concepts: situated practices, normativity, habits, salience, and value.

This framework adopts a situated understanding of language, addressing a central objection from critics –that innovative forms do not belong to Italian “as a system”. This concern is shared by many sympathizers as well, who remain skeptical about GFL’s viability if seriously pursued. However, a dynamic, embodied view of languaging activity (Cowley, 2019) offers a different way to conceptualize the issue.

If normativity is understood not merely as adherence to a fixed set of grammatical rules but rather as the fundamental infrastructure of action-in-interaction –as it creates the conditions for a successful unfolding of instances of coordinated behavior (Enfield & Sidnell, 2022) – then, innovative GFL forms can be reconsidered beyond traditional grammatical constraints. When enacted within situated cooperative interactions, these forms become highly salient precisely because they are not yet part of the established linguistic system. Their intrinsic normativity fosters reflexivity in speakers on sedimented habits, and opens the possibility for new ones to emerge over time (Candiotto & Dreon, 2021).

A non-hyper-textualist perspective reframes the assessment of GFL programs in terms of how salience within situated practices can be transformative of habits and make way for specific values, as such a process unfolds through the normative infrastructure of linguistic interaction.

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Antonella Bove
Università Ca' Foscari Venezia
antonella.bove@unive.it

Gender-inclusive language and machine translation: from Spanish into Italian

Gender-inclusive language is a discursive practice that introduces the use of new forms and strategies to make women and different non-binary gender identities more visible. Spanish makes use of gender doublets (*los niños y las niñas, los/as candidatos/as*), the neomorpheme *-e* and typographic signs (@, x). Italian resorts to gender doublets as well (*i bambini e le bambine, i/le candidati/e*), the schwa (ə) as a neomorpheme and the asterisk (*) as a typographic sign. The first strategy aims at making women visible from a binary perspective; the others are intended to give visibility to people of non-binary gender as well (Escandell-Vidal 2020, Giusti 2022).

Without a clear and agreed standard, inclusive translation is a major challenge for translation professionals, and a great social responsibility. It is therefore important to study and evaluate the quality of the outputs generated by machine translation systems (Kornacki & Pietrzak 2025, Pfalzgraf 2024).

This paper aims to contribute to the understanding of the phenomenon by analysing the way in which artificial intelligence systems interact with Spanish inclusive strategies in its translation into Italian, within an augmented translation perspective (Kornacki & Pietrzak 2025). For the analysis, real texts belonging to academic communication have been used, which can therefore constitute translation assignments. The results of four artificial intelligence systems are compared and analysed: the neural systems of DeepL and Google Translate and the generative systems of ChatGPT and Gemini.

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Vittorio Dell'Aquila & Johannes Mücke

Forskningscentrum för Europeisk Flerspråkighet

info@celeuropa.eu

Mapping linguistic data: integrating georeferenced databases and GIS for language research

The integration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and georeferenced databases has advanced linguistic research, providing novel methodologies for sociolinguistics and diachronic linguistics (Dell'Aquila 2010; Dell'Aquila & Iannàcaro 2019). This presentation highlights findings from two recent projects — CLaM, SELECT — which apply GIS technologies to analyse language use and diversity. By combining GIS tools like QGIS with database systems like FileMaker, we demonstrate how geospatial analysis enhances linguistic research, providing accessible workflows and producing data-driven results.

The CLaM (2021) project examines minority language use and attitudes in Trentino - South Tyrol (<https://cimbro-ladino-mocheno-2021.lett.unitn.it/en/>) through a detailed sociolinguistic survey (about 2500 interviewees) that has collected data on language use and transmission. The findings inform language policy (Dell'Aquila, Rasom, Chiocchetti 2023) and have been published in a sociolinguistic atlas (Chiocchetti, Dell'Aquila, Rasom 2024).

The SELECT project enhances the study of ancient European languages through an online Atlas (<https://www.selecteplus.eu>): this web-based GIS application is based on a comprehensive database containing approximately 30,000 records with information on places, chronology, languages, and archaeological data. It allows the creation of maps serving both scientific and educational purposes. This presentation provides practical examples demonstrating the integration of linguistic survey data into GIS environments, highlighting:

1. Efficient Workflows: The advantages of combining georeferenced databases and GIS software for managing and analysing linguistic data.
2. Visualizing Language Diversity and Language Use: How cartographic techniques can effectively represent linguistic diversity and areas of language use.
3. Analysis: How the application of GIS can provide insights into language shift, diglossia, and intergenerational transmission patterns.

By visualizing sociolinguistic patterns through GIS, these projects contribute to the broader discourse on linguistic accessibility, inclusion, and open science (UNESCO 2021). The findings underscore the potential of GIS-based linguistic research to support policy-making, education, and language preservation efforts.

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Dare una voce agli “invisibili”: i giornali di strada

