CONTRİBUTİNG TO SUSTAİNABİLİTY THROUGH TRANSLATİON İN GOVERNİNG THE ANTHROPOCENE

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ABSTRACT

There are many factors that contribute to changes in the Earth's system, one of which is humanity. Due to the loss of habitat related to human activities, slightly less than a quarter of Earth's terrestrial biomes are untouched. We seem to be living in a transition period from the Holocene epoch into the Anthropocene epoch. We are faced with many and diverse kinds of environmental changes that have been taking place. It is apparently a new phase in the history of humanity as well as the planet Earth which is being shaped by human forces and natural forces. The Earth that we live on is a permanently changing system. It is changing irreversibly through human activity, which will leave a substantial trace in the geological record of the Earth's history. Some of these changes are permanent, even on a geological time scale. Since the beginning of the 19th century, there has been a rise in the number of human beings from under a billion to over six billion now. A rapidly growing population has had a global impact on the environment and made the exploitation of natural resources soar. There have been major changes to the Earth in terms of landscape and biodiversity. As a consequence of the global impact of human activities, sustainability of the Earth in the age of the Anthropocene has important consequences. This could pose a potential threat to biodiversity and international peace apart from geology. As a force of nature, humanity needs to act responsibly in order to compensate for the human impact on the environment and engage in processes that will re-shape a future that is morally acceptable. All global human initiatives are about people working together across different languages and cultures around the world. Social sciences can also play a part in understanding the Anthropocene. Therefore, I will focus on how translation could help to coordinate international initiatives and communicate more effectively in order to address the Anthropocene. Better communication will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of global initiatives. This will result in human action changing from uncoordinated individual action to coordinated social action at either local or global levels. Coping with (governing) the challenges of the age of the Anthropocene will require a collaborative effort taking into account multilingual communication.

Keywords: Anthropocene, Translation, Sustainability, Multilingualism

1. INTRODUCTİON

"Governing the Anthropocene" deals with one of the most important issues that prevail in our world today. What can it have to do with translation phenomenon? As an interdisciplinary field of research, there is a relationship between translation and any field if the issues at hand require research across languages and cultures. Such a concept as the Anthropocene is based on human involvement from a diversity of languages and disciplines. It seems to be stemming from an accummulation of intervention into the natural processes in the Earth over a period of time, which is why it is global as well as multilingual in nature, and the issues must be looked after accordingly. Global problems must come with global solutions. Effective communication among stakeholders can be enhanced through translation, which is regarded as the set of skills and knowledge beyond bilingualism. The objective of this paper is to find out about how translation theories and approaches can contribute to overcoming the challenges brought about by humanity in the Anthropocene epoch and to making the resources more sustainable. Everything ends and starts with the human being.

2. LİTERATURE REVİEW

As a scientist who proposed the term Anthropocene about a decade ago, Crutzen et.al. defines it as a new geological epoch in which humanity changes the world (Crutzen, 2000) and states that it holds challenges for both science and society (Crutzen et.al., 2010:2228). It is human imprint (Steffen et.al., 2011:842). The Anthropocene was introduced to show a shift in the relationship between humanity and the global environment. The concept Anthropocene suggests that the Earth is moving into a new geological epoch and humankind has become a global geological force. Previously, the landscape has been transformed by meteorite strikes, extraordinary volcanic outbursts, colliding continents, and disappearing oceans. In the geological time scale, they seemed to be of a scale beyond the largest factories and most populous cities. The Anthropocene signifies the human activities changing the Earth on a scale comparable with some of the major events in history. Some of these changes are now seen as permament. For instance, the ozone hole over Antarctica is an anthropogenic cause.

There are allegedly two phases as to how the Anthropocene epoch began: The Industrial Revolution, which marked the end of agriculture as the most dominant human activity and World War II, which is called the Great Acceleration as it fostered worldwide industrialization, techno-scientific development, nuclear arms race, population explosion and rapid economic growth (Steffen et.al., 2011:845).

