Educating language industry professionals – cross-disciplinary and transnational perspectives

Gerhard Budin
The educational context: our new M.A. curriculum

• New M.A. curriculum „Translating and Interpreting“ with its specialization „Language Industry and Specialized Translation“
  • Focus on innovative translators training based on innovation in translation studies research
  • Crucial role of internships in language industry
  • Strong interaction with research projects carried out with partners in language industry and research
  • Research focus on „Computational Translation Studies“ using trans-disciplinary perspectives of digital humanities, computational linguistics, etc.
Sample projects shaping translators education

- Overview of our current R&D and educational projects in the context of training translation professionals for language industry:
  - eTransFair and ACT in the ERASMUS+ programme
  - MOA in the EUREKA – Eurostars programme
  - LTO in Horizon 2020
  - CLARIN in INFRA (DG Research)
  - DiÖ – PP11, SFB, FWF (Austria)
• How to Achieve Innovative, Inclusive and Fit-for-Market Specialised Translator Training? - A Transferable Model for Training Institutions

• Project duration: September 2016 until August 2019
• Research area: specialised translator training
• Funding body: Erasmus+
• Project leader: Budapest University of Technology and Economics
• Cooperation partners: Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna, Hermes Traducciones y Servicios Linguisticos SL

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Higher education in the field of specialised translation should:

- consider market needs
- prepare students for the language industry
- be inclusive
- improve transversal skills, including digital skills
eTransFair – Aims

The main aims of the project are:

• improve the **employability** of specialised translators

• integrate **innovative methods in specialised translator training** and improve the digital skills of teachers by offering open educational resource

• make **education more inclusive** by offering flexible learning modes

• spread **innovative education pedagogies and guidelines** and offer a market-driven training model for other institutions by creating a European platform
Other higher education institutions can use the project outputs for the training of specialised translators. They include the following:

- **virtual Skills Laboratory** that simulates work in a real-life translation agency
- **transferable Training Scheme**, including ‘train the trainees’ and ‘train the trainer’ courses
- **ICT-based educational contents** (Common e-Modules) to ensure the participation of disadvantaged groups
- **Pool of Assessment Techniques** designed for specialised translation and the needs of the market, providing innovative tools and a set of exam questions
- **Stimuli Provided for UseRs** (SPUR), including manuals for the Moodle-based e-modules, the Skills Lab and further quality requirements
- **Methodology Portal**, a virtual collaborative space to exchange training methods

→ Collaborative platforms allow other higher education institutions to access the project outputs.
My Own Agency Connector – Connecting freelance translators to content management systems and statistical machine translation

• Project duration: February 2015 until December 2016
• Research area: Translation platform
• Funding body: Eurostars
• Project leader: Centre for Translation Studies, University of Vienna
• Cooperation partner: Nativy GmbH

Co-funded by EUREKA member countries and the European Union Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
There is a need for a connection between individual platforms of freelance translators and closed content management systems of companies/clients.

- Access to a client’s content that should be translated is difficult
The main aims of MOA are:

- It enables translators to collaborate and cooperate with each other
- Translators can directly access clients as an own translation platform
- MOA Connector brings the strength of professional human translators into enterprise portals
- It acts as a gateway for submitting, tracking and reviewing translation projects
The main output is the MOA Connector:
• a platform enabling
• clients to hire professional human translations
• directly from freelance translators
• working in a network of hundreds of colleagues
• providing hundreds of language combinations
• with better technology:
  • internal machine translation system
  • computer-assisted translation system
  • terminological database
European Training in Accessibility to Live Events

- The **ACT project (ERASMUS+) will define a new professional profile:**
  - Media Accessibility Expert/Manager for the Scenic Arts
  - Training activities for training such professionals

- **Context and Motivation:**
  - Full participation of all citizens in cultural events as end users or participants – must be the norm
  - Equal opportunity & access to culture are HUMAN RIGHTS
Specific objectives (1)

ACT will strengthen cooperation between organisations in different but complementary sectors with a view to establishing exchanges of practices.