Dare voce alle persone senza dimora: questo è l'obiettivo comune dei giornali di strada in tutto il mondo. Attraverso gli articoli, gli homeless possono raccontare le loro storie ed esprimere le loro opinioni su tutto ciò che riguarda l'homelessness e i problemi abitativi. La ricerca di cui si propongono in parte i risultati intende capire se e in che modo i giornali di strada italiani danno realmente voce alle persone senza dimora: dove emergono le loro voci? Come vengono espresse dal punto di vista linguistico? Più precisamente, l'obiettivo è descrivere, facendo riferimento ai concetti pertinenti della linguistica testuale contemporanea, le strutture lessicali, sintattiche e interpuntive con cui gli autori dei giornali di strada italiani scelgono di rappresentare le parole e/o i punti di vista delle persone senza dimora. Siamo nell'ambito della teoria testuale della “polifonia” (Bakhtin, 1984; Ducrot, 1980; Ferrari & Lala & Pecorari, 2024), il cui obiettivo consiste appunto nel modellizzare i modi linguistici in cui l'autore sceglie di far emergere voci o semplicemente punti di vista di altri individui, terze persone o interlocutori. L'analisi, che prende in considerazione per campionamenti l'insieme di giornali di strada d'Italia, sarà sostanzialmente di carattere qualitativo. Affondi quantitativi saranno condotti solo rispetto a uno specifico fenomeno polifonico: il discorso riportato (Calaresu, 2004). Si mostrerà quale, tra i vari tipi di discorso riportato, è quello utilizzato più frequentemente, e si cercherà di spiegare quali sono i motivi che conducono a selezionarlo: varietistici, comunicativi, politici, sociali e/o ideologici. Nel campo della linguistica, a nostra conoscenza i giornali di strada non sono mai stati un vero e proprio oggetto di studio. La ricerca in conto vuole dar loro visibilità (non solo) scientifica, definendone le caratteristiche e contribuendo a riflettere sulla loro collocazione all'interno del grande e complesso insieme dei giornali contemporanei in lingua italiana.

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Francesca Filograsso
Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro
francesca.filograsso@uniba.it

The FAIR ISLE project: empowering gender-inclusive education through language and innovative approaches

The FAIR ISLE project aims to tackle gender-based discrimination and violence in secondary schools by implementing an evidence-based psychoeducational intervention. Furthermore, a bilingual platform powered by artificial intelligence (AI) is introduced to support inclusive and gender-sensitive learning environments. The present research seeks to address the “hidden curriculum” (Fassin, 2016), defined as the implicit transmission of gender stereotypes in the school environment, which contributes to the reproduction of inequalities and the escalation of gender-based violence among adolescents. This phenomenon has a significant impact on students’ expectations and shapes their educational pathways and career opportunities (Thomas & Kaymakcioglu, 2023). Within this theoretical framework, language plays a central role as it significantly influences young people's beliefs. In this context, English as a second language (L2) has the potential to create a "neutral space" (Maglie, 2012) through intercultural dialogue as students actively participate in language change, shaping linguistic communities and constructing new subjectivities (Brutt-Griffler & Kim, 2018). Prior to the implementation of the bilingual AI tool and the psychoeducational intervention, adolescents in secondary schools are asked to complete an exploratory survey containing questions in both Italian and English to examine their gender representation. The survey, which uses realistic scenarios to encourage critical reflection, explores various topics e.g. gender identity and stereotypes, affective and sexual education, power dynamics, social media and digital violence. In addition, the collected data are analyzed using the methodological approach of corpus-assisted discourse analysis (CADS, Gillings, Mautner, Baker, 2023), which enables the identification of linguistic patterns and discursive strategies that either reinforce or challenge gender stereotypes. This approach provides empirical insights into how language mediates social representations and serves as a basis for the development of targeted interventions. The results form the basis for the development and testing of the bilingual AI tool, which enables teachers and students to apply inclusive language practices and integrate a gender-sensitive approach into the classroom.

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Ángel García Morales

Universidad de Alcalá
angel.garciamorales@uah.es

Intercultural mediation to improve accessibility and care of neurodivergent, migrant patients in the Spanish public health system

Interventions for autism are largely designed by neurotypical professionals, marginalizing the lived experiences of Autistic individuals (Monahan et al., 2023; Pellicano & Heyworth, 2023). This imbalance misaligns research funding with community needs and exacerbates healthcare disparities, where Autistic adults face both common disability challenges and unique obstacles, aggravated by cultural differences in the case of migrant patients, and usually avoided when intervening with medical interpreters (Raymaker et al., 2017; Navaza, 2014). Thus, to guarantee equal healthcare for individuals with diverse neurological and cultural backgrounds (and to indirectly ameliorate their flourishing), it is imperative to explore both inter-neuronal communication (between neurodivergent and neurotypical individuals) and intercultural communication, ensuring that Autistic migrant patients receive treatment on par with native speakers and neurotypicals. A healthcare interpreter and intercultural mediator with specialized training in neurodiversity, collaborating with professionals working with migrant populations, could make care for allophone, neurodivergent migrants more accessible, equitable, and fair. Additionally, this role could act as a bridge to identify communication, psychological, and sensory challenges stemming from neurodiversity and language barriers, thereby enhancing inclusion in the Spanish public healthcare system. The objectives of this study are, hence, to investigate the challenges allophone, potentially neurodivergent migrants face when accessing healthcare services. Furthermore, it aims to propose tailored measures (such as adapted signs, simplified language...) to improve accessibility and equity; as well as to validate these interventions through practical implementation and analysis, ensuring inclusive public healthcare for this marginalized group. Regarding its methodology, it includes mixed methods such as literature review, ethnographic observation, surveys, interviews, and artifact analysis in order to examine communication challenges faced by our study group in healthcare. The findings of this study, which is part of an ongoing PhD research, are intended for presentation at this conference.

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Giacomo Iazzetta

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia
giacomo.iazzetta@unive.it

Arabic language and educational integration: linguistic practices, identity, and school policies in northeastern Italy

This study explores the role of the Arabic language and culture in the educational and social integration of students of Arab origin in Northeastern Italy, a region characterized by historical multilingualism and ambivalent approaches to migrant languages. Drawing on an interdisciplinary theoretical framework that includes Acculturation Theory (Berry 2005), Linguistic and Cultural Capital (Bourdieu 1991), and Raciolinguistics (Flores and Rosa 2015), the article examines how linguistic practices, perceptions, and educational policies influence students' linguistic identity. The methodological approach combines qualitative and quantitative tools, including participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and questionnaires, to gather data on daily linguistic experiences and perceptions of inclusion/exclusion. The results highlight dynamics of cultural adaptation, the social value attributed to Arabic and Italian, and the challenges related to linguistic discrimination. The study discusses the contrast between the institutional recognition of historical minority languages and the marginalization of migrant languages, proposing strategies to foster more inclusive educational integration. Recommendations include the implementation of school programs that value Arabic culture and language, enhanced intercultural training for teachers, and the extension of linguistic valorization policies to include migrant languages. This study contributes to understanding the challenges and opportunities for fostering a more equitable and intercultural coexistence in Italian schools.

