

## FOREWORD

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It is my great pleasure to introduce this volume of essays in Translation Studies published under the auspices of the Department of Language Pedagogy and Translation Studies of Pázmány Péter Catholic University (PPCU). Our Translation and Interpreting Master's program is relatively young, looking back on a history of less than a decade (founded in 2012), yet it quickly developed into the second most popular MA course within the field of Translation Studies in Hungary. This remarkable success can be attributed to several factors: the successful cooperation of various modern philology departments within the Faculty of Humanities of PPCU; the small but professional community of scholars and instructors, reinforced by a devoted circle of part-time specialists, who created a program of high academic standards while also geared to the expectations of the job market; and also our ceaseless efforts to keep up with the current trends of international Translation Studies and establish our modest professional workshop within the European network of specialized institutions.

One step towards this goal was the first international conference on Translation Studies organized by the Department on April 5-6, 2016 under the title of Getting Translated. It was a major success, attracting over 30 participants from six countries. The current volume is the outcome of the conference, selecting from the best Hungarian presentations and offering a broad cross-section of the variety of topics and approaches presented at the conference. All essays in the volume underwent a double blind peer-review process and multiple rounds of editing to ensure that the outcome meets the highest standards of contemporary Translation Studies.

Professor Anthony Pym's fascinating essay – which was first presented as a plenary lecture at the conference – expands the scope of Translation Studies into a thoroughly interdisciplinary venture: he takes his cue from an incident in contemporary European politics presented via the electronic media in order to take readers on a wide-ranging journey and ultimately arrive at the conclusion that translators and interpreters should not merely aim for linguistic precision: they should strive for affective faithfulness to convey the subjective emotional overtones and idiosyncracies of the original message. Melinda Dabis also focuses on an intersection of politics and Translation Studies when she examines the emergence of the standardized terminology of space missions out of efforts to ease tensions between the two superpowers during the *détente*, followed by regular international space cooperation after the demise of the Cold War.

The largest group of essays pinpoint a variety of specific subjects within the broad field of the discipline. Gyöngyvér Bozsik tackles a very specialized translation problem by comparing seven different Hungarian versions of the lyrics of Mozart's classic opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*, focusing on the crucial aspect of singability. Zsuzsanna Csikai examines British and Irish translations of Czehov's classic dramas through the theo-

retical lens of postcolonial theory to reveal different strategies of domestication at work. Márta Kóbor concentrates on the peculiar challenges presented by website translation, one of the most dynamically growing sectors of the industry. Edina Robin's contribution looks into the problem of whether the revision of translated texts may be partially responsible for the marked presence of language universals, that is, the phenomenon that translations utilize more standardized lexical elements and rely on strategies of explicitation and implicitation to create less individual and idiosyncratic text than the source material. Éva Viola delves into the theoretical intricacies of Rhetorical Structure Analysis, with particular focus on the comparative examination of elementary discourse units in English and Hungarian.

Three essays in the volume are related to challenges produced by the training of future translators and the translation needs of the academia. Márta Lesznyák and Mária Bakti present the conclusions of their survey among translation and interpreting students about the importance of various subcompetences related to language mediation. Anikó Makos draws attention to the importance of developing students' skills in their own mother tongue when she examines a large corpus of their Hungarian compositions as well as translated texts and locates a number of recurring language-skills related problems in both. Krisztina Zimányi's survey focused on academics at a Central Mexican university to find out how much they would need the assistance of professional Spanish–English translators to publish their research in the international language of modern scholarship.

I hope this short introduction is enough to whet readers' appetite for the volume, and let me express my conviction that it will be followed by a number of further publications to showcase the varied academic activities of the fledging research group of our Institute.

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