NON-HUMAN ACTORS IN THE PROFESSIONAL AREA FOR TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS IN TÜRKİYE: A LENS INTO THE SECTOR THROUGH ACTOR-NETWORK THEORY

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Abstract

This article examines the current status of the translation profession in Türkiye through the key actors involved in its practice. In Türkiye, there are various institutions, organizations, and businesses that carry out professional activities and prepare prospective translator and interpreters for the profession, as well as certain regulatory legislations and legal statutes that contribute to the development of the profession. Each of these, as non-human actors, affects the interactions and relationships of human actors in the field of translation. In this qualitative study, these non-human actors relevant to the development of the profession were examined descriptively through document analysis, and the existing and missing actors were identified. Following this examination, the institutions, organizations, and businesses active in the field were evaluated through the lens of sociologist Bruno Latour's actor-network theory; the contributions of existing actors to professional activities were presented, and the potential impact and contributions of introducing the identified missing actors into the field were discussed, along with some normative proposals. Missing non-human actors, such as regulatory bodies like professional chambers and certification bodies, and legal regulations such as professional laws, were found to potentially fill a significant gap in addressing fundamental issues such as expertise and supervision. Furthermore, these regulations could enable market actors to form new alliances and networks as described in the actor-network theory, leading to the displacement of certain actors from existing networks and the introduction of new actors through the employment of expert translators, and serving a mediating role in the employment of expert translators by businesses. In conclusion, it is believed that these developments, along with the addition of missing non-human actors, could make a significant contribution to the development of the profession.

Keywords: Translation, Non-human actors, Actor-network Theory, Profession, Network

TÜRKİYE'DE ÇEVİRMENLİK MESLEĞİNDE İNSAN DIŞI AKTÖRLER: AKTÖR-AĞ KURAMI ÜZERİNDEN SEKTÖRE BİR BAKIŞ

Öz

Bu makale, Türkiye'de çevirmenlik mesleğinin içinde bulunduğu konumu mesleğin icrasında yer alan temel aktörler üzerinden incelemektedir. Türkiye'de mesleki faaliyetleri gerçekleştiren ve çevirmen adaylarını mesleğe hazırlayan çeşitli kurum, kuruluş ve işletmeler ve mesleğin gelişimine katkı sunan bazı mevzuat düzenlemeleri ve ilgili yasal kanunlar mevcuttur. Bunların her biri, insan

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dışı aktör olarak çeviri alanında insan olan aktörlerin etkileşimlerine, birbirleri ile olan ilişkilerine etki etmektedir. Nitel olarak tasarlanan bu çalışmada, mesleğin gelişiminde sektöre ait bu insan dışı aktörler, betimleyici bir yaklaşımla doküman analizi yapılarak son durumu ele alınmış, mevcut ve eksik olduğu düşünülen aktörler belirlenmiştir. Bu incelemenin ardından, alanda faaliyetler yürüten kurum/kuruluş ve işletmeleri sosyolog Bruno Latour'un aktör-ağ kuramında yer alan insan dışı aktörler açısından değerlendirilmiş, mevcut aktörlerin mesleki faaliyetlere katkıları sunulmuş ve eksik aktörlerin alana kazandırılması ile kurulan mesleki ağların nasıl etkileneceği ve alana ne gibi katkılar sağlayabileceği tartışılarak bazı normatif önermeler getirilmiştir. Eksik olan insan dışı aktörler olarak meslek odası ve sertifikasyon kurumu gibi düzenleyici örgütler ve meslek yasası gibi yasal düzenlemelerin, uzmanlık ve denetim gibi temel sorunlara çözüm bulmak adına önemli bir boşluğu doldurabileceği gibi piyasadaki aktörlerin aktör-ağ kuramında belirtildiği şekilde yeni ittifaklar ve ağlar kurmalarına imkan tanıyabileceği, uzman çevirmenlerin istihdamı ile çevirmen olarak bazı aktörlerin var olan ağlardan uzaklaşabileceği gibi yeni aktörlerin devreye girebileceği, işletmelerin uzman çevirmen istihdam edebilmesi noktasında bu insan dışı aktörlerin arabulucu bir rol oynayacağı sonucuna varmıştır. Sonuç olarak bu gelişmelerle piyasadaki eksik insan dışı aktörlerin mesleğin gelişimine ciddi katkı sunacağı düşünülmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Çeviri, İnsan dışı aktörler, Aktör-ağ kuramı, Meslek, Ağ

