



SIMPOSIO INTERNACIONAL SOBRE TRADUCCIÓN Y EDUCACIÓN

ACTUALIDAD Y DESAFÍOS EN LA FORMACIÓN SUPERIOR DE TRADUCTORES

Plenaria 1

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Translation as cultural discourse and object of study in Romanian universities

This paper examines the two main directions which have shaped the Romanian translational discourse in the modern and post-modern eras. One such direction consists of a plurality of texts on translation – newspaper articles, essays, prefaces, interviews, (published) speeches, debates, etc –, which have always crisscrossed the Romanian culture, having sometimes major consequences for the country's cultural policies and the development of its literature. The first section of the presentation will therefore try to capture the evolution of these opinions on translation into “memes”, a term derived from sociobiology, which Andrew Chesterman uses to refer to “ideas and conventions that survive many generations and are successfully transmitted from one culture to another”, (1997: 7), and even into translation norms that prevailed at particular times in history. The second direction of the translational discourse this presentation deals with, covers a series of research papers which, back in the 1970's and 1980's, approached translation either from a contrastive linguistics or a comparative literature perspective. However, as is shown in the last part of the paper, starting from the 1990's, the Romanian translational discourse has been increasingly integrated with the academic discipline of Translation Studies, which is now taught in undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD translation programmes at many Romanian universities.