Global human activities are evident through changes in the environment and Earth's atmosphere. The environmental changes range from sediment layers to biodiversity such as marine ecosystems. Geological epochs are often well known for the globalization of their sedimentary environments (Ager, 1993). The Anthropocene made it possible by using fossil fuels and allowing the growth of the cities around the world. The human population rose from under about 1 billion in the nineteenth century to over 6 billion now and is expected to be about 9 billion by mid-century. There has been a great migration from villages to cities. Over half of the human population live in urban areas. Contruction brings about a global increase in sedimentation (Hooke, 2000; Wilkinson, 2005). What really matters is that if it slows, then natural processes will quickly set back in, as shown in the lost city of Angkor in Cambodia (Crutzen et.al., 2010:2229). Slightly less than a quarter of Earth's terrestrial biomes are untouched by human processes (Ellis,2011).

The chemical and biological changes in the components of the Earth's atmosphere are remarkable. The global temperature rises due to the greenhouse gases fundamentally impact the Earth and has far-reaching consequences. For instance, the polar ice-sheets react rapidly to temperature rises (Overpeck et.al., 2006). As an indicator of climate and global change, species will migrate to tract the optimum climate belt (Edwards, 2009). The ultimate effects of climate change are estimated to result in a big increase in the rate of human-driven extinctions, which can be 10-fold this century (Mace et.al., 2005). Climate change is just the tip of the iceberg. Human activities can adversely affect the ecosystems that support human life and lead to a crisis in the biosphere. In addition to the carbon cycle, humans are (Steffen et.al., 2011:843);

(i) significantly altering several other biogeochemical, or element cycles, such as nitrogen, phosphorus and sulphur, that are fundamental to life on the Earth;
(ii) strongly modifying the terrestrial water cycle by intercepting river flow from uplands to the sea and, through land-cover change, altering the water vapour flow from the land to the atmosphere; and
(iii) likely driving the sixth major extinction event in Earth history

There has been a change from the 'Civilized Man' to 'Man as a Geological Agent' as Sherlock suggests (Sherlock, 1922). The Anthropocene is a geologically unique epoch from other geological eras and periods in that we are living in it right now. The other geological ages have all terminated. Their entire history is known. The Anthropocene is on-going. We can observe, assess and measure the landscape and the biodiversity. Crutzen and his colleagues also emphasize the need of communication across languages and other disciplines (Crutzen et.al., 2010:2230):

> "Thus, considerable translation is needed to describe this unit of one discipline with the languages and measures of other disciplines. The Anthropocene Working Group hence,uniquely, needs to include botanists, zoologists, atmospheric,and ocean (and other) scientists as well as geologists."

They focus on transdisciplinary research in governing the Anthropocene as they think that much of the global change will be to the detriment of humans (Crutzen et.al., 2010:2231). This aspect of the Anthropocene is also pointed out by Ellis and Trachtenberg (2013:123). However, I feel that we must take the emphasis literally in order for better communication to be established not only in the discipline itself but also across disciplines and nations. The Anthropocene might be used as encouragement to slow carbon emissions and biodiversity loss; for instance, perhaps as evidence in legislation on conservation measures or in the assessment of compensation claims for environmental damage (Vidas, 2010). As a force of nature, humanity needs to act responsibly in order to compensate for the human impact on the environment and engage in processes that will re-shape a future that is morally acceptable.

3. SUSTAİNABİLİTY AND THE ANTHROPOCENE EPOCH

In order to take measures to save Nature, the concept of sustainability may come forth. For the last two centuries Western society has promoted economic growth as the predominant way to achieve a better quality of life. The idea of 'sustainability' has been the subject of extensive discussion and debate. It continues to evolve. It is development in all of its dimentions - people, planet and profits. Elena and Curiel highlight that the ultimate goal of

sustainable development is securing a better quality of life for all, both now and for future generations, by pursuing responsible economic growth, equitable social progress, and effective environmental protection. There are three levels of sustainability which encompasses individual, organizational and societal concerns. These three dimensions refer to a sustainable society (Elena and Curiel, 2012:2). Sustainability is by its very nature a process that has to involve all three levels and each one with their respective dimensions.

Sustainability is also defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. However, core elements feature (National Sustainability Council, 2013:9):

- Sustainability is concerned with the future and with the ability to maintain certain values, assets or capabilities over the long term.
- Sustainability involves decisions that address the interaction between environmental, social and economic domains.
- Sustainability requires choices considering equity within society and across generations.

Looking across generations helps to see that the future is shaped by the decisions made today. People live in a connected world. Systems, economies, people, communities and societies are connected in complex ways. Sustainability is the ability to maintain a range of resources over time, connecting today to tomorrow in a way. It is about ensuring that future generations have at least the same quality of life as the previous generations have had.

