

## Subjectivity in Collaborative Retranslation *La subjectivité dans la retraduction à plusieurs*

Seminar in Mulhouse (25/11/2022) and Toulouse (March 2023)

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Retranslation is an insufficiently explored issue, despite the surge of interest that the topic has known within translation studies in the last twenty years [1]. While a general agreement seems to be found on the 21st century as the “age of retranslation,” [2] more reluctance is still to be found around the term “retranslation,” to which the publishing world prefers “new translation,” even though, somehow paradoxically, more and more translators claim to be “unabashed retranslators” [3]. While collaborative translation has only recently been studied [4], collaborative retranslation remains a relatively unexplored field, especially in terms of the cognitive and textual issues of plural creative activity, and its relation to new technologies. The rehabilitation of the agent in translation studies, which can be traced back to the cultural turn of the 1990s [5], inspires approaches to retranslations as cultural phenomena at the intersection of a collective field and a subjective space [6].

We would like to invite a theorization of collaborative retranslation providing new perspectives on collective, collaborative and individual creativity, as well as on the historical, literary and critical metadiscursivity inherent to the phenomenon of retranslation. Such perspectives may in turn shed new light on translation studies, cultural history and literature [7].

Two one-day seminars will be held in the autumn of 2022 and in the spring of 2023, focusing on subjectivity within collaborative retranslations. The two seminars will build on the volumes *Autour de la retraduction* and *Traduire à plusieurs / Collaborative Translations* (E. Monti and P. Schnyder (eds.), Orizons, Paris, 2011 and 2018), as well as on the research paths of the doctoral seminar *La retraduction : Lieu et moment d'interprétation* (Doctoral School ALLPH@, University of Toulouse - Jean Jaurès, 2019-2021) [8].

The aim of these two days is to bring together translation scholars, philologists, historians and professional translators in order to unravel the translational *ethos* emerging from plural interactions. The two seminars will be open to different languages and cultures, and will result in a monographic issue of *TTR (Translation, Terminology, Writing)*, the official journal of the Canadian Association for Translation Studies, in June 2024.

The research paths that we want to explore are wide-ranging, accounting for the complex relationship between individuality and plurality. If the translator—as Bernard Hœpffner wrote in his posthumous novel *Portrait du traducteur en escroc*—is an “exploded” author, what can be said of the gathering of various exploded authors? And what does such gathering tell us about the resulting work? Is it single or plural? Is polyphony a goal or an obstacle in such

practice? What about collective authority? What happens to the translators' ethos in the intersubjective alliance of collaborative retranslations?

Here are some possible research paths:

- **Historiography, definitions and receptions:** studies on book projects, on the creation of translation collectives; attempts to define this practice: similarities and differences between collective and collaborative? Are two retranslators already a "collective"? Does the collaborative dimension concern the process or the product? Can anthologies associating various retranslators of the same author be considered collaborative retranslations, with polyphony achieved through contiguity and association? How are collaborative retranslations presented to the public? How are they received?
- **Challenges and limits:** studies on leadership, fluctuating or shared authority, retranslation conflicts and their management, disengagement in collaborative practices.
- **Advantages and benefits:** studies on experiences based on sharing and collaborating, on the emotions and ethos of the retranslators; on emulation, dialogism, and discursive hybridization as a source of enrichment; on the role of subjectivity and creative intersubjectivity when giving voice to several agents, in addition to the author.
- **Practices:** studies on the different modes of collaborative work, from anonymity and invisibility (Wiki-translators and crowdsourcing) to the self-conscious association of several creators; feedback on practical experiences; analyses of collaborative retranslations.
- **Technology and Intermediality:** studies on the role of new technologies in collaborative retranslations; on the integration of other media in retranslations (illustrations, videos, etc.) and their interactions.
- **Implications on Translation Studies and Translation Training:** how does this doubly critical practice allow us to rethink the discipline of Translation Studies? How may translation training benefit from it?

Proposals for contributions should be sent to the two organizers by **July 10, 2022**: they should include a 500-word abstract, 5 keywords, and a short bio-bibliographic note. Please send them to: [carole.filliere@univ-tlse2.fr](mailto:carole.filliere@univ-tlse2.fr) and [enrico.monti@uha.fr](mailto:enrico.monti@uha.fr).

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[1] The entry "retranslation" appeared only in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*, in 2004. Here are a few volumes and journal issues published on this topic: *Palimpsestes*, "Retraduire", 4, 1990; "Pourquoi donc retraduire?", 15, 2004; R. Kahn and C. Seth (dir.), *La Retraduction*, Mont-Saint-Aignan, Publications des universités de Rouen et du Havre; E. Monti and P. Schnyder (dir.), *Autour de la retraduction. Perspectives littéraires européennes*, Orizons, Paris, 2011; J.-P. Courtois (ed.), *De la retraduction. Le cas des romans*, La Lettre volée, Brussels, 2014; "Voice in Retranslation", *Target*, 27, 2015. The series of conferences "Retranslation in Context," which took place in Istanbul in 2013 and 2015, in Ghent in 2017, in Madrid in 2019, and will be held in Budapest in April 2022, show the vitality of this research area.

[2] I. Collombat, "Le XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle : l'âge de la retraduction", *Translation Studies in the New Millennium*, 2004, 2-15.

[3] C. Fillière, "Lire les (re)traductions", UT2J conference, 2021.

[4] Since the 2014 conferences in Mulhouse and Paris 8, here are the volumes which have appeared on this topic: "Voyage en équipage", *Traduire*, 233, 2015; A. Cordingley and C. Frigau Manning (eds.), *Collaborative Translation: from the Renaissance to the Digital Age*, London, Bloomsbury, 2016; E. Monti, P. Schnyder (dir.), *Traduire à plusieurs. Collaborative Translation*, Paris, Orizons, 2018; "Traduire ensemble pour le théâtre", *La Main de Thôt*, 4, 2018.

[5] The issue "Le Je du traducteur" of the journal *Meta* dates back to 1993, but only recently has this idea reached a larger audience via several actors, such as the association Traduqtiv (Traduction et Qualité: transmission, information et veille).

[6] A. Brisset, "Retraduire ou le corps changeant de la connaissance. Sur l'historicité de la traduction", *Palimpsestes*, 15, 2004, 17-45.

[7] As a "squared translation" (C. Fillière, 2021), retranslation acts as a critical space generating its own thinking, "the deployment of an applied hermeneutic" (Y. Chevrel, "Introduction : la retraduction", R. Kahn and C. Seth (dir.), *La Retraduction*, Mont-Saint-Aignan, Publications des universités de Rouen et du Havre, 2010, 20).

[8] Reflection initiated in February 2019 during the symposium "Literary translation and Humanities and Social Sciences translation, in the wake of new technologies," in partnership with the Directorate-General for Translation in Brussels (*La Main de Thôt*, 9, 2021: <https://revues.univ-tlse2.fr/lamaindethot/index.php?id=899>).

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