

The Importance of Multiculturalism in Community Interpreting

Coşkun DOĞAN

Faculty of Literature

Science of Translation Department

Sakarya University

Abstract

Multiculturalism is one of the consequences of globalization and huge development in communication technology in the last century. Multiculturalism enables people live their originality consciously and without authorization the other cultures. In this sense, multiculturalism is a cultural wealth for living together. Moreover, for people who have different cultures living together makes it necessary to find a way of intercultural communication. Multiculturalism, which is the basis of pluralism in every sense, is also a must for social diversity and its appearance and recognition. Moving from this thought, interpretation, a social phenomenon between different languages and cultures has an undeniable function. The function of community interpreting which is frequently mentioned in the last years and intercultural communicative mediation is multifaceted. The community interpreter has to know the foreign language or languages, the cultures they belong to, their social structures, world understandings and value judgments. Multiculturalism needs social and cultural diversity. In this sense, a community interpreter has to apply every culture's necessities equally besides the interpreting procedure. In multicultural societies formed by different cultures, "community interpreting" plays a key role in living together in peace and common boundaries. Community interpreting has a mission on conciliation and adaptation different cultures and cultural values. Language differs human beings from other living things is a cultural communication tool as well. Community Interpreting is to help social structures who needs to compromise in the sense of multiculturalism and with recognizing their cultural background helps them to facilitate their own experiences. This study will examine the necessity of Community Interpreting which has become more and more important in recent days, in order for communities with diverse cultures to continue their harmonious coexistence and to maintain their appropriate presence in the content of multiculturalism away from conflicts.

Keywords: multiculturalism, community interpreting, cultural diversity.

1. Introduction

Different cultures, which have historically been forced to coexist in a social context for various reasons, have generally created different cultural and political structures. Yet, every society is still striving to preserve its own cultural authenticity. This creates a cultural and social diversity in which different cultures coexist. It is necessary to stay within a multicultural society structure in order to tolerate social diversity, to respect each other's cultural values and to sustain their existence. Multiculturalism is the coexistence of a community of two or more different cultures. This means a society in which two or more languages are spoken. In communities where different cultures are spoken, it is impossible for the "translation" effect to be the case. Translation is an inter-communal agreement that persists its existence in the environments where different cultures come together. Translation, which is a transfer function between different cultures, has a social role to translator. It is expected that the translator who does translating to be multicultural and to know two cultures well.

While the translator is supposed to be multicultural, it is necessary to know the different social structures and anticipations from multicultural society life. The concept of "Community Interpretation", which is one of the interpreting types expected to be realized as content today, is on the agenda. Community interpreting services are a prerequisite for societies with cultural diversity to live together in peace in a multicultural social order. Community interpreting has the task of providing translation services to societies where they have different cultures and at the same time sharing their common values with each other and explaining the conditions of living in harmony.

In this sense, Community Interpretation, which is a major contributor to the formation of a multicultural society, should help to contribute to the formation of a social transformation by raising the awareness of differences rather than emphasizing social differences. In addition to the task of ensuring communication between different cultures, Community Interpreting has the task of teaching the official language of the target country which will be the common language in the future.

In this sense, they also need to recognize the methods of language teaching. Nowadays, when different cultures can come together easily, and are to be together, Community Interpreters should also be provided with a multi-purpose education. For this reason, foreign language teaching, especially at an early age, should take place in curriculum. As it is known, foreign languages to be learned at an early age, the children are stripped of the prejudices against the foreigner and learn to tolerate the different and to respect the other. By making a comparison by this, it is also to realize its own values. The necessary importance should be given to the Community Interpreting parallel to the new society structures composed of different cultures. Community interpreters, who are well-equipped people who recognize many languages and cultures, will contribute to the maintenance of the continuity of multicultural societies and to the solution of all their distant problems without conflict. Especially, in Turkey in which different cultures live together for various reasons, the necessary importance should be given to Community Interpreting at all levels of education.

