



IAPTI Conference, Valencia 2018

Making **space** for **equality** and **inclusiveness** in **translation** and **interpreting**

by Begoña Martínez Pagán

Do we believe that
language can change
the world?

—

And...
can (we) the world
change
— *language?*

As translators and interpreters, we are often sure that



we can think

stuff we have

no words

for...

just yet.

Language **should** be
a tool
for freedom,
not a
cage.

“Not sexist”

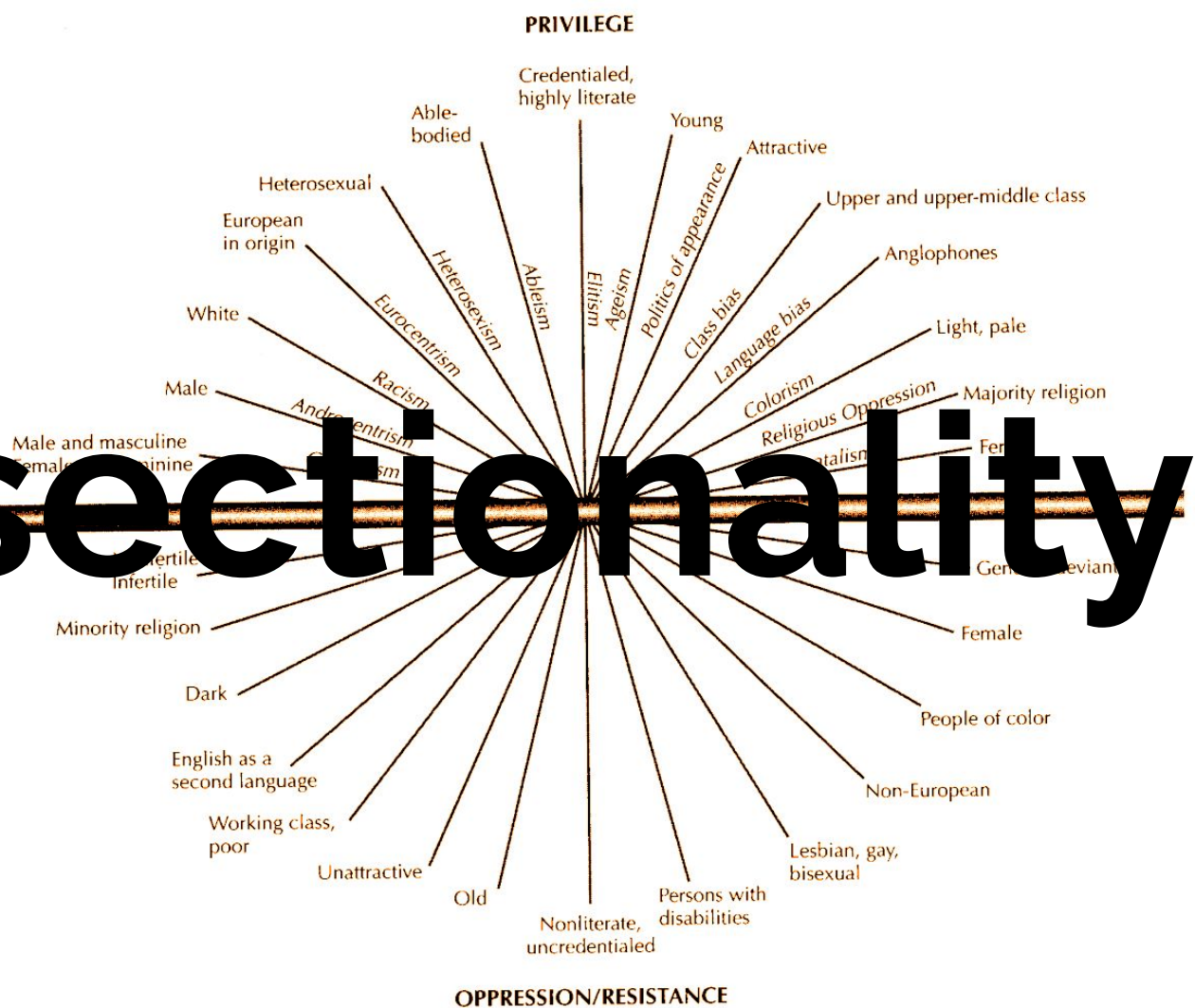
is *not* good enough.

