

Report of participation in the Seminar-EDiSo-General Assembly (València, 14th June 2016)

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- a. A brief presentation of your research and how is located in the field of the studies of discourse and society, and in particular how integrates the new speaker's concept.

My research looks into the role of communication and multilingualism in the recruitment and training of humanitarian workers at the International Committee of the Red Cross (Geneva, Switzerland). It investigates language learning among these mobile workers who have to learn and use new languages to fulfil their humanitarian missions, notably French as a socialising and administrative language.

As new speakers, these humanitarian delegates have to face challenges for legitimacy as institutional spokespeople in different working languages, often with the aid of interpreters. Besides, this research problematises discourses of internationality in this humanitarian agency from a critical, sociolinguistic and historicising perspective. In fact, the institutional construction as “international” is closely linked to the discursive category of “international language” in this context of humanitarian cooperation, which (re)produces a global lingua franca framework and social differences among (new) speakers.

- b. A detailed summary of the tasks and activities developed during the assembly-seminar EDiSo in Valencia.

Maria Rosa Garrido Sardà participated in the Seminar-Assembly in her capacity as an EDiSo member, in the meeting of research groups and work groups, and finally in the roundtable about interaction and society. In preparation for this event, she read the minutes for the General Assembly, prepared a presentation about her research interests and also read three articles for the roundtable. This scientific meeting was very important for networking with other researchers and advance new collaborations.

During the Assembly, she volunteered for the Communications Committee in this Association in response to an open call for new members. During the research groups meeting, she presented her on-going research on the role of discourses of internationality and multilingualism in international organisations in order to find other researchers with similar research interests for a joint panel proposal to be sent to the upcoming EDiSo conference in June 2017. As a result of this presentation, and the links with other members' presentations, she is currently preparing a joint proposal with María Calzada (Universitat Jaume I), Monica Palmerini (Università Roma 3), Miguel Pérez-Milans (University College London) and Zorana Sokolovska (Université de Strasbourg). The working title of the proposal is *Constructing “international” through translation and multilingualism*.

- c. An example of the kind of data analysed, the group's activity developed, or the workshop coordination conducted.

The presentation “The management of multilingualism and discourses of diversity in international organisation” dealt with the management of multilingualism and the category “international language”, as well as the discourses on diversity that justify this construction, in International Organizations such as the Council of Europe, International Committee of the Red Cross or the International Organisation for the *Francophonie*. These organisations are *de facto* multilingual since they recruit employees from different nationalities, carry out their activities in different headquarters and/or delegations all over the world and fulfil a mandate of international reach.

The ensuing discussion in the research groups meeting revealed synergies with other on-going research in the European Parliament from a linguistic corpus perspective (in terms of the concept of “international”), the role of multilingualism and institutional translation in the (re)creation of international institutions, and the trajectories of workers in “internationalising” institutions outside the domain of education from a sociolinguistic perspective.

d. Finally, a conclusion about how the seminar has contributed to the development of your research and analysis.

The seminar in València has allowed me to network with other researchers who investigate Discourse in Society, to further reflect on the social role of interaction and the tools for its analysis, and to engage myself in the EDiSo association commissions. Regarding the main output of this scientific event, the trans-disciplinary approach to international and internationalising institutions in our joint panel proposal will enrich my critical sociolinguistic analysis of the International Committee of the Red Cross with other approaches and data from other institutions.