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Diritto nello specchio dell'interpretazione comune

Interpretare il diritto consiste nell'attività di attribuire il significato ad una disposizione normativa. Secondo la posizione di *default*, il termine "interpretazione" è impiegato per riferirsi all'insieme del lavoro eseguito necessariamente dagli operatori del diritto (Guastini 1993).

Nel presente studio, invece, si intende occuparsi dell'interpretazione del diritto da parte dell'utente *comune*, che non ha competenze specifiche della materia giuridica.

L'obiettivo della presente ricerca è quello di studiare modelli di semantizzazione disponibili per il parlante comune, nella sua riflessione sul diritto, e individuare tratti semantici che possano essere ritenuti *radicalmente oscuri* (Corte costituzionale n.110/2023, Piemontese, 2023).

La ricerca consiste nell'esperimento giurilinguistico. Rispondenti, di età tra 18 e 29 anni, studenti universitari di vari indirizzi (tranne giurisprudenza) sono stati sottoposti a un questionario che conteneva una lista di termini giuridici. Il *task* prevedeva di attribuire un significato (o un giudizio circa il significato) alle parole target.

I risultati della ricerca rivelano che il giudizio sul significato non sia omogeneo, ma si declina in molteplici forme interpretative; la fedeltà alla *mens legis* non risulta sempre mantenuta; molteplicità delle interpretazioni compete con il carattere doveroso della lingua giuridica, il cui lessico è contraddistinto da una *rigida* semantizzazione (Golev 2006).

La riflessione giurilinguistica comune si caratterizza per messa in atto degli strumenti cognitivi (generalizzazioni, analogia) e si basa su variabili individuali; l'assegnazione della categoria avviene prevalentemente a seconda degli schemi mentali e inferenze personali; ci si affida ai modelli dinamici, flessibili come lo sono i prototipi, diversamente quindi dai modelli statici della logica formale, i cui strumenti sono rigorosamente binari, necessari per una fedele decodifica dei contenuti giuridici.

Il giudizio comune sul significato giuridico ha una struttura tendenzialmente prototipica: tratti semantici individuati sono quelli centrali della categoria; tratti invece marcati, contestualmente rilevanti, vengono ignorati; i nomi con maggiore forza referenziale (Simone, 2020) hanno ricevuto prestazioni migliori.

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Gaia Maria Elena Lafasciano & Marco Schiralli

Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro

marco.schiralli@uniba.it

How to improve transcultural communication in the field of migration and health literacy: the ASPIRE project as a case-study

In the light of the current geopolitical scenarios, characterised by a strong increase in migration processes, southern Italy stands out as a crucial point for the trans-Mediterranean routes.

Starting from the assumption that health is a fundamental and universal right (United Nations, 1948), the respect of such a right plays a central role in the above-mentioned processes and promotes the socio-cultural and interlingual integration of immigrants. In this context, it is crucial to consider to what extent migratory trauma and its consequences can weaken immigrants' linguistic and communicative abilities in identifying and expressing their medical suffering and prevent them from accessing the healthcare system. To this end, we would like to present the ASPIRE¹ (Alfabetizzazione Sanitaria per Persone Immigrate attraverso Relazioni Efficaci) research project, whose main focus is on health literacy, understood as the ability to make informed choices about one's own health and that of the community (Sørensen et al., 2012) through the acquisition of Italian as L2. Using objective, applied research tools in the field of health literacy (i.e. questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, focus groups, autobiographical narratives), the ASPIRE project aims to develop a model for awareness-raising, effective communication and health education in the context of prevention and care pathways for people with a migrant background. The data and autobiographies collected will feed into the creation of a digital training repertoire aimed at health and social workers and IL2 teachers, enabling them to improve reception and care pathways in designated host country facilities by taking into account the strengths and vulnerabilities of immigrants.

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Charlie Loopuijt

Radboud University
charlie.loopuijt@ru.nl

Linguistic desire paths as praxis: language, power, and the ongoing reimagination of gender

Language is both a tool of oppression and a site of liberation—structuring power while providing the means to resist it (Loopuijt, Wagner, & Das, in press). This paper theorizes linguistic desire paths as a praxis, considering how trans and nonbinary individuals navigate, modify, and invent language as a practice of resistance and world-building. Grounded in sociocultural linguistics, queer linguistics, and linguistic relativity theory, this framework argues that language both reflects and shapes social structures (Whorf, 1956; Bucholtz & Hall, 2005). Linguistic desire paths emerge when dominant linguistic structures fail to accommodate marginalized identities, leading speakers to carve new, unsanctioned routes of expression (Nichols, 2014; Zimman, 2019). Rather than viewing language as a fixed system, this paper argues that perpetual linguistic reinvention is itself a praxis of liberation. Trans and nonbinary speakers develop new pronouns, redefine gendered lexicons, and resist hegemonic categories (Cameron & Kulick, 2003). These linguistic innovations challenge institutionalized cisnormativity, which regulates language through medical, legal, and governmental discourses (Zimman, 2019). Positioned within transfeminist epistemologies (Ahmed, 2017), this paper asserts that resisting linguistic fixity is an ongoing, embodied act of survival. By continually expanding the boundaries of language, trans speakers enact dialogic, collective meaning-making and refuse monologic constraints. Linguistic desire paths, I contend, serve as both a communicative strategy and a political necessity.

