Ideological Implications in/of Translation Practices in Institutional Settings

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In spite of the diversity of contexts in which institutional translation mediates, those translation practices associated to this category by reason of their official status are to a great extent still linked, both in their strategy and in terms of the expectations of target readers, to formulae of equivalence inspired by and based on the concepts of sameness and symmetry. However, in our global era characterized by migration and diversity, in which power differentials, social and cultural difference and its rhetorical and textual realizations become greater, it may well be the case that dominant translation practices in institutional realms might not be achieving their goal and might even prove to be counterproductive for this purpose. Drawing on various examples from different institutional contexts that will be analyzed from critical perspectives, we will reflect on the ideological implications derived from, but also inherent to, the translation model taken for granted in international institutions and, consequently, in institutional settings in general. Furthermore, with the application of concepts from recent critical translation theories and the confrontation of long-established strategies with relatively new and marginal institutional translation alternatives developed in contexts with a tradition in the management of diversity, like Australia and Canada, we will contribute to the necessary and constant development of an activity that may be conceived as a social and public service. For, if it is to live up to the challenges of a constantly changing society, it is obliged to revisit its tenets permanently and (self-)critically.

References:


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