

**Read the text below (taken by Stathopoulou, 2013) and the question that follows.**

The word 'mediator' is derived from the Latin word *medius* [middle] or it comes from the Latin root *mediare* -to halve, to be in the middle, to intercede, to act as intermediary (cf. Zarate et al, 2008; Roth, 2007; Wall and Lynn, 1993). Nowadays, 'mediation' is used differently in many different disciplines. Specifically, in conflict resolution studies, the goal of mediation as a dispute resolution process is to produce a voluntary and consensual outcome (Macfarlane 2003 cited in Gerami, 2009: 435) and is considered as an alternative to destructive confrontation, prolonged litigation or even violence. Within the context of social studies, the term cultural mediation has been introduced in a number of countries and is considered to be a profession. Mediators, who actually work for the government, other non-governmental or for other humanitarian organisations (i.e., hospitals, health clinics, schools, country agencies, universities, churches and local gathering places for the community and migrant health groups) facilitate the placement of foreign nationals into a new ethnic and social context. The term 'mediation' is also prominent in translation studies and is used to refer to the process in which the translator moves back and forth between two languages with a view to bridging potential linguistic and cultural gaps. Additionally, scholars refer to the mediating role of technology between people and the world and agree on the role of information and communication technologies in mediating almost every dimension of social life (cf. Livingstone, 2009; Couldry, 2008, Hjarvard, 2007; Martín-Barbero, 2006; Eisenlohr, 2004). From the above it is evident that mediation as a term has been used in many different disciplines. As everyday practice, it also occurs everywhere, in every aspect of the public and private sphere, as Dendrinou states:

[mediation] happens in the courtroom, where lawyers defend their clients and prosecutors defend the state. The role of mediators is essential in law, diplomacy, politics, advertising, the mass media and all other public and private affairs. It is an important requirement in all types of settings, including the workplace, educational institutions, inside or outside the home.

## **Question**

Based on the information derived from the text and taking into consideration that in the context of this course **mediation is considered to be a translanguaging practice** think about its role in foreign language teaching and answer the following question: **When/for what reason does the average Greek EFL user need to mediate?**

*Post your answer in the forum.*