

Interview with Silvia Pepitoni, Italian dialogue writer and dubbing director of *Parasite* (19th December 2021)

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MD/GDN: Firstly, we would like to thank you once again for agreeing to this interview. We would like to ask what kind of competences are required in your work as dialogue writer and dubbing director?

SP: Acting and dubbing skills, being able to write dialogues, but it all depends on the rhythm of the film.

MD/GDN: Who commissioned you the dubbing of *Parasite*?

SP: Tiger Films and Academy 2.

MD/GDN: When was it commissioned?

SP: After the Cannes Film Festival but before the Academy Award ceremony.

MD/GDN: Do you speak Korean?

SP: No.

MD/GDN: Do you speak English?

SP: Antonella Giampaoli speaks English.

MD/GDN: Could it be possible to interview the translator?

SP: Antonella Giampaoli translated *Parasite* from English. I will give you her contact.

MD/GDN: What was the collaboration between you and Antonella Giampaoli like?

SP: We already worked together on other projects in the past. She provides me with the translation and then I work on the dialogues.

MD/GDN: What kind of challenges did you face while adapting a film like *Parasite* into Italian?

SP: One of the most challenging things was creating lines that could match the prosodic features of the Korean characters, which are so different from those we have in Italian. Think for example at the way /o/ is uttered: it tends to be long and the mouth tends to be closed.

MD/GDN: In your opinion, do you think creativity has helped to overcome the challenges you faced while writing the dialogues, and considering the constraints dubbing poses?

SP: Well, the real challenge for me was to make the dubbing actors speak like the Korean actors. This is the real challenge for an adaptor when creating dialogues, meaning adapting them.

MD/GDN: Have you ever worked on other products for which you didn't know the original language.

SP: Some Chinese movies and *The Perfect Candidate* [a film in Arabic].

MD/GDN: Anything you'd like to add?

SP: If you want, you are welcome to come and visit my dubbing school here in Rome. I think it'd be a good idea for scholars like you and future practitioners to meet and talk.

MD/GDN: Thank you very much. We will be happy to do that.

Email Interview with Antonella Giampaoli, Italian translator of *Parasite*

On 10/03/2022

Dear Ms Antonella Giampaoli,

My colleague Giuseppina De Nicola and I are two scholars at Sapienza University of Rome. We are respectively lecturers in Korean Studies and English Studies. Ms Silvia Pepitoni informed us that you have worked on the Italian raw translation of *Parasite* and kindly provided us with your email address to contact you.

We are currently working on the Italian dubbing of this film and on the creative process that led to its adaptation. We would be very interested in reading your translation, if possible, to understand how the work was conducted, what (if any) differences can be detected by comparing your translation and the final version, etc.

If we could have your translation, we could carry out a preliminary comparative analysis of the Korean text, the English text, yours and Silvia's; on the basis of this investigation, if you are available, we would like to orally interview you asking specific questions.

If accepted, this study will be published in the scientific journal *Perspectives* and your contribution, like Silvia's, will obviously be acknowledged.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards

Margherita and Giuseppina,

On 30th June 2022

Dear Margherita and Giuseppina,

Firstly, please accept my apologies for this late reply to your message, but I am currently working on another translation of a Korean film (the third translation so far!) and family and other work commitments leave really little time for anything else. I am really sorry. I would be very happy to help you with your research but all our works, both the translation and the adaptation, are protected by copyright and, most importantly, by stringent non-disclosure agreements, agreed with the dubbing company and the commissioning company. Therefore, I am very sorry, but I cannot really send you a

copy of my translation.

That said, I am available, time allowing, to answer your specific questions on the translation of *Parasite*.

Best regards,

Ella Giampaoli

30/06/2022

Dear Ella,

Thank you for your answer. We know very well how difficult it is to balance work and family life. A few months ago, I contacted Tiger Films [the dubbing studio involved in the dubbing of *Parasite*]. Do you think that, if I ask them to assess the documents, you may be free to share your work with us?

If this won't be possible, we would be very grateful if you could agree to a short interview. We would be happy to meet online to speed up the process.

All the best

Margherita and Giuseppina.

[We contacted Tiger Films and they confirmed that the translation material, or any other material for the matter (e.g. notes on script, etc.) could not be shared. Hence, later we wrote again to Ms Giampaoli].

On 28/07/2022

Dear Ella,

We would like to ask you something and I am sorry to say that it is quite urgent: we noticed that the Italian dubbed version is very often closer to the Korean version than the English subtitles. Therefore, we would like to ask you, apart from consulting Darcy Paquet's English subtitles, whether you might have asked a native speaker of Korean for advice, or if you received a noted script reporting specific information regarding the original text?

Could you please answer by tomorrow at the latest as we need to submit our article soon.

Thanks for your understanding and thanks in advance for any help you might provide.

Best regards

Margherita and Giuseppina

On 29/07/2022

Dear Margherita and Giuseppina,

The subtitles, in any language they may be, are already a help but also, if you like, an adaptation of the original dialogues because they must abide by strict “time of reading” rules. It takes more time to read a subtitle than to listen to the line uttered by the actor!

So, yes, to translate a text that can “cover”, via adaptation and lip synchronisation, all the lines performed by the original actors, you either ask a native speaker to obtain an exact transcription of what is really said or, as I do, since I can access the subtitles (as in this case, possibly in many languages, as I normally work with English, French, Spanish and German) as well as the original script (I reiterate, in any language it may be) and using the amazing tools available on the Internet (thanks Internet!), I can understand exactly what the [original] actors are saying and provide the dialogue writer with a translation that is as faithful as possible to the original.

This is what I did for *Parasite* and with other Korean films I translated and that I am translating now. But I did the same for films in Mandarin Chinese, Hong-Kong Chinese, Russian, Swedish, Dutch, Portuguese, etc. Clearly, this translation process takes much more time but, if I didn't do that, the adaptor would not create a text that the Italian dubbing actors would easily perform.

All the best and happy summer!

Ella Giampaoli.