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Erika Magarelli

Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro

erika.magarelli@uniba.it

Mediazione linguistica e violenza di genere nei contesti migratori: pratiche di traduzione tra resistenza e attivismo

Questo studio analizza il ruolo cruciale della mediazione linguistica nei contesti migratori e di violenza di genere (GBV) nel Mediterraneo, con particolare attenzione al caso italiano, con l'obiettivo di superare la concezione tradizionale di traduzione e interpretariato (Vaccarelli, 2024). In un panorama caratterizzato da disuguaglianze sistemiche e asimmetrie di potere (Lazar, 2005), la mediazione linguistica si configura come uno strumento dinamico di negoziazione culturale e politica. Adottando un approccio interdisciplinare che integra prospettive femministe e decoloniali (Vergès, 2020), la ricerca si basa su un corpus di interviste semi-strutturate condotte in Italia con mediatori e mediatrici che operano principalmente nel terzo settore. La metodologia qualitativa, fondata sulla ricerca narrativa (Clandinin, 2006), ha permesso di individuare pattern ricorrenti e strategie discorsive nelle pratiche di mediazione. L'analisi ha portato all'individuazione di quattro temi chiave: (1) la rinegoziazione dell'esperienza migratoria, con i mediatori e mediatrici che agiscono come agenti attivi nella ricostruzione narrativa; (2) la promozione di pratiche gender-sensitive nei servizi essenziali per le persone migranti; (3) la traduzione come atto politico (Spivak, 1998), con rielaborazioni strategiche delle testimonianze di GBV per aumentarne la riconoscibilità istituzionale; (4) la gestione delle asimmetrie di potere attraverso pratiche discorsive mirate. In conclusione, i risultati, che offrono indicazioni per policymaker e care providers, sottolineano il potenziale trasformativo della mediazione linguistica come pratica di cura e giustizia sociale, oltre la necessità di una formazione specializzata per mediatori e mediatrici in contesti di GBV e al riconoscimento formale del loro ruolo professionale.

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Assessing the efficacy of degendering strategies through an experimental procedure

Italian traditionally has two degendering strategies to refer to a specific definite human individual: epicene nominals (e.g., *la persona/il personaggio*) or the use of a common-gender noun in a context in which determiner and modifiers are unmarked for gender (e.g., *l'atleta/l'imbattibile maratoneta*). In recent years, the use of gender-neutral neomorphemes (e.g., -ə; -@; -*; -x) has been proposed to refer to gender-expansive people or to degenderize the language altogether. The issue arising from this scenario is to what extent these strategies are effective in equally representing all genders.

Experimental research on French (Richy & Burnett, 2021) and Italian (Ducoli *et al.*, 2024) has shown that with the second strategy, in the absence of gender cues, the gender of the referent is interpreted according to the cultural gender bias associated with role nouns, as established by Misersky *et al.* (2014). The same applies to the neomorpheme -ə, according to Abbondanza *et al.* (2025): if the noun carries a strong stereotypical association or the resulting neutralized form overtly evokes the masculine (e.g., *direttorə*), adopting the -ə as a neutral gender suffix is ineffective.

My study focuses on respondents' reactions to these two degendering strategies in the same experimental setting. The first group of participants only looks at experimental items built around a common-gender role noun, preceded by a common-gender adjective beginning with a vowel producing the elision of the determiner (e.g., *l'impeccabile designer*). The second group is exposed to the same experimental items with the adjective following the noun and the determiner carrying the neomorpheme -ə (e.g., *la designer impeccabile*).

By comparing the results, it will be possible to determine which strategy best serves the needs of a community in search of a gender-respectful language.

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Lisbety Mirabal Diaz

Università degli Studi "G. d'Annunzio" Chieti-Pescara

lisbety.mirabaldiaz@phd.unich.it

Yoruba e spagnolo: un corpus linguistico dei rituali della Santeria

La Santeria, o Regla de Ocha, è il risultato di un processo di transculturazione e sincretismo religioso in America Latina – in particolare a Cuba e in Brasile – frutto della diaspora africana forzata durante il periodo coloniale. La fusione della cultura yoruba con quella spagnola ha generato un fenomeno multiculturale, richiedendo un approccio interdisciplinare (Thomason & Kaufman, 1988) per la sua complessità, contesto e origine (Cabrera, 1993).

Questo lavoro impiega le metodologie della linguistica dei corpora per analizzare il ruolo della lingua yoruba nei rituali della Santeria afrocubana, avvalendosi anche di programmi di intelligenza artificiale per l'elaborazione delle registrazioni sonore. L'obiettivo dello studio è comprendere come elementi linguistici di origine africana (Bamgbose, 1966) vengano preservati, adattati e integrati nel discorso rituale in un contesto diverso da quello originario, rafforzando l'identità culturale e religiosa dei praticanti.

Il corpus analizzato è costituito da trascrizioni di rituali, canti, preghiere e interviste con i praticanti, integrate da dati raccolti sul campo tramite osservazione della pratica viva e contemporanea. Attraverso tecniche quali l'analisi di collocazioni e concordanze, il lavoro esamina la frequenza e il contesto d'uso dei termini yoruba, (Nolte, 2018) mettendo in luce come essi, da una parte, enfatizzino la dimensione sacra e simbolica dei rituali, dall'altra, fungano da meccanismo di resistenza e conservazione culturale in un ambiente permeato da influenze transculturali (Valdes, 2006).

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Esperienze traduttive femministe a confronto: flower-ed e La Tartaruga

Il contributo si concentrerà sui risultati ottenuti durante un periodo di ricerca iniziato nel 2023, il cui scopo è studiare da vicino realtà editoriali italiane dedicate al recupero dei classici della letteratura femminile di lingua inglese.

