Presentation of the special issue "Specialized translation and intercultural mediation: how do they fit together in the age of artificial intelligence?"

Présentation du numéro thématique «Traduction spécialisée et médiation interculturelle : quelles articulations à l'ère de l'intelligence artificielle ? »

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Abstract : The meteoric rise of artificial intelligence (AI) is profoundly transforming translation practices worldwide. In this context of technological and social change, specialized translation and intercultural mediation are at the heart of unprecedented epistemic, professional and ethical issues. Far from being mere parallel fields, these two fields of activity are now articulated around the same imperative: guaranteeing terminological precision and semantic fidelity while ensuring the understanding, adaptation and intercultural circulation of meaning. In the era of generative AI and neural translation technologies, this articulation is becoming more complex. Automated tools are changing the way specialized texts – legal, medical, technical or economic – are produced, validated and disseminated, while redefining the roles of the translator and mediator. While AI promises greater efficiency, it questions the quality, responsibility and ethics of human translation.

Keywords: specialized translation – interculturality – machine translation- Human translation – AI

Résumé : L'essor fulgurant de l'intelligence artificielle (IA) transforme en profondeur les pratiques traductionnelles à l'échelle mondiale. Dans ce contexte de mutation technologique et sociale, la traduction spécialisée et la médiation interculturelle se trouvent au cœur d'enjeux épistémiques, professionnels et éthiques inédits. Loin d'être de simples domaines parallèles, ces deux champs d'activité s'articulent désormais autour d'un même impératif: garantir la précision terminologique et la fidélité sémantique tout en assurant la compréhension, l'adaptation et la circulation interculturelle du sens. À l'ère de l'IA générative et des technologies neuronales de traduction, cette articulation se complexifie. Les outils automatisés bouleversent les modes de production, de validation et de diffusion des textes spécialisés – juridiques, médicaux, techniques ou économiques – tout en redéfinissant les rôles du traducteur et du médiateur. Si l'IA promet une efficacité accrue, elle interroge en retour la qualité, la responsabilité et l'éthique de la traduction humaine.

Mots-clés: traduction spécialisée – interculturalité – traduction automatique- Traduction humaine – IA

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This thematic issue entitled « Traduction spécialisée et médiation interculturelle: quelles articulations à l'ère de l'intelligence artificielle ? » aims to explore the dynamics of articulation between specialized translation and intercultural mediation in the light of AI innovations. It aims to cross linguistic, translational, communicational and socio-technical approaches in order to better understand how the boundaries between human and machine, technique and culture, accuracy and interpretation, are redrawn today. The contributions gathered will shed light on professional practices as well as didactic and ethical perspectives, inviting us to rethink the role of the translator as an actor of augmented mediation in an interconnected and technologically assisted world. With this in mind, we have selected the following articles:

The first article is entitled: « Peut-on bien accueillir sans bien traduire ? Étude de la traduction assistée dans l'hôtellerie tunisienne » is interested in the impact of AI-assisted translation in the Tunisian hotel sector, particularly in Hammamet, where six establishments were explored over three weeks in the summer of 2025. The objective is to determine whether we can really « welcome » without « translate well » in a context marked by the linguistic diversity of the clientele. The methodology combines in situ observations, semi-structured interviews and qualitative analysis of testimonies collected from hotel staff. The results reveal that machine translation is a useful mediation tool, but insufficient to ensure fluid and culturally appropriate communication.

The second study entitled: « Specialized Media Translation in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: a field study on a sample of Algerian media professionals aimed to explore the current state of artificial intelligence use in specialized media translation within Algerian media institutions. Adopting a survey-based approach, a questionnaire was distributed to a sample of media professionals. The findings revealed that the application of AI in translation remains limited and lacks a structured framework, facing several challenges such as the absence of specialized training and insufficient access to appropriate technological tools.

The third one : « Stylistics and Specialized Translation - Interpreting Meaning in the Age of Artificial Intelligence » highlights the need to develop tailored training programs and dedicated technical platforms to enhance the quThis study highlights the limitations of artificial intelligence in specialized translation within literary criticism, particularly in capturing stylistic nuances and implicit meanings that the human translator processes intuitively and creatively, considering the translator as a creative agent. It proposes a model that combines machine-based processing with psychological-stylistic reading, calling for a redefinition of the translator as a cultural and psychological interpreter, and emphasizing the importance of dual awareness of both technology and humanity.

The fourth study entitled: « Traduction médiatique entre l'humain et la machine : étude comparative de la couverture du décès d'Élisabeth II» examines the challenges related to media translation of global events in the era of artificial intelligence, through a comparative analysis between human translation and machine translation. From the cover of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the article highlights the linguistic, stylistic and cultural differences between the two approaches. The results

reveal the limitations of AI in the restitution of implicit cultural meaning, highlighting the need for human mediation to ensure accurate and nuanced communication.

The fifth article, « Traduire le droit à l'ère numérique », demonstrates the rise of digital technologies that has redefined the practices of specialized translation, particularly in law, where precision and rigor are essential. Artificial intelligence offers powerful tools — machine translation, CAT, management platforms — promoting speed, consistency and accessibility. Their use, which is increasingly widespread, responds to the challenges of globalization and the need for institutional multilingualism.

