EST Summer School Scholarship Report

Participation in the CETRA 2019 Summer School

This document reports on my participation, as a recipient of the EST Summer School Scholarship, in the 31st CETRA Research Summer School in Translation Studies that took place at KU Leuven in Antwerp, Belgium, on 19-30 August 2019. It outlines this year’s CETRA programme and structure, provides a description of my involvement in the school’s activities, and comments on the results of this participation related to my research work.

The programme of CETRA this year was rich and diverse. Since the 2019 Chair Professor Jemina Napier is an expert in interpreter-mediated communication and, in particular, signed language interpreter-mediated, the lectures were focused on the interpreting aspect of the research in translation and interpreting studies. However, they discussed methodology and approaches to research design which could be applied to other areas of the discipline. They were also a source of new knowledge for me, because I had not studied signed language interpreting before and it broadened my understanding of translation studies. The seminars delivered by other CETRA staff members covered such topics as relationships between spoken language and signed language interpreting research, methodological approaches in translation and interpreting research, audiovisual translation concepts, institutional translation, translation and media accessibility, translatorial action and functionalism, and publishing in translation studies. I found them all to be thought-provoking and informative, and some of them directly related to my work, and therefore, especially useful in helping me rethink how I structure my project and formulate my arguments.

During one day of the school the participants had a choice of four parallel workshops to join. I chose to participate in the workshop ‘Cultural Transfer and Adaptation’ led by Lieven D’hulst and Leo Tak-hung Chan. Our small group discussed the transfer theory and some approaches, concepts, and methodology of transfer studies as an umbrella term that could potentially include translation studies. The workshop was very insightful for me and made me think of investigating these concepts within my theoretical framework as they could support my research.

The part of the programme that I found particularly inspiring and helpful was individual tutorials with the CETRA staff. I used my chance to discuss my project with such prominent scholars as Aline Remael, Christina Schäffner, Daniel Gile, Dirk Delabastita, Dilek Dizdar, Franz Pöchhacker, Lieven D’hulst, Luc van Doorslaer, and Pieter Boulogne. I received most valuable recommendations, suggestions for further research, and encouragement.

CETRA famously brings together many translation studies scholars for an extended period of intensive joint work and communication which is why it creates a unique opportunity for collaboration and future partnerships. It is not only the established scholars that all the participants are so keen to learn from, but the participants themselves, the postgraduate researchers, and the chance for us to build our professional networks. I am very happy to have met all the talented and enthusiastic researchers who participated in this summer school and to have heard about their fascinating projects. One of the possible avenues for cooperation among CETRA participants could result in an edited volume of the CETRA Summer School papers CETRA Series: Translation, Interpreting, Transfer – a new book series published by Leuven University Press. It is an exciting initiative, and I hope to be able to contribute to it. During CETRA I also learnt about another researcher working on a topic, related to
mine, that I had not come across before. This was an opportunity for me to establish contact with this PhD student who is affiliated with the University of Mainz, Germany, and to discuss our work. It made me aware of more research being conducted, and therefore, more interest in the subject that I am investigating. It also opened the door to our potential collaboration.

The CETRA Summer School was immensely valuable for me as an aspiring translation studies scholar. It would not have been possible without the EST Summer School Scholarship and the support from the University of Leeds, and I am very grateful for this rewarding learning experience.