La casa editrice flower-ed, fondata a Roma nel 2012 da Michela Alessandrini, offre libri in formato cartaceo e digitale ed è dedicata principalmente al recupero di narrativa femminile dei secoli XVIII, XIX e XX (fra le autrici pubblicate: Louisa May Alcott, Charlotte Brontë, Lucy Maud Montgomery, Edith Wharton). I testi si avvalgono spesso di nuove traduzioni e di peritesti moderni e approfonditi. Fondata a Milano da Laura Lepetit nel 1975, La Tartaruga pubblica libri di narrativa italiana e straniera, oltre che di saggistica, esclusivamente firmati da donne. Alcune delle autrici pubblicate sono Virginia Woolf, Gertrude Stein, Elizabeth Bowen e Margaret Atwood. Grande enfasi viene fin da subito posta da La Tartaruga sull'elemento della scoperta e del recupero di voci nuove e/o dimenticate del panorama letterario femminile, con grande attenzione all'aspetto traduttivo.

Questo contributo intende far luce sulle dinamiche e strategie editoriali e traduttive di entrambe le case editrici: da una parte flower-ed, esempio di editoria indipendente italiana contemporanea che punta alla promozione di classici della letteratura femminile attraverso la ritraduzione e l'uso di peritesti accattivanti; dall'altra La Tartaruga, promotrice di una strategia, quella del repêchage, che non era spesso utilizzata negli anni Ottanta e Novanta nel nostro Paese, specialmente per quanto riguarda la scrittura femminile. Il *case study* impiegato a tal fine è costituito dall'analisi comparativa in termini qualitativi delle rispettive traduzioni (1983 e 2018) del racconto *Bunner Sisters* di Edith Wharton (1916), oltre che dei rispettivi peritesti che le accompagnano. L'analisi sarà utile a evidenziare punti di contatto e di rottura fra le due realtà editoriali, entrambe impegnate in una valorizzazione della letteratura femminile che passi anche dalla pratica traduttiva.

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Lorenzo Petrucci
Università di Bologna
lorenzo.petrucci3@unibo.it

Muri che parlano: un'analisi sociolinguistica del *linguistic landscape* dei portici di Bologna

La crescente globalizzazione ha trasformato profondamente il paesaggio linguistico delle città contemporanee (Gorter, Cenoz, 2024; Shohamy, Gorter, 2009; Shohamy et al. 2010), caratterizzandolo da una notevole diversità linguistica: a tal proposito, Vertovec (2007), parla infatti di *superdiversity*. Questo studio si concentra sull'analisi del paesaggio linguistico dei portici di Bologna, un contesto urbano unico e ricco di stimoli.

Attraverso un'analisi quantitativa e qualitativa delle scritte presenti sotto i portici, si intende esplorare le dinamiche linguistiche, sociali e culturali che caratterizzano questo spazio urbano. L'obiettivo è quello di contribuire al campo degli studi sul paesaggio linguistico, offrendo una nuova prospettiva sulla complessità del multilinguismo urbano e sulle relazioni tra lingua, identità e spazio.

La scelta dei portici di Bologna come oggetto di studio è motivata dalla loro centralità nella vita sociale e culturale della città e dalla loro capacità di riflettere le trasformazioni sociolinguistiche in atto. L'analisi di questo luogo iconico permetterà di a) documentare la varietà linguistica identificando, quindi, le lingue presenti e visibili (Landry, Bourhis, 1997), le loro funzioni, i loro usi, nonché le loro dinamiche di potere e prestigio; b) analizzare le dinamiche sociali studiando, dunque, come anche il linguaggio nello spazio contribuisce a costruire identità, a creare comunità, a marcare, infine, dinamiche di differenza sociale all'interno della società; per concludere, permetterà di c) esplorare le relazioni tra lingua e spazio indagando come il linguaggio che si iscrive nello spazio urbano influenza quest'ultimo e come lo spazio, a sua volta, non solamente influenza l'uso della lingua, ma anche la percezione (e, quindi, anche la costruzione discorsiva) della stessa.

I risultati di questa ricerca offriranno un contributo significativo alla comprensione del multilinguismo urbano e delle sue implicazioni sociali e culturali.

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Marie Hana Příbylová

Charles University
marie.pribylova@ff.cuni.cz

Rethinking old dogmas: the potential of interpreting into English as a third language for boosting accessibility

The paper is based on doctoral research on direct interpreting from Czech Sign Language (ČZJ) into spoken English (EN) as a third language as a means to increase accessibility and remove barriers in international exchange between the Deaf and the hearing.

For most hearing interpreters, this combination will be a B-B one, which is generally considered undesirable due to the accumulation of constraints related to interpreting from and into a foreign language.

However, the B-B interpreting quality observed as part of the research has not proven to be significantly lower than that of relay interpreting in terms of transmitting the speaker's message; but, most importantly, the specific socio-cultural knowledge sign language interpreters (SLIs) applied compared to the relay control group proved paramount for adequately representing the speaker (Feyne, 2015).

Therefore, the paper argues for making English as a third language part of SLI training programmes to enable direct interpreting by SLIs. Qualification opportunities have been scarce to non-existent, despite literature (de Wit, 2010; Machač, 2017) stressing the need for them. The research concludes that if done responsibly, abandoning dogmas that no longer help fulfil contemporary society's communication needs can be beneficial.

Not only is interpreting a product of social reality – it helps shape it. The research is based on the presupposition that supply will boost demand, and that direct interpreting availability will encourage exchange between people of various linguistic profiles and cultural identities that would not happen otherwise.

Admittedly, direct B-B interpreting may not always be desirable, and interpreting in itself is not a panacea (De Meulder & Hauland, 2021); however, the research clearly demonstrates that socio-cultural knowledge and metalinguistic and metacognitive awareness as inherent human qualities play a key role in mediating communication, and that if we lose the human interpreter, the loss risks to be a serious one.

