

UCML Report 26 May 2023

Translation & Interpreting

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British Academy report on the current provision of languages in the FE sector

I was invited to the launch of the report

<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/publications/languages-provision-in-uk-further-education/> at the APGML session, House of Lords on 30 January 2023.

The report was a welcome addition to the findings and the data that have documented the decline in language provision across all education levels in the UK over the last decade.

- This major new British Academy report analyses the provision (and decline) of languages in the FE sector in the UK.
- Shows trends over the last 20 years to today, using primary and secondary research including interviews with a range of stakeholders.
- Sets out key recommendations for the future with implications for Government, funding bodies, industry and FE sector stakeholders in all four nations.

My own report on the need to promote languages in the UK also appeared in the Guardian supporting the findings of the British Academy report above.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2023/jan/30/uk-foreign-language-teaching-colleges-further-education>

A brave new world – Artificial Intelligence and Machine Translation: How the AI revolution is transforming industry and public services, creating a 'regulatory gap'. APGML session, House of Lords, 16 January

Technology in translation can be helpful but also dangerous in some key situations, and risks 'running ahead of the law' given the speed of development. The APPG discussed the need for better understanding and regulation of this emerging field given the latest evidence from UK-based researchers.

The Welsh Government Translation Service also provided a perspective from a government department deploying technology for translation in the real world.

Routes into Languages meeting

I attended the meeting above on 17 February to learn more about the new Routes into Languages initiatives.

Language Services Future Pipeline Working Group

The group has met online on 14 February, 23 March and 16 May to discuss a new qualifications framework with the possibility of creating new routes of registration for interpreters without formal qualifications for the less spoken languages. Most of the information is confidential.

Summer Plenary Panel 14 July

Translation and Interpreting Studies in the UK Today: Disciplinary, Professional and Humanistic Values in an Automated World

Context

There have been many changes in the last three years affecting society, the economy and all levels of education including language learning and teaching (i.e disappearance of Erasmus +, closure of language departments, decline of language learning across all levels, developments in AI etc).

Against this backdrop, I have been working with UK Language Service Providers to document the effects of the large talent gap in the job market caused by the lack of linguists over the last few years.

<https://atc.org.uk/language-skills-still-needed-in-the-uks-job-market/>

The themes that will be addressed in the panel include:

- ✓ Status quo of language teaching and learning in the UK
- ✓ Future pipeline of linguists, translators and interpreters given the current climate
- ✓ Stakeholders' recommendations and actions

The discussion panel will bring together participants (academic, professional, policy makers) to revisit tangible current and future action plans to reach a unified approach.

Fransiska Louwagie, Callum Walker (APTIS) and I are currently finalising a report of the same title that we are planning to launch on the day.