



THE IMPACT OF THE TRANSLATIONS FROM HISTORY OF ECONOMIC THOUGHT AND HISTORY OF ECONOMICS ON LEARNING PROCESS OF THE STUDENTS AND ON AVAILABLE TEACHING MATERIALS

NISTOR Cornelia

University of Bucharest, Faculty of Administration and Business
Bucharest, Romania
nistor.cornelia@yahoo.com

HERMAN Radu

University of Bucharest, Faculty of Administration and Business;
Bucharest, Romania
raduhermann@yahoo.com

Abstract

One of the important aspects to enrich the training of students is the impact of specialized texts translation. The manner and measure in which the access to specialized materials, books and articles, translated into Romanian help them in the studying process and in understanding the other economic disciplines and also the feedback that the students could have at the creation of an online database containing translated texts into Romanian should be a continuous concern of the teaching staff in higher education institutions.

1. Introduction

To enrich and to improve the knowledge of economics, students must have access to as much information as possible, especially in the present days, when the globalization trends are expanding. In order to provide widest possibilities to study, the students must have a sufficient number of bibliographic materials, which enables them to analyze and synthesize certain theories developed over time and how their application in economic practice influenced the economic phenomena and processes in different periods of time. The main issues on this subject refers to the fact that in the national libraries there are a relatively small number of specialized materials translated into Romanian, and the access to these materials is difficult because, in general, there is only one copy available at loan office. So, it would be particularly useful setting an online database with all digitized material, so that it can be accessed simultaneously by multiple people, without having to go to the library, without all the afferent efforts and costs.

This article aims to explore the modality and the measure in which the access to the specialized materials, books and articles, translated into Romanian lead to enrich the training of the students, how it helps them in their study and how it helps them to understand the other economic disciplines and also the feedback that the students could have to the creation of a database containing on-line texts translated into Romanian, even to an increase of the number of the translations. Since the original texts were written in a foreign language, appears also the issue of modality in which the translations were made in Romanian, as well as the issue of their quality. The data on that will be used in the analysis will be find on the platform of the LLP / Erasmus Multilateral Project entitled "Economics e-Translations from and into European Languages, An Online Platform".



2. Literature review

As pointed out by authors Gheorghe Crețoiu, Viorel Cornescu, and Ion Bucur [1] "References to economic theories and doctrines will be an act of culture, but also a mean to familiarize the readers to the idea that not only economic realities but also the concepts, the perceptions and the solutions are or may be different and in a ceaseless changing". According to Marjal Laal and Peyman Salamati [2] lifelong learning has a special importance in the contemporary society, where the rhythm of the current activities is growing everyday and improving and enriching knowledge is not simply a personal desire, but a necessity. John Trim emphasizes [3] that European education, the increasing of the communication and the transmission of knowledge, are facing many complex linguistic and administrative problems: on the one hand the problems of the barriers related to the great linguistic diversity resulted from the fact in that every country, there are both national-speaking majority population and also national minorities that speaks other languages and on the other hand from the fact that globalization makes it necessary to extend the education and the transfer of knowledge in foreign languages. Gerald Erichsen [4], emphasizes the very important aspects related to the quality translations on to the fact that the translator has to achieve an exact translation of terms, in order to not affect the meaning of words, which sometimes is very difficult because there are several meanings for the same word. For this reason, the author notes that each translator must understand the meaning of the whole sentence and choose for the translation the word that best suits the whole context. The alternative method is to search in the documents available online the word most often used by previous translators. Finally, to emphasize the importance of the translations for the education process, we must mention the opinion of the authors of the book "History of Economics", Maria Muresan and Dumitru Muresan, [5]: "The lessons of the past can provide the occasion for reflection and an inspiration source, given the current circumstances of course, in the concerns to formulate solutions to today's economic problems".