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Nerida Woodhams Bertozzi

Università di Bologna
nerida.woodhamsbertozzi@unibo.it

Writing the self *In Other Words*: language, selfhood and identity in the linguistic autobiography

This presentation investigates the language memoir or linguistic autobiography as a literary genre by focusing on Jhumpa Lahiri's *In altre parole* (2015) and its subsequent English translation, *In Other Words* (translated by Ann Goldstein, 2016). Her first publication in Italian, this personal, autobiographical account explores Lahiri's move to Italy and her process of learning – and eventually writing in – Italian. The thematisation of language and the language-learning process becomes a means for the author to engage with profound existential questions relating to selfhood, identity, and belonging (de Rogatis, 2023).

The presentation explores how the linguistic autobiography (Pavlenko, 2007) serves as a vehicle for Lahiri to interrogate concepts of estrangement and “foreignness” through translingual narration. It considers some of the implications of literary approaches to transcultural communication and asks questions about the potential of the linguistic autobiography in innovative pedagogical practices in relation to language learning and translation studies. Through a process of personal linguistic research and its subsequent mediation through prose and again through translation, Lahiri engages with questions around belonging, plurilingualism, and identity, in relation to English, Italian, and Bengali. This presentation proposes that the analysis of linguistic autobiographies, like Lahiri's *In altre parole*, can provide more inclusive perspectives on the Italian language, concepts of (diasporic) selfhood, and work to destabilise universalising cultural structures and literary and linguistic canons.

Finally, this presentation briefly considers how, through her subsequent publication of the essay collection *Translating Myself and Others* (2022), Lahiri becomes an active participant in the theorisation of her own literary output. By looking at instances of translation, co-translation, and self-translation in her literary production in Italian, the presentation offers some reflections on the role of self-translation in the construction of plurilingual, intersectional, and diasporic identities (Castro et al., 2017).

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Poster presentations

Federica Alabiso & Maria Elisa Fina

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia
federica.alabiso@unive.it

Inclusive communication strategies to grant the right to accessibility in an Italian museum

The rising number of people with disabilities – partly due to the aging of the global population – the ever more frequent interactions between people from different languacultural backgrounds as well as the growing interest in the themes of diversity and inclusion have shone a light on the numerous barriers that individuals living in contemporary societies face daily. To ensure the right to tourism and an active cultural life as established by the United Nations, it is essential to experiment with innovative and inclusive solutions that can remove or overcome these barriers in cultural heritage sites.

The TICH0 project aims to experiment with new multimodal communication strategies to create an accessible tour for English-speaking foreigners, people with sensory disabilities, and young people at the Palladio Museum in Vicenza, Northeast Italy. The project will utilize new technologies in the form of a digital application, tactile replicas, videos in Italian Sign Language (LIS) and other materials and props, which will be designed and developed in collaboration with Italian high-tech firm Conform S.c.a.r.l. With a view to inclusion that informs all phases of the research process, the researchers and project partners have established collaboration with the local associations of people with sensory disabilities and organized several focus groups to collect feedback from dozens of visitors belonging to the project's target publics.

The conference paper will present the TICH0 project, its theoretical foundation and its results. More specifically, the researchers will describe the developed multimodal and accessible communicative strategies, with a focus on the audio description for Italian blind visitors and the audio guide for English-speaking foreigners. The effectiveness of such strategies will be tested in the summer of 2025 with visitors from the target publics.

TICH0 is publicly funded and is part of iNEST, an Innovation Ecosystem encompassing the Italian Northeast.

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Federica Ceccarelli

Università di Bologna
f.ceccarelli@unibo.it

**Queering translations of sinophone literature in Italy:
Qiu Miaojin's *Mengmate Yishu***

Qiu Miaojin 邱妙津 (1969 - 1995) is among the most famous authors of Taiwanese Queer Literature. Her *Mengmate Yishu* 蒙馬特遺書 (*Last Words from Montmartre*) is a collection of letters about the end and aftermath of a devastating homosexual relationship. Published posthumously after Qiu's suicide, this text is also a remarkable example of experimentalism and literary avant-garde. In Qiu's work, all distinctions between contexts, characters, and feelings appear blurred; the author plays with time (chapters can be read in any order), place (shifting from Paris to Taipei to Tokyo), and gender fluidity (with mutable or deceptive character roles). Such a complex narrative poses a remarkable challenge for translators, who need to find creative solutions to preserve the ambiguity of the novel. This poster analyzes the Italian translation of Qiu's masterpiece by Silvia Pozzi (*Ultime Lettere da Montmartre*), comparing it with the English translation by Ari Heinrich. This comparison will serve as a point of reference for a literary market in which Queer writing is more consolidated and accepted, and for a language that permits greater fluidity (e.g., with respect to grammatical gender and verb tenses). The poster includes an essential context review of Queer Sinophone texts in the Italian publishing market, continues with the comparative analysis, which aims to shed light on the complexity of translating Queer Sinophone avant-garde texts. It includes a close reading from the original text and their two translations to highlight some key issues of Queer Translation from Chinese and the strategies adopted by translators. In conclusion, this study aims to contribute to a broader understanding of the peculiarities of Queer Translation and to encourage a more nuanced and engaged approach to the potential of Sinophone Queer Literature in the Italian literary market.

