

Cornelia Zwischenberger, Karin Reithofer, and Sylvi Rennert (Eds) (2023) *Introducing New Hypertexts on Interpreting (Studies): A Tribute to Franz Pöchhacker*, Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins, pp. 287. ISBN: 9789027213464

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Introducing New Hypertexts on Interpreting (Studies), edited by Cornelia Zwischenberger, Karin Reithofer, and Sylvi Rennert, stands as a *festschrift* to the remarkable contributions made by Franz Pöchhacker to the field of Interpreting Studies (IS). Drawing upon his research, this volume invites readers to explore the broad scope of perspectives offered by Pöchhacker's work and the new strands of research that have originated from his expertise throughout the years. It suffices to search the Translation Studies Bibliography to explore the bewildering number of around 100 publications under his name on a variety of topics that testifies to the ever-growing curiosity and versatility of this scholar: from quality in interpreting to the professionalisation of community interpreting, from training to media interpreting. All these topics have been exhaustively explored in many of his publications and offer excellent inspiration for the chapters contained in this volume.

Distinguished scholars in the field of IS were invited to delve into both traditional and contemporary perspectives on Pöchhacker's research. The prologue begins with the notion that hypertexts serve as "metaperspectives," providing "comprehensive overviews of various topics while also introducing new insights into them" (p. 1). Furthermore, the standpoint of this volume posits that conferences act as "hypertexts," which steer the interpreter's actions toward a specific Skopos. Pöchhacker consistently underscored the significance of the situational and communicative context in both interpreter-mediated interactions and training. This has always been clear from his publications: from the pioneering *Simultandolmetschen als komplexes Handeln* (1994), to the monograph *Introducing Interpreting Studies* (2016), from *Doing Justice to Court Interpreting* (Shlesinger/Pöchhacker 2010) to the editing of the *Routledge*

Encyclopedia of Interpreting Studies (Pöchhacker 2015). These works are characterised not only by methodological rigour, but also by an in-depth knowledge of the discipline that has allowed him to accurately anticipate concrete future developments.

The volume is divided into five sections: 1. Methods and methodologies; 2. Public service interpreting; 3. Interpreting as a profession; 4. Interpreter education; 5. Interpreting and “new” media. Each chapter offers a precise perspective on a particular topic: from mixed methods in interpreting research (Napier and Hale) to user expectations (Liu), from methodological approaches in interpreting quality research (Pradas Macías) to the evolution in training community interpreting in Austria (Ahamer and Dabić), from court interpreting (Pym, Raigal-Aran and Bestué Salinas) to the role of the interpreter in colonial times (Kolb and Pöllabauer), from the professional/non-professional dichotomy (Grbić) to the interpreter in a project network for television (Kadrić and Iacono), from the use of mock conferences for competence development (Andres) to a system dynamics model for interpreting research and training (Behr), from speech to text interpreting (Romero-Fresco) to the use of technology in the post-Covid era (Salaets and Balogh).

In the initial section of the book, the contributors delve deeply into a subject close to Pöchhacker’s heart: the methodological rigor of research in IS. This scholar was the first to propose a rapprochement between Translation and Interpreting Studies (TIS) and the social sciences and to recommend the use of the mixed methods approach, which is thoroughly investigated in the first chapter of this section (Napier and Hale), as well as in the second chapter written by Liu. In her study, Liu provides a review of the literature on surveys on user expectations in the evaluation of simultaneous interpreting, starting from the seminar study by Bühler (1986) and concluding with some considerations on the use of more comprehensive methods which are not only based on questionnaires. The fact that quality in interpreting is such a multifaceted aspect to evaluate emerges from Pöchhacker’s project *QuaSI*, which introduced the pioneering method of combining user expectations and evaluations. The chapter by Pradas Macías delves deeper into this topic, by showing the results obtained by the research group *ECIS* (Evaluación de la Calidad en Interpretación Simultánea) led by Angela Collados Aís and by a more recent study by Sánchez-Santa Barbara and Pradas Macías which includes implicit theories from psychology, in order to demonstrate that the evaluation of interpreters’ output depends “to a large extent on the horizon of the actors [...], which is in turn conditioned by sociocultural factors (stereotypes, implicit theories, etc.) [...] independently of whether they are experts or laypersons in the field” (p. 86).

The second section of this volume explores the field of public service interpreting (PSI). There is no need to further emphasise Pöchhacker’s merits for being the first interpreting scholar in Europe to shed light on this profession, which still has a long way to go in terms of social recognition. Fortunately, progress has been made in some areas: Ahamer and Dabić describe the programmes and courses on community interpreting at some Austrian universities, such as the MA programme entitled “Translation and Dialogue Interpreting” at the ITAT in Graz and the course in dialogue interpreting at the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna. In the second paper of this section, Pym, Raigal-Aran and Bestué Salinas reflect on the quality of court interpreting in two situations: one in which there is a side conversation between

the defendant and the interpreter and the second one in which the bond of trust between the interpreter and the judge is broken due to the lack of professionalism of the interpreter. In the conclusion, the authors illustrate the pros and cons of non-standard practices, why they take place, and whether quality standards could be reconsidered in these situations. The chapter by Kolb and Pöllabauer takes a microhistorical approach to illustrate the role and agency of Sara Kierstede in the colonial administration of Dutch society in New Amsterdam. Although this chapter would seem to be the least consistent with the lines of research carried out by Pöchhacker, its most interesting aspect is the fine line between PSI and diplomatic interpreting.

