Encyclopedia of Translation and Interpreting

Mission statement

I N THE LAST TWO DECADES, several generalist, panoramic, encyclopedic, and collective works have been published in our field, such as those edited by Baker (1998), Snell-Hornby *et al*. (1998), Kittel *et al*. (2004), Gambier *et al*. (2010, 2011), Malm-kjaer *et al*. (2011), Millán & Bartrina (2012), and Pöchhacker (2015). These and similar works are printed, commercial, high-impact publications written in English or German. To our knowledge, no encyclopedia of this kind has ever been published in any Iberian language.

However, there is indeed a clear need for encyclopedias of translation and interpreting studies in other languages. In Spain alone there are over thirty university degrees in Translation & Interpreting Studies (TIS, henceforth). If we add TIS students and researchers in Portugal and in the Americas, where AIETI's preferent languages are mainly spoken, we will face a potentially huge audience with quite significant common grounds. One of the reasons for the existence of AIETI is to promote Iberian languages as a scientific vehicle against the temptation of monolingualisms.

Another main committment of AIETI is disseminating TIS knowledge. Not many tools make knowledge available to everyone while fostering research. And none can be more useful to students and fellow researchers than a work aiming to cover the whole discipline with a rigour guaranteed through the participation of reputed experts in all areas within TIS. AIETI was created as a free, collaborative network of translation and interpreting experts. This makes the association the perfect foundation for a digital TIS encyclopedia.

The vast portions of the world where AIETI languages are mainly spoken, the need for low costs, and the benefits of easily updating digital texts, point to a virtual encyclopedia. A work that will systematically takes advantage of the very enriching possibilities offered by information and communication technologies. Our goal is, therefore, to compile and edit a collaborative work that fills the sketched gaps in our field, and that also includes some innovative features that can grant an important added value:

Open-access. In times of social networks, polyphonic information, and growing and sweeping consensus on free access to knowldege, logistics seems to be the only possible explanation for not having yet made this type of tool freely available to everyone through the Internet. AIETI does certainly have the human capital and the dissemination capacity needed for this project. Far from the commercial and, to a certain extent, excluding nature of comparable works published so far, AIETI's encyclopedia will be open and universally-accessible through the AIETI web page. Mirror sites will follow.

Multilingual. We are not giving up publishing English versions of the entries. In order to ensure the international projection of AIETI's encyclopedia, entries will actually be published in any language for which we get a version. However, all entries will be published both in an Iberian language and in English, as an important complement for internationalization and also for additional projection. Authors will be able to write their entries in English or in any Iberian language. Once a final version is approved, they will have six more months to submit a translation into English or an Iberian language. Of course, they will be welcome to forward additional translations at will. Going truly multilingual opens up the possibility to incorporate TIS scholars outside our association. If you are an expert, you are welcome in, no matter what language you speak.

Multimedia. Many platforms and software applications allow to easily present texts enriched with hyperlinks (also as internal references to the work itself), pdf documents, webs, audiovisual recordings, etc. AIETI's encyclopedia will try to make the most out of this virtuality, turning each entry into a point of departure for an open, polyphonic knowledge, where every main concept and every bibliographic reference is linked to other sources that make it possible to better understand them, and to expand the information with just one click.

Depth and detail. One of the assets of publishing on the Internet is that space does no longer imply a financial limitation. We can therefore present entries different from those short notes of 300-500 words, typical in encyclopedic works, that are often insufficient for a student or a scholar, and seek for a balance between thoroughness and operability. The proposed length will be between 1,000 words (for short entries) and 6,000 words for the longest ones. In addition to the possibilities afforded by this extended length, the mesh of interconnected texts, both within and without the encyclopedia, make traditional limits even more relative, just a matter of orderly housekeeping.

Scalable. Another advantage of online publihsing is that we can launch the encyclopedia at an early stage of the project and see it grow while it is already in use. We will start from a basic core of typical disciplinary concepts and will constantly add more and more specialized articles to cover new approaches.

Updatable. Another great virtue of such a publication on the Internet is that it can be constantly reviewed. Nothing prevents the articles in the encyclopedia from being periodically updated, from the bibliographic references to the concepts themselves, thus guaranteeing their continuous relevance and opportunity. At the same time, old versions will always be kept accessible and linked to the corresponding entry, so that we will also have access over time to a conceptual history of the development of the discipline. In other words, entries will not be updated, but enlarged with updates, and the order and publication dates will let readers trace the evolving understandings in the field.