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THE ROLE OF TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS IN BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE

The art of translation is a special kind of human activity that involves not only decoding texts in a foreign language but also conveying the cultural characteristics of native speakers of that language. In today's global world, where economic, cultural, scientific, social and political ties between different countries are constantly strengthening, translation is becoming even more important for achieving mutual understanding. Translation is not limited to conveying an informational message – it covers a much wider sphere of influence. Almost every time an interpreter enters the public space during interpretation or translation, he can significantly affect the outcome of communication and cause its success or failure. The social function of a translator is not limited to this. As a representative of his cultural community, he is a cultural translator, a carrier of the values of the people to whom he belongs. The perception of a country and its people as a whole largely depends on their professional and personal image.

The current situation in Ukraine has become a powerful impetus for intensifying international cooperation, seeking comprehensive support from existing foreign partners and establishing new partnerships. Translators undoubtedly play an important role in this process. In addition to interpreting during official meetings and summits at the highest state level, translators began to engage in activities that required a high level of foreign language proficiency. From the very first days of the war, they were actively involved in the information campaign. Thanks to their hard work – often on a voluntary basis – the world receives more up-to-date and truthful information about what is happening in Ukraine. The translators also help volunteers find foreign partners to receive the necessary assistance and are actively involved in

expanding international partnerships. In addition, they work on written translations of important documents, instructions, literature and documentaries; provide interpretation during joint exercises, consultations and seminars for the exchange of experience for the military, doctors, business and cultural representatives, NGOs and private enterprises, educational and scientific institutions, etc. The work of an interpreter in wartime differs from that in peacetime but it is aimed at achieving one goal – to help representatives of different cultures find a common language to ensure mutually beneficial and peaceful coexistence of all peoples on the planet.

In Ukraine, military interpreters have been in high demand since the beginning of 2014, after Russia attacked Ukraine. Since then, our country has been fruitfully cooperating with NATO countries, exchanging military experience, equipment and technologies. Interaction between the Ukrainian and foreign military requires the involvement of military interpreters, both for written tasks and for oral negotiations.

Ukraine, as a founding member of the UN and a NATO partner, joined international peacekeeping in 1992, and thus committed itself to bringing its armed forces in line with NATO standards. These standards cover virtually all areas of the Alliance's military component, but first and foremost, they include standards for communications, terminology, staff procedures and guidance documents. Domestic military translators are working on solving the problems of linguistic compatibility with NATO countries. This work, which began much earlier, is aimed at developing a military sub-language and standardising Ukrainian military terminology. With the start of the full-scale invasion in 2022, interaction with foreign partners has increased significantly.

Interpreters should help to build communication bridges between counterparts, ensuring an adequate peace negotiation process. They must be free from any prejudice and respectful of all cultures, religions and nationalities, which directly affects the outcome of peace negotiations. A mistake by an interpreter in a military conflict during peace negotiations can be seriously damaging and lead to an

even greater escalation of the conflict. The losses can be irreversible and the damage irreparable in human, material or institutional terms. (James, 2002, 27).

Thus, the process of translation is an significant aspect of building intercultural communication based on mutual understanding, assistance, constructive dialogue, and the exchange of cultural and scientific heritage. Translators or interpreters perform not only a communicative function, the success of intercultural dialogue directly depends on their level of awareness of the cultural characteristics of native speakers. A translator can become either a transmitter of a culture of peace or a culture of war. They are required not only to mechanically transfer a message from one language to another, but also to understand how to convey this message so as not to harm the results of the dialogue but rather to promote mutual understanding for the common good of all people so that cultural walls turn into cultural bridges.

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