The urgency of getting effective global governance systems in place was highlighted by the Copenhagen climate conference in December 2009. There are legal, ethical and societal issues facing the challanges of global governance. The concept of the Anthropocene had an impact well beyond geology. It captured the imagination of the media and of a wide spectrum of academic disciplines (Ellis and Trachtenberg, 2013:123). Building trust among international political leaders of many different cultures and perspectives, and with the general public is crucial in making acceptable the attempts at conceptualizing a global approach to managing humanity's relationship with the environment. Planetary boundaries introduced by Rockström et.al. take the next step, by considering the Earth system as a single, integrated complex system (Steffen et.al., 2011:858-60). Apart from the research community, helping the public perceive it poses a challenge, too. Ellis and Trachtenberg envision a more active role for the Anthropocene in that the proposals be made at scales from local projects to international agreements - and they cannot ignore the social and political contexts in which choices are made by the people involved (Ellis and Trachtenberg, 2013:125).

4. CONTRİBUTİNG TO SUSTAİNABİLİTY THROUGH TRANSLATİON İN THE ANTHROPOCENE EPOCH

As the world becomes more globalized and societies more multicultural due to the growing ability of people, communication through translation will play an increasingly crucial role in human interactions (Mulayim et.al., 2015:XXXVI). Where there is a diversity of languages along with various disciplines owing to participation of researchers from different nations, translation, or interpreting as the oral form, is inevitable. It functions as a bottleneck because the rest of the process is affected by the quality of translation process. Translation is an activity that is growing phenomenally in today's globalized world. Many international organizations and agencies in this respect will have to conduct international/multilingual meetings, conferences, and events attended by people from different backgrounds and cultures

who often speak different languages and disseminate the outcomes and necessary documents available in multiple languages, thus building bridges between stakeholders including the communities.

The European Union (EU) sets a good example of this. The European Commission adopts a multilingualism policy to promote mutual understanding and social cohesion. With a population of about 500 million people, the EU has 28 member states, 24 official languages and 3 alphabets. Some 60 other languages are considered to be part of the EU's heritage. Together with immigrants, it is estimated that at least 175 nationalities are present within the EU's borders (European Commission, 2015). Translation services for the European Union are what make the world go round to keep the Union together. The harmonious co-existence of many languages in Europe is a powerful symbol and one of the cornerstones of the EU project. The cost of translation and interpreting services in the EU is about 1 % of the budget. It is the largest in the world in terms of size, variety of languages and themes covered.

In order to manage global human initiatives, there are some certain functions common to all management activities such as setting objectives and making, implementing and assessing plans to attain them. This is true to resolve the challenges of the Anthropocene, too. Objectives and plans related to governing the Antropocene should be communicated more effectively with stakeholders from different backgrounds by using translation and interpreting services. It is possible to make the policies more accessible for the public

What kind of contributions can translation make in governing the Antropocene. There are a number of aspects to take into account. First of all, translation is qualitatively different from bilingualism. It is not just an advanved command of linguistic competence. It is preferable to have the right professional support rather than people who are just good at foreign languages. Bilingual competence is one of the sub-competences that make up translation competence. PACTE research group at Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona defines translation competence as:

> "Translation competence is defined as the underlying system of knowledge and skills needed to be able to translate." (PACTE, 2000:100; PACTE, 2003:58; PACTE, 2011:33)

The model that PACTE Research Group proposes is made up of a set of sub-competencies that are inter-related and hierarchic, with the strategic sub-competence occupying a dominant position.

- bilingual sub-competence
- extra-linguistic sub-competence
- knowledge about translation sub-competence
- instrumental sub-competence
- strategic sub-competence
- psycho-physiological components

In the model, the **bilingual sub-competence** is made up of pragmatic, socio-linguistic, textual and lexical-grammatical knowledge in each language. The **extra-linguistic sub-competence** is made up of encyclopaedic, thematic and bicultural knowledge. The **knowledge about translation sub-competence** is knowledge of the principles that guide translation (processes, methods and procedures, etc.) and the profession (types of translation briefs, users, etc.). The **instrumental sub-competence** is made up of knowledge related to the use of documentation

sources and information technologies applied to translation. The **strategic sub-competence** is the most important, as it is responsible for solving problems and the efficiency of the process. It intervenes by planning the process in relation to the translation project, evaluating the process and partial results obtained, activating the different sub-competencies and compensating for deficiencies, identifying translation problems and applying procedures to solve them. The **psycho-physiological components** are cognitive and behavioural (memory, attention span, perseverance, critical mind, etc.) and psychomotor mechanisms (PACTE, 2005:610). Any bilingual has knowledge of two languages and may have extralinguistic knowledge, we consider that the sub-competencies specific to translation competence are the **strategic**, the **instrumental** and **knowledge about translation** (PACTE, 2005:611**;** Albir, 2010:57; PACTE, 2011:34).