3. Paper content

In order to give at the students the opportunity to study and understand the diversity of economic phenomena and processes from the surrounding reality, the causes that influenced them, they must have an easy access to as many specialty papers in economics as possible, both from national specialized literature and the international economic thought. Since the original was written in a foreign language, the issue of existence and how the translations were made in Romanian and quality. Since the original texts were written in a foreign language, appears also the issue of modality in which the translations were made in Romanian, as well as the issue of their quality.

During this research, a first stage of observation, showed that in the national libraries there are a relatively small number of specialized materials translated into Romanian and the access to these materials is difficult, because, in general, it is available only a single copy. In most cases, this copy is also the only one translation in the country.

Consequently, it is not possible to compare the various translations and it can not be tested the hypothesis that a translator, influenced by the economic and political ideas of the specific period in which he made the translation, could use in it some specific terms that not represented accurately the sense of the word, making an unconscious error, beyond its control, or doing this error wishing to support the ideas promoted by the macroeconomic managers in that period.

Another aspect highlighted by the first phase of this research and that will be analyzed later is that the number of translations in each period, since the second half of the nineteenth century is relatively balanced, referring to the most important authors, representatives of the main trends in the economic thought. Some examples are: Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Friedrich Hayek, John Maynard Keynes. The only period in Romania when there were significantly more translations of the same author is after the second world war until 1989, when we can observe a clear preference for many texts written by Karl Marx and also Friedrich Engels.

Since an important number of Romanian scientists have studied abroad, starting with the first half of the nineteenth century, we will desire to demonstrate the influence of the ideas learned from abroad in subsequent writings of Romanian economists of the time. In particular, during the centralized economy, the ideas of Marx and Lenin were the base of the economic theory and economic policy in that period. In the last years, translations have been made for different bibliographic materials, corresponding at different trends and doctrines, developed in the present or, on the contrary, even from the representatives of classical economic thought, just to be used by the students and the specialists and to show them various modalities of perception and analyses of the current economic realities.

One of the hypotheses to be tested in further researches is how the translations had an impact on the national economic theory and policy. It also will monitor how these translations can influence the opinions and analysis that students are making about the current economic reality and also the frequency and success with which students will access and use, in the studies and the works that they develop, the on-line database that will contain the digitized texts of the translations and that will be made available at a large number of users, not only at the students. Most data that will be used in the future research will be found in the platform of the project LLP / Erasmus Multilateral Project entitled "Economics e-Translations from and into European Languages, An Online Platform".

4. Conclusions and implications

The aim of the research contained in this article is to highlight the impacts that have the translation of economic texts, mainly those in the field of economic doctrines and history of economic thought, on teaching and training students in the economic field and also the utility of those economic theories and ideas for their analysis and research. From this perspective, it is important to study how the quick access to this information by setting up the online database will help them to improve and to enhance the research in the economic field and to increase the number of economic research papers and books.

This short paper is a part of the dissemination activities for the project LLP / Erasmus "Economics e-Translations from and into European Languages, An Online Platform" number 51829/-LLP-2011-IT-ERASMUS-FEXI. An important goal of the project is to investigate the great impact of the economic texts translations of history of economics and history of economic thought, taking into account the historical, educational and linguistic aspects of the translations made in each country participating in the project. The main goal is to jointly implement an online database containing digitized texts, translations in the national languages of the main writings of specialized books and articles in economics.

References

- [1] Crețoiu, Cornescu, Bucur, "Economics", second edition, CH Beck Publishing House, Bucharest, 2008, p.13
- [2] "Lifelong learning: Why do we need it?" Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences, Volume 31, World Conference on Learning, Teaching and Administration, 2011, <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877042811030023>
- [3] Language Education Policy in Europe Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics, second edition, 2006, <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B008044854200657X>,
- [4] Principles of translations: how do you decide Which word to use, <http://spanish.about.com/od/translationresources/a/translating.htm>,
- [5] M. Muresan, D. Muresan, "History of Economics", second edition, Economic Publishing House, Bucharest, 2003, p. 15