

MARTIN DJOVČOŠ – PAVOL ŠVEDA: Premeny prekladu a tlmočenia

[Changes in translation and interpreting]

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Martin Djovčoš and Pavol Šveda are well-known academics and active practitioners in the Slovak translation and interpreting (TAI) milieu. Together they have published several books and many articles about TAI, like *Mýty a fakty o preklade a tlmočení* (Myths and facts about translation and interpreting, 2020), *Translation and Interpreting Training in Slovakia* (2021), and several articles e.g. in *Forum* (2021) or *Stridon* (2022). Both authors are experts in the field of TAI and they focus on this changing field in their newest book in Slovak.

If we look at TAI as the axes of a graph mapping the current trends, interpreting and translation respectively represent a vertical axis – as a vivid and organic industry they react to the current situation and people's needs, adapt when needed, and are constantly moving forward. The horizontal axis in this case would be all the factors influencing the advancement of the TAI fields. Djovčoš and Šveda try to find correlations between those two axes and try to reflect a realistic picture of the situation in Slovakia. In their latest book, *Premeny prekladu a tlmočenia* (Changes in translation and interpreting), they work with data from 351 respondents to a questionnaire. The reviewed book maps the changes in the TAI field from the viewpoint of its agents, their economy, status, and methods of work as well as education provided at the Slovak universities, putting them into the context of pandemic and war in Ukraine, inflation or artificial intelligence or remote interpreting. The authors compare the newest data (2020) with the earlier facts

(2015), showing how the Slovak field and market has changed and which factors influenced the current situation.

The first chapter of the book introduces readers to the legal changes applied on translation studies as a field, that as of 2018 was merged with other study fields to a single one – philology – that might influence the visibility of the field in the market. The authors also discuss attempts to change TAI from fixed trade license to a free one, the activities of civic associations of translators and interpreters, or inflation as a potential impact factor on the translation economy in the future.

The second chapter looks at the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on TAI. The authors made a two-round survey, the first with 371 and the second with 240 respondents, who answered demographic, sociological and practice-oriented questions aiming to map changes in their working conditions etc. The rise of remote interpreting (RI) is the most significant change of the pandemic. The authors look at RI from the viewpoint of days interpreted, working environment, prices or stress – the prices were surveyed in the separate questionnaire by the Slovenská asociácia prekladateľov a tlmočníkov (Slovak association of translators and interpreters).

In the third chapter, the authors discuss the consequences of the war in Ukraine and shifts in the neighboring Slovak market, as well as the rise of public service interpreting (PSI). The authors specify the conditions of PSI education, its providers, and the readiness of Slovak interpreters for the situation,

as well as an academic focus on Ukrainian translation studies.

The fourth chapter maps the demography of Slovak translators and interpreters in 2020 with an aim to see what changed since 2015. The authors, as in their previous research, but with an extended questionnaire and different time of collection, based on the data of 351 respondents try to model profiles of translators and interpreters based on their basic characteristics (like age, specialization or working languages), technical competence (work with CAT tools), and market competence (like price-making process, price per standard page or future visions).

In the fifth chapter, the authors specifically focus on prices and the factors impacting the price-making process of translators like the number of translated pages, region, specialization or languages.

The sixth chapter looks at interpreters and the factors impacting their price-making process like the length of interpreting, number of interpreted days, minimum prices, regions, specialization or the length of experience.

The last chapter concludes the book with the evaluation of the authors' estimated de-

velopment of the profession in 2017 and whether their expectations were accurate or inaccurate. They discuss external factors like public procurement, the demand of European institutions, the rise of artificial intelligence or AI, and internal factors including the ever-growing specialization, part-time translation or interpreting, the rise of the new generation or the possible cutback in study programs in Slovakia.

Martin Djovčoš and Pavol Švedaš book *Premeny prekladu a tlmočenia* is a valuable and needed map for Slovak academics and practitioners in the field of TAI, and its reflection of the past and the present shall continue in the future. It is probably one of a few sources that Slovak TAI explorers will constantly return to for a complex picture of our field.

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