

**TRANSLATION CHALLENGES IN THE
REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**



Linguistics

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Abstract

Translation demands a deep understanding of both grammar and culture. Translators need to know the rules of a language as well as the habits of the people who speak it. Translation problems can appear in many forms: lexico-semantic, grammatical, syntactic, rhetorical, pragmatic or cultural. The challenges of translation in the Republic of North Macedonia are many. For this study, we have received statements from many translators from several institutions but also outside the institutions who have told about the challenges of translation in our country.

Introduction

Translation is demanding and the necessary research takes time. Mastering a language also means knowing the cultural features of that language. Translation can become a challenge, especially when the target language is very complex and has different sentence structures.

As translators in the digital world, we need to demonstrate much more than just excellent language skills. Working with various tools and software that support and accelerate translation, such as using software has become a daily task in many countries around the world. A translator is almost like a knife in that for every problem they have to have the right tool in their pocket and know how to use it.

Translation Challenges in the Republic of North Macedonia

Lirim Shabani, *Head of the Unit of Proofreading, Language Implementation Agency (LIA)* says: “Now as a challenge in simultaneous translation, there are several, first the topic, that is, how well do we know the topic of a conference or other event. If we know it, then it does not give us difficulties. The second challenge is the speed of the speaker during his speech. If you speak fast, you won't be able to translate everything he says. The third challenge is the speaker himself, so what does he say, how clear is he when he expresses his opinion, what is his reasoning. The clearer the easier it is to translate, the more vague the more difficult. Even paper translation has its challenges. Here too, the topic is expressed, that is, how well we know that field. Then, it depends; it is poetry, prose, novel, news, report or official administrative document. In each of these, the vocabulary used differs.”

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Osama Muadini, *certified translator and lecturer in PROTECTION AND RESCUE DIRECTORATE* says: “Republic of North Macedonia, since its independence, has encountered many political difficulties until today. During this period of three decades, one of the challenges has been and remains the recognition of the other’s language, specifically the recognition or officialization of the Albanian language in the state, which has caused problems and difficulties in the translation of various texts of institutional and social life for the citizens of her. As a consequence of this, the lack of institutional regulation for translators has led to a lack of translators and a shortage of texts and various materials. So, the lack and deficiencies encountered have caused us to have textbooks for primary, secondary and higher education, there are many problems in the translation of textbooks, which have also led to various scandals. Translation and translators should be initiated and engaged by the Ministry of Education and Science, initially training and licensing adequate translators of school textbooks, including editors and lecturers licensed for this activity. Translation and translators in state institutions, starting from the Government, the various Ministries and Directorates, up to the local government, should start hiring adequate existing translators, training new translators, licensing them, in order to have a translation standard of texts and official documents at the state level. In addition to translation and translators, the lack of a law for the licensing of lecturers in the Albanian language presents a problem in itself that needs to be found institutionally, namely that the Ministry of Culture is responsible for the implementation of this law, where until now there is only a law for the licensing of Macedonian language lecturers. Finally, engage of current translators, the training of new translators and their licensing, as well as the licensing of lecturers in the Albanian language by introducing a law for this, would be the challenges that must be passed and solved at the state level, with which translation would also be regulated as a problem and reading. However, to achieve this, will and political commitment are needed, especially now when the Republic of North Macedonia claims and is a candidate for membership in the European Union.”

Marigona Xhelili, *translator in Health Insurance Fund of Republic of North Macedonia - Regional Unit – Kicevo* says: “We encounter difficulties almost every day, especially when we have limited time, the work is even more stressful trying to complete the work on time. Our work does not end with the work schedule, it sometimes continues at home, so now translation has become part of me for most of the day. “The beginning is difficult”, - we hear this sentence often, but we understand the essence only when we really face the difficulties of the beginning. Translators do their best to stay true to the original text, but that's sometimes impossible because sometimes it's more important to stay true to the reader. During the translation, the following can happen, for example: the structure of the sentence can be preserved or abandoned through the fragmentation of the original sentence, the type of subordinate parts can be changed, the sentence can appear even more complicated or simplified than in the original, conjunctions may not be used despite the fact that they are used in the original, or they may be used in the Albanian language even though they are absent in the original. In other words, it's about creating a text that looks like it was written not only by someone who speaks our language, but also for people who read that language. Only then will readers be able to connect with it and the message will get across. We work with the text: we check it, revise it, and check it again, asking questions

of the colleagues who created it in the original to give the text a final touch. It is a job that requires precision to achieve a literal translation.” Some examples of translations in the Republic of North Macedonia



CONCLUSION

Translation is an elementary and highly specialized activity - the translator is as indispensable as he is often invisible - the work of translation is closely related to the art of understanding. In the context of the challenges of a globalized present, translation issues also constitute a fundamental part of international diplomacy, which highlights the – ever-present – political component of language use and makes it worthwhile to explore the relationship between literature, translations and politics. The translator must do the work in the best possible way, with a lot of desire, will, dedication, conscience, care and responsibility. A good translation often requires teamwork and consultation. In Republic of North Macedonia there should be a center for the training and licensing of Albanian lecturers. Are translators loyal to the language of a foreign culture or should they try to be loyal to the readers of their own language of the language where they are translating whether it is a book, document, statement, etc. The choice remains with them and the ideal that accompanies this profession.

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