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TOPIC #3 for TEST ONLINE Forum

What can be done about the problem of translating scripts well?

- **Is it best left to the producers to manage as best they can to translate the scripts, or are there any measures that could be introduced to stimulate this?**

Here you can exchange points of view about this question. Click 'post message' or 'reply to...' to send your contribution to the Forum.

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Date: 2006-04-02 15:42:57.95	[**post a new message**]
Posted by: christian routh (**christianrouth@teleline.es**)	[**reply to this message**]
Subject: **translations**	[**back to the index**]

Sandy's suggestion is excellent, and I shall discuss it with MEDIA, although I'm not sure into which area of their support it would fit, as translation costs are already a viable category in project and slate development support. Perhaps there is a good European business opportunity out there for someone to capitalise on, to provide a pan- European script translation service that manages to cater for the various aspects of the work referred to by Sandy, Patrick, and Tony. Does anybody fancy running it?

Date: 2006-03-29 15:56:37.547	[**post a new message**]
Posted by: Tony Macnabb (**tony.macnabb@tiscali.co.uk**)	[**reply to this message**]
Subject: **Translating Scripts**	[**back to the index**]

I've been translating scripts and treatments regularly over the past 15 years, first for MEDIA programme initiatives then as my name got around, for production companies. Sandy Lieberson is right, it's a useful sideline - especially when you're wangling that elusive next commission - so maybe there should be some sort of coordinated pool of talent.

I'm not sure the ability to 'adapt' (localise in the jargon) is as important as being script literate. Translation proper (the second oldest profession, some say) is a nerdy business. People specialise in Legal, Medical, IT etc, and the same goes for film fiction, which has its own specialised vocabulary. If you write for the screen or script edit, then you can usually pick up the tone, theme and vernacular pretty swiftly, and render culture-specific tropes accordingly. You're also more likely to make the thing read like a movie script and not a fractured novel. So, I'd say it's a sideline for screenwriters!

What constantly amazes me is that producers will expend thousands of Euros developing a project, and then because they speak English think, "I know, I'll save EEEE's by translating it myself." Unless you are Vladimir Nabokov, don't translate into a language not your mother tongue. It's almost impossible to praise a project written in awful English. Or Spanish, or French or anything.

T

Date: 2006-03-24 17:53:30.543	[**post a new message**]
Posted by: s. lieberson (**sandy@goodtime.demon.co.uk**)	[**reply to this message**]
Subject: **translations of scripts**	[**back to the index**]

scripts not only need translation, they need adaptation into the other language. it is almost a two stage process. translation and adaption. most translations read like a translation; stilted, non naturalistic. the dialogue feels like prose rather than spoken dialogue. this causes big problem when trying to sell into the english language market.

Date: 2006-03-29 12:00:52.39	[**post a new message**]
Posted by: Patrick Cattrysse (**patrick.cattrysse@skynet.be**)	[**reply to this message**]
Subject: **RE: translations of scripts**	[**back to the index**]

I agree with Sandy: translating scripts often involves adapting scripts, that is: not only translating dialogue but also adapting scenes, actions, characters to the target culture/country. Hence: for translating scripts, do we need translators who are knowledgable in screenwriting or do we need screenwriters who happen to know the source as well as the target language? The ideal probably lays somewhere in between. As for training those people: this may offer a nice example of "transdisciplinary" training: an education program that trains skills in screenwriting as well as translating?

Date: 2006-03-29 13:15:52.653	[**post a new message**]
Posted by: sanford Lieberson (**sandy@goodtime.demon.co.uk**)	[**reply to this message**]
Subject: **RE: RE: translations of scripts**	[**back to the index**]

why not use the media programme's training for writers to develop a pool of translators. The media programme is spending LOTS of €€'s training writers whose skills can earn them money translating while developing their own scripts and waiting for assignments.

Date: 2006-03-22 10:11:20.903	[**post a new message**]
Posted by: Webmaster (**nicolas@focal.ch**)	[**reply to this message**]
Subject: **Welcome !**	[**back to the index**]

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