

Список використаних джерел

1. Aubin M.-Ch. *Splendeurs et misères de la traductique. Cahiers franco-canadiens de l'Ouest*, 1995. Vol. 7, № 2, Pp. 211-226. URL: <https://ustboniface.ca/presses/cahiers-franco-canadiens-de-louest#vol7no2> (дата звернення 05. 05. 2025).
2. Bédard C. *La traductique à l'heure du pragmatisme. Actes du premier congrès du CTIC*. Ottawa, 1987, Pp. 122-131. <https://www.bedardtraducteur.ca/profession/tao/1987-CTIC-La-traductique-a-lheure-du-pragmatisme.pdf> (дата звернення 02.06.2025)
3. Berman A. *La traduction et les discours. Meta*, 1989. 34 (4), Pp. 672-679. URL : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/002062ar> (дата звернення 10. 05. 2025).
4. Elbacha M. *La Traductique: Nouveaux Défis ou Soutien Inédit ?* *The Egyptian Journal of Language Engineering*, 2024. 11(1), Pp. 15-45. DOI : 10.21608/ejle.2024.277458.1065 ;
5. URL: https://ejle.journals.ekb.eg/article_352395.html
6. URL: https://ejle.journals.ekb.eg/article_352395_0aed22bfcee8fef285b453283bfe25c8.pdf
7. Froeliger N. *Le mépris (envers la traduction automatique) est-il une attitude traductologique ?* 2022. URL : <https://hal.science/hal-03507329v2> (дата звернення 25.04. 2025)
8. L'Homme M.-C. *Initiation à la traductique*. Montréal: Linguatex, 2008. 317 p.
9. Talbot A. *La traductique en débat : émergence et usages d'un néologisme. Équivalences*, 2023. 50-e année, № 1-2, Pp. 19-41. https://www.persee.fr/issue/equiv_07519532_2023_num_50_1?sectionId=equiv_0751-9532_2023_num_50_1_1607 (дата звернення 16. 05.2025).

BRIEF REMARKS ON TRANSLATION IN THE TRINIDADIAN PUBLIC SPACE

Antony Hoyte-West
PhD (Linguistics)
Independent scholar
Oxford, United Kingdom

A former colony both of Britain (1797-1962) and of Spain (1498-1797), Trinidad comprises the larger portion of the two-island Caribbean republic of Trinidad & Tobago. As the country's rich mixture of ethnicities and religions testifies, multiple languages were once spoken there, including Spanish, French (and its local creolised variety), and Hindi.

However, although the local English creole enjoys strong vitality, the only official language of the independent nation is English [1, p. 235]. Use of Spanish has dwindled significantly over the centuries, but the early years of the 2000s saw renewed interest via the creation of the official ‘Spanish as the First Foreign Language’ (SAFFL) policy, which aimed to improve proficiency in the language in the education, public, and private sectors [1, p. 237]. Though the impact of these institutional attempts at language policy remains open to discussion, geopolitical factors – such as instability in neighbouring Venezuela and the arrival of significant numbers of immigrants from the country [2] – have resulted in the more visible (and audible) presence of Spanish in Trinidad in recent times. Several research studies have additionally examined the teaching of Spanish in Trinidad & Tobago’s education system at various levels [3-4]. In offering a few brief remarks on translation in the Trinidadian public space, this contribution provides some descriptive reflections on multilingual public signage observed on a visit to Trinidad in May 2023.



Fig. 1. Bilingual sign at Piarco International Airport.

Photo by the author.

Fig. 1 is situated at the island’s main airport and welcomes travellers to the country in both English and Spanish. Being located at the state border, language naturally serves as one of the factors underlining the symbolic delineation of the nation-state [5]. As such, the use of English in first position reiterates Trinidad & Tobago’s official language. Yet by using Spanish, a non-official language, a gesture is made to Hispanophone travellers and also comprises a visible recognition of SAFFL’s policy to increase the presence of Spanish in public life. In addition, the practical aspects of this approach to translation policy can be underscored. Piarco serves as an important regional hub for airlines flying not only within the Caribbean, but also to North & South America and Europe – Spanish-speaking countries are the second most numerous in terms of current destinations served [6]. A further illustration of the importance of the language is shown by a local airline’s decision to invest in tailored Spanish-language training for their staff [7].