The sixth article entitled: « Former le traducteur spécialisé à l'ère numérique : vers une hybridation des compétences terminologiques, interculturelles et techno-éthiques » questions the training of translators in the face of new professional and ethical requirements. Based on a thematic analysis of twenty-three articles published on the ASJP, three major findings emerge: terminological competence remains central but needs to be updated, intercultural competence is essential although often marginalized, and mastery of digital tools requires critical and ethical use. The results underline the importance of a hybridization of these three competencies.

The seventh study entitled: A Synergistic Development in Contemporary Translation Practices: Translation Memory and Artificial Intelligence offers a thorough literature review on the growing nexus of artificial intelligence (AI) and Translation Memory (TM) systems. For many years, computer-assisted translation has centered on TM because it improves efficiency and consistency by reusing previously translated segments. The current rise of artificial intelligence, especially in the form of Neural Machine Translation (NMT) and Large Language Models (LLMs), has triggered a paradigm change that is turning TMs from passive repositories into dynamic, intelligent pieces of the translation environment. To show the state of, the art, this review meticulously examines more than 80 academic papers from 2018 to 2025.It examines three main areas: the architectural development of TM systems via AI integration, like as neural retrieval and NMT enhancement; the subtle influence of this synergy on translation quality and translator efficiency; and the continuing difficulties and limits including contextual management, data bias, and support for low-resource languages.

The eighth article, which is based on: « Entre la máquina y la cultura: hacia una redefinición del papel del traductor especializado en la era de la inteligencia artificia », analyses how translators reconcile automation with cultural sensitivity. Based on interviews with translators in Aïn Témouchent, Oran and Tlemcen, three current profiles of translators were identified: language technician, cultural guardian and hybrid mediator. One study or ethical dilemmas related to the use of AI were addressed. This research offers a critical look at the current role of the translator, and finally underlines the need to combine technological competence and intercultural mediation.

The ninth study: "The Translator's Role in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI):

A Case Study on Post-Editing a Religious Tourism Brochure" investigates how human post-editors intervene in machine-translated texts, focusing on a religious tourism corpus translated by an AI tool. The findings indicate a shift from translators as producers in traditional translation to controllers in the age of AI, while skills from traditional translation practices remain essential in the post-editing process. Effective post-editing of religious tourism texts requires fewer linguistic corrections and more culturally oriented strategies. This shift reshapes the translator's tasks and creates opportunities for creativity.

The tenth study, entitled "Traduire à l'ère de l'IA : la post-édition comme médiation cognitive et culturelle," examines the complementarity between human translation and machine translation (MT) assisted by artificial intelligence, questioning the role of the translator as a cultural mediator in the face of the limitations of automated systems. The approach combines a critical review of the literature and an analysis of eight empirical studies covering different linguistic and professional contexts. It examines the effects of MT on productivity, post-editing effort, consistency, and the quality of translated texts. The study also highlights the strategies used by translators to correct automatic errors and ensure the restoration of cultural meaning. The results confirm that human-machine collaboration optimizes translation, combining technical efficiency with the translator's cultural mediation of the content.

The eleventh article, which is just as interesting as the others, entitled "Nos richesses / A Bookshop in Algiers: transferts culturels en traduction littéraire," examines how Chris Andrews' English translation of Nos richesses captures the Algerian-French roots of Kaouther Adimi's novel. Using representative examples, it shows that the translator oscillates between maintaining local color and making pragmatic adjustments for English-speaking readers. The results highlight that successful intercultural mediation combines contextual fidelity, linguistic clarity, and respect for narrative musicality, offering the target audience a readable and authentic immersion.

The twelfeth article, entitled " Traduire le littéraire: de la transculturation à la médiation Entre traductibilité et fidélité dans « Mes hommes » de Malika Mokeddem et "رجالي" de Nahla Baidhoun" examines the practice of translation as an act of intercultural mediation, in which the literary text becomes a place of transfer, acculturation, and renewal. Through Malika Mokeddem's novel Mes hommes and its translation by Nahla Baidhoun, it highlights the tensions between fidelity, equivalence, and creativity, emphasizing the role of the translator as a cultural mediator and negotiator of linguistic, cultural, and ideological worlds. In fact, any translation endeavor that seeks to bridge cultures, particularly those from different civilizational areas, and any praxeology rooted in axiology requires intercultural competence.

Finally, we come to the last and fourteenth study: "Quand l'homme affronte la machine pour traduire des textes juridiques à caractère religieux : analyse comparative et critique appliquée au code de la famille algérien" comparing human and machine translation of the Algerian Family Code, a text with strong legal and religious implications. The analysis highlights how human translation, thanks to

knowledge of the cultural and spiritual context, manages to preserve terminological accuracy and the subtlety of Islamic concepts, while machine translation systems, although fast and syntactically consistent, show limitations in rendering religious and customary notions. This research thus contributes to a better understanding of the challenges of using machine translation in a specialized field.

Bibliographic references

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