

EAFT–ELETO Symposium

“National Languages and Terminology in Higher Education, Science & Technology”

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Rosa Colomer, in memoriam

Jordi Bover

Before starting my presentation, I would like to dedicate a short commemorative speech to Rosa Colomer: the person who would have been here instead of myself if an unfair cancer hadn't crossed her entire life ten months from now. Today, she had been sitting here to speak about the Catalan situation as a TERMCAT director, the Centre for Catalan Terminology. As far as I know, even knowing she had few hopes to get over her illness, she considered the option to be here. Unfortunately, although her strong fight against cancer, last 23rd October, just fifteen days ago, her body said it was enough.

Rosa had a special attention towards TERMCAT participation in International networks and projects in cooperation in the frame of terminological scope. Probably, this will brought her to accept EAFT presidency and some time later the Secretariat of the Association. Also, during the ten years in which she holds TERMCAT direction, the Cercaterm, our national term bank became an International reference.

Rosa Colomer is responsible for the consolidation of TERMCAT as a terminology model for working both at a national and at an international level, but for all of us, her colleagues, the years we have worked under her direction have meant something much more important: a privileged occasion for personal and professional development, for involvement in our work and for commitment to the language of the country she loved so much, by working together in solidarity. As people working with language, we know that words only acquire meaning when they are used in context. In the context of all the years we have been fortunate enough to share our lives with her, to us words like *enthusiasm*, *rigour*, *leadership*, *respect* and, especially, *generosity*, take on a new meaning.

As I mentioned before, I'm convinced that today she would be so happy to be here. It comes to my mind how much in love she was with the Mediterranean Sea, especially the Minorcan one, where she used to spend her summers holidays. This is why I'm so pleased to share with you a poem from the Catalan writer, Salvador Espriu, coinciding with his birth centenary. I have also come across to this poem when communicating Rosa's recent demise and I think that is particularly adequate at this circumstance. The poem talks about a ship that sails out of port for the tranquil open sea where hope is all:

“La fruita d’or, llunyania.

*—Deixa enrere el record
de la perduda tarda.
Deixa enrere la veu
de la muntanya.
Navega fora port,
a l’esperança.*

*Calma, illa, veler,
la fruita d’or.”*

Rest in Peace, Rosa.
