

Regina Galasso, PhD. (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Expanding translation literacy for university students and the extramural community

Abstract:

In many ways, in the United States, "language access" as a term has now come to replace "translation and interpreting services." However, the potential of this term to overcome the disconnects between academia, the extramural community, and the industry, and between recipients and providers has yet to be realized. Its possibilities are even more diluted by a general lack of attention to language as part of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility efforts. This seminar offers an overview of U.S. university translation programs with considerations of the larger context of language access practices and opportunities. It presents an example of an expansive educational program that, decentralizing service providers and recipients, involves workshops for bilingual public school staff interpreters and translators with the participation of university students and other community members. A greater awareness of language access literacy and an understanding of language access as access to language have the potential to increase the provision and quality of services and forever impact an individual's civic behavior and intellectual interests. Translation benefits everyone and translation is something everyone can celebrate.