2. Multiculturalism

When the word "multiculturalism" is considered in terms of meaning, it is necessary to know from which word the culture word is derived and the word meaning. It is derived from the Latin word "colere", which is used to mean "to process the land, to drive the field, to plant it" (www.kostekci.av.tr). The dictionary definition of the concept of culture today is as follows: The whole of the material and spiritual beings, values, and traditions that a human community (nation) transmits from generation to generation. Belief, idea, knowledge art, customs and traditions all in the form of life and behavior; (M.E.B 1999: 1826). How each language reflects the logic and thought of the country in which it is spoken; Culture reflects the values, traditions, unique human-community life, world understanding and beliefs of the nations in which they live. In this sense, multiculturalism is the coexistence of a community (nation) of two or more different cultures. Multiculturalism is a form of political organization, characterized by communities with different cultures enjoying coexistence without losing their self-culture and enjoying all the public services provided. According to Parekh (2002); It is one of the concepts that are used and popularized while trying to analyze and analyze the important part of big cultural problems.

It is also a form of diversity that emerges in the community and in certain organized communities and cultural groups that live according to their own cultural structures and practice systems. (www.dergiler.ankara.edu.tr). Multiculturalism offers many cultural privileges to societies that have to come together for various reasons together. Within the context of multiculturalism, cultural rights are exempt from exclusion measures, religious practices, language and special education. According to Doytcheva, multiculturalism: It is a historical political program, intellectual debate and practical experience, based on the idea that modern democracies should recognize different cultures by reshaping their institutions and allowing them to improve and convey their differences (Doytcheva 2009:25). In this sense, community interpreters have a great responsibility to maintain community integrity and permanence. It is important to tell different ethnicities and establish a dialectic between them. Community Interpreters who recognize the cultures in which the language belongs as well as language support and are supported by the state, it helps the Canadian state to maintain the presence of multicultural society. It brings multiculturalism, cultural and social wealth together. It is possible to live in the common boundaries of this richness, to respect the differences. In this context, the Congress defines multiculturalism as: Multiculturalism, based on the fact that individuals and groups forming a society come from different backgrounds in terms of language, religion, race, history, geography, is a single political unit and communities living within common boundaries. These differences can also be seen in the coexistence of people from different nations, such as in the Soviet Union, or in the United States today (www.kongar.org.makaleler/mak_kum.php).

3. Community Interpreting

Interpretation is as old as human history. As long as there are different languages spoken on the world, it will remain an indispensable activity in order to eliminate linguistic obstacles and to provide healthy communication between people. In the century that we are living, multicultural societies are formed for various reasons.

Community Interpretation, which plays a linguistic and cultural mediation role in terms of continuing the existence of these communities, is increasingly gaining institutional significance. One of the subtypes of interpreting is Community Interpreting; Western languages are defined as follows: In English: “community interpreting” or “public service interpreting”, in French “*interprétariat communautaire*”, in German “*Sprach- und Kulturmittler*”, “*Sprach-Intergrationsmittler*” or “*Gemeindedolmetscher*” in Austria “*Kommunal Dolmetscher*” and in Swiss “*Interkultureller Übersetzer*” (www.sprint-wuppertal.de/index.php/...).

Up until recently, it was thought to be a linguistic means of communicating only between individuals. The evaluation of the translation with its social dimension has recently come to an end. It has been proven through the experience of social transformations and changes through translation. For this reason, translation is closely related to social events and sociology. Moreover, the great role of translation in intercultural communication is an undeniable fact. Translation is a matter of cultural context rather than the context of text-to-translator, and should be evaluated within this system. Translation has now undertaken a task in which the source text conveys the cultural facts to the other side as well as responds to expectations in the cultural context of the target society. Moving from this thought; Community Interpreting is being used to meet different social expectations in the solution of the problems and co-operations brought about by today's international social and cultural events.