ACT will expect cooperation with regional authorities and the integration in actions of local and regional development, with an emphasis on scenic arts.

ACT will develop curricula to current and emerging labour market needs, by promoting active cooperation between HEI and partners from outside academia.
Specific objectives (2)

ACT will trigger development, testing and implementation of innovative practices in the field of education, while better preparing the education and training professionals for equity, diversity and inclusion challenges.

ACT will foster recognition and validation of knowledge, skills and competences acquired through various types of learning, by developing innovative certification methods.
Partners
Intellectual Outputs

accessibility profiling (O1) → manager profile definition (O2) → learning curriculum proposal at university level (O3) → MOOC (O4)

quality label proposal (O8) → guidelines for the implementation of policy strategies (O7) → accessible live event co-production (O6) → certification (O5)
Language Technology Observatory (LT_Observatory)

- Horizon 2020, Coordination and Support Action
- Duration: 2015-2016
- http://lt-observe.eu
Language Technology Observatory (LT_Observatory)

Objectives:

• Identification of language resources in existing pools based on pre-defined user needs
• Bring together different stakeholders from the language community
• Identify national language strategies and funding sources to realize the Digital Single Market
• Create the on-line LT Observatory as a sustainable structure for access to the LT ecosystem
1) A Catalogue of selected Language Resources that meet the requirements of machine translation professionals in an operational context: accessibility, openness or clear licensing scheme, domain coverage, Dublin Core metadata.
2) **Public Policy Observatory** that provides information about language technology policies of Member States, and investigated funding opportunities at EU, national and regional level, with practical information about contacts and open calls.
3) LT-Obsere provides ongoing coverage of the **language technology markets** and policy issues through three news channels: LangTech News, CITIA News, LangPol News.
Collaborative Online Research Platform “German in Austria”

- FWF, Special Research Programme (SFB)
- Duration: 2016-2019
- Partners: University of Vienna, University of Graz, University of Salzburg
- http://dioe.at
Aims:

• Support researchers throughout the whole research cycle;

• Sustainable preservation of research data and outcomes
Collaborative Online Research Platform “German in Austria”

Outcomes:

• Collaborative research platform;
• Collaborative annotation framework;
• Interoperability of annotation schemes, corpora, annotated data, and workflows in collaborative research.
Collaborative Platform: “German in Austria”

- transcription
- annotation
- analysis
- peer discussion
- collaborative corpus building
- collaborative writing

Repository:
- data
- resources
- DiÖ-data
- publications
- dissemination material

Analysis and peer discussion are connected to transcription and annotation, which in turn are linked to collaborative corpus building and collaborative writing. These processes lead to the creation of resources and data, which are then published and disseminated through material.
CLARIN

- CLARIN-ERIC (Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure – European Research Infrastructure Consortium)
- Aim: building and strengthening collaborative e-infrastructures for research on language resources and language technologies
- University of Vienna: part of CLARIN-AT
- Knowledge-Centre for Terminological Resources and Translation Corpora
- https://www.clarin.eu/
Conclusion

• All projects involve our Master students in the specialization „Language Industry and Specialized Translation“
  • In the form of internships in these projects
  • By integrating the results (educational contents, new methods, technologies/platforms, etc.) of these projects in regular university courses
  • By integrating members of the research teams as teachers in MA programme
  • Implementation in the contexts of the 14 languages offered – and beyond (as transferrable skills)
• **Research team (and contributors to this presentation):**
  - Gerhard Budin (Prof., research group leader)
  - Post-doc researchers and teachers: Xiaochun Zhang (Bristol and Vienna) and Zita Krajsco (Budapest and Vienna)
  - PhD students and teachers: Vesna Lusicky, Barbara Heinisch-Obermoser
  - Senior Scientist: Bartholomäus Wloka
  - In co-operation with colleagues from all research project partners
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