Language

should

empower.

Intersectionality



- Male
- White
- European in origin
- Heterosexual
- Able-bodied
- Credentialed,
highly literate
- With gender
- Young
- Attractive
- Upper/upper
middle class
- Anglophone
- Light, pale
- Majority religion
- Fertile

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- Gender “deviant”,
intersex
- Female
- People of color
- Non European
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual,
asexual, aromantic
- Differently abled
- Uncredentialed, non
- Old
- Unattractive
- Working class/poor
- English as second
language (no English!)
- Dark
- Minority/no religion
- Non fertile

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**CLASSIFIED
“OTHER”**

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE GUIDES

**Have you ever read / used /
written one?**

How do these guides and studies impact
translation and interpreting in practice?



CONSISTENCY FOR

CONSISTENCY'S SAKE?



**A foolish consistency is the
hobgoblin of little minds.**

–Emerson



WRITE #4RIGHTS
DECEMBER 10, 2012

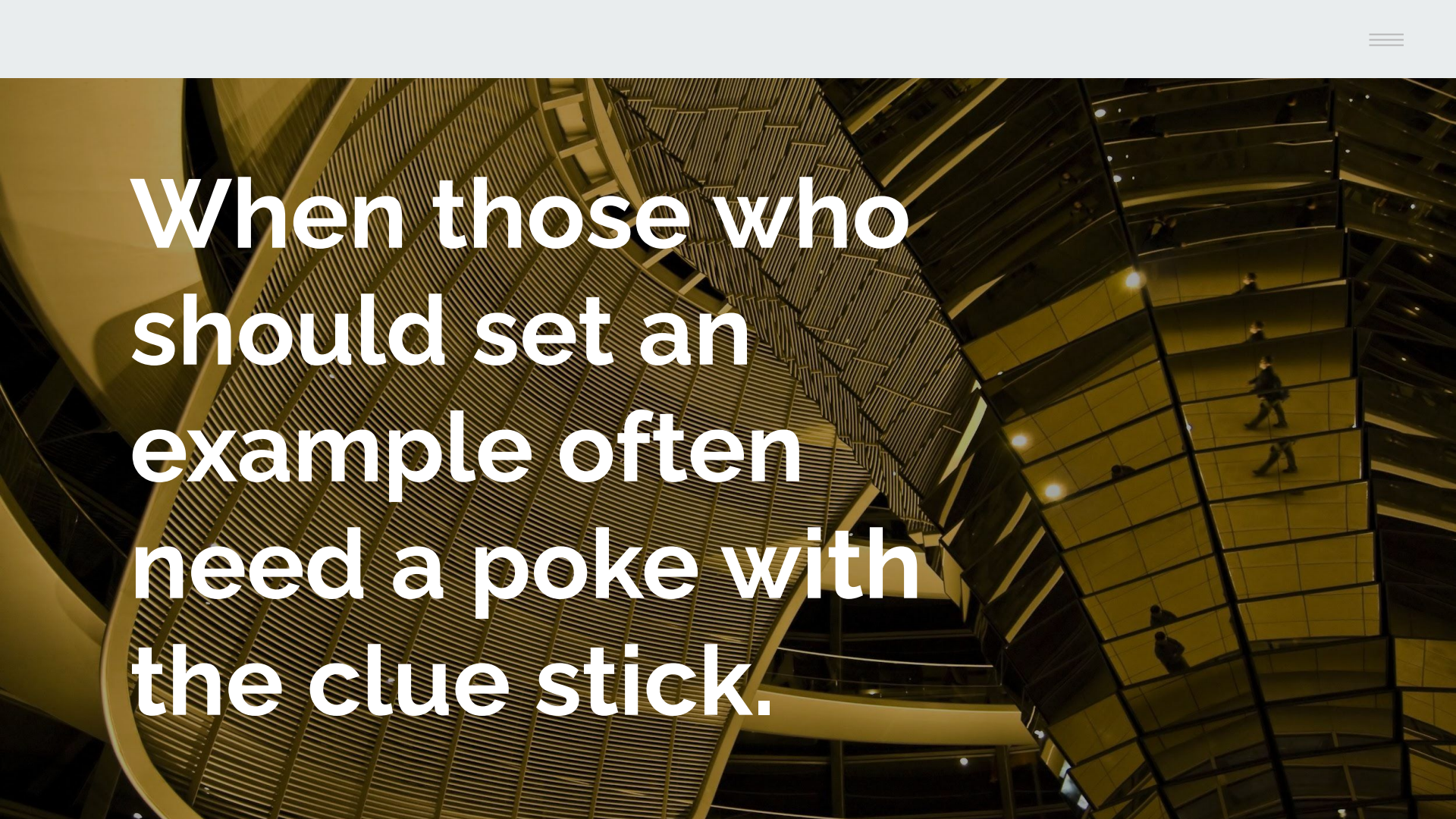
“It’s better to
light a candle
than to curse
the darkness”

