

PATI: A platform for raising psychosociocultural awareness in community translation for healthcare in Poland

Community Translation (CT) stands for the translation of texts published by any “social agent” whose target audience does not speak the language in which the texts were originally produced (Polish in this case). The texts themselves are frequently official documents, information sets, etc. issued often by an institution, group or person that may be referred to as an/the authority or leader (including though not limited to local authorities, ethnic leaders hospitals, courts, etc.) to reach the community that can be multilingual. By the same token, CT counteracts social imbalance in a given country. Currently, CT is emerging in Poland, while it should constitute a common practice for the members of minorities (e.g. Ukrainian, Vietnamese). Its importance has just increased in the light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic when many authorities and leaders communicate via written documents and statements with Polish citizens. At the same time, translating for healthcare constitutes a specific type of specialized translation. Healthcare translators need to possess knowledge in the field of medicine and/or a related field, operate with a rich and updated lexicon of medical terms and have a number of soft skills and knowledge, including their psychological, cultural; and social awareness, as translating for healthcare frequently involves adjusting the content and form of the text to the target reader.

For this reason, the PATI (Psychosociocultural Awareness in Translation and Interpreting) platform was designed and tentatively launched in Poland for the English-Polish language combination, to be subsequently open to all interested parties and subject to development. The aim of the platform is to offer resources, i.e. real-life scenarios, simulation exercises, theoretical background, as well as best practices and guidelines to conference and community interpreters. The platform has been designed as an open-source tool for professionals, trainees and teachers, offering three basic modules: 1) CASES, i.e. a set of real-life case scenarios for studying and simulation 2) I-KNOW, i.e. a theoretical background knowledge centre and 3) ASSIGNMENT KIT, i.e. a set of best practices, golden standards and/or guidelines for behaviour during an assignment. The platform is also currently developed for Interpreting with the aim to subsequently add Translation, and in three focus areas: 1) Healthcare, 2) Law Enforcement and 3) Business, yet can be enriched in other areas of interest in the future. The platform can possibly support interpreters at work by facilitating the understanding of psychosocial and cultural needs of interlocutors, and by the same token promote mutual respect, trust and cooperation.

This presentation will focus particularly on the I-KNOW module, including the tentative vocabulary database for healthcare, that was created for PATI.