

FOREWORD

This volume of the Journal Terminology Science and Research contains three papers presented at the conference "Language and Law – Theoretical and practical approaches". The conference was arranged at NHH Norwegian School of Economics on the 3 May 2014. The aim of the conference with four invited speakers from Denmark, Germany, Spain and France was to give an impetus to the candidates of the online study programme on legal translation (JurDist) given at NHH. Unfortunately the speaker from France has been unable to send his contribution for publication. However, we have added a joint contribution of most of the staff members involved in JurDist.

We present shortly the conference papers in alphabetical order. The first one is the paper of **Jan Engberg** (Aarhus University). In his paper on "What does it mean to see legal translation as knowledge communication? – Conceptualisation and quality standards" he argues that the conceptualisation of legal translation should be seen as a particular form of knowledge communication where the translator needs specific information in order to perform his/her task adequately. Consequently, he argues, that this approach helps to set up criteria for assessing the quality and efficiency of concrete translations to perform the goals of the translational process.

The next paper is from **Florian Paintner** (Paintner PartGmbH) on "The complex concept of legal translation – Examples from a German Lawyer's professional life". By discussing some illustrative examples from his professional life where he is confronted with texts/translations primarily in German and Norwegian his aim is to outline the practical relevance of some well-known problems discussed in translation studies. In his conclusion he shows to the best practice rules adhered to in his law firm. The third paper is from **M. Rosario Marin Ruano** (University of Salamanca). In her paper "The role of legal and institutional translation in processes of identity (re)construction in multilingual and multicultural contexts" she reports on the challenges of specialized communication in multilingual und multicultural contexts as part of an ongoing research project by the Spanish *Ministerio de Economica y Competividad*. She argues that legal translation may be analysed as part of broader processes of professional, social and cultural identity construction and identity negotiation that are affected by larger tensions between the global and the local. She shows to examples of i.a. official equivalent versions where she claims that this is indeed the case. In a kind of conclusion she points to the fact that both identities and legal cultures are dynamic: they change over time and do so in dialogue with other cultures and identities. In her view the notion of identity contributes to a dynamic understanding of cultural exchanges in legal and institutional settings and offers interesting insights into the role of translation in the shaping of images of legal cultures.

The final paper is a joint article of four of the member staff: **Christian Langerfeld, Jan Roald, Beate Sandvei and Ingrid Simonnæs** (NHH Norwegian School of Economics). In their paper "Teaching legal translation in Norway – JurDist: an online course" they present the JurDist programme and its content and focus. The JurDist programme, unique in Norway, was launched only recently and consists of a two-module approach. In the first module, students are given an overview of some important parts of the Norwegian legal system and are then asked to compare the Norwegian system with the legal systems in France, Germany and Spain respectively. In the second module, the students use the insight acquired through this exercise in their translations of various legal texts, using Norwegian as source or target language. The authors argue that certain kinds of texts ought to be used for training and at the same time argue for their particular didactic choice, i.e. their focus on culturally embedded legal realia. The latter is also the focus of the case study reported on.

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Ingrid Simonnæs
Guest editor
Ingrid.Simonnas@nhh.no