Eugene A. Nida stated that translation is a social and cultural process rather than a means of linguistic transmission. In keeping with this definition, the Community Interpreters who undertake the task have a social role, such as mutual recognition of the socio-cultural structure of the community in which both languages are spoken. With the thought that the language of the society in which the languages are spoken reflects the culture, logic and original expression of the culture: the culture structure, which is the language, is also the behavior of the individuals belonging to the society. Community interpreters are the cultural mediators. Because of this, they provide cross-cultural dialogue, helping communities with different tongues to tolerate and prejudge the values of their foreign country. In addition to this, they provide a means to compare with other cultures and to make sure that their culture is aware of their societies. They make it possible for them to maintain their harmony and keep their cultural values in mind. It is also known that it is related to different scientific disciplines other than translating work, going even further than translation work. According to Gürçağlar; The studies in the field of translational science should be very close to other disciplines in terms of methodology and they should form an examination field and think that translation-oriented contribution will be very great. The data obtained indicate that translation is not only an activity related to literature, information production and publishing, but also a means of building nation, a trigger, medium, or a form of social outsourcing of processes of social transformation (Ari 2014:19).

It is used in the intercultural communication needs arising from the bureaucratic processes encountered by immigrants in the social life in the heavily immigrant countries (such as Scandinavian countries, European countries like Germany, France, Netherlands, USA, Canada and Australia) where different languages are spoken and different cultures meet. In fact, in multilingual and cultured societies it is precisely the linguistic communication that is the ultimate aim of translation. In this sense, Eruz states as follows: It is the formation of primary purpose communication of translation in multicultural societies. Interpreters are responsible for communicating with the public authorities through the public when the language is different from the official language (Eruz 2010:1 Community Interpreting means the translation support provided to individuals who have difficulty in reaching social services due to the different languages in which they are speaking. In multilingual societies, however, there is a great deal of responsibility for this translation support as well as for bilingual interpreters of Community interpreters to learn the official language of that country. The point to note here is that different language speakers should not forget their own language and culture. Community Interpreting has many fields. According to Doğan: The Olympics are the environments in which this translation model is used temporarily. In addition to the widespread usage environments in the world, we can give examples of disaster environments such as April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day and earthquake and refugee camps as an example only for the usage environments unique to my country (Doğan 2015:62).

Community Interpreters who are expected to be experts in language and social cohesion need to know well the language teaching methods to be applied in language teaching. In this sense, it is important for the Community Interpreters to be good educators in addition to being the culture and language mediator. From this point of view, it seems possible with translators who have been trained in a multi-purpose interpreter that may be competent in their own fields.

Today, it has become necessary to give legal status to "Translation of Society" especially because of the translation profession needed in many fields of social and cultural life and migration movements in the recent international dimension. The undergraduate and graduate course programs of the universities are multilingual and should be reorganized in line with the conditions of the day. It is the new definition of Community Interpreting in the Republic of Turkey, which was established in the Anatolian lands where multilingual and cultured societies lived together for centuries for various reasons, and which has been heavily immigrated from different countries in recent years. In this sense, Kurultay states that: Turkey is most affected country by migration movements in the historical process in terms of geopolitical position. Turkey should set education and accreditation standards related to community translator ship by taking as an example of other developed countries and access of the various language groups to state services and organization of social system (Kurultay 2012, s.84).

In fact, sworn verbal translators fulfill the role of Community Interpreters in terms of area of use. In this sense, community interpreters can be used for court, police station, wedding hall, it plays a social role in government institutions, such as a language service solution as an expert in the solution of the work of the parties who do not speak the same language. However, this type of service is inadequate in solving other social problems of people who speak different languages for a certain period or constantly aiming to be in Turkey. In this sense, it seems that the task areas of Community Interpreters are more extensive. Instead of knowing only language and culture, it is expected to know the basic life features of the original country and to recognize human psychology. When they arrive at the target country, they need to take an active role in the integration training of Community interpreters in terms of social harmonization there. In addition to being multilingual, community interpreters are also required to be equipped with a community of immigrants who have different languages and cultures to serve in every sense, in terms of the continuity of public order.