Furthermore, translation, as an interdisciplinary field, has also developed enormously in the past twenty years. It interfaces with a wide range of other disciplines from linguistics and modern languages to **c**ultural Studies and postcolonialism. If we were to sample what people generally take 'translation' to be, the consensus would most probably be for a view of translating that describes the process in terms of such features as the literal rendering of meaning, adherence to form, and emphasis on general accuracy. Reproducing ideas originally written in another language is uniquely rendered within the confines of a different culture. As an effective tool of communication keeping people interconnected, there are some theoretical difficulties. No two languages or cultures are alike. With the funtionalist and communicative approaches, translation moved from a static linguistic phenomenon to being considered as an act of intercultural communication (Munday, 2001:87). Translation is viewed as an action within a socio-cultural context. There are not only linguistic differences but also cultural ones. Word-for-word translations often fail to take account of one simple fact of language and translation, namely that not all texts or text users are the same. Not all text receivers are as intellectually rigorous or culturally aware. Ignoring such factors as text type, audience or purpose of translation has invariably led to literalism. To insist on full translatability across languages and cultures is to risk being incomprehensible. The values (norms) dominating the target culture may be different from those of the source language/culture. What makes a source text different from the target text can also be affected by such parameters as the skopos (purpose) of the text and the expected audience in the target language, text-types and many others to be translated functionally. One source text can be translated into a target language in different ways and can have more than one target text. One has to consider these differences which may act as the obstacles of communication in facing the challenges of the Anthropocene epoch. As a translation researcher, Yazıcı puts forth the idea of translation-oriented source text production. Any text likely to be used as a source text can be handled in such a way to be translated into some certain target languages at the time of being produced (Yazıcı, 2007:139). Thus, the process of translating starts with the source text production.

Crutzen et.al. emphasize that the Athropocene has the capacity to become the most politicized one (Crutzen et.al., 2010:2231). Texts are seen as vehicles for the expression of a range of socio-cultural meanings. Producers and receivers of texts necessarily engage in the negotiation of attitudinal meanings and of socio-cultural reality such as power relations and ideology. They begin to play an important role in moulding a particular vision of reality. One way of explaining the constant struggle for status is to see translation as a form of rewriting. In translation as rewriting, two important power structures may be identified: ideology and poetics (Lefevere 1992). These manifest themselves in the way texts are consciously or unconsciously brought into line with dominant world views and/or dominant literary structures. Patronage is defined as 'the powers (persons, institutions) which help or hinder the

writing, reading and rewriting of literature' (Lefevere 1992:15). The powers involved in patronage can be individuals, a group, a social class, or a political or religious institution. For Hatim and Mason, ideology encompasses 'the assumptions, beliefs and value systems which are shared collectively by social groups' (1997:144). They make a distinction between 'the ideology of translating' and 'the translation of ideology'. Whereas the former refers to the basic orientation chosen by the translator operating within a social and cultural context, in the translation of ideology they examine the extent of mediation supplied by a translator of sensitive texts (Hatim and Mason 1997: 147). By deciding on what texts to be translated into different target languages and when, the stakeholders can be made aware of the challanges of the Anthropocene and be encouraged to act responsibly in coping with them.

5. CONCLUSİON

All global human initiatives are about people working together across different languages and cultures around the world. The challenges of the Anthropocene epoch are the kind of issues that can mostly be sorted out through transdisciplinary research; therefore, it requires various disciplines. In order to govern the Anthropocene, texts will have to be written and conferences will have to be held in different languages and nations. Better communication will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of global initiatives. This will result in human action changing from uncoordinated individual action to coordinated social action at either local or global levels. Coping with the challenges of the Anthropocene epoch will require a collaborative effort taking into account multilingual communication.

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