



# EXPLORING THE EFFECTS OF BOOK TRANSLATION IN HISTORY OF ECONOMICS. EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM A LLP-ERASMUS PROJECT

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## Abstract

*The purpose of this article is to explore the effects in the long run of translating books of the history of economics in the population national languages. Through the programme LLP/Erasmus Multilateral Project called Economics e-Translations into and from European Languages, An Online Platform” will be available the data on which the research will be made. Books are a source of knowledge and translating books in the foreign languages of communication is a way of transferring knowledge. Books are a community good and the constraint is in the language in which they are available. A way of accelerating the knowledge diffusion is by translating books in foreign languages in order to allow access for many users.*

## 1. Introduction

It is important to study this problem because books represent a source of knowledge and translating books in the foreign languages of communication is a way of transferring knowledge. It is better to have the book translated in the national language in order to improve the access to it, and the access to knowledge from a certain book is restraint for the population of the country where is a high percent of mono speakers. If there is a valuable book of the history of economics which has not been written in an international language or if there are a few speakers of that international language from a certain country, then there are some barriers regarding the transfer of knowledge and of the culture integrated in that book. That is why, as the mono speaker population has access to a translated book of the economy's history the barriers are diminished.

## 2. What is the relation between the paper and the already existent specialized literature?

Victor Ginsburgh, Shlomo Weber, Sheila Weyers [1] argue that books represent a factor for cultural transmission, but the translation is needed in order to achieve this purpose. Alexandre Perrin [2] considers that the process of translation represents a channel for the circulation of knowledge. Within the translation process, the knowledge is not only transferred but also a transformation process occurs. Hosni Mostafa El-dali [3] argue that even although “translation studies” existed from a long period of time, only in the last 50 years it became a discipline in its own right and it is considered a “subdiscipline of applied linguistics”. Sim Monica Ariana [4] argues that in a global market place, translations become more important and need a more serious approach. The choice of language is a trivial decision when the consumers are monolingual [5].



### 3. Paper Content

In the society based on knowledge it is important the creation and the diffusion of knowledge. If a history of economics book has been written in a language less known, there is a barrier concerning the culture and the knowledge for the people that don't know that language. The economic problem is related to the number of the speakers of a certain language, and the barriers to enter on a market are connected to the users' capacity to understand that material. There is a certain percent of a country's population which speaks more languages and understands the international languages. The producer of a certain material or the limited offer in the case of a history of economics book has the opportunity to make the material (book, article, media product) in the national language or choose an international language with the constraint of the competition as the number of users of a certain language increases.

The access to knowledge from a book is better if it is translated in the national language. The purpose of the Erasmus programmes is also this component of translating materials from a language to another one for the countries members of the European Union. The offer of books of economy's history is limited, and a way to improve the access to reading them is by translating in the national language. Globalization improves in this way the access to knowledge and the specific culture of every country, there is an increase of the access to culture for the population of every country. The disadvantaged groups are the ones that speak only one language, and especially the ones that have as a language one that is not international. There is a difference between the frequency of the books considered important in the discipline of the history of economics, the authors that published valuable books in a language that is not international and the authors that published in a language relatively international. There is discrimination among the speakers of one language in a country and the ones that speak several languages, relevant for this discussion being how this economy's history book has been written in a language less known.

In this frame, the programme LLP/Erasmus Multilateral Project called Economics e-Translations into and from European Languages, An Online Platform" becomes more and more efficient as the access to the history of economics books that haven't been written in the language of speakers in a country increases. The aim of this project LLP/Erasmus is to increase the access to the history of economics book that has been written initially in a different language from the national one.

The purpose of this article is to make a case study to identify and understand the implications in the long run of translating books of the history of economics in the population's national languages. The programme called Economics e-Translations into and from European Languages, An Online Platform offers an opportunity for the segment of the population that speaks only the national language and an opportunity to access knowledge regarding the history of economics books that have been translated until 1945.

This research aims to explore aspects related to the implication of translating books of the history of economics having more hypotheses:

1. There are propagated cultural idiosyncratic elements; the knowledge transfer volume of the history of economics among the mono speakers of national languages is increasing.
2. New cultural preferences are created as the access to integrated culture in the history of economics book of the mono speakers of a language in a certain country increases.
3. The error frequency made by the students that study the history of economics in the countries of the European Union and which have been a part of this programme Erasmus LLP will be reduced.

### 4. Conclusions and implications

The purpose of the project LLP/Erasmus "Economics e-Translations into and from European Languages, An Online Platform" is to increase the access to the history of economics books which were initially written in a different language than the national one.

An exploratory research is going to be made in order to identify and understand the implications of translating the history of economics books in the long run in the national languages of a country's population.

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

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