

Analysis and applications of audiovisual translation in multilingual contexts: description, dubbing, interpretation, and subtitling

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This paper aims to reflect on the various dimensions of audiovisual translation in multilingual contexts, focusing on the most relevant modalities such as audio description, dubbing, interpretation, and subtitling, with special emphasis on their application in accessible environments for people with hearing and visual impairments. Audiovisual translation has gained a fundamental role in contemporary society, due to the increasing cultural exchange and the expansion of digital platforms, raising the need to ensure that audiovisual products are accessible and understandable to diverse audiences. This study begins with the necessity of examining both traditional and innovative techniques, exploring how each of these modalities contributes to the effective transmission of audiovisual content, both from a linguistic and cultural perspective. Regarding audio description, the most used submodalities, such as audio commentaries, audio introductions, and audio subtitling, are analyzed, highlighting their ability to make productions understandable for people with visual disabilities. Similarly, dubbing is addressed, including dubbed commentary, dubbed theater, and simultaneous dubbing, as a key tool for ensuring that audiences in different languages can enjoy the content in their native language, without losing the essence of the original material. Furthermore, the forms of consecutive and simultaneous interpretation are studied, particularly sign language interpretation and sight translation, as essential solutions for live multilingual events and real-time accessibility. Another fundamental aspect developed is subtitling, especially audio subtitling, which has proven to be an innovative way to offer accessible translation, as well as remakes in their multilingual and double versions, which allow a work to adapt to several languages simultaneously, ensuring coherence between versions. The research method is based on a comparative analysis of previous studies on audiovisual translation, combined with observations of practical cases in educational settings and digital streaming platforms, where these techniques have been applied to improve accessibility. Throughout the study, it is examined how the development of subtitling techniques, including surtitling, simultaneous subtitling, and subtitling for the hearing impaired, has not only succeeded in transmitting the audiovisual message but has also made it accessible to a wider audience, reinforcing inclusion. Recent advances in subtitled commentary are also analyzed, which have facilitated the understanding of more complex scenes, especially in works with highly technical or culturally specific content. On the other hand, the paper also addresses the role of voice overlays, such as narration and commentary, as elements that enrich the viewer's experience by providing additional information without affecting the integrity of the original work. Through this journey, the study concludes that new technologies and innovations in the field of audiovisual translation not only allow for the expansion of content to global audiences but also promote accessibility and equality in the consumption of audiovisual products. The conclusions highlight the importance of implementing policies that support the development of these modalities, especially in the fields of education and culture, to ensure greater equity in access to cultural products. Thus, audiovisual translation is consolidated not only as a tool for cultural mediation but also as a means to promote diversity and inclusion in an increasingly globalized and multilingual society.