According to A. Pym (2006); the translation has gained a sociological transformation. Neither a language nor an absolute translator says what a text translation process can be. Moving from all these moves; the results of the translation are at the center of social life as a phenomenon that affects and transforms the whole society. Some of the basic principles (loyalty, confidentiality, impartiality, respect for human rights, duty limit, etc.) brought by all these social and social responsibilities are the norms of Community interpreters. These are important for the rights and freedoms of the person or persons served. It is necessary to be able to serve in the most correct way and to be satisfied with the individual or the people who need the Community Interpreter. Community interpreters are expected to apply the principles to the utmost while providing services for irregular migrant children. It is necessary to have legal regulations to provide such a sensitive service. In this sense, Kurultay thinks as follows: Various European countries have opened training programs on community translators for the provision of quality translation services and healthy functioning of the social order in the areas indicated, and have gone to various legal arrangements (Kurultay 2012, s.82). As known, there are regulations on how to use translators in government services in Turkey. However, there is no sufficient explanation about the education and competence of the person providing the interpreting service. In addition, our country does not have any legislative arrangements at the national level for the translation profession.

4. The Reasons for Formation of Multiculturalism and Community Interpreting

There are many factors that contribute to the formation of multicultural societies. There is a bond between them. These are migration, the media and the globalization. These three main reasons for the creation of a multicultural social structure in different countries have come to the media in the last century with the development of industrial society and the advancement of human history. In recent years, especially in the multicultural society, immigration has been stigmatized. Due to the regular or irregular migrations, multicultural societies are formed and have to live within the same boundaries. Those who come to different countries through migration bring their own cultures and start to live their own cultures there. In this sense, the thought of Köstenci about migration as follows: One of the most important factors in the formation of multicultural societies is surely migration between communities. The reason may be economic, social or political. But the migration is also the one where the migrations and the cultures of the migrating societies are affected. It is especially true that there is an interaction in the cultures of immigrant and migratory societies, and that this interaction brings multiculturalism together with a series of problems. Because the reasons for migration are encountered by cultures of different countries, and where cultures cannot be harmonized (www.kostenci.av.tr).

Community Interpreting has the task of helping people who have left their countries through migration and benefiting from social services in their countries of origin. Both communities are helping to define the cultures

and the harmony of different cultures. Community Interpreters have a preventive role for conflicts that may arise in the life cycle of the differences, the other way of thinking. The rapid development of communication technology has increased the influence of the media, which is the cause of multiculturalism. The fact that communities with diverse cultures share common values through media not only allows the emergence of cultural riches but also causes them to accept and tolerate different ones. Media activities are very effective in creating common modes of behavior for different societies. Efficient media is a tool that will make a great contribution to living together without destroying the differences. Community Interpreters will also use this influence of the media to help multicultural societies live smoothly in the recipient countries. According to Köstenci, the media is;

The media is a form of pedagogy that teaches us how to be men and women. It shows us how to dress, how to look and consume, how to react to members of different social groups, how to be popular and successful, how to avoid failure; norms, values, settled customs, traditions and laws. As a result, critical media is an important source for us to learn how to deal with the emotions of individuals, their thoughts, and the attractive cultural environment that influences their moral views (www.kostenci.av.tr).

Community interpreters will be engaged in understanding the publications that will create a common life image for social life through media communication tools. For the continuity of multicultural society life, community interpreters need to know and apply language teaching methods, especially at an early age. Because the official language of the immigrant country that is to be used in multicultural society is important in terms of the common communication language. In addition, every community should translate interpreters of communities by "localizing" them. This different value is important in terms of acceptance of judgments.

Parallel to rapid developments in the world, economic and social changes have become a matter of mobility. The structure of the capitalist system has caused the expansion of business areas in different countries of the world. An international economic structure has emerged under the name of globalization. Political power, having this economic power, is the cause of the international mobility of the masses. All transnational mobility brings with it a cultural structuring. This is what happens in a multicultural social life that is caused by globalization. While globalization is integrated in economic sense, it also anticipates integration in social life. This is the gathering and living of different cultures. Community Interpretation has assumed the role of a guarantor of a "social contract" among societies seeking to live their own cultures. In this sense, Community Interpreters must make an effort to avoid economic, political, or cultural conflicts.

At the same time, they are contributing as a well-equipped person who knows the cultural values and thought rationale of co-living societies in solving the problems that globalization brings to their barbers. While Community Interpreters help with the need to benefit from public services, they also need to actively participate in issues that arise in the public domain. Even if there are different cultural societies, "common utility" is necessary for living together. Multilingual, multicultural Community Interpreters, as a mediator of social cohesion, are indispensable elements of a multicultural society. Common criteria should be set for the training of interpreters who will serve the collective all over the world. They should be able to provide the necessary training to meet these conditions. For the person who will be the community translator, studies should be carried out to define the cultural and social structure of the society by ensuring that the countries where the language of which they are spoken are kept for a certain period of time.

