

# IV Jornadas Internacionales de Traductología

## En torno a la traducción relacional

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### From Bob Dylan in Norwegian to Alf Prøysen in Spanish: Popular song translation as individual expression, cultural appropriation, and cultural exchange

Arguably, one of the most central aspects of human existence and culture is music. Although local expressions abound, music also travels, connecting people and cultures. Translation is a very central aspect of this travelling. When song lyrics are translated to be sung, this most often has a deeply individual, cultural as well as an intercultural side to it. Studies show that audiences both expect the translating artist's own *voice* to be expressed, as well as the original artist's intention to shine through. In this talk, I explore the complex interplay between these individual, cultural and intercultural factors in popular song translations into and from Norway and Norwegian, as examples of a culture dominated by Anglophone popular culture, and a lesser-used language. I give examples of translations of Bob Dylan into Norwegian, and the rare example of Nicaraguan-Norwegian singer Katia Cardenal, who translated and performed the songs of Norwegian ballad-writer and performer Alf Prøysen into Spanish (1999), a CD-release that became immensely popular in Norway. I also touch on related phenomena such as the use of language mixing in song lyrics and song (fan) translation on the Internet, in order to give an as full a picture as possible of the cultural flows involving popular song translation in and around Norway.