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SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION IN KAZAKHSTAN

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Sign language interpretation is the process of translating spoken language into sign language, or vice versa, to enable effective communication between individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and those who are hearing. Sign language interpretation involves the use of hand gestures, facial expressions, and body language to convey meaning and is the primary mode of communication for many people who are deaf or hearing-impaired.

Sign language interpretation is an essential service that helps to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to information and services. It also promotes inclusivity and diversity by enabling people with different communication needs to participate fully in society.

Interpreters, who practice sign language, play a vital role in facilitating communication between people who use sign language and those who do not. They work in a variety of settings, including schools, hospitals, courts, and workplaces, to ensure that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing have equal access to information and services.

In addition, sign language promotes inclusivity and diversity, as it allows people with different communication needs to participate fully in society. By providing interpretation facilities, organizations can ensure that their services are accessible to a broader range of individuals and that everyone has an equal opportunity to participate.

Overall, sign language interpretation is an important activity that helps bridge the communication gap between individuals who use different languages and promotes equality and inclusivity for all.

Over time, sign language interpretation has become more common in Kazakhstan, with interpretation services provided in a variety of areas, including education, health care, legal and social services.

There are about 50,000 deaf people in the country, or 0.27% of the population (World Federation of the Deaf, 2019). Nevertheless, sign language has not yet been recognized as an official language. Attempts to recognize sign language as an official language were also unsuccessful in 2016, so the issue is still open.

Since there is no official sign language in Kazakhstan, the Deaf community mainly uses Russian Sign Language (RSTL), which is widely spoken throughout the country. The use of Kazakh Sign Language (KSL) is not widespread, so efforts are being made to promote its use in the country. The situation with sign language interpretation in Kazakhstan is difficult: there is a shortage of trained interpreters, limited funding, and a lack of legal recognition of the profession. However, there are signs of progress: the number of interpreters being trained is growing, and more and more deaf people are gaining access to interpretation services.

Currently, as was already mentioned previously, there is no legal framework for sign language sphere in Kazakhstan, and the profession is not officially recognized. Such observation leads to the conclusion that there are no rules or standards for the training, certification, or professional ethics, nor are there any special training programs for sign language interpreters. This

profession can only be obtained by studying at an institution of higher education in the field of defectology, with a corresponding specialization.

The few interpreters in the country are often trained by other interpreters or in short-term courses offered by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations. Thus, one of the main problems facing sign language interpreting in Kazakhstan is a shortage of trained professionals. This leads to limited access to services for the deaf and hearing-impaired, which limits their ability to fully participate in society. Therefore, people with such disabilities do not have access to quality health care and higher education.

In 2016, a draft law was proposed that would have recognized sign language interpreting as an official profession and provided for certification and training of interpreters. However, the project has never been passed by the Parliament, and the profession remains unregulated.

Interpreting services for deaf people in Kazakhstan are limited, and there are only a small number of professionals in the country. Many deaf people rely on family members or friends to interpret for them, which can lead to communication breakdowns and misunderstandings.

The sign language interpretation situation is particularly difficult outside of major urban centers, where there are few trained interpreters and limited access to interpretation services. In rural areas, there may be no translators at all, leaving deaf people isolated and excluded from many areas of society.

Funding for sign language interpreting is also a serious problem in Kazakhstan, as state funding is limited. Many deaf people cannot afford to pay for an interpreter on their own, which deprives them of access to vital services and activities.

Another problem facing sign language interpreting in Kazakhstan is the limited recognition of it as an official language. This leads to a lack of support for sign language interpretation services and an insufficiency of resources to train and educate future specialists.

Moreover, there is a clear indication of a lack of standardization in sign language interpretation and translation. Kazakhstan has its own sign language, which is Kazakh Sign Language. It has its own individual linguistic and cultural characteristics. However, there are also many dialects of sign language used throughout the country, which can pose problems for interpreters in providing accurate translation.

In addition, there is a lack of awareness and understanding of the needs of the Deaf community in Kazakhstan. This can affect the quality of interpretation services and limit access to education, health care, and other services for people with disabilities.

Despite these problems, there have been efforts to improve the quality and accessibility of sign language interpreting in Kazakhstan. For example, the Ministry of Education and Science has established a program to train sign language interpreters, and there are several organizations working to promote the rights and inclusion of the Deaf community in Kazakhstan (Umit Deaf Center, Kazakhstan Deaf Society, Ten Qogam).

In general, sign language interpretation and translation in Kazakhstan face significant challenges, but efforts are also being made to address these issues and improve access to communication and services.

For example, Kazakhstan is a member of the United Nations (hereinafter – UN) International Congress on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter – UN Convention), which pledges to protect their rights. This list also includes the deaf and hearing impaired. Under the UN Convention, member states are committed to ensuring that children with disabilities have an equal right to education, higher education and full integration into society. The UN Convention specifies in detail the measures to ensure access to all medical and other public services. Equal opportunity is an essential requirement of the UN Convention, to which Kazakhstan is a state party. Despite the fact that the country has legally committed to the rules of the UN Convention, de facto access to education and basic services for the deaf is not universal.