5. Conclusion

Each community has the right to experience their own cultural background and experience. But nowadays no society is allowed to remain unaffected by different cultures within their borders. All societies benefit from communication technology, which is a necessity for the time being, to the utmost extent, and therefore recognize cultural products of different societies. Another factor that compares different cultures is the migration between countries that live in various countries.

When included in these factors, it is impossible to keep the societies away from the cultural differences that persist in their existence on the world, as the globalization which brings down the world and which brings about a lot of movement. The inevitable result of these factors is multiculturalism and a multicultural society. Multiculturalism is the way in which communities with different cultures come together for various reasons and live within the framework of common values.

Multiculturalism, which is viewed as a society scheme in which cultural diversity and richness are reflected, is also viewed as a political order in many countries today in order to keep societies together. Multicultural levels of

cultural freedoms, where all communities that live together tolerate the values of their lives, are experiencing equality. While there are cultural riches around common values in multicultural societies, harmonization plays an important role in keeping societies together. In this context, in every social structure in which multiculturalism is experienced, translation is a cross-cultural social phenomenon.

Multicultural societies need multi-lingual interpreters who can briefly recognize different cultures in order to be able to sustain their existence, through an agreement that will create awareness of cultural wealth. This is possible with Community Interpretation, which has emerged as a new concept in the field of translation, equipped with every sense.

In addition to helping a community of diverse cultures benefit from public services, Community Interpreting also plays a role in the persistence of a multicultural society. Besides language knowledge; There is a need for "community interpreters" who recognize different cultural values and which will provide solid support for the lives of the communities in consensus. In any language and culture, people move from the thought of being a social entity; The Community interpreters who recognize both languages and cultures should be allowed to work without forgetting their identity and cultural values in the place where their lives will last, and to benefit from all kinds of services on an equal level. In addition, it will be appropriate for Community Interpreters to provide adaptation training around the common values to be organized, in terms of collecting and adapting to the different cultures.

In this context, the training of Community Interpreters should be organized according to multicultural society structures. Being multicultural at an early age will support the individual to have a humanist structure. Multiculturalism will also contribute to the elimination of different prejudices and the creation of an environment of tolerance for the diversity of life. Multiculturalism will provide opportunities to compare differences to societies and individuals. Thus, the different ones will respect and appreciate events at a healthier level of thought. At the same time, acting from different perspectives will be an opportunity to be protected from conflicts. Multiculturalism will have a peaceful personality thanks to the benefits that the individual offers.

6. References

- Arı**, Sevinç (2014) Translation Sociology, Aylak Adam KültürSanat Publishing, İstanbul.
- Doğan**, Aymil (2015) Oral Translation, Siyasal Bookstore; Ankara.
- Eruz**, Sakine (2010) Multiculturalism and Translation, Multilingual Publishing, İstanbul.
- Doytcheva**, Milena (2009) Multiculturalism, İletişim Publishing, İstanbul.
- Kurultay**, Turgay –**Bulut**, Alev (2012) Community Interpreting, İstanbul University Translation Studies Journal, issue:6 75-105 İstanbul.
- Ministry of Education** (1999) ÖrnekleriyleTürkçeSözlük, Ministry of Education Publishing: 2799 Science and Culture Series: 772 Dictionary Series:5
- Pöchlacker**, Franz (2012) Community Interpreting, İstanbul University, Translation Studies Journal, issue: 6 (2-2012) pp. 75-102 İstanbul.

Internet Resources

1. www.kongar.org/makaleler/mak_kum.php (Date of Access: 14.07.2016)
2. www.kostekci.av.tr (Date of Access: 10.07.2016)
3. www.sprint-wuppertal.de/index.php/... (Date of Access: 20.06.2016)
4. <http://dergiler.ankara.edu.tr/dergiler/42/473/5452.pdf> (Date of Access: 14.07.2016)