



Neke Interview 5: Mohammadreza Arbabi

1. How did you get into translation?

At first, it wasn't a primary choice for me. I had no clear vision in this way. Entered into the university, I encountered a new world of thoughts and visions. I fell in love with translation and it was the milestone of my life; the first step of the 3 steps. I made a plan for 15 years of hardworking to reach a comprehensive complex of translation industry: translators' training academy, translation business infrastructure, and translation market management. It was too difficult to make something new in the country those days. Despite all ups and downs, we are still on our planned way with some goals achieved: Translation Industry magazine, STA and TLSP TSPs, Translators' and Interpreters' Association, some Publishing companies, etc.

2. What is it about translation that interests you the most?

As an interdisciplinary field, translation bridges people and cultures all over the world. Translation is a pair of glasses to look at the mysterious, unknown worlds. Thus, we need translation to cross the borders and have a world without any borders. When you make a translation, you open a new window before eyes of people on the other side of the world. Translation connects lips to ears, hands to eyes, words to worlds, etc. Translation is the savior angles of local languages. This is the miracle of translation. For these and others, I love it; the translation.

3. Where do you see Translation Studies heading in the future?

Translation studies is fast, but not furious. It is making necessary foundations for the future world. I hope to see that translation studies may solve several problems and difficulties in the life of people, nations, and cultures, and find different ways of hope for translators to make a better world through making new history. In this way, translation technology, translation business, and translation art can be pillars of the palace.



4. What role do you think technology plays in Translation Studies?

New achievements in technologies, make translation faster and more adequate; make translation business more profitable with more turnover; make translation process easier and more efficient for translators. With translation memories, we need not rework and waste time. With machine translation, we speed translating up. With big corpus, we can make translation more accurate. We can say that it is the age of translation technology.

5. How important do you think it is for a scholar to be a practitioner and vice versa?

Actions speak louder than words. Any theory needs peoples' endeavor and action to be alive. I believe that translation studies makes necessary research and theoretical bases to pave the ground for actions of translators. Any professional translator needs to know about theories to apply them in the translation process. It should be mentioned that translators and their actions can be helpful to genesis or extension of theories. Translation studies makes it possible.

5+1. What are you currently working on in terms of research or translation project?

As you may know, Iran, as a great and old history, has an important track and footprint in the history of translation although translation business and technology needs more help to improve here. In this regard, we struggled to establish the first translation and interpreters' association for professional translators, TIAT, which is now a regular member of FIT. TIAT is trying to develop new localized technologies for translators, promote translation business, and upgrade translators' social dignity in the country.

Mohammadreza Arbabi as a Ph.D. candidate in Linguistics has begun translation profession since 2004. He found Sepehr Tarjoman Andisheh as the first professional TSP; Montasheran Andisheh as a general publishing company; Translation Industry magazine, etc. in 6 years. In 2015, Arbabi established the first Iranian Translator's Guild, i.e. Translators' and Interpreters' Association of Tehran (TIAT) and is then its Chairman. He is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of TLSP (Tiat language Service Provider), the first public joint stock company in Iran in the field of Translation.