Furthermore, discrimination against the deaf and hard of hearing poses a problem for employment. Many citizens have a prejudice against people with hearing disabilities. According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, only 28 percent of the 18,400 hearing-impaired

people in Kazakhstan are employed, that is, 5,200 people. Of the 4.7 thousand hearing-impaired people with speech impairments, only over a thousand are employed. Most of the deaf-blind citizens, after graduating from specialized schools, study at vocational schools rather than universities, and work in low-paying jobs. Employers do not hire hearing-impaired people, explaining that it is unprofitable and labour-consuming. Therefore, discrimination against such people in society is still a pressing problem.

Continuing the discussion, one of the serious problems for the deaf in Kazakhstan is the lack of access to sign language interpreting services in institutions of higher education. There are not enough sign language professionals in the country to provide all deaf students wishing to attend college or university with interpretation services. In addition, the cost of hiring a sign language interpreter is often too high for many families, making it difficult for them to access the services they need.

Many institutions of higher education in Kazakhstan lack the necessary infrastructure and resources to provide appropriate facilities, such as assistive technology and qualified faculty members familiar with the needs of deaf students. As a result, many students have difficulty accessing academic materials, communicating with faculty and classmates, and participating fully in educational and social life.

As was stated previously, there are several organizations in Kazakhstan that are working to address these issues and increase the accessibility of higher education for the deaf. For example, the Association of the Deaf of Kazakhstan advocates for better access to education and employment for the deaf, and some universities have begun to establish sign language interpretation services and other facilities for deaf students. However, more needs to be done to ensure that all deaf people in Kazakhstan have access to higher education.

As was observed by the parliamentarian in the request, there are only 24 special schools for deaf and hard-of-hearing children in Kazakhstan. After graduating from the special school, most of them continue their education in colleges, and many of them aspire to enter higher education institutions. At the same time, there are many often insurmountable barriers to education for this category of citizens.

As parliamentarian emphasized, "...currently, none of the universities, as well as colleges across the Republic of Kazakhstan, have a specialist in sign language interpreting, which limits access to secondary and higher education, which is contrary to the UN Convention. In those universities, in which at least one hearing-impaired person studies, it is necessary to have a specialist sign language interpreter on the staff. There are no sign language interpreters during the United National Test (UNT), which means there is no access to full information for students with hearing impairments...". Therefore, the legislator has information and statistics, which prove that there are problems in the current system. For this reason, in the near future there is a high probability that state funds will be allocated to improve the lives of the population with hearing disabilities.

In general, we can conclude that in order to create conditions for accessible sign language interpretation in Kazakhstan it is necessary to work at the state, public and personal level. The recognition of sign language as a state language, wide public awareness about sign language interpretation is an effective solution to the problem.

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THE SCOPE OF TRANSLATION STRATEGIES IN THE KAZAKH VERSION OF THE ANIMATED MOVIE «SOUL»

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In modern society, children's education, mainly including language is recognized as one of the most important aspects of the country's cultural development. That is why it is crucial to take children's literature into consideration when it comes to language. Literary texts and cartoon language are considered to be the main sources of children's literature because children mostly learn their native language through cartoons and expand their worldview. In this regard, the language of the cartoons translated into Kazakh should be simple and clear, while also being expressive and figurative. A successful translation of a cartoon is reflected in the fact that it gives the audience the same pragmatic effect as the original.

In recent years, with the support of the Ministry of Information and Social Development, foreign cartoons have been translated into the national language, and they are quite accessible to society, especially the young generation. This issue has been raised since 2021. As a result, the film industry companies like «Kazakhfilm», «Cinematon» and «Movie Distribution» began to translate cartoons of the famous «Disney», «Nickelodeon» and «Tiji» channels into Kazakh. So far, popular cartoons, including «Encanto», «Moana», «Coco», «Zootopia», «Cinderella» and «Soul» have been translated into Kazakh and offered for free viewing on movie websites.

The cartoon «Soul» was taken as the main object of the study. The main goal of our research is to consider the scope of foreignization and domestication strategies used during the translation of the cartoon into the Kazakh language.

As cartoons are translated either directly or indirectly, translators often use strategies of domestication or foreignization. Historically speaking, the domestication strategy was widely used by translators during the Roman Empire. In the process of translating Greek texts into Latin, the translators tried to omit Greek cultural realities and adapt the translation to Roman culture. In the era of Romanticism, on the other hand, translators believed that it was right to have the features of original language's culture in the text, which is now recognized as foreignization [3].

The history of the formation of foreignization and domestication strategies as separate terms is written by the German philosopher Friedrich Schleiermacher. It is reflected in his lecture called «On the Different Methods of Translating» (1913). According to the author, there are only two opposing methods of translation: the translator either adapts to the writer, thereby forcing the reader to enter the author's culture (foreignization), or tries to please the reader, making it easier to understand unfamiliar vocabulary found in the text (domestication) [5].

French translator Antoine Berman mentions twelve trends that «deform» the original, which are related to the principles of domestication, including clarification, rationalization, quantitative and qualitative absorption, disruption of rhythm and disruption of linguistic structure in his work called «The experience of the foreign. Culture and translation in romantic Germany» [1].