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Lorenzo Costabile

Università di Pavia

lorenzo.costabile01@universitadipavia.it

English-language cyberdubbing in the age of artificial intelligence: a reception study

In this poster I discuss the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the field of audiovisual translation (AVT). Three emerging phenomena are analysed: English-language dubbing, cyberdubbing (i.e. amateur dubbing in online contexts) (Baños and Díaz-Cintas 2023) and automatic dubbing (i.e. AI-generated revoicing) (Federico et al. 2020). Audience reception (Gambier 2018) may be a useful tool to explore the intersections among these areas. The following research questions (RQs) are addressed: How does cyberdubbing differ from mainstream professional dubbing into English? What is the reception of English-speaking audiences to AI dubbing? What are their stances towards its use in AVT? The study, conducted using qualitative methods, consisted of different stages. First, a survey on Instagram identified three cyberdubbing content creators, who completed an open questionnaire aimed to investigate the productive processes behind their AI-based cyberdubs. Subsequently, the opinions and attitudes of a group of Anglophone speakers were collected via interviews. Reception was explored through questions regarding themes such as naturalness, lip-sync and emotional tone in the dubbing of four clips (both professional and amateur automatic dubs). Finally, respondents were requested to identify the clips produced using AI. For what concerns the first RQ, cyberdubbers revealed a hybrid approach (AI and manual), which can involve followers and lead to non-hierarchical and collaborative structures. As for the second RQ, the study confirms the Anglophone audience's expected unfamiliarity with dubbing (Sánchez-Mompeán 2023), as traditional issues were identified regardless of the dubs' human or artificial nature. Interestingly, respondents seem to exhibit greater trust in AI than in human translators/dubbers, alongside an ambivalent attitude towards the implementation of AI in AVT. Results are discussed in terms of respondents' sociolinguistic background and previous experiences with AVT. Considering the scarce research in the field, the study may prompt further in-depth and larger-scale research, which is currently on the way.

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Beth Kadlcikova Hanley

Université Libre de Bruxelles

beth.alison.hanley@ulb.be

Gender-inclusive language use by English to French simultaneous interpreters: a pilot study

Gender-inclusive language (GIL) can be described as the linguistic inclusion of women, marginalised genders and minority groups. In languages with grammatical gender markers, GIL tends to define the feminisation and neutralisation of masculine-centric grammar systems, in line with findings that linguistic androcentricity limits the mental representation of people who are not men (Gygax et al., 2021). GIL is a contentious subject, commonly viewed as difficult to use and understand.

An area where this complexity is a realistic concern is simultaneous interpreting. Conference interpreters working in the simultaneous mode consistently work to the maximum of their cognitive capacity, leaving little room for added complications, such as unfamiliar language use. On the other hand, if the upward trajectory of GIL use in language provision continues, the topic requires investigation. Through the lens of Gile's Efforts Model (1995), this poster presentation will report on the findings of a pilot study conducted with a group of 10 English > French interpreting master's students and recent graduates from 2023 and 2024.

The pre-post experiment demonstrates to what extent there is a correlation between GIL use and more frequent instances of omissions, additions and changes of meaning. A high rate of omissions, additions and changes of meaning is often considered as an indication of increased cognitive load. The students and recent graduates first interpreted two speeches of around 10 minutes with 20 GIL units to be interpreted using GIL. They then attended an hour-long training session before interpreting a further two speeches with 20 GIL units. The interpretations were then assessed based on the number of GIL appropriately interpreted as well as the number of significant omissions, additions and changes of meaning. The poster presentation will thus demonstrate the impact of bespoke GIL training for interpreters at all levels of their interpreting career and training.

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Multilingualism in Africa: integrating diverse worldviews into the scientific global discourse

This paper delves into the interplay between language education policies and multilingualism across Africa, with particular emphasis on the role of indigenous languages in political independence. Africa's linguistic diversity, characterized by over 2,000 languages, is a defining feature of the continent. However, the colonial legacy and the dominance of foreign languages have relegated indigenous languages to the margins in both education and political spheres. The central question arises: how can these languages evolve and contribute to global scientific discourse while carrying their own worldview (*Weltanschauung*) and addressing local issues, if they are excluded from this very discourse? How can they progress through new scientific discoveries and simultaneously contribute to these findings, if academic and scientific communication across Africa predominantly occurs in colonial languages, primarily English?

Antonio Gramsci once argued that science is the human endeavor most responsible for the cultural unification of humanity. However, this vision seems impossible to fulfill when indigenous languages, which encapsulate distinct worldviews and perspectives, are not part of the knowledge exchange or international collaboration. English, as a *Lingua Franca* (ELF) in academic settings, is already serving as a restrictive force in global scientific discourse when not accompanied by translations or when research is published solely in English. This constraint becomes even more pronounced in countries where local languages are not integrated into higher education systems and lack the tools to participate in international scientific dialogue. As a result, these languages risk becoming further dialectized and deprived of their scientific potential, hindering their contribution to the cultural unification of humanity.

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Julia Rieser

University of Vienna
julia.rieser@univie.ac.at

Exploring semi-interactive post-editing for literary translation

The subject of this dissertation project is the exploration of semi-interactive post-editing (SIPE) for literary translation. For the purpose of this project, SIPE is defined as the process of human post-editing (PE) of a machine-generated first draft of a translation of a literary text, using the interactivity function offered by the translation software DeepL. With the aim of investigating the extent to which NMT coupled with modern PE technology (such as DeepL) can be useful in the translation of literature, I want to find out whether SIPE could be a viable alternative to traditional PE in the field of literary translation. My study will therefore explore if and in which ways SIPE could be an alternative to traditional PE, where literary translators could interact more creatively with the computer and produce target texts that contain more of their own style and voice.

In my poster presentation, I will discuss results from an ongoing study of literary post-editing. My case study uses two short stories from the 19th-century American author Willa Carther, “A Singer’s Romance” and “The Affair At Grover Station”, originally written in English, which I translated into German using the neural machine translation engine DeepL. Excerpts from both stories (870 words from “A Singer’s Romance” and 892 words from “The Affair At Grover Station”) were post-edited by four professional literary translators, working in two modes: 1) semi-interactive post-editing directly in the DeepL mask and 2) traditional post-editing in Word. The participants have been asked to think aloud while working on their target texts and they used a screen recording tool to capture both their concurrent verbalizations and their activities on the computer. Based on these data, I analyze their post-editing effort across its three commonly studied dimensions: temporal, technical and cognitive effort.

