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**Translation, Scholarship, and Professional Practice in
Memory of Professor Hafizu Miko Yakasai**

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Ilorin (ITA), and the Nigerian Institute of Translators and Interpreters
(NITI)**

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Late Professor Hafizu Miko Yakasai, *fnti*
*Immediate Past President, Nigerian Institute of Translators and
Interpreters (NITI) 1967-2025*

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

It is with deep honour and a strong sense of scholarly duty that I present this special issue of the *Ilorin Journal of Translation Studies* (IJTS), jointly published by the Institute of Translation Arts, University of Ilorin, and the Nigerian Institute of Translators and Interpreters (NITI). This January 2026 issue is dedicated to the enduring memory and intellectual legacy of Professor Hafizu Miko Yakasai, the Immediate Past National President of NITI, whose lifelong commitment to translation scholarship, professional ethics, and capacity building continues to shape the field in Nigeria and beyond.

This volume emerged as a direct outcome of the 20th National Conference of the Nigerian Institute of Translators and Interpreters (NITI), hosted at the University of Ilorin in 2025. The conference served as a dynamic platform for scholarly exchange and professional reflection on the role of translation in contemporary society. Several of the articles published in this issue were first presented at that landmark gathering and have since undergone rigorous peer review and scholarly refinement before their inclusion in this volume.

The conference was distinguished by a thought-provoking keynote address delivered by Professor 'Raheem Adebayo Lawal of the Department of Arts Education, University of Ilorin. His keynote lecture, titled "*Leveraging Translation for National Development in the 21st Century: Strategies, Challenges and Prospects*," provided an intellectually stimulating framework for examining the transformative power of translation in national growth, policy development, education, and socio-cultural integration. The theme of his address resonates strongly with the central concerns of this special issue.

This special issue reflects both remembrance and renewal. It brings together a rich collection of articles that interrogate Translation as theory, practice, pedagogy, and cultural engagement within Africa's multilingual and multicultural realities, while also situating these discussions within global scholarly conversations. The contributions demonstrate how translation functions not merely as linguistic transfer, but as a vital instrument for communication, identity preservation, national development, education, and ethical mediation.

The articles assembled in this volume traverse a wide intellectual terrain. Several contributions revisit indigenous language translation, examining Yoruba, Igbo, and Edo proverbs, oral literature, incantations, and stylistic shifts in translated narratives, thereby foregrounding issues of orality, fidelity, and cultural untranslatability. Others adopt sociolinguistic, pragmatic, semantic, and stylistic perspectives, exploring translation shifts, media discourse, advertising language, and rhetorical strategies in African texts.

Equally significant are studies that engage Translation in contemporary and applied contexts, including COVID-19 terminology, economic and media translation, Bible translation, mental health interpretation, and conflict of interest in professional practice. A number of articles extend the discussion to translation, education, and national development, addressing translator training, curriculum innovation, linguistic access, and the broader role of translation in Nigeria's multilingual ecosystem. Theoretical reflections on postcolonial translation, interpretation ethics, and the delicate balance between fidelity and orality further enrich the volume.

Collectively, these contributions exemplify the vision of IJTS as a forum for rigorous, interdisciplinary, and socially responsive scholarship. They also resonate strongly with Professor Yakasai's intellectual philosophy: that Translation must remain ethically grounded, culturally sensitive, professionally relevant, and forward-looking.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the authors for the quality and diversity of their submissions, to the reviewers for their meticulous and selfless service, and to the Editorial Board and production team for their dedication to academic excellence. I am equally grateful to the Vice-Chancellor and the leadership of the University of Ilorin for the confidence reposed in me and the opportunity to serve in this capacity, as well as to the Nigerian Institute of Translators and Interpreters (NITI) for its unwavering support in sustaining this scholarly collaboration.

It is our hope that this special issue—born from the intellectual engagements of the 20th NITI Conference—will not only honour the memory of Professor Hafizu Miko Yakasai but also inspire renewed research, dialogue, and professional commitment in translation and interpretation studies across languages, cultures, and generations.

