

CIUTI WEEK AT ISIT - ONLINE
December 9-11, 2020

CALL FOR PAPERS
Conference and Forum



Artificial Intelligence & Intercultural Intelligence

Actions and interactions in translation, interpreting and target contexts

At a time when a collective debate is considering the impact of Artificial Intelligence on decision making (UNESCO-UNAB 2018), knowledge sharing and skills training (OECD 2019), human agency is acknowledged in turn as crucial for the sustainable development of Artificial Intelligence in our societies (Tegmark 2017, Reese 2018, Daugherty and Wilson 2018, Cuillandre 2018, EU 2019). Special attention is also being paid to empathy, creativity and critical thinking as key levers to face the challenges (Australian Government 2017) of the “cultural revolution” (Schroeder 2018) triggered by AI.

Bringing its domains of expertise into the general discussion about the role of the human factor in the AI landscape, ISIT wishes to foster reflection on the actions and interactions of Artificial Intelligence and Intercultural Intelligence in translation, interpreting and the contexts in which they are practiced.

Firstly, we intend to explore the influence of Artificial Intelligence on translation and interpreting practices and training, as well as on all stakeholders in these domains. In this respect, the debate will focus on machine translation, post-editing, terminology, text-to-text, speech-to-text, speech-to-speech and even speech-to-sign and sign-to-speech technologies, building on the most recent knowledge in translation studies and computational linguistics (Robert 2010, Toral and Way 2015, Poibeau 2017, Poibeau and Villavicencio 2017, Kenny 2017, Zapata *et al.* 2017, Moorkens *et al.* 2018, Bernard 2018, Bentivogli *et al.* 2016 and 2018, Ive *et al.* 2018, Blagodarna 2018, Ciobanu and Secara 2019, Fantinuoli 2019, Defrancq and Fantinuoli 2019).

Secondly, we aim at setting the basis for an epistemological framework for Intercultural Intelligence, both as a general competence and in its specific deployment in translation and interpreting, as well as in the interaction of translators and interpreters with their target contexts. The “cultural” dimension is not a new subject in translation studies (Bassnett and Lefevere 1990, Cronin 1996, Durieux 1998, Aaltonen 2000, Badea 2009, Buden *et al.* 2009, Venuti 1995, 1998 and 2012). However, with some isolated exceptions (Hermans 2003), “intercultural” and “cross-cultural” dynamics have mainly been investigated within other disciplines, such as cultural studies (E.T. Hall, 1971a, 1971b, 1989), communication (Ladmiral and Lipiansky 1989, Bennet 2004, Abdallah-Preteuille and Porcher 2005, Stoiciu 2008, Samovar *et al.* 2012, Arasaratnam 2015), business and management (Hofstede and Bollinger 1987, D'Iribarne 1989) and international studies (Bouchard *et al.* 2018). As for “Cultural Intelligence” and “Intercultural Intelligence”, they were born as distinctive concepts in the framework of business and management studies (Earley and Ang 2003, Earley and Mosakowski 2004, Ang and Vann Dyne 2009, Livermore 2009 and 2015, Sauquet and Vielajus 2014). On this basis, we invite the translation and interpreting community to develop its own research questions and define theoretical categories in the field of Intercultural Intelligence.

Thirdly, we call for a reflection on how Intercultural Intelligence can contribute to the practice of translation and interpreting in (their transition to) the age of AI. While the role of human intelligence in relation to Artificial Intelligence has been addressed both in general terms (Alexandre 2017, Julia 2019) and in reference to translation (Herbig *et al.* 2019), our aim is to move a step forward by identifying the specific added value of Intercultural Intelligence in translation and interpreting, more specifically in connection with AI. In other words: What is the essence of Intercultural Intelligence in the processes and working contexts of translation and interpreting? Where exactly in the AI translation and interpreting chain can Intercultural Intelligence make a difference? How can it (re)shape professional skills and profiles in the framework of augmented translation and interpreting? Can Intercultural Intelligence augment Artificial Intelligence? Which related competences can be categorized, taught and communicated to students and clients?

Based on these considerations, our conference and forum will be organized in three tracks:

Track 1: Artificial Intelligence

- AI-based technologies for translation and interpreting: augmented services, performance expectations and reality
- Job description and required skills for translators and interpreters in the AI era: resistance, transformation, blending

Track 2: Intercultural Intelligence

- Intercultural Intelligence: epistemological definition
- Intercultural Intelligence as a specific competence of translators and interpreters: added value for translating practices, target contexts and career evolution

Track 3: Artificial Intelligence & Intercultural Intelligence

- Intercultural Intelligence + Artificial Intelligence: interaction and compatibility with AI-based technologies for translation and interpreting
- Artificial Intelligence and human culture(s): contribution of translators and interpreters to the development of an (inter)culturally-sensitive AI

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