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*Interpreting in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*  
Giuliana Garzone & Maurizio  
Viezzi. Amsterdam & Philadel-  
phia: John Benjamins Publishing  
Co., 2002, 335 pp.

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*Interpreting in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* is a collection of selected papers from the “First Forlì Conference on Interpreting Studies: Interpreting in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Challenges and Opportunities” that took place in

Forlì, Italy from November 9-11, 2000. The conference was organized to discuss the current field of interpretation at the dawn of a new century as well as potential prospects. According to the editors in the introduction, “the ever increasing demand for cross-cultural and cross-linguistic mediation in a wide range of settings has ushered in a new era of interpreting”. One hundred thirty scholars of different backgrounds from twenty-one countries came together to participate in lectures and panels. The goal of the

conference, say the organizers, was to articulate interpretation in terms of research, training, and profession by reviewing advancements and shortcomings, as well as changes and transitions to prepare for the future.

Garzone and Viezzi have organized the twenty-three selected papers selected from the conference proceedings into three parts: Focus on Research, Interpreting Outside the Conference Hall, and Interpreter Training. The introduction reviews the main ideas of each of the essays in terms of the current quality of interpreting research, community interpreting in areas related to the legal and medical professions as well as improved techniques for the training and testing of interpreters. The book concludes with an extensive reference section from the essays, as well as a name and subject index.

The first section, "Focus on Research," includes essays that discuss the shortcomings of research in the past and the need for a general framework or set of criteria to measure the significance and relevance of interpreting. In Alessandra Riccardi's contribution, "Interpreting Research: Descriptive Aspects and Methodological Proposals," the author discusses how interpretation is actually a combi-

nation of many fields, including linguistics, cognitive sciences, translation, and cultural studies. All these disciplines play an important role in achieving an understanding of interpretation, though none of them alone is able to fully explain exactly how the interpretation process works. The models that these other fields create, although a necessary step for comprehension, are still too general to define interpretation. The author proposes that interpretation analysis be based on a macro-approach that considers delivery, language, and context. Over the years, especially since the early 1990's, interpretation has become a narrower discipline with specific attributes regarding issues of quality and strategies. The science of interpretation has "come of age" with its own methods and instruments for analysis that the author hopes will be further developed in the future.

The second section, "Interpreting Outside the Conference Hall," is based on "the recognition that interpreting is not only conference interpreting, although this has been the traditional focus of the discipline from the outset, and that other modes have neither lesser importance nor lesser dignity." This focus on interpretation in such a for-

mal setting has made it difficult to deal with situations in community interpreting or public service interpreting. There needs to be a more careful interpretation process that goes beyond the theoretical, due to a growing practical need for qualified interpreters in research and communities in Western society. Helge Niska's contribution, "Community Interpreter Training: past, present, future", argues for the necessity of defining norms for training and testing interpreters. She discusses the historical roots of the role of the interpreter, from the expeditions of Hernán Cortez or Marco Polo as well as the beginnings of the testing and training of interpreters with public funds in Europe in the 1960's. She believes that although there needs to be a clear means for training interpreters, it is also important that the curriculum be somewhat flexible in order to account for the evolving needs and abilities of students. Beyond basic knowledge of interpretation, interpreters require cultural background and knowledge, an understanding of technology, as well as training in stress management, an aspect that the author feels is often overlooked in the educational process.

Finally, in the last section, "Interpreter Training," the author dis-

cusses the diversification of the interpreter's role and how the training procedure is becoming more difficult to define. In "Aptitude for Conference Interpreting: A proposal for a testing methodology based on paraphrase," Salvador Pippa and Mariachiaria Russo begin by reviewing the processes that certain well known schools and institutions (such as Georgetown, University of Ottawa, and the University of Stockholm, to name a few) use for assessing the abilities of interpreters. The authors believe that no clearly defined criteria currently exist and that it is urgent to develop a reliable testing methodology for interpreting aptitudes. Pippa and Russo present a linguistic-cognitive model in this chapter as a way to assess interpreters, which they are currently in the process of testing with students.

The conclusion of the book is based on the closing panel of the conference. The panelists were not seeking to come to a general consensus, but rather to exchange views in general on the future of interpreting. One common theme was expressed: since there has been an increase in international interaction, the profession of interpreting needs to be further delineated through a combination of improved research

and training. Laura Gran remarked “on the importance of contacts and exchanges between different groups with a variety of perspectives on interpreting - practicing interpreters, academic researchers, and teachers”. In addition, panelists called for more communication between all those associated with the

field. As we step forth into the new millennium, we face many challenges in interpreting. Through continued cooperation and discussion, Garzone and Viezzi believe that we can work to overcome these roadblocks to create improved forms of interpretation for the benefit of all societies.

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