Often quoted at Amnesty
International (also, check
out their logo next time
you see it: it *is* a candle).

All AI Materials
© Amnesty International, used for
illustration purposes, I am in no way
representing AI.

IT’S BETTER
TO LIGHT A
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When those who
should set an
example often
need a poke with
the clue stick.

SPAIN

SETS A BAD EXAMPLE with

Sexismo lingüístico

y visibilidad de la mujer

written by Ignacio Bosque,
signed by the RAE in March 2012.





What is it?

A rough, poorly argued comparison of
nine Spanish* inclusive language guides.

—

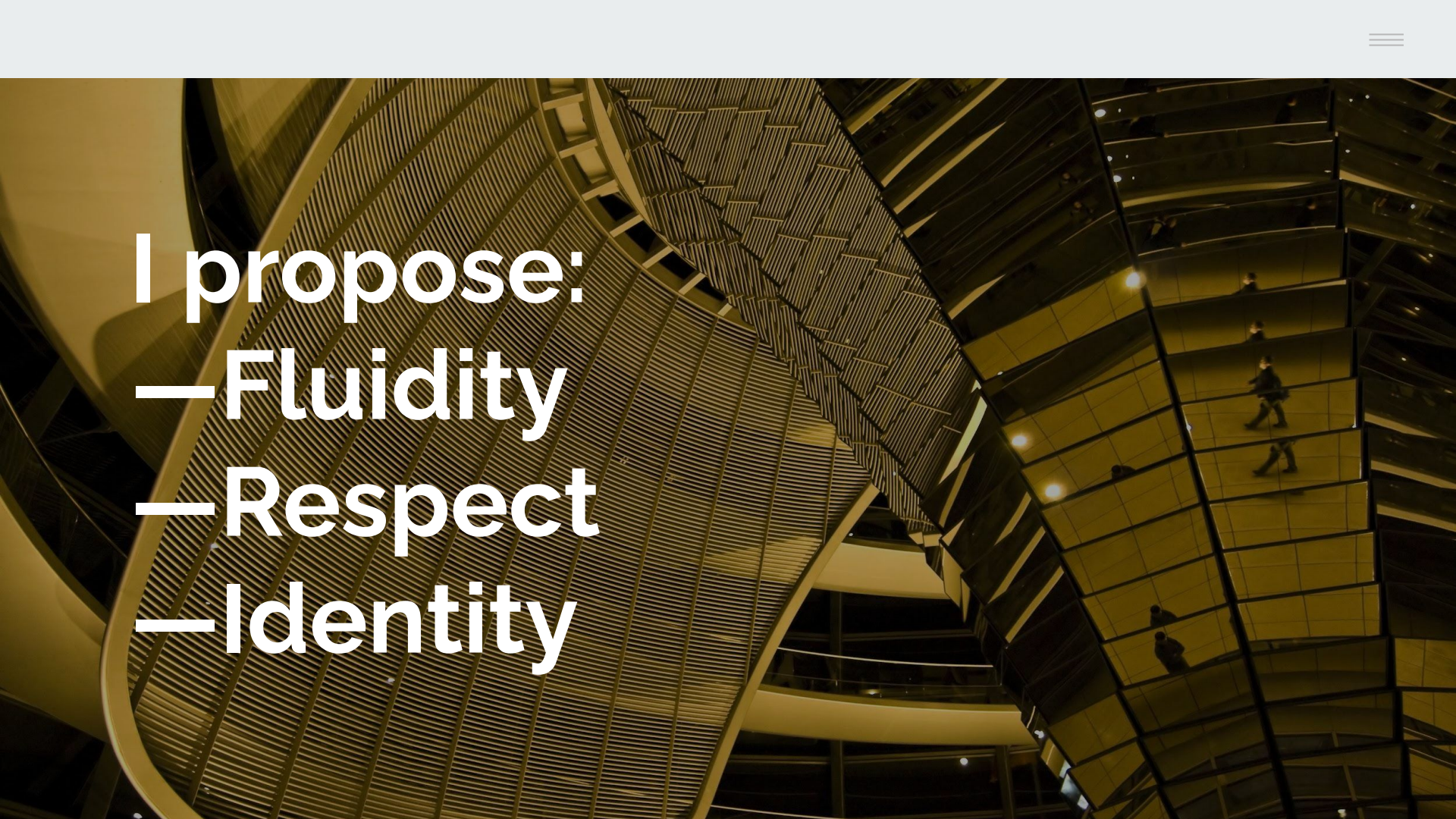
* (Spanish for Spain only).



