

CALL FOR PROPOSALS for the *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* (IJSL).

The theme of the issue will be **Translation Policies and Minority Languages: Theory, Methods and Case Studies**. Editors: María Sierra Córdoba Serrano (Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey) and Oscar Diaz Fouces (Universidade de Vigo)

We are now accepting proposals for publication. Please send your abstract (400-500 words) by **February 10, 2016** (including some relevant bibliography) to ijsltranspol@gmail.com. After notification of acceptance, full articles should be received by July 10, 2016.

The study of translation policies can be central to understanding how democratic societies manage multilingualism within their own territory and the way they regulate communicative exchanges with other territories. Furthermore, the (in)existence of these policies, their nature (overt vs covert, that is, policies that explicitly address translation and those that may indirectly lead to translation), the social groups they cater to (new and/or historic minorities), their function (as communicative tools that allow non-dominant groups' participation in democratic processes, or as vehicles that lead to identity cohesion among historic minorities that do not need translation for communicative purposes), their different degrees of implementation, and the presence or absence of penalties for noncompliance have the potential to bring to light processes of social exclusion, whether conscious or unconscious, lurking beneath celebratory official discourses on linguistic and cultural diversity.

And yet, reflections on possible general theoretical frameworks to the study of translation policies or expansive case studies that examine the role of translation policies in national (public) language policy or language planning are rare, not only outside of the field of Translation Studies, but also within (Diaz Fouces, 2001; Meylaerts, 2010, 2011; González Núñez, 2014). As regards fields outside of TS, the sociology of language is no exception. As for the field of TS itself, the term "*translation policy*" has either been used to cover such a variety of meanings that it has become a "(...) container concept [that risks] becoming an empty notion with little

conceptual surplus value” (Meylaerts 2011:163) or, even when its definition is restricted to a legal instrument that regulates the use of translation in the public domain, it has been an under-researched object of study until very recently, so far attracting the attention of just a few scholars (Diaz Fouces, 1998, 2001, 2004; Meylaerts, 2010, 2011; González Núñez, 2014, to quote seminal authors).

In order to contribute to a better understanding of translation policies as an interdisciplinary object of study, while at the same time, delimiting the scope of the proposed issue, the central thread that will guide our reflection will be minority or minoritized languages—whether official or unofficial. As such, the proposed thematic issue would attempt to map recent developments and project future research trends in the area of translation policies as they relate to minority languages, and would invite proposals that reflect on one or more of the following topics or questions:

I. Problematization and theorization of translation policies as an interdisciplinary object of study. Any reflections of the conceptual, theoretical and methodological issues involved in the study of translation policies as they relate to minority languages would be welcome: For instance, proposals that analyze the conceptual contours of the term *translation policy* and its potential areas of intervention, or those that put forward multidisciplinary approaches and/or frameworks to the systematic study of translation policies pertaining to minority languages; proposals that address the potential contributions of different disciplines (in terms of theoretical frameworks, concepts, methodologies, etc.) to the study of translation policies. In this respect, analyses of the relation between TS and the sociology of language, and more specifically between TS and language policy and/or planning studies would be particularly welcome. Inversely, proposals could examine what the study of translation policies can offer to the

sociology of language, or more specifically to the area of language policy and planning; we also would welcome proposals that compare different data collection tools in the study of translation policies, especially those that deal with methodological challenges, such as how to collect data in the many demo-linguistic contexts where translation policies do not exist per se (this is the case, for instance of many “community” languages).

II. Case studies. Any case studies that systematically examine public translation policies or the role of translation in national public language policy would be welcome. As mentioned above, this issue would focus on minority or minoritized languages, whether official or unofficial, whether in official or unofficial contexts of multilingualism. Case studies could focus on one country or compare several countries; they could be descriptive and general, or focus on one variable, for instance, translation policies as pertaining to official minority languages vs “community” (or non-official minority) languages within the same country or region; or they could focus on one LP category (i.e. the role of translation in corpus planning, or in status planning concerning a given minority language), or training and professionalization as a translation policy issue (for instance, to what extent do translation policies shape the regulation and professionalization of actual community translation practices). Finally, case studies could also examine translation policies as foreign policies, that is, how translation can become a powerful instrument to manage international cultural exchanges and national image projection and branding, here again, with a focus on the case of (official) minority languages.

III. Agents and discourses. Translation policies from the point of view of the agents that design, implement, apply and “consume” these policies, especially the discourses and practices of translators, institutions, minorities or minoritized groups. Proposals could present top-down interventionist approaches in policy formulation, or grass-roots initiatives that led to the

formulation of translation policies. They could adopt a historical approach, or be ethnographic accounts of processes in the making.

References:

- Diaz Fouces, Oscar (2005) 'Translation Policy for Minority Languages in the European Union. Globalisation and Resistance', in Albert Branchadell & L. Margaret West (eds.) *Less Translated Languages*, Amsterdam/Philadelphia: Benjamins, 95-104.
- Diaz Fouces, Oscar (2002) 'La planificació de la mediació lingüística' [Linguistic mediation planning], in Oscar Diaz Fouces, Marta García González & Joan Costa Carreras (eds.) *Traducció i dinàmica sociolingüística* [Translation and Sociolinguistic Dynamics]. Barcelona: Llibres de l'índex, 85-110.
- Diaz Fouces, Oscar (2001) 'Cal planificar la mediació lingüística? L'exemple de Catalunya' [Should linguistic mediation be planned? The example of Catalonia], *Revista de Llengua i Dret*, 36:121-156.
- Diaz Fouces, Oscar (1998) 'Traducció i *Language Planning*' [Translation and Language Planning], in Pilar Orero (ed.) *Actes del III Congrés Internacional sobre Traducció*. Bellaterra: Departament de Traducció. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 627-636.
- González Núñez, Gabriel (2014). *Translating for Linguistic Minorities. Translation Policy in the United Kingdom*, Leuven/Universitat Rovira I Virgili. Doctoral Thesis. Unpublished.
- Meylaerts, Reine (2011) 'Translation Policy' in Y. Gambier and L. van Doorslaer (eds.) *Handbook of Translation Studies v. 2*, Amsterdam/Philadelphia: Benjamins, 163-168.
- Meylaerts, Reine (2010) 'Multilingualism and translation' in Y. Gambier, L. van Doorslaer (eds.) *Handbook of Translation Studies v.1*, eds., Amsterdam/Philadelphia: Benjamins, 227-230.