

Letter to the Editor

Collaborative Translation or Fruitful Partnership between Translator and Author: An Overlooked Point in Translator Training



Dear Editor in Chief

Nematullah Shomoossi^{1*}, Mehrdad Vasheghani Farahani²

¹Associate Professor, Department of Education, Sabzevar University of Medical Sciences,
Sabzevar, Iran

²Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany

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This letter comes to your attention in the light of a dearth of research existing in the field of Translation/ interpreting Studies. In fact, if the translator sits down alone, translates a piece of text, and sends it to the commissioner, has he done his job completely? What about other players in the work of translation such as the editor, author of the text, reviser, publisher, and other colleagues? Do they play any role in translation? As a matter of fact, the image that a piece of translation work is done solely with the translator being the only agent is at odds. This has brought the concept of ‘collaborative translation’ into perspective.

¹ Corresponding Author’s Email:
Nshomoossi@yahoo.com

Indeed, collaborative translation, also known as joint translation protocols (Khsravani & Vahid Dastjerdi, 2013) although a ubiquitous yet elusive new term in the domain of translation studies, has not been studied extensively, resulting in a paucity of solid and first-hand research in this line of study. Apart from that, today the spread of modern science and knowledge at an astonishing rate has led many companies and enterprises, to hire translators. In addition, translating scientific texts, apart from knowing the source and target texts, requires precision in the varying concepts of knowledge, jargon, and terminologies and newly emerged and developing borders of science. On the other hand, collaboration with the source language author can prove unbelievably useful in that it assists the translator to clear up ambiguities of the text. This is not taken into account in the training of translators and even in the evaluation of translation ability (Huss, 2018).

As an object in Translation studies, the lack of research in this area of inquiry has misguided researchers and scholars into indeterminacy. Indeed, most of the time, collaborative translation is confused with crowdsourcing translation. Whereas crowdsourcing translation comes to offer the idea that a group of people with various but related knowledge can function better on a specific purpose and the crowd has more potential to perform the task (Jiménez-Crespo, 2017), collaborative translation is a process that entails the participation of multiple participants such as author, translator, publisher and translation agency working, simultaneously, on a specific project (O'Brien, 2011). In other words, in collaborative translation, “A team can bring together the mix of required skills” (Douglas and Craig, 2007, P, 33).

To be precise, in areas of inquiry such as medicine which requires a high demand of technical knowledge and jargon, a lack of which will impose unpredictable consequences, such cooperation between a translator and an author as well as an editor can yield promising results, because the focus of medicine is human's health and treatment; therefore, the translation needs to be as accurate as possible (Shomoossi, 2013).

To conclude, we thought that such a letter would galvanize new researchers and scholars in the field of Translation Studies to embark on new studies as an effort to fill this gap. The outcome of a fruitful partnership between translators and authors in achieving the optimal level of flawless translation particularly if the source text is scientifically detailed (Shomoossi, 2013). Rather than accentuating the competing roles of the two stakeholders, an emphasis on the complementary roles

of translator and author should suffice to adopt a logical basis for teaming up to render the knowledge production for the good of human beings (Cordingley & Manning, 2017).

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