PS:
Still no “official”
statements on the
lack of visibility of
any other genders.



**So, which
cross-language
criteria could we
use?**



I propose:
— Fluidity
— Respect
— Identity



FLUIDITY

—

RESPECT



IDENTITY

—

What do clients think?



The *dieting* app
that had a
gender setting.
—



In the booth: an NGO
full of empowered
women using inclusive
language.

The UN has its own guides.

<http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/gender-inclusive%20language/guidelines-on-gender-inclusive-language-es.pdf?la=es&vs=905>

**Are we
making space
for this?**



Good tools in bad hands



Belial Flores @ShoutsandBites

5h

Asesinan a una mujer trans en Valladolid

EiTB Noticias @eitbNoticias

7h

Fallece una persona transexual en Valladolid
a consecuencia de una paliza [eitb.eus/es/
noticias/so...](https://eitb.eus/es/noticias/so...)



Delegate Danica Roem,

TRADE-OFFS



Dr Kat Gupta

@mixosaurus

Siguiendo



me, a descriptive linguist: language is negotiated by a community of practice; language is inherently & continuously in a state of change; as long as you can be understood by your audience, you're fine

me, a proofreader: MY GOD WHAT ARE YOUR COMMAS DOING, FUCK ME

Traducir Tweet

23:27 - 6 sept. 2018

6.923 Retweets **30.581** Me gusta



187

6,9K

31K



My humble translation:



Begoña Martínez-Pagán

@minibego



«yo, haciendo lingüística descriptiva: el lenguaje se negocia en la comunidad de hablantes; el lenguaje está en un estado de cambio continuo e inherente; mientras que tu audiencia te entienda, vas bien

yo, corrigiendo textos: POR DIOS QUÉ MIERDA HACES CON LAS COMAS, ME MATAS»

The art of disrespect

// FOR THE LOLZ //

**Respectfully
disrespectful:**

**can we insult people without
making it worse for those
— already oppressed?**



CONCLUSIONS:

Is it ethical to
do nothing?



iGracias!
Thank you!





Let's continue this conversation at:

@minibego
bmartinez@um.es