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Chiara Russo

Università degli Studi di Catania

chiara.russo@phd.unict.it

Come parlano i nuovi LLMs? L'AI generativa italiana e la sfida del linguaggio inclusivo

Negli ultimi anni, l'Intelligenza Artificiale (IA) ha compiuto rapidi progressi a livello globale, in particolare per lo sviluppo di modelli linguistici di grandi dimensioni (LLMs). Questi modelli, addestrati su enormi quantità di dati, sono progettati per elaborare il linguaggio naturale operando in diversi contesti linguistici.

Nel panorama italiano, il rilascio di LLMs addestrati quasi interamente in lingua italiana presenta sfide peculiari, sia in termini di complessità linguistica che di sensibilità culturale del Paese. Tali modelli, infatti, sono chiamati a confrontarsi non solo con la sintassi e il lessico, ma anche con le dinamiche socioculturali che influenzano gli usi linguistici della comunità italofona, in particolare rispetto alle tematiche di genere. In un quadro in cui la lingua rispecchia e modella dinamiche normative e ideologiche, l'analisi delle rappresentazioni prodotte dagli LLMs diventa fondamentale per valutare la loro capacità di integrare pratiche linguistiche inclusive.

Questo studio si propone di esaminare due LLMs italiani di recente implementazione, con l'obiettivo di valutarne l'efficacia nella produzione di un linguaggio privo di bias di genere. Attraverso un approccio metodologico integrato – che combina analisi qualitativa, quantitativa e comparativa – si esamineranno le capacità di questi modelli rispetto al trattamento di espressioni linguistiche non discriminatorie, alla gestione della visibilità linguistica di genere e alle scelte lessicali, sintattiche e pragmatiche. La dimensione quantitativa fornirà dati sulla frequenza e la distribuzione di espressioni inclusive, mentre l'analisi qualitativa approfondirà le implicazioni in contesti comunicativi variabili. Il confronto diretto tra i due LLMs permetterà di delineare differenze, somiglianze e peculiarità, mettendo in evidenza i rispettivi limiti e punti di forza.

Attraverso l'analisi dello stato dell'arte dell'Intelligenza Artificiale generativa italiana, questo contributo mira ad approfondire le dinamiche linguistiche nelle pratiche attuali, con l'intento di stimolare un dibattito critico sull'importanza di sviluppare modelli linguistici che siano inclusivi e culturalmente consapevoli.

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Désirée Russo

Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro

desiree.russo@uniba.it

Ideology, translators, and ‘translatoids’. MT: A tool or a collaborator?

In their Statement on the generative AI, the European Council of Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL) (2023) highlighted that the machine translation (MT) is not a translator but a ‘translatoid’, arguing that it actually does not translate words (thus, meanings, frames, cultural nuances) but generates them. In this context, this abstract proposal aims to present the ‘Chinese room’ argument by Searle (1980) with a modern twist. While his study focused on the lack of intentionality by the Artificial general intelligence (AGI), also known as strong AI, this attempts to examine the current status of the generative AI at the basis of the Provider’s translation. In particular, it concerns the advantage of accessibility to information for the reader who does not know the source language through seemingly, grammatically and semantically, correct sentences, whereas the disadvantage is the inherent, ideological gap of the MT that appears in the speaker’s individual choices surrounded by the ideological environment (Hasan, 2005). Indeed, this includes a corpus-based register analysis of 15 newspaper articles in Russian from the TASS platform (i.e., a Russian news agency that disseminates official information) and their translations into Italian by Microsoft Edge via the ‘translate’ feature. The expected results, which open to further discussion, might consist of the use of the MT as a tool to human, professional translation without replacing it. Hence, it would imply a subtle ambiguity in the MT’s translation as for fundamental, linguistic resources such as the register’s mode and tenor.

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Liang Yuan

University of Wales Trinity St David
2100055@student.uwtsd.ac.uk

Cultural bridge through subtitles: decoding *The Art of War* for the West

Traditionally, subtitles in the UK were mainly available in arthouse cinemas and through decoders for deaf and hard of hearing viewers. However, recent research indicates that a majority of younger audiences now expect subtitles when watching media. (O’Sullivan & Pinto, 2025) Little research is done on how regular UK audiences use subtitles and how they feel about them. This study examines how the UK audience receive the TV show *China in the Classics* disseminated on the YouTube platform, which adapts Chinese literary classics into accessible audiovisual formats. However, cultural references (CRs) embedded in the show pose challenges to effective understanding, highlighting the issue of “cultural discount” (Hoskins and Mirus, 1988).

This study explores the subtitling of CRs in the episode *The Art of War* in the show, focusing on how subtitling strategies impact Anglophone viewers’ interpretation and reception of the source text. It examines subtitling’s dual role as a cultural bridge and an instrument of soft power. Conducted in three phases, the research identifies and categorizes CRs in the show with Díaz Cintas & Remael’s model (2021), analyzes subtitling strategies using Pedersen’s taxonomy model (2011), and evaluates their reception through focus groups, increasing validity through this triangulation. Preliminary findings reveal that existing subtitling models, predominantly tailored to European contexts (Alfaify, A., & Ramos Pinto, S., 2022), inadequately address Chinese CRs. Therefore, new models were proposed to enhance and expand the existing frameworks for analyzing Chinese data. Focus group discussions highlighted those subtitling strategies, while facilitating comprehension to varying degrees, often failed to fully convey the cultural and philosophical nuances of Chinese CRs.

This research underscores the challenges and opportunities of subtitling as cultural bridge, informing the UK audience’ needs and preferences for subtitled foreign-language media, as well as promoting a deeper understanding of Chinese literary and cultural heritage globally.

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