



2010 - International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures

22 – 23 February 2010

UNESCO – 7 Place de Fontenoy, Paris - Room XII

International Symposium: Translation and Cultural Mediation

Organized on the occasion of the 11th International Mother Language Day in collaboration with the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS)

Content outline

According to recent data, confirmed by UNESCO's world's bibliography, *Index Translationum*, translation and interpretation have become increasingly essential components of the contemporary globalization process; This trend is particularly evident in the international book market and the field of technical translation (trade, laws, technical instructions, and administrative texts). As part of the general intensification of exchanges between people (TIC, tourism, migratory movements), foreign literature has reached unprecedented levels of popularity, as reflected in the number of titles published worldwide. Never before, in human history, have the bridges linking different peoples and cultures been so diverse and numerous.

However, in spite of the amount and quality of texts translated and published every year throughout the world, the accessible content is not always sufficiently balanced and culturally diverse, due largely, to the overall inequality of the interchange of cultural goods and services. This inequality is also reflected in the content of the translated texts, whose quality is strongly affected by the symbolic and economic prestige of the languages concerned.

In this context, translation can serve as a tool for generating knowledge or misunderstanding, and can assume diverse and sometimes contradictory roles vis-à-vis intercultural dialogue, conflict mediation and mutual understanding. A serious and comprehensive analysis of this phenomenon is a necessary step to develop up-to-date and effective cultural policy measures in the specific fields of language, multilingualism and cultural dialogue. As the only international organization with a mandate in the field culture, UNESCO is uniquely suited to address this issue.

Organized on the occasion of the International Mother Language Day and in the framework of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, this technical symposium will bring together renowned experts in intercultural and translation studies, to contribute to UNESCO's laboratory of ideas innovative activities in the field of languages, multilingualism and scientific and literary translation. This event will feature three main discussion panels: "Bridging global and local languages", "Translation, mutual understanding and stereotypes" and "Translation and cultural mediation".