Fig. 2. Trilingual commemorative plaque on Frederick Street.

Photo by the author.

Situated in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago's capital, Fig. 2 depicts the three historic names of one of the city's most prominent streets, Frederick Street [8]. The multilingual sign gives the original Spanish, '*Calle de San Carlos*' ('St Charles's Street'); French, '*Rue des Anglais*' (lit. 'Street of the English'), reflecting the importance of that language in the latter years of Spanish rule and early British times; and finally English, its official status highlighted by the use of block capitals. As befits the plaque's commemorative nature, it testifies to Trinidad's changing history over the ages, as well as exemplifying some of the well-known potential challenges involved in the translation of street names and other landmarks.



Fig. 3. Bilingual street signs in Port of Spain. Photo by [9]

Indeed, one of the most visible parts of the SAFFL initiative has been the installation of bilingual Spanish-English signage on several streets in central Port of Spain, as is illustrated in Fig. 3. However, this policy has not been without controversy. As the case of Frederick Street demonstrates, usage of the original 'Spanish' street names has generally been eschewed in favour of translated variants of the standardised English-language nomenclature. In addition, noting that many toponyms date back to the colonial era, the issue of public signage has therefore been an important part of wider discussions on the still-ongoing decolonisation processes in Trinidad & Tobago [e.g., see 10].

To conclude, translation has become an increasingly visible part of the Trinidadian public space in recent times. However, it is not without its complexities, as demonstrated by the varying historical nomenclatures

used for street names, as well as issues relating to the country's colonial legacy. Further research could certainly expand the scope of this short summary by looking at the role of translation in the country's wider linguistic landscape and by deepening the relevant theoretical analysis.

References

1. Hoyte-West, A. *A return to the past? The Spanish as the First Foreign Language policy in Trinidad and Tobago*. *Open Linguistics*. 2021. Vol. 7. № 1. P. 235-243.
2. ACAPS. *Country Analysis: Trinidad & Tobago*. URL: <https://www.acaps.org/en/countries/trinidad-and-tobago> (Accessed: 02.06.2025)
3. Sampson, E. A. *Retos, oportunidades y estrategias en la enseñanza del español: La experiencia de los docentes de español en Trinidad y Tobago*. *Revista Contacto*. 2024. Vol. 4. № 2. P. 1-16.
4. Mideros, D. *Out-of-class learning of Spanish during COVID-19: A case study in Trinidad and Tobago*. *Studies in Self-Access Learning Journal*. 2020. Vol. 11. № 3. P. 199-219.
5. Auer P. *State borders and language change: The (non-)effects of political border permeability on language*. *Theorizing Borders Through Analyses of Power Relationships* / edited by P. Gilles et al. Brussels: Peter Lang, 2013. P. 227-248.
6. Piarco International Airport. *Wikipedia*. URL: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piarco_International_Airport (Accessed: 02.06.2025)
7. Mideros, D., Palma, P. *Learning Spanish beyond the classroom in a corporate setting*. *Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching: The Case of the Southern Caribbean* / edited by D. Mideros et al. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2023. P. 151-173.
8. Besson G. *Street smart or how history changes everything*. URL: <https://caribbeanhistoryarchives.blogspot.com/2018/05/street-smart-or-how-history-changes.html> (Accessed: 02.06.2025)
9. Peters S. *Evidences of Chacon impact on Trinidad*. URL: <https://shadapeters.wordpress.com/evidences-of-chacon-impact-on-trinidad/> (Accessed: 02.06.2025)
10. Hoyte-West, A. *Monuments and landmarks in decolonisation and decommunization processes: A comparison of Romania and Bulgaria with Trinidad & Tobago*. *Balkanistic Worlds*. 2025. Vol. 1. № 1. P. 116-129.