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A Tribute

A Tribute to Late Professor Hafizu Miko Yakasai

An Icon of Scholarship, Leadership, and Service

With voices that only could quiver
With hands that couldn't resist tremours
As if hovering on the brink of amputation
With tears of the prickling eyes
That rolled down the swollen cheeks
With stomachs that rumbled of deep sorrows
With legs that shuddered
In wait of the bier bearers
We all gathered
To grieve your cruel demise.

The Department of Linguistics and Foreign Languages, Bayero University Kano, and indeed the wider academic and professional community in Nigeria, mourn the irreparable loss of Late Professor Hafizu Miko Yakasai—a distinguished scholar, administrator, mentor, and nation builder whose life was devoted to the advancement of knowledge, language studies, and institutional development. His intellectual depth, administrative foresight, and unwavering commitment to scholarship left an enduring imprint on Bayero University Kano and beyond.

Professor Yakasai's significant contribution to linguistic theory and practice, particularly within the Nigerian and African context has reflected intellectual rigor, clarity of thought, and a deep concern for the role of language in society, culture, and national development. He was an exceptional academic leader. He served Bayero University Kano in numerous strategic capacities, including Head of Department, Deputy Director, Provost and many more. He demonstrated uncommon administrative competence, integrity, and dedication to institutional growth. His leadership style was marked by fairness, inclusiveness, and a firm commitment to academic excellence.

At the national level, Professor Yakasai's influence extended beyond the university system. As President of the Nigerian Institute of Translators and Interpreters (NITI), he played a pivotal role in promoting professional standards, capacity building, and the recognition of translation and interpretation as indispensable disciplines in Nigeria's multilingual landscape. His advocacy strengthened the interface between academic research and professional practice, benefiting both scholars and practitioners alike.

Professor Yakasai's most enduring legacies lies in his role as a mentor having successfully supervised and graduated over sixty (60) PhD and Master's students. Despite his numerous achievements, Professor Yakasai remained humble, approachable, and deeply humane. His life exemplified service, discipline, and dedication to the pursuit of knowledge.

The passing of Professor Yakasai is a profound loss to all. However, his legacy lives on through his scholarly contributions. We take solace in the fact that he lived a life of purpose and left the academic world better than he met it. May Allah (SWT) forgive his shortcomings, reward his immense contributions, and grant him eternal rest in Aljannatul Firdaus. Amin.

Professor Hafizu Miko Yakasai will forever remain a beacon of knowledge, leadership, and service.

Dr. Tijjani Shehu Almajir

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Introduction

The *Ilorin Journal of Translation (IJTS)* is a peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to advancing research, scholarship, and practice in the field of translation and interpretation studies. It is published by the Institute of Translation Arts, University of Ilorin, Nigeria. The journal provides a platform for scholars, researchers, and practitioners to engage in critical discussions on translation theories, methodologies, and the interdisciplinary nature of translation studies.

Aim and Scope

IJTS aims to foster the development of translation studies by publishing high-quality research articles, case studies, and book reviews on various aspects of translation, including but not limited to:

- Theoretical and Applied Translation Studies
- Literary and non-literary Translation
- Machine and A computer-aided Translation
- Translation in Indigenous and Minority Languages
- Interpretation and audiovisual translation
- Digital Humanities, Terminology and Lexicography in Translation
- Ethics and Cultural aspects of Translation
- Translation Pedagogy and Curriculum Development
- Legal, Medical, and Technical Translation
- Multilingualism and Translation Policy
- Translation and Digital Humanities
- Translation and Artificial Intelligence
- Translation and Applied Linguistics.

Publication Frequency

IJTS is published twice a year (January and June)

Submission and Review Process

Contributors should send their manuscripts to ijts@unilorin.edu.ng with copies sent to ita2015@unilorin.edu.ng. Articles does not place restriction on manuscript length but authors are advised not to make the manuscripts too long. All submissions should adhere to APA style sheet (6th Edition).

Manuscripts submitted to IJTS undergo an initial editorial assessment before being sent for a double-blind peer review by two reviewers. Book reviews do not undergo double-blind peer review but are reviewed by the editors. A submission fee of N6,000 (Six thousand Naira only) covers the review process. Accepted papers would attract a publication fee of N25,000 (twenty-five thousand Naira only). Payments should be made to the following account:

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