11th EST Congress 2025

The Changing Faces of Translation and Interpreting Studies

27 June and 30 June–3 July 2025
University of Leeds

Book of Abstracts

Panels, Keynotes, Roundtables and Posters

30 June to 3 July 2025

EST 2025 Leeds

European Society for Translation Studies

Centre for Translation Interpreting and Localisation Studies at the University of Leeds

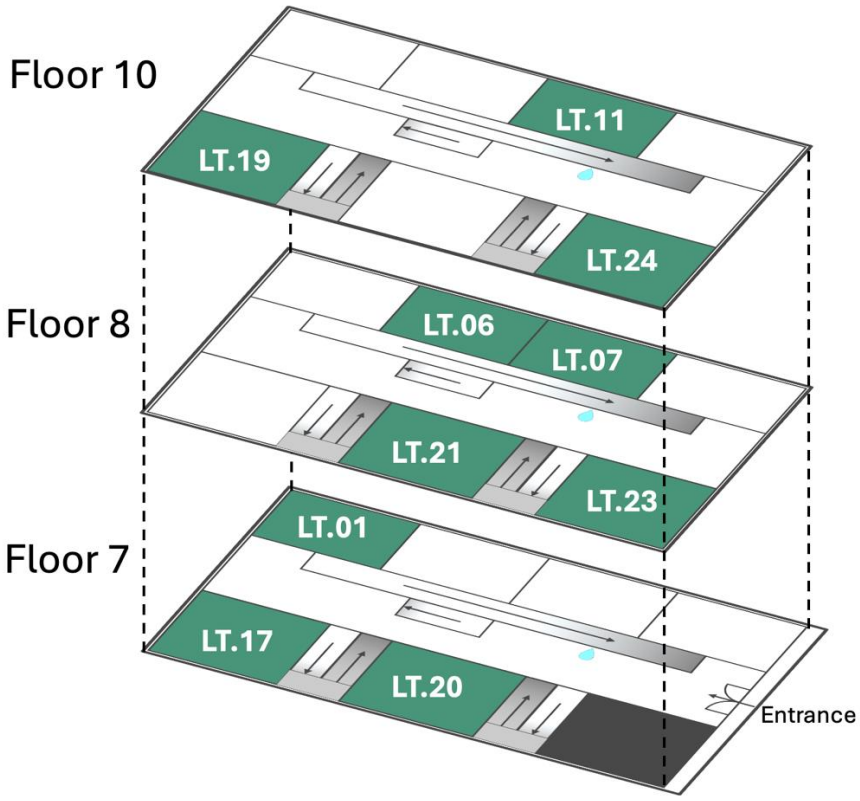
Dear Colleague,

We're delighted to welcome you to the **11th EST Congress** at the **University of Leeds**, taking place from **30 June** to **3 July 2025**.

You can view an up-to-date programme for the Congress via the QR code on the back of your name badge and on posters around the venue. This document contains all of the abstracts for the presentations, sorted by Session, and then by room and panel, with each abstract listed in presentation order according to the programme at the time of preparation.

All Keynotes will take place in Conference Auditorium 1 (with overflow capacity in Conference Auditorium 2 via live-streaming). The two roundtables will take place in Roger Stevens LT.20 and LT.21. All other panels will take place in lecture theatres spread across floors 7, 8 and 10 of the Roger Stevens building. Please see the programme and/or this book of abstracts for the room. In this book of abstracts, the room number ("LT.nn") is listed before the panel title in each section break and in the table of contents.

A simplified map of the Roger Stevens building is provided below for your reference.



Information on various aspects of the Congress is available via the Congress website: *https://ahc.leeds.ac.uk/languages/events/event/2764/11th-est-congress-the-changing-faces-of-translation-and-interpreting-studies*

If you have any questions at all during the course of the Congress please feel free to approach one of our Congress volunteers, a member of staff from Leeds, or one of the conference administration team.

