

Junctures

This issue of *Tusaaji* emerged from the international conference of the Centre for Research on Language and Culture Contact, held at Glendon College, York University, in November of 2016. Grounded in various fields of knowledge and practice, the essays selected for this issue engage with translation and linguistic plurality, while offering novel perspectives and associations for the study of translation in contemporary society. Among the elements they have in common are their attention to the intersection between language and politics and the way in which translation and analogous technologies of cultural negotiation are deployed in what Emily Apter calls “translation zones”, i.e. “linguistic hot spots” in which “a subset of politics at large, with particular agendas and strategic interests” is superimposed (129).

Tusaaji 5 opens with **Mark Fettes’s** paper, on the calls pertaining to Indigenous languages from Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission; the author underscores the absence of a serious consideration of the connections between language and land in Western discourse on rights and on language, and argues that genuine reconciliation requires rethinking language policy from this perspective. Then, **Lyse Hébert** problematizes a translation policy in Canada that is exclusively based on bilingualism and makes a case for what she terms a “post-bilingual” language and translation policy. Continuing on with a piece on critical language pedagogy, in their essay **Dunja Baus** and **Paola Bohórquez** discuss their experiences in Toronto using translation in the English composition classroom to engage with the multilingual and multidialectal competencies of their students. Following this, **Ellen Elias-Bursac** presents the case of Radovan Karadžić, who chose to conduct his own defence in the war-crimes trials held at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia; the author describes Karadžić’s disputes with the language professionals assigned to the trial and comments on the complicated relationship between Karadžić and the interpreters. **Susan Ingram** then focuses on the figure of intellectual Anna/Asja Lācis for an exploration of multilingualism as it relates to “the multiplicity of subjectivity”; the author chooses an ecosophical approach that focuses on environment-situated linguistic specificity, social relations and subjectivity. She demonstrates that a figure such as Lācis, whose story has unfolded in various languages, can only be studied multilingually. Finally, drawing on contemporary research in ecolinguistics, affect theory, and science and technology studies, **Elena Basile** discusses the relationship between language use and place-making in the exhibit *Transitions in Progress. Making Space for Place* (2015), an art project designed as an experiment in affective mapping of a central artery of the city of Toronto.

The original interdisciplinary conference brought together work from different fields. Despite the diverse scopes, frameworks, and methodologies of these papers, there is, in all of them, a commitment to engage with language as lived experience and a site of

social tensions and of contested interests, whose study can be expanded to elucidate complex networks of social relations. All these authors foreground the importance of placing language at the centre of political considerations and of framing and studying these relations multilingually.

Work Cited

Apter, Emily. *The Translation Zone: A New Comparative Literature*. Princeton University Press, 2006.