To someone like myself, who covered status and the professionalisation of interpreting in my PhD thesis, the third section was very thought-provoking, not only because in the first chapter Grbić taps into her previous studies on boundary work to map out situations where translation and interpreting take place, breaking away from the typical “professional/non-professional” divide, but also because the chapter by Kadrić and Iacono concretely demonstrates some of the situations described by Grbić by illustrating the role of the interpreter in the context of a documentary film. The two scholars draw on the importance of the network and show how this facilitates the interpreter’s multidimensional alignment for the creation of an effective product.

In the fourth strand of this book, Andres questions whether today’s training programmes can be fit for purpose for the changing market of the 21st century. She insists on the need to prepare students to develop situational intelligence, which can be trained through two formats: mock conferences and “SIMnar”, a novelty introduced by Pöchhacker himself at the University of Vienna, which consists of a two-hours scientific class embedded in the curriculum in the seminar format to practise a real situation. By echoing the systemic approach employed in previous chapters, Behr illustrates the usefulness of an online tool that helps students visualise the dynamics of the interpretation process. This method has the merit of increasing students’ awareness on preparation and organisation when preparing an interpreting assignment.

The fifth section concretely illustrates the technological advancements that are likely to shape not only the professional practice of interpreting, but also its training. Romero-Fresco adopts Pöchhacker’s quality criteria for evaluating Speech to text interpreting (STTI), but in the second part of his paper he elucidates how difficult it is to gain recognition of this interpretive mode at ISO and in the EU. In the second and final scholarly chapter of this volume, Salaets and Balogh examine available e-tools and resources to improve interpreters’ performance, with the hope that they will be systematically introduced into the training of all students of interpreting. The book concludes with an afterword by Mary Snell-Hornby, which traces Pöchhacker’s remarkable career journey from his early days as a PhD student to the Vienna Translation Summits post-Berlin Wall, from his presidency of EST to his role in shaping a new curriculum at the University of Vienna.

The comprehensive approach of this book – which contains a holistic view of the evolution of Pöchhacker’s research areas – is particularly refreshing because it encourages TIS scholars to broaden the scope of their research. In this respect, I think it is a very useful abridgement of much of the research in IS over the last 25 years which is neither as general as an encyclopaedia, but nor as narrow as a volume on a single topic. From a pedagogical perspective, the book proves valuable, as each chap-

ter critically reflects on the previous studies, making it a useful resource for literature reviews on several IS topics. The effective structuring of sections ensures a coherent narrative throughout the volume, with a clear thread connecting the contributors' pieces of research to Pöchhacker's work. The inclusion of comprehensive references and the accurately compiled bibliographies of the chapters further enhance the scholarly value and the unwavering commitment to academic rigour of the authors and editors.

However, the volume's overall structure, while beneficial, does have a few downsides. Some chapters do not place a strong emphasis on recent evidence, relying on case studies from a few years back. This creates a certain heterogeneity among the chapters: some provide concrete case studies (Behr, Kolb and Pöllabauer, Napier and Hale, Pradas Macías, Pym, Raigal-Aran and Bestué Salinas, Romero Fresco), while others (Ahamer and Dabić, Andres, Grbić, Liu, Salaets and Balogh), are somewhat more descriptive, though they offer, like Grbić's chapter, an excellent classification of interpreting phenomena and priceless insights into the potential implications of technology in the post-Covid era (Salaets and Balogh). This diversification might be attributed to the book's nature: volumes of this kind do not aim to present groundbreaking research, but rather, to reflect on how far we have come in achieving the state of the art of a specific discipline. And we could say that much work has been done from the beginning of Pöchhacker's career in the 1990s to present day, since the impact of his research is still reverberating strongly today, not only in the studies related to the field (which have far exceeded those on conference interpreting),¹ but also in training, as can be seen from recent publications on curriculum development in (public service) interpreter training (Ng/Crezee 2020; Seel *et al.* 2023), and on the use and perception of interpreting technologies (Salaets/Balogh 2020; Corpas Pastor/Defrancq 2023). Like previous *festschriften* such as *Beyond Descriptive Translation Studies* (Pym *et al.* 2008), this volume provides a diverse array of research insights, making it valuable for both TIS scholars and early-stage MA and PhD students, as well as professional interpreters.

On a concluding note, I would not describe Pöchhacker's career as "meteoric". Mary Snell-Hornby's choice of this term intrigued me and prompted me to turn to the Cambridge Dictionary online for further clarification. While "meteoric" does indeed convey the idea of something developing rapidly and gaining substantial attention, it also carries the connotation of being sudden and usually brief. In my view, this characterisation does not quite align with Pöchhacker's career. I distinctly recall, like several other PhD students in IS, procuring an entire mandatory bibliography of Pöchhacker's articles to read for the assessment exams. Alongside Daniel Gile, Pöchhacker occupies a place in the Olympus of Interpreting Studies. This is not solely due to the breadth of his research interests, but also because, as highlighted by the editors in the Introduction, he served as a patient and open-minded mentor who left and still leaves a "deep and lasting influence" (p. 1) on interpreting scholars.

1 In the Translation Studies Bibliography, there are 725 entries on "community/public service interpreting" and 434 on "conference interpreting".

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