Warm regards,
Sara Ramos Pinto and Callum Walker

On behalf of the local organising committee

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Session 1 | 13:30-15:00

LT.01 | Panel 32 | Seeing, Hearing, and Creating Access: The Role of Accessibility in Translation, Interpreting, and Filmmaking

Chairs: María Isabel Rivas Ginel, Will Noonan, Carme Mangiron Hevia

Using intralingual translation to create accessible serious video games for children

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Mr Hakim Boussejra

Hakim Boussejra is a PhD candidate from the University of Burgundy, in Dijon, France. He has taught for two years in literature and applied language programs before starting his PhD, which is focused on children's literature and children's video games. He has been working on adaptation of folk and fairy tales into video games to be used in educational contexts, and more generally on games and education. For his PhD, he has created two video games to improve literacy and practice reading that were successfully tested in French classrooms. He is also interested in the attitude that adults and teachers have towards video games. He has had the possibility to share his works in France and abroad at conferences such as the 6th Fun For All Conference on Video Game Translation and Accessibility in Barcelona, as well as the Videojogos 2023: 13th Conference on Video Game Sciences and Arts in Aveiro, Portugal and several conferences in France.

Abstract

In an effort to create more accessible products, following the guidelines of the European Union and Inclusion Europe inciting institutions and companies to use forms of plain and easy language (2021), video games have to adapt to be easier to use, understand, play and have fun with. This is particularly appropriate when developing serious games for young audiences such as children. Serious games are made with a purpose, which can be to inform, learn, experiment or train by playing (Alvarez & Djaouti, 2012). Making games for children implies taking into account the diversity of this audience, which may include their technical skills, literacy and interests, which all will be variable depending on their age (Fisher, 2015). Focusing on literacy and language learning, we created two serious games based on fairy tales that have been successfully used in French classrooms. We found out during the creative process that there was a need to translate the often too complex content that needed to be mediated in the games into a form that was a better fit for elementary school children (Boussejra, 2024). This called for Jakobson's definition of intralingual translation: "Intralingual translation or rewording is an interpretation of verbal signs by means of some other signs of the same language" (Jakobson, 1959). However, alongside intralingual translation, coupled with Fisher's description of the variety of children's needs depending on their age, there is an essential need for controlled languages to improve "comprehensibility, readability and usability" (O'Brien, 2010) with as many iterations as needed depending on the age and skills of the target audience. In this paper, we will discuss the need to apply intralingual translation and controlled languages in the creation process of serious games to properly mediate the content and knowledge that the games aim to pass down to children.

Keywords

Serious Games, Video Game Accessibility, Intralingual Translation

Inclusive Gaming: Developing an Accessibility Model Based on Audio Description for Diverse Audiences

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Dr Yuan Zou

Yuan Zou is a Lecturer in Translation Studies at the Centre for Translation Studies, University of Surrey, UK. She holds a PhD in AVT, focused on translating knowledge in open courses for international audiences, from Queen's University Belfast (QUB), and an MTI in Translation and Interpreting from Jilin University. Her research focuses on the integration of language technologies in interpreting and audiovisual translation (AVT), with a strong interest in leveraging these advancements to enhance digital accessibility. Yuan is currently involved in several projects exploring different forms of accessibility aids through technologies, including Audio Description (AI-Enhanced Game Accessibility and Inclusive Support, AEGIS, 2024-2025), respeaking (Shaping Multilingual Access through Respeaking Technology – Upskilling, SMART-UP, 2023-2025), and machine translation (Enhancing Preparedness of Public Services to Manage AI Risk in Multilingual Communication, PPS-AIR, 2024-2025). Additionally, she engages in Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) outreach, bridging gaps between higher education and local ethnic minority communities, and advocating for equity through active collaboration. She supervises MA and PhD students in the above areas of Translation and Interpreting and is a member of the newly launched Leverhulme Doctoral Training Network on AI-Enabled Digital Accessibility (ADA). Alongside her academic role, Yuan is an experienced freelance translator and interpreter.

