

Translating cultures? The role of indigenous interpreters in prior consultation processes

Raquel de Pedro Ricoy
Rosaleen Howard
Luis Andrade



UK | DUBAI | MALAYSIA



PUCP





Peruvian legal framework

- 1993: Constitution. Art. 48 guarantees speakers of indigenous languages the right to an interpreter
- 2003: *Ley de Lenguas* (28106). Indigenous Languages Act
- 2007: *Decreto de Ley de Lenguas*. Executive Order on Languages
- 2011: *Ley de Lenguas* (29735). Indigenous Languages Act
- 2011: *Ley del Derecho a la Consulta Previa* (29785). Right to Prior Consultation Act



Ley del Derecho a la Consulta Previa (2011)

- Aims to reach an agreement or consent between the State and the indigenous or originary peoples [...] by means of an intercultural dialogue which guarantees their inclusion in the decision making processes of the State and the adoption of measures which respect their collective rights (Art. 3)
- Art. 16 guarantees the right to an interpreter in prior consultation processes, **who must be trained in the specific subject matter and registered by the governmental body specialised in indigenous affairs**

Research findings

- Training
- Interpreting as a practice
- Socialisation of the interpreters' role



Training

- State's priorities:
 - To address the linguistic and cultural mediation needs that stem from legal stipulations
 - To promote language rights
- Trainees' priorities:
 - To visibilise and revitalise their languages and cultures
 - To facilitate communication between their peoples and the State's institutions
 - Professionalisation?
 - Duality of the interpreter's role (impartiality vs. allegiance)



Interpreting as a practice: Challenges

- Linguistic and cultural asymmetry:
 - Asymmetry of discursive and text-generic patterns between Spanish and the indigenous languages
 - Clash of traditions and beliefs
 - Language hegemony: Spanish as a *lingua franca*
- Trust-related issues:
 - Triadic relation: State-interpreter-communities



Socialisation of the interpreters' role

- Awareness-raising among:
 - the users of interpreting services
 - expectations regarding the interpreters' role (its scope **and** its boundaries)
 - rights and responsibilities
 - civil society
 - perceptions as to the profession
 - perceptions as to the State's role in the provision of interpreting services

