HABILITATION THESIS

TRANSLATION - DYNAMICS, INTERFERENCES AND IMPACT

The habilitation thesis Translation - Dynamics, Interferences and Impact represents an overview of my entire activity and main achievements in the field of translation (studies), focusing on the doctoral period (I was awarded the PhD title in 2006) and especially on the postdoctoral timeframe (covering a decade).

It is widely acknowledged that up to the mid-20th century, translation, even if two millennia old, was considered a second-hand intellectual activity dedicated to the promotion of literary texts in the canon and based on hermeneutical approaches; likewise, the academic interest in translation is associated with the linguistic approach of the 1950s. In fact, the name Translation Studies is launched in the early 1970s, being attributed to Holmes (1972) in his programmatic paper „The name and nature of Translation Studies”, presented at the 3rd International Conference of Applied Linguistics, held in Copenhagen.

My vision concerning the development, orientations, ideology and axiology of this relatively recent science within the academic environment is best featured by the close and in-depth examination of the translation situation monitoring and management, by the capacity of providing descriptive and explanatory frameworks (in my opinion, prescriptive models do not enhance translation quality and productivity); in other words, the dynamics of translation studies undergoes a shift from savoir dire to savoir faire and savoir être, i.e., to the praxis of translation. This discipline is not self-reflective in the sense of a simplified phenomenological perception of the translation process; it represents the harmonisation of the translation principles allowing for the establishment of a proactive and flexible system of equivalences. On the other hand, translation studies maintains privileged relationships with other hybrid sciences (inherently interdisciplinary in nature, such as language sciences, communication sciences, social sciences,
cognitive sciences, and, more recently, information and media sciences) from which it has transferred, constructively and creatively, a part of its conceptual and methodological toolkit, and to which it has never ceased to lend back as a token of gratitude (from an epistemological perspective).

The thesis is divided into eight large-sized chapters, alongside the section dedicated to Selected Bibliography; it traces back my scientific and professional evolution and growth, as well as my main contributions to the institutional promotion and development at the national and international levels. The chapters and sub-chapters dealing with the relevance, impact and visibility of my scientific contributions are structurally symmetrical.

Chapter One - *Framing Translation and Translation-Oriented Research* - highlights the landmarks of this science, the contemporary status of translation and translation studies, and the interdisciplinary nature of this discipline.

Chapter Two - *Going In-Depth. Translation as My Doctoral Research Focus* - describes the thematic areas addressed throughout the thesis, the conceptual and methodological toolkit underpinning the proposed model, as well as the doctoral research findings, falling into the following directions: rethinking synonymy as a fundamental semantic relation; synonymy and translation strategies; translation quality management.

Chapter Three - *Further(ing) Translation, Linguistic and Interdisciplinary Research* - comprises six sub-chapters focusing on my explorations in the field of translation studies (general translation), pragmatics, intercultural communication, legal language and communication and, last but not least, interdisciplinary patterns (translation, intercultural communication and (intercultural) pragmatics; translation and legal terminology; translation didactics). From a quantitative point of view, my postdoctoral research counts 5 books (out of which 2 are re-edited), 2 course books, 41 papers and 1 review.

Chapter Four - *Doing Translation, Teaching Translation and Training Translators* – dwells on my work as a translator, methodologist, scientific supervisor and trainer in the field of translation and applied linguistics (including supervision of teaching practice and professional internships). The chapter also emphasizes my concern with harmonising translator training programmes and language training and development programmes so as to map the market and meet the quality standards in force.
Chapter Five - *Research Gateways* – describes and evaluates my participation in international and national research projects, as Director (3), team member (12) or evaluator (3), alongside my activity within research centres at the level of the faculty and university.

Chapter Six - *Discharging Other Roles and Responsibilities* - makes references to international and national conference attendance, which represented opportunities for the ratification of my research work, for affiliation with professional networks and scientific associations, for integration to mixed research teams, etc. Statistically, their distribution runs as follows: 15 international conferences abroad (out of which 13 during the postdoctoral period), 52 international conferences in the country (out of which 36 within the postdoctoral timeframe) and 9 national conferences, seminars and workshops during the postdoctoral period. Furthermore, there are mentions of my participation in training seminars (in the country and abroad) and webinars in the fields of CAT tools, translation didactics, ELT methodology and project management. My contribution to internationalisation is visible through participation in teaching and training academic mobilities (ERASMUS and others).

Chapter Seven - *Measures of (Self-)Esteem* – is complementary to the previous ones, presenting my active involvement in academic citizenship: as member of the Scientific Committees of international conferences in the country and abroad (5), of international summer schools (3) and of national conferences (1); as a member of the Coordinating Committee of national and international conferences (11); a reviewer of doctoral theses (12); as a member of the Academic Promotion Committees (9); keynote speaker (3); as a member of Editorial Boards and Scientific Advisor (including membership of the Scientific Council of Universitaria Publishing House, CNCSIS-accredited, category B). The impact and recognition of work are indicated by the 29 citations by Romanian and international researchers, in their doctoral theses and other scientific papers (in international databases), in the 99 presences in the catalogues of libraries in Romania and from abroad, etc.

The last chapter - *Driving the Agenda Forward. Future Directions and Lines Of Action* - feedforwards with respect to the future directions of translation studies and lines of action that I will undertake in my strategic plan of research and professional development in the foreseeable future. Admittedly, I plead for inter- and multidisciplinary landscapes, yet, I strongly believe that *transdisciplinary* will be the key word featuring the future research agenda; translation will strengthen its donor status towards long-established fields (for instance, knowledge
management) or emerging ones (such as Transfer sciences). The chapter equally provides details on my research, teaching and related goals, which will further define my contribution to the academic community and the dynamic knowledge-based society, characterised by innovation and transfer of innovation to the benefit of ever wider communities.