

According to experts, only a few languages (i.e., three or four) will prevail as languages of communication in this globalised world. During this process, the careers of many, if not practically all, translators will be shaped by the dynamics of these majority languages.

Leaving cosmopolitanism and variety to one side, the greatest danger of globalisation is that we fail to appreciate the character and cultural composition of the world and prioritise material interest. This is to the detriment of the spiritual and literary heritage that the human race has created and continues to create in different places.

Gombrowicz frequently wrote about the future of Polish literature and the agonism of his concerns is faithfully reflected in a letter that he wrote to Czeslaw Milosz: "In a hundred years, if our language still exists ..." If these are the words of an author from Poland, a country with a rich literary tradition, what would a writer who expresses themselves in Basque, for example, have to say?

We want to tackle this situation. As a translator, how do you view the work of translators that deal with literature written in non-hegemonic languages, given that these often have rather meagre literary traditions? How do you think you would be affected by the lack of prestige surrounding your source or target language and the fact that the expiry date of those languages is looming nearer? If you knew that the language you work in (not your mother tongue) was about to disappear and its literature would only survive through translations from this point onwards, what would you translate and how? Ultimately, what kind of meaning would your work have in the midst of globalisation?