Professor Sabine Braun

Sabine Braun is Professor of Translation Studies and Director of the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Surrey, UK, a Research-England funded Centre of Excellence. She also serves as a Co-Director of Surrey's Institute for People-Centred AI. She specialises in human-machine integration in translation and interpreting to improve access to information, digital content and public services. For over a decade, she spearheaded a European-funded research programme investigating video-mediated interpreting in legal proceedings to improve language access in the justice sector (AVIDICUS 1-3; 2008-16), while contributing her expertise in video interpreting to other justice sector projects (e.g. QUALITAS, 2012-14; Understanding Justice, 2013-16; VEJ Evaluation, 2018-20). Subsequently she advised justice sector institutions on the use and risks of video-mediated interpreting, delivered training, developed European guidelines, and co-authored a DIN standard. She has also explored the use of video and virtual reality platforms for training interpreters and users of interpreting services (IVY, 2011-3; EVIVA, 2014-15; SHIFT, 2015-18; EU-WEBPSI, 2021-24) and is currently involved in projects investigating the application of communication technologies and AI-enabled language technologies to multilingual health communication (MHealth4All, 2021-24; Interpret-X, 2021-24). Furthermore, she conducts research on audio description and other translation modalities related to accessible communication. In the Horizon 2020 project MeMAD (2018-21), she explored the potential for (semi-)automating audio description to enhance digital media inclusion. In 2024, she launched a Leverhulme Trust-funded Doctoral Training Network on AI-Enabled Digital Accessibility (ADA). Her overarching interest centres on fairness, transparency, and quality in the use of technology in language mediation.

Abstract

The global games market generated £145 billion revenue in 2023 (Newzoo, 2024). However, there are significant accessibility challenges for 429 million disabled gamers worldwide. In the UK, nearly a third of gamers identify as disabled, almost double the 16% of disabled individuals in the general population (BBC, 2024). Recent research by the Royal National Institute of Blind People in the UK (RNIB, 2022) has highlighted the need to incorporate more accessible features for visually impaired users in games, including audio description (AD, an oral commentary describing the most salient visual content), while a recent survey of visually impaired users in Spain has identified specific uses of AD in video games (Larreina Morales & Mangiron, 2023). Other research has furthermore shown that AD, while originally developed for visually impaired audiences as a form of additional commentary, can also be useful for people experiencing cognitive differences (Starr & Braun, 2020). The study we present aims to improve game accessibility through AD for diverse audiences. Building on the above-cited research and our initial discussions with game studios in the UK, the study has three stages: 1) Identifying current barriers in game accessibility for AD users; 2)

Understanding stakeholder and user needs through engagement with games studios and users; 3) Developing an accessibility-through-AD model informed by (1) and (2) and by our expertise in media accessibility (e.g., AD for films) to advance AD for games. Drawing on research on automating AD (Braun & Starr, 2022), we also investigate how generative AI can facilitate the insertion of AD into games in real-time. In our presentation, we will first report our findings regarding barriers and user needs, and then discuss how these findings along with insights from research on AD for film and art are informing the development of our accessibility-through-AD model for games.

Keywords

Game Accessibility, Audio Description, Inclusive Support

Accessible filmmaking - dealing with the challenges of Media Access providers

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Dr Carlo Eugeni

Carlo Eugeni is the programme leader of the MA Audiovisual Translation and Localisation at the University of Leeds, where he teaches live subtitling, media accessibility, and conference interpreting. Carlo launched the International Symposium on Live Subtitling, co-funded the International Association of Respeaking on A.I.R., wrote the first book and Ph.D. thesis on respeaking, and designed the live subtitling self-assessment tool MARS. Carlo has researched and published in the fields of live subtitling, conference interpreting, and subtitling strategies; and has recently publushed two co-edited books for Routledge on Teaching Translation, and Teaching Interpreting and Live Subtitling. In 2018, Carlo received an honorary award by the Italian Association of Cochlear Implant Users APIC for his commitment in promoting the empowerment of deaf people through live and pre-recorded subtitling. He was Intellectual Output Leader of the Erasmus+ projects LTA on live subtitlers, T2V on Easy-to-Read validators and facilitators, and CCUV on Easy Italian writing; and is currently serving as a partner in the Horizon project iDEM on accessibility to the decision-making process, and as a member of the experts group on accessibility in the metaverse for the UN International Telecommunications Unit.

