

Translation Networking

Although you are not studying translation as a profession, but as foreign language learners you are required to be aware of at least what technology offers for translators and language experts. Actually, professional translators have attained great gains from the latest IT developments including cloud networking. Accordingly, translators can share translation projects, research, studies, views, glossaries, corpora, refereeing and any relevant translation data or activity while they are at home, sitting to their computers and without leaving their posts anywhere around the world. There is no more fuzz today about the impossibility or difficulties of conducting and participating in national or international translation projects. The Western Countries are in fact miles ahead of the Arab Countries in this respect. Arab translators are still suffering difficulties of having contact locally and nationally, let alone global. Great projects that have been lagging behind for years now are waiting yet to be launched in the Arab States one day at local as well as Arab National levels.

One of the most urgent project of all is ARABIZATION which has thus far been marginalized, and disappointing to everybody in the Arab World for its utter failure due to lack of cooperation, collaboration or coordination among specialists, academic institutions of Arabization and Arab politicians. Apart from bits and pieces by the so-called Arabic Language Academies (especially of Damascus and Cairo), The Coordination Bureau of Arabization (at Rabat, Morocco) and spasmodic individual attempts by Countries (namely, Syria) and scholars, there have been no signs of serious attempts of collaboration among these or other Arabization institutions and centers (and they are many in the Arab States) (See Ghazala, 2012: chs. 1&2 for further details and discussion).

In the light of this dim image of the situation which is getting worse along the way, this new technology of cloud computing and networking can be the looked-for solution. Networking through Internet and mass media can facilitate the most problematic process of translation and Arabization at the level of the whole Arab World. Specialists, professional translators, terminologists and all those involved in the process can work, cooperate, edit, revise, referee, print and typeset from where they are in their Countries and academic establishments where they work, thus, sorting out successfully the most problematic issue in Arabization and translation enterprises, that is, bring all those people together at the same time, in the same venue. The only remaining prerequisites for achieving that are; 1) the political and academic willingness to take up the daunting, but possible, task of Arabization, and 2) the professional management of the Project through the cloud-based networking, using the latest IT in this regard, which is a farfetched, but not impossible goal to achieve.

Surely, cloud networking, crowdsourcing, interoperability, online community and other cloud computing skills [...]of today may not be enough in the future in this world of rapid advancements of IT, as **Harris** and **Pym** predict. According to them, translators will need to operate more heavily on the visual and audio aspects of language, not just on the

written aspects, as is now the case. They add that the danger is that tools will play a large role in education and the translator training so that the basic skills will be neglected. However, they concede that many of the skills required in the future are those that have been required in the past. They call them ETERNAL TRUTHS. Yet, some skills will become more important than others in the future, and they call them NEW TRUTHS. Here they are in a row (2011):

ETERNAL TRUTHS (related to what the translator had to have)

- TL (target language) writing skills (flexible and differentiated).
- Communication skills in general, to talk to clients and colleagues, rather than live in a cave.
- Marketing skills.
- IT literacy.
- Research skills.
- Ethics.
- How to work in a home office.
- Thematic knowledge.

NEW TRUTHS (related to what the translator must have)

- Learning translation technology skills.
- Learning to learn about new types of tools.
- Preparation of terminology for MT (Machine Translation).
- New translation tasks such as post-editing and pre-editing.
- Increased specialization.
- Social networking skills.
- Priority language will be Chinese, English, German and Arabic [the last is added by Ghazala].
- Into English work will be editing TTs (Target Translations) written by non-natives.
- Move to English as a source language. There will be an increased demand for technical drafting in English, with controlled authoring skills.
- Continuing professional development, with new short-term training formats that may be offered by private companies rather than by universities.

Resources:

Professor Hasan Said Ghazala. Translation Skills: A Textbook. Konoos Al-Marifa. Um el-Kora University of Makkah Al-Mokarrama.2013