

## TAKE A SEDATIVE BEFORE YOU START READING!

The book titled as “Ethnography Principles in Practice” written by Martyn Hammersly and Paul Atkinson has been translated in Macedonian by Tereza Manevska, edited by Gordana Aceska, published by Nampres in Skopje 2009. The book titled as “Social Research Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches” by Lawrence Neuman has been translated in Macedonian by Katerina Petrovska, Aneta Naumoska, Biljana Naumoska, Daniela Dimitrievska, and published by Prosvetno delo in Skopje, 2009. Both are part of the project titled “Translation of 1000 specialized, scientific books and textbooks used at the top, best and most prestigious universities in USA and England, and in France and Germany for the science of law” financed by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. As it is clear from the project title, those two are especially valuable books that are dealing with the methodology in social and humanistic disciplines. There is a serious lack of publications about the methodology of qualitative research written in Macedonian and that is why those books are more than necessary for us.

The problem is that this project with a nice title has failed with the implementation of its goals at least when it comes to above mentioned books. This review is about the incident of two useful books in English becoming two useless books when translated in Macedonian. Although on both publications there are names of the people who are probably directly responsible for this disaster (translators, editors, publishing houses etc.) still the responsibility should be looked for in higher levels for publishing and even promoting something like this. However in circumstances when the authorities are extremely selective when it comes to pointing the responsible, no wonder that we haven’t heard that this kind of negligence has been controlled, reacted upon or punished. On the side of seriously damaged are: scientists, professors, assistants, demonstrators, and researchers... from social and humanistic disciplines for whom I seriously recommend taking a sedative if they intend to read the entire two books; the students because we hoped that finally they will have the opportunity to study from “scientific, professional books and textbooks that are used in the top, best, renowned universities in USA and England”; and at the end it is of great importance to point to the authors of those books who will certainly disagree with what is written in their books translated in Macedonian.

For example the quote “research without a value” or “science without value” suggests to worthless research or worthless science. But that certainly is neither the point of Neuman, nor the point of positivistic approach in social and humanistic disciplines because the author most certainly meant for a value free or a value neutral research. It is not a small difference! Except false interpretation of things which is horrible act by itself, mainly because those two books are intended for students, the text in Macedonian points to the arrogant disrespect of authorship because of the freedom that the responsible took in changing the authors’ statement. Again if the authors of the above mentioned books are able to read and understand their text in the Macedonian translations, they probably wouldn’t put their names on it simply because it is not their text anymore. It is more than

clear that a single letter makes a big difference in the meaning of the words ethics and ethnic but it seems that it is not big deal for the translators. If we decide to decrypt meanings according to the context, again we are facing difficulties because most of the time the context in the translations is vague, similar to what Google translate can offer.

In times when we are at the very start of establishing suitable terminology in Macedonian when it comes to methodology in social and humanistic researches, those two books translated in Macedonian are destroying even those terms that were already established. For example, humanistic sciences are translated in Macedonian as humanitarian sciences. We wonder why there is no professional editing of the books that tend to be used as textbooks at universities in Macedonia.

The translations are full of misspellings, problems with punctuations when for example instead of quotation marks there are letters: „дстанување набљудуваче“ (Хамерсли, Аткинсон 2009: 87), Cyrillic and Latin letters confused in one word, the names of authors are often written in a wrong way, and there are a lot of examples of a name of one author written in few different variants as Zimerman, who becomes Cimerman in the next paragraph, than Stuart who becomes Stjuard in the next sentence. There are especially charming examples in the Index at the end of the book of Hamesly and Atkinson: *аналгичка перспектива, антропологија, дцрiza на репрезентацијае, дцултурен шоке, цолц администратори, љуантитативе методс, дтхеоретикал триангултионе* (see also <http://on.net.mk/pisma-na-raschitani-chitateli> (24.04.2013)).

According to this catastrophic outcome, those two books in Macedonian shouldn't be recommended to students. Besides the fact that they are unreadable, there is a chance of leading the students to completely mistaken understandings for methodology in social and humanistic research. Those two translations can represent an attack of students' dignity since in this way their capacity becomes problematic, and this situation suggests that everything goes with Macedonian students. According to this, the slogan "knowledge is force, knowledge is power" in this case makes sense only for those who can read and understand English.

On 12 April 2013 government representatives (the minister of education and science Panche Kralev and the prime minister Nikola Gruevski) made a promotion of 35 new translated books in the frames of the project with a nice title, and made a notion that already there were 762 translated books which is 80% of the planed number of translated books. They also mentioned their expectations by the end of 2013 to finish with "this great project of Macedonian government" (<http://1000knigi.com.mk/news.php?id=39> (24.04.2013)).

According to their statements about the project we can assume that the state institutions are either not informed about what is happening with the project, or they really think that this is something very good. Whatever is at stake is not good. The minister Panche Kralev says: "The availability of those books and textbooks offers greater competencies of future professionals and raises the level of professional debate. Education is your greatest weapon that can be used in changing any brace of our society. Use it virtuously and unselfishly in building better and more virtuous future, said Kralev to students. He said that he Ministry for education and science will continue with the implementation of projects that will upgrade the educational process, improve the educational standard and the knowledge of youngsters" <http://1000knigi.com.mk/news.php?id=39> (24.04.2013). The Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski used this book promotion to announce

this: “The effects of this project will be greater if this literature that we bring to you became a priority in Macedonian faculties and universities. In that way new generations of doctors and medical personnel as early in their student days will be able to gain knowledge that is relevant in the world, said Gruevski and note that those books are current literature of the most prestigious Universities in the world. When it comes to the usage of the textbooks, he said that the percentage of using these books is rising and that he is hoping that in the future it will continue to grow” <http://1000knigi.com.mk/news.php?id=39> (24.04.2013).

It is good for the health when one can stay cool facing this kind of challenges. I recommend sedatives for those who do not possess that kind of capacity because reading those two books from the project with a long and nice title can make you mad.

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