Dr Pablo Romero-Fresco

Pablo Romero Fresco is a Senior Lecturer at Universidade de Vigo (Spain) and Honorary Professor of Translation and Filmmaking at the University of Roehampton (UK). He is the author of the books Subtitling through Speech Recognition (Routledge) and Accessible Filmmaking (Routledge). He is the leader of the international research group GALMA, for which he is currently coordinating several international projects on media accessibility. He has worked as a consultant for institutions and companies such as the European Parliament, Ofcom, Netflix or the Spanish Film Academy, with which he has set up a training course to introduce accessible filmmaking and access coordination in the Spanish film industry. Pablo is also a filmmaker. His first short documentary, Joining the Dots (2012), was used by film schools, universities and film festivals all over the world to raise awareness about audio description. His first feature-length documentary, Where Memory Ends (2022), premiered at the London Spanish Film Festival and the Seminci Festival (Spain) and its accessible version has been screened at special events in New York, London and Montreal. In 2024 he was accredited as a Full Professor by the ANECA (National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain) and he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the international subtitlers' association SUBTLE for his lifelong impact on the areas of audiovisual translation and media accessibility around the world.

Abstract

Thanks to the input of Artificial Intelligence in Media Accessibility, accessible filmmaking has gained a new impetus both in academia and the profession, with creativity gaining more and more momentum (Romero-Fresco and Chaume 2022). As known, accessible filmmaking aims to help filmmakers understand that they should consider accessibility services from the design stage of an audiovisual product (Romero-Fresco, 2019). This prevents accessibility providers from facing challenges (such as quick speeches to subtitle or interpret, too much on-screen information to describe or dub, etc.) that force them to choose between accessibility and accuracy, resulting in a product that is either accurate or accessible, but not both. It is therefore important to understand the challenges service providers face in their daily work. This may allow filmmakers to understand what is problematic in the process of making their product accessible to various types of audiences. Hence, they may either decide to avoid such challenges, or agree with the access service providers a creative approach to those same challenges. This not only guarantees an accessible product, but can also result in an improved version of the original idea. To achieve this, a survey was launched among inclusive subtitlers, audiodescribers, sign language interpreters, and Easy Language aiming at investigating the most challenging technical, linguistic, semiotic, and professional aspects of an audiovisual product. In this speech, the main challenges of an audiovisual product will be illustrated in the framework of multimodality studies (Ramos Pinto and Adami, 2020). Then, the results of the survey will be presented and

discussed in the light of the advances in the field of Accessible Filmmaking. Finally, we will present the first accessible filmmaking database, which will help carrying out a quantitative and qualitative analysis of who is applying integrated forms of access and its implications for didactics.

Keywords

Accessible Filmmaking, Media Access services, Challenges

Media Accessibility Trainers in the Era of Digital Transformation

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Dr. Emília Perez

Emília Perez is Associate Professor at the Department of Translation Studies, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia. Since 2019, she has been a member of the Executive Board of the European Master's in Translation network (EMT). In 2020 she set up the EMT working group on AVT and media accessibility training in Europe which she leads to the present day. Since 2021 she is the member of the European Association for Studies in Screen Translation Executive Board. She is a co-founding member and current editor-in-chief of the journal Bridge: Trends and Traditions in Translation and Interpreting Studies and member of the scientific board of the Journal of Audiovisual Translation. As a trainer, access coordinator and invited expert she has been cooperating with several international projects, events and initiatives (e.g. SubSign – Subtitling Sign Languages 2024-2025, One World Film Festival 2020-2025; the Directorate-General for Translation of the European Parliament, Luxembourg (2020-2025); the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission, Brussels (2021). Back at home, she closely cooperates with the Slovak community of the Deaf, providing expertise on recent legislative, administrative and cultural initiatives. She is also actively involved in several Slovak independent projects advocating for open and accessible culture.

Dr. Alina Secară

Alina Secară is Senior Scientist in the University of Vienna Centre for Translation Studies, where she investigates accessibility practices and technologies, and teaches subtitling, captioning and multimedia localization processes and technologies. A UK Stagetext accredited theatre captioner, she also worked with theatres across the UK to integrate captioning for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and provided customized hands-on training in subtitling and captioning to EU and UN in-house linguists. She managed the UK University of Leeds MA in Audiovisual Translation Studies for over a decade and was part of a variety of EU-funded e-learning translation technologies projects such as eCoLoTrain, eCoLoMedia and Digging, and currently LT-LiDER.

Abstract

As digital transformation reshapes the way media is produced, what it is used for and how it is consumed, media accessibility has been gaining increased recognition in both academic research and training. Within translation and interpreting studies, it has traditionally been affiliated to the wider field of audiovisual translation, which has embraced modalities providing access to specific scenarios and diverse audiences (Szarkowska – Wasylczyk 2018). Current practice, research and training initