

LTA – Estella Oncis interview

Francesca Raffi (FR): Fred Film Radio, this is Francesca Raffi. Today we are going to discover more about the Live Text Access Project, a European project which aims to organise a new curriculum for real-time intralingual respeakers and velotypists, who can be deployed in different media, social and cultural contexts. The LTA consortium includes educational and non-educational members. And one of the educational partners of the project is the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Today we have virtually with us Estella Oncis, postdoctoral researcher at Transmedia Catalonia a research group from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Hi Estella, welcome to Fred.

Estella Oncis (EO): Hello good morning. Thank you.

FR: Hi Estella. Well Estella, you are a freelance translator, but also a respeaker, and an audio describer. So Estella, tell us more about your professional experience.

EO: Ok, well... I started some years ago after taking a master on audiovisual translation. I started to make practice on respeaking for different broadcasters in Spain, mainly in the Spanish language, because at the moment there is still no program, or no software for respeaking in Catalan, which is something that is being developed. Then I also started to make audio descriptions at the Gran Teatre del Liceu for opera, which were live. So these are my two main focuses on accessibility.

FR: And now you are working on the LTA project. I know that the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona will be dealing with the fourth phase of the LTA project which is entitled Intellectual Output number four and which will include an assessment of training materials and train skills. So, first of all Estella, what is your role within the LTA project and then can you tell us more about this stage, the Intellectual Output number four.

EO: OK. I'll start with my role within the project. I'm the Quality Manager. This is something necessary in every project, especially when it's an European project where partners from different countries come together and develop different materials. We have in the LTA group a monthly meeting which is

taking place on Tuesdays normally, and then we put in common all the actions that has been defined since the beginning of the project.

FR: Ok.

EO: We take actions, we accomplish actions and we put new actions.

FR: Together...

EO: Yeah, right. In order to develop the different intellectual outputs. As you said we are the Intellectual Output number four.

FR: Number four, yes.

EO: The first one was an online survey in order to see how is the market for respeakers and velotypists. This has allowed us to develop a curriculum to see the skills and competencies needed in velotyping and respeaking. Then the Intellectual Output number three is the development of different materials. The stage we are talking about is called Intellectual Output number four, which is bringing together all these skills, competencies and materials in the form of a MOOC course which will allow people to learn the different skills and competencies that you have to have in order to be a velotypist or a respeaker.

FR: So we can say that this fourth step of the LTA project is focused on quality, right? And... Well, the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona has taken over the role of quality manager in the project, so how important is quality, Estella? Because I think that the focus of accessibility providers, but also researches, but also users and professionals, has somehow gradually shifted from quantity to quality. What do you think Estella?

EO: Yes, it's true. A lot of studies and research on audiovisual translation have focused since the beginning on which other practices... also there has been a lot of research on corpus which is... we could say it's a quantity thing. But since the last few years the research in audiovisual translation field...

FR: Yes, media accessibility in general.

EO: Yes, audiovisual translation and accessibility is focusing more and more on a user approach. It's thinking more and more about a user centric approach.

FR: Yes.

EO: So, when talking about accessibility, we have... as researchers and as practitioners, we have also to take into account which is the position of the user. How the user is going to receive our....

FR: Accessibility services, yes.

EO: Our accessibility services.

FR: And how important is quality in accessibility? Estella, what do you think?

EO: It's very important because at the end quality will have a direct impact on a good or a bad reception.

FR: Yeah, that's true.

EO: It's gonna determine the aim of the service, no? Because if you provide accessibility, what you want is that the user receives the content properly.

FR: Yeah, you meet the user's needs. Well, I have to say that the more I know about the LTA project, the more I want to know. So, thank you for now to the LTA team and today in particular thanks to Estella Oncis for being with us. Thank you very much Estella.

EO: Thanks Francesca.

FR: And thank you very much to all of you. If you too want to know more about the Live Text Access Project, don't miss our next interviews with other partners. This is Francesca Raffi and this is Fred Film Radio, the festival insider.

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