

## **Report by Juho Suokas on the EST Summer School Scholarship 2015**

I received the EST Summer School Scholarship 2015 to attend Emuni Agricola International Translation Studies Summer School 2015. The summer school took place from June 1 to 12 in the sunny or rainy (depending on the day) town of Turku, Finland.

The summer school curriculum had a strong focus on methodology, which I found very helpful – considering that my PhD project is still in its early stages. The two guest professors were Andrew Chesterman and Yves Gambier; the teaching staff included professors and lecturers from various universities in Finland, Turkey and Slovenia. The curriculum also required the students to give a 20-minute oral presentation during the last days of the summer school. I gave mine on how heuristic evaluation can be used as a tool for translation revision, discussing also previous work I have done with heuristics and ideas for future use.

One exceptionally useful opportunity the summer school presented is the chance to send an article for a peer reviewed publication. I am currently working on an article for the publication, which is based on a study I did for my MA thesis. If all goes well, I have plans to include this article as a part of a publication-based PhD thesis, which focuses on applying usability methods in translation.

During the summer school I had individual tutorials with most members of the teaching staff. These tutorials were an excellent opportunity to discuss my research project and receive feedback from various different points of view. One tutorial even landed me the opportunity for a pilot study: I will be giving a lesson on user-centred translation and usability methods in a translation course in the University of Turku, during the course we will be applying usability methods on some of the course translation assignments with the students. This will give me a good opportunity to gather more data for my PhD project and to test and develop the methods in an academic environment before advancing to testing them in the field.

In addition, I met various wonderful PhD students – or should I say future TS scholars – from around the world, who I am planning to keep in touch with in the future as well. Having the opportunity to discuss our projects and work among peers progressed all our PhD projects quite extensively, and it was gratifying to see how many of us in their final course presentations had included a “before/after” section to show how much their work had progressed during our two weeks. It was not just the lessons and tutorials with the teaching staff that helped us clarify our goals, but also the times we spent working together – in various locations, such as different cafes in Turku and a beautiful island in the Archipelago Sea – that created a supportive and pleasing atmosphere to help us progress our work. All in all, I am very glad I had the opportunity to participate in the summer school with the help of the EST scholarship.

Juho Suokas  
Joensuu, Finland

31 July 2015