

Translation and creativity

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With technologies employing artificial intelligence becoming almost ubiquitous in all aspects of our lives, humankind has been increasingly trying to redefine what it means to be human. Creativity, as usually understood by both specialists and the general public, appears to be one such characteristic. Translation studies has been repeatedly arguing for defining translation not as a simple invisible tool for information transfer, but as a creative process. Although machine translation has improved significantly with recent advances in natural language processing, the creative work, that is indeed an inseparable part of the translation process in my opinion, is still the domain of the human translator. Creativity enables the translator – prototypically a literary translator, but also a translator dealing with other text types, tackling such problems as the linguistic transfer of original terminology – to carry a challenging text beyond the boundaries of its cultural and cognitive domain. Creativity is equally a quality we wish for in research, be it in humanities, postdisciplinary areas of research, but also in natural sciences that similarly make dialogues with other fields, which help them overcome their limitations and engage with the world in a more complex way.

This issue of *WORLD LITERATURE STUDIES*, inspired by a discussion at the conference *Translation, Interpreting and Culture 2: Rehumanising Translation and Interpreting Studies*, held on 22–24 September 2021 in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, takes creativity and translation as its two core topics. The contributions position themselves to these themes in various ways, ranging from addressing creativity in translation on the theoretical level, through the employment of methodologies creatively appropriated from other disciplines and applied on hybrid objects of study, to inquiries into interactions between humans and technologies and persisting hierarchies of power. Not all of the articles deal with both translation and creativity: the composition of the volume, addressing such topics as dance, troubadour poetry, neural networks or queer perspectives in translation studies, rather encourages the reader to embrace the cross-pollination of research objects and methodologies and engage in creative academic reading.