Introduction

Society has been defined in various ways, typically as a group of people living together within a particular system. Some definitions focus on specific contexts such as politics, countries, or organizations, while others consider the broader interests of these people in defining it. Understanding the 'social' stems from perceiving what it means to be human and our relationships with others. However, scholars have not agreed on human nature and society, as they approach these concepts from different perspectives. For example, as the scholars of the age of Enlightenment, John Locke argues that education can shape human nature but cannot change its essence, and that individuals will never give up their natural rights. In contrast, Rousseau predicts that people adapt to society and that individual differences will be integrated with public authority after reaching the General Will (Senemoğlu, 2017, p.187).

Societies are indeed heterogeneous structures, characterized by a diverse range of elements that contribute to their complexity and dynamics. Heterogeneity in societies refers to the presence of varied social, cultural, economic, and demographic factors that shape interactions and relationships within a given social context. This diversity can appear in different forms, such as ethnic and linguistic diversity, income inequality, and cultural differences, among others (Anderson & Paskeviciute, 2006; Hofmeyr et al., 2007; Lerch et al., 2023). The presence of heterogeneity in

societies can impact trust levels, cooperation, and the formation of social networks (Guo et al., 2013; Bufetova et al., 2020). It is important to understand and analyze the implications of heterogeneity in societies for comprehending social dynamics, relationships, and behaviors within diverse social contexts. Just like societies, professions, as part of societies, are also heterogeneous structures within society which involve a complex network of diverse actors, such as translators or interpreters, clients, regulatory bodies, educational institutions, and so on. This network of actors within a profession displays heterogeneity in various aspects, such as expertise, experience, values, and power dynamics (Griffin, 2001; Bufetova et al., 2020).

The term actor, on the other hand, refers to several individuals and entities that play active roles in professional areas as in societies. For example, in the field of translation, actors can be translators, interpreters, clients, regulatory bodies, educational institutions, translation companies and other stakeholders involved in the translation and interpreting activities within the profession of translation and interpreting interact within a complex network of relationships, interactions, and responsibilities. Translators and interpreters, as key actors in the field, are responsible for mediating communication between different languages and cultures by providing accurate and effective transfer of meaning (Akçayoğlu & Özer, 2020). Their actions and decisions beyond the act of translation can significantly impact the outcomes of the interaction and the overall success of the communication process (Kafi et al., 2017). The profession of translation is also important in society and the network of relationships, playing also a key role in ensuring interactions for communicative purposes.

In terms of the translators or interpreters as professionals, networks of relationships are significant not only in ensuring social communication through quality translations for end-users, but also for the practice of this profession as in the collaboration model in Holz-Mänttäri's Translatorial Action Theory. In other words, the network of actors for this professional society also plays a pivotal role in ensuring this communication. The professional network in translation sector is thought to be of high importance, yet the existence of all necessary actors in the profession is required in order to ensure how successfully it is performed. So, it can be thought that the absence of necessary actors will lead to professional problems. This should also be considered to have an impact on the perception of this occupational area as a profession as Kaya (2015) asserts that translators are not recognized as professionals due to the lack of legislative regulations.

In the light of the concepts and issues discussed above, this study aims to reveal the actors both existing and missing in the professional area of translation and interpreting in Türkiye. To do so, the theoretical framework will be established through a sociological theory "Actor-Network Theory", abbreviated as ANT, which emphasizes the roles of actors and their networks in understanding the relationships between them, and also in building new networks. The theory will be introduced below to have a deep insight into how actors, their interactions and networks in the profession affect its evolution.

Translators and interpreters, as major actors in the field, facilitate crucial intercultural communication, bridging linguistic and cultural gaps. However, the profession faces significant challenges due to the absence of certain key actors and insufficient recognition by the governments. For instance, the lack of legislative regulations, as highlighted by Kaya (2015), means that translators are often not legally recognized as professionals. This regulatory lack can lead to issues such as inadequate professional standards, lack of formal accreditation, and insufficient protection of translators' rights and interests. Additionally, the absence of strong professional bodies and associations can result in a lack of support and advocacy for translators. This also affects their professional status and working conditions in a negative way. Addressing these gaps is essential for the professional recognition and working conditions of translators and interpreters, ensuring that they can effectively fulfill their roles in society. Therefore, this study aims to identify both the existing and missing actors in the professional area of translation and interpreting in Türkiye. By applying the Actor-Network Theory (ANT), the study will try to explore how the interactions and networks among these actors influence the profession's development and recognition. The following sections will provide a theoretical framework to understand these interactions and their results for the field.

1. Theoretical Framework: Latour's Actor-Network Theory

Actor-Network Theory (ANT) in sociology provides a framework that challenges traditional sociological perspectives by emphasizing the agency and influence of both human and non-human actors in shaping social phenomena (Lissandrello, 2008). ANT can be seen to provide a unique lens through which it is possible to analyze the complex networks of relationships and

interactions that constitute social structures, highlighting the role of various actors in the construction of social reality (Lissandrello, 2008).

One of the key reasons why ANT was introduced by Latour was to offer a new approach to understanding the dynamics of society by considering the active participation of non-human elements alongside human actors (Latour, 1992). Law claims that the social consists of patterned networks of heterogeneous materials. He states that these networks consist not only of human beings, but also of many materials such as machines, animals, texts, money, architectures, and therefore the social does not consist only of people. He also claims that the heterogeneity of these networks created by the social creates what is called society (1992, p.381). This shows that ANT aimed to shift the focus from solely human agency to a more inclusive perspective that acknowledges the contributions of non-human actors, such as technology, objects, and institutions, in shaping social processes (Latour, 2013). The concept of non-human also functions as an umbrella term used to encompass a broad but ultimately limited range of beings (Sayes, 2014, p.136).

ANT has been used to broaden the scope of sociological research by providing a methodology that allows researchers to analyze the connections and interactions between different actors within social networks (Justesen & Mouritsen, 2011). While adopting this method of ANT perspective, scholars can analyze how various actors, both human and non-human, collaborate, compete, and negotiate to produce social outcomes (Justesen & Mouritsen, 2011).

Furthermore, ANT has been applied in various fields beyond sociology, including management accounting research, service-learning, and the sociology of translation, demonstrating its versatility and relevance across disciplines. The flexibility of ANT as a theoretical framework has enabled researchers to explore diverse phenomena and analyze the intricate relationships between actors in different contexts (Alcouffe et al., 2008; Follman, 2015; Morgan, 2017).

In conclusion, Actor-Network Theory (ANT) has been introduced in sociology to offer a novel perspective on social phenomena by emphasizing the agency of both human and non-human actors. By considering the interactions and relationships between various actors within social networks, ANT provides a valuable framework for understanding the complexities of society and social processes.

Highlighting the interactions and relationships between various actors, including technology, tools, texts, and individuals, within social networks, this approach directs attention to the role of non-human actors in shaping social processes and structures, emphasizing the importance of considering both human and non-human elements in understanding societal dynamics (Siippainen et al., 2023).

Latour also uses the term 'collective' in Actor-Network Theory (ANT) as defining it as an assemblage of heterogeneous elements. These elements, both human and non-human, come together to form networks of associations (1992). The collective is not predefined or fixed but is constantly negotiated and constructed through the interactions and relationships between various actors within a network (Callon, 1984). Latour sees non-human agents as the lost masses of the social sciences because there are many non-human agents that drive human relations. An example of this is given with the sensor door automatic. Just like humans do the same thing, the task of the door automatic is to detect the person and open and close the door. Here, the social norm duty of the door automatic is to open the door by detecting the person and close the door after passing through it. Similarly, another example is given when a beep sound is heard in the vehicle, which acts as a warning when the seat belt is not fastened. The purpose of this technological beep, which serves as a social norm, is to remind that the person sitting on the seat is not wearing a seat belt (Latour, 1992). Numerous examples can illustrate the roles of non-human actors in social networks. These non-human actors facilitate the smooth functioning of these networks, which are further supported by human actors. The relationships among individuals are mediated by a network of objects, and these diverse networks actively participate in and shape society (Law, 1992, p.382). We can conclude that non-human actors in communication and social interactions play key roles to understand how these are formed, being also of the potential to create new networks.

In this context, everything that interacts and connects is considered as an actor. However, while these actors do not all have equal influence, they exist to mediate. For this mediation, Latour discusses two concepts in the transfer of knowledge. The first is 'intermediaries,' socio-technical actors that merely transmit knowledge, and the second is 'mediators,' who transform, interpret, distort, and change the meaning of knowledge (Hausvik et al., 2019, p.4115). Actors are defined as entities functioning as intermediaries among other actors and, as previously mentioned, are not

limited to humans but non-humans such as technology, texts, and organizational structures (McBride, 2003, p.269).

In this social theory developed to understand the social, the use of actor-networks has garnered interest from various disciplines. For instance, in geography, it can be employed to interpret urban actor-networks, including cities and the global networks connecting them. The concept of the network is also significant in information technologies. In this context, circuits act as actors, and the interaction between networks is crucial to ensure that no changes occur in the information being transferred (McBride, 2003, p.268). These networks, which can be defined across different fields, also cover various actors in a technological context, and each actor requires other actors to form their networks (Kasapoğlu & Odabaş, 2009). Therefore, this theory does not take a reductionist approach to the discussion of the material pattern of the social; it does not argue that merely objects or humans alone influence social change or stability (Law, 1992, p.383). The force that affects change or stability is not solely the human or non-human elements but the relationship between them.

Latour does not view matter as a passive material, as it is often considered in the hands of planners and designers; rather, he emphasizes that the concept of the 'network' is existentially defined. Therefore, he adds the term 'actor' to 'network,' assigning it an active role. The relationship process between actors and actants is conceptualized as 'translation' (a sociological concept different from translation as a discipline or process in our context) and is simplified into four distinct stages: problematization, interessement, enrollment, and mobilization (Salt et al., 2017). For relationships to be discussed among different groups, these relationships must first be established.

Table 1: Callon's Stages of the Translation Process (Salt, Wang, & Polhill, 2017).

1. **Problematization**: An agent recognizes a problem that requires collaboration with others. Consequently, it is considered an 'obligatory passage point' because the agent has an idea and representation of the problem.
2. **Interessement**: The agent then seeks individuals from its social network who are interested in its problems or who have similar issues. The 'obligatory passage point' is relevant here as well, as actors negotiate similar problems and focus on a mutually agreeable issue.

3. **Enrollment**: If a sufficient number of actors are interested in a common problem and agree on an institutional framework to address it, they will form an institution to solve the problem. Again, the 'obligatory passage point' is significant, as assigning and negotiating roles are part of these discussions.

4. **Mobilization**: Actors take action to fulfill their assigned roles, thereby revealing their impact on the environment.

For Latour, the concept of translation does not imply causality but he relationship that encourages two mediators to coexist. As explained in the table above, translation refers to the process where actors align their interests, intentions, and capabilities to work effectively together within a network. It introduces the concept of translation to explain how actors interact and align their goals within the network. This translation process involves negotiation, alignment, and the transformation of actors' interests and skills to work effectively together. Law (1992, p.386) describes translation as implying transformation and the possibility of resemblance; it is the possibility that one thing (e.g., an actor) can represent another (e.g., a network). The goal here is to explore the process that produces regulatory effects, often called translation, involving devices, intermediaries, institutions, or organizations. During this process of transformation, Latour defines the concept of symmetry based on what is preserved. According to him, symmetry is a unified model of social and natural worlds, where no entity (human or non-human) has precedence or exists outside the network. Socio-technical symmetry is necessary to explore the participation of actors in heterogeneous network assemblages through negotiation and translation. The concept of assemblage here refers to the collective formed by all actors or actants – i.e., actants – working harmoniously together for a specific purpose.

At the end of the process where all actants negotiate and come together for a specific purpose, relationships become stable, which is referred to as a 'black box' (Kasapoğlu & Odabaş, 2009). In both technical and social science terminology, a black box is a device or system defined solely in terms of its inputs and outputs for convenience. There is no need to understand what happens inside such black boxes. They are considered tools that perform valuable functions (Winner, 1993, p.365). The point of transformation from inputs to outputs is not perceived from the outside. Opening the black box for the translation process leads to the primary actor being

reopened for discussion, and reviewing the network of relationships can lead to its dissolution or transformation (Kasapoğlu & Odabaş, 2009). Yıldırım and Bilican-Demir (2022, pp.47-49) give an example of the black box in an educational context with the classroom. When the classroom is seen as a black box, inputs such as qualified teachers and standards for student success are considered, while outputs are test results and class success. What happens inside the classroom is either of little interest or not considered at all.

Kasapoğlu and Odabaş adapted these four stages to technology and described them as follows (2009): For the problematization stage, technology is seen as the primary actor/actant, indicating new needs for improving the quality of life, with technology's main purpose being control or market creation, exemplified by the mobile phone. In the interessement stage, people become involved with the need indicated by technology for the same purpose. Human actors see these needs as obligatory passage points. Thus, human actors who perceive the need for mobile phones as essential are convinced and, with the new technological product they acquire, gain a different identity, moving within the network of relationships accordingly.

2. Reconsidering ANT in the Professional Context for Translators and Interpreters

In the context of translation as a professional area, there are several actors that interact with each other and form associations, which collectively create and sustain networks, from translators to clients, or translation offices to notaries, as human actors. However, as the main actor among these, the expert role of the translator is indispensable regardless of the type of translation. In today's technological conditions, it is also unimaginable to conduct written translation without the aid of a computer or dictionary. At the very least, discussing an effective and timely translation would not be feasible without these tools. While translation can still be performed, a translator lacking these technical resources would not be assigned such tasks. Thus, all these technological aids can be seen as actors or actants as they are mediating such processes in the network. The relationship between translation and actor-network theory (ANT) is, of course, more complex than this simplified explanation. However, examining the translation process through the different networks and actors involved in various sub-processes highlights the significance of each component.

Such non-human actors could include the spaces where the translations are performed such as companies, offices, conferences, etc., or translation aids mediating the translation such as computers, digital resources like databases, translation memories, CAT tools, headphones, and so on. Nevertheless, the focus in this paper is not on the translation as a process, but on the other non-human actors required and known to affect the professional area and the network among them. That is why the emphasis will be on the actors, both human but mostly on the non-human, manifesting in the professional area of Türkiye. So, the following titles discuss the non-human actors existing or missing in the professional area.

2.1. Existing Non-Human Actors

There are several actors as mentioned above; however, as the actors taking roles for the interactions and networks in the sector, the main non-human actors already existing in the professional area are stated as follows:

1. **Professional Associations**: Organizations like the Translation & Interpreting Association Türkiye (named as Çeviri Derneği in Turkish), or Association of Translation Companies (named as Çeviri İşletmeleri Derneği in Turkish).

2. **Educational Institutions**: State or foundation universities as higher education institutions that offer programs in translation and interpretation and aim to graduate the qualified translators for the sector or academicians for the higher education.

3. **Translation Companies**: Translation companies also serve as vital non-human actors within the professional network of translators and interpreters. These are the places where the translators are assigned projects set according to the work commissioned. The government offices where translations are conducted can also be included in this category.

4. **Publishing Houses**: These entities influence the translation industry by commissioning works and setting standards for publication quality.

5. **Notaries**: Unlike many other countries, notaries in Türkiye are required for the certification and validation of official translations of the documents. Their involvement in the

professional network is to verify the authenticity and accuracy of translations produced by sworn translators, resulting in translations legally recognized by the governmental bodies.

2.2. Missing Non-Human Actors

As stated in the introduction, there have been issues for the professional area for translators and interpreters in Türkiye, which are believed to be mostly due to the missing actors in this profession. The actors above have served a lot in making this profession in a more organized way to produce quality translations, employing qualified translators and interpreters, training specialists, both academics and employees in the sectoral area in the last century, especially after the foundation of first educational institutions. However, the problems addressed in several platforms or publications regarding the sectoral issues refer to two missing actors to help develop the professions as regulatory bodies and legislative regulations.

Regulatory Bodies: As regulatory bodies that set standards and rules for the professional activities and its ethics, the greatest actors can be thought to be professional chambers and certification & accreditation bodies for translators and interpreters in Türkiye to employ qualified and certified translators. Although some associations take on such roles, because of their status, they cannot be responsible for all the professional activities, but those of their own members. For example, Translation and Interpreting Association Türkiye is responsible for their own members, bound to its own charter. As a member of FIT (International Federation of Translators), which covers currently 110 translation associations from 65 countries, Translation Association Türkiye acts as a professional body to help recognize the profession and develop it across the country, set ethical standards, share significant updates to the profession, and take necessary further actions to do so. Like this association, there are few more associations, functioning for the same or similar purposes, which have many members. However, these associations, despite their own recognition from the governmental bodies, are not accredited to set standards or certify professionals. However, in Australia, for example, the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) is recognized as the authority to do so. As the motto on their website, they say "We are the national standards and certifying authority for translators and interpreters in Australia". Thus, professional practitioners, as translators and interpreters, need to meet the

specific requirements to be able to work officially in the sector. All in all, the associations in Türkiye are not subject to binding laws for the professional activities though they are subject to the requirements in the charters of international associations of which they are members.

On the other hand, Vocational Qualifications Authority of Türkiye (VQA, also abbreviated as MYK in Turkish), as the accredited institution affiliated to a governmental body, started to set such professional standards to determine the qualifications for those who would like to work as professional translators at level 6 (for the bachelor's degree holders as higher education graduates) by defining the profession, its position in the international domain, the working conditions, the respective laws, and some other requirements for some specialized areas that the profession requires, as well as the skills and qualifications, ethics, the aids needed. However, this institution is an umbrella organization for several other professions, there has been not a law or body in charge of the professionals, firms, or any other actors yet. Although all these preliminary requirements have been defined and set, these are not set as the sine qua non for those working in the sector.

Legislative Regulations: As can be seen from the above discussion, we can conclude that the bodies as non-human actors can be functionally placed into the sectoral operations. In this regard, another non-human actor, also defined as texts and documents in ANT, legislative regulations as laws are also believed to be considered crucial to take an active role in improving professional activities, facilitating the network among the actors to be involved in all interactions. Although the profession is defined and referred to in several laws such as notary law, law on intellectual and artistic works, Turkish criminal law, etc., these are only for the addressing issues that require translations, translators, and the roles of translators with regard to the respective issues stated in these laws, yet they do not have to do with the extensive roles, definitions, and qualifications for the translators and interpreters. Such laws do not impose on the professional standards which can regulate the minimum/maximum prices or wages as a result of service provided.

Conclusion

The existing relevant legislation, along with institutions, companies, and associations established under this legislation, plays a functional role in the formation of various obligatory or professional networks for actors within the profession. Each of these entities can be said to have contributed to the development of the profession over the years. However, there are still some deficiencies concerning the positions and functions of these actors in terms of establishing professional networks. These deficiencies can be summarized as follows.

In the translation of official documents, notaries can be seen as obligatory passage points in the alliances formed between service recipients and translators, ensuring the official status of the translations. However, the differing criteria used by notaries when issuing certification to sworn translators can lead to arbitrary practices in the assignment of experts in translation processes. This issue arises due to the lack of specific legal regulations governing translator qualifications. The report "The Profession of Translation in Türkiye," prepared by the Administration Development Directorate under the Prime Ministry more than a decade ago, highlighted these concerns and various issues faced by translators. However, no significant progress has been observed in the 13 years since the report's publication (Küçükyağcı & Avcı, 2011).

Although specialization training is theoretically provided in academic settings, the lack of specialization in certain areas of translation in universities, issues in offering specialized courses, and the absence of specific requirements such as diplomas for the translators to be employed in the market have diminished the appeal of academic education. For instance, Tosun et al. (2015) conducted a study comparing the curricula of translation departments in well-established state and foundation universities in Türkiye. They observed that the curricula did not incorporate theoretical frameworks into course structures and that this issue was also reflected in employing faculty members. Consequently, individuals with merely linguistic proficiency, rather than academically trained specialist translators with cultural and theoretical knowledge, are filling the gaps in the market.

Additionally, the preference of academically trained graduates to work in different sectors rather than in the translation market can lead to businesses experiencing difficulties in finding specialized translators.

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Associations that contribute to the profession's development by forming partnerships with various international organizations and striving to improve the profession can be seen as non-human actors. These associations facilitate the establishment of sound networks among professionals, translation companies, and end-users/clients by promoting quality services, professional ethics, and standards. However, because these associations do not have the authority to oversee the market and enforce regulations, they lack the legal power to address unethical behaviors by translators or translation companies towards translators.

While the existing actors positively influence professional relationships and interactions in many ways, the involvement of additional actors is necessary to address the aforementioned deficiencies. Introducing new actors into the translation market can transform professional interactions, phase out some human actors, and highlight the importance of others, leading to new alliances and networks.

In her doctoral dissertation on the certification body titled " Translation Profession and Translator Certification System in Türkiye," Uysal (2017, p.205) emphasizes the necessity of a certification system. This system should not only cater to graduates of Translation and Interpreting Studies but also to those who possess language proficiency without formal diplomas. The certification body and professional chambers, as new actors, would play a mediating role in enhancing the perceived quality of the profession. The mandatory certification for specialized translation tasks would positively impact social change, increasing the value of specialized translators and resulting in higher-quality translation services. The presence of both a translator certification body and professional chambers as non-human actors would ensure that not everyone with a mere language proficiency can be employed in the profession, thereby reducing ethical concerns and providing a regulatory mechanism in the market.

Such a framework would assign responsibilities to translators and enable companies or clients to interact with these new actors to find suitable translators for their projects. Legal regulations should also play a similar role, transforming the interactions between translators and other actors, leading to the exclusion of purely linguistically proficient but unqualified translators. This transformation would also affect the academic environment, contributing to an academic transformation in course diversity, content of curriculum, and faculty expertise, thereby enhancing the profession's appeal and positively impacting the market.

Collaboration between the certification body and academia could lead to curriculum development and the execution of certification processes. The same body could develop partnerships with the industry, ensuring priority for certified translators and possibly mandating their employment in certain fields. When established, this body could also collaborate with other certification bodies as international authorities, promoting the recognition of trained translators in Türkiye internationally. By periodically renewing certification as an obligatory passage point, a continuous cycle between the certification body and the market could be established.

As in the translation process within ANT, various actors need to perceive this situation as an obligatory passage point, form alliances, and involve necessary actors –potentially state institutions– to emerge in the process. These governmental actors must recognize the need for such developments, see their distinct roles, and make efforts towards mobilization.

In conclusion, these non-human actors functioning as gatekeepers, similar to those in ANT, would influence the behaviors, interactions, and relationships of all actors in the translation market. Translator certification bodies, professional chambers, and a professional law as a legislative regulation could fill significant gaps in the translation sector and greatly contribute to the professionalization of the field. The networks formed by these new non-human actors could strengthen the industry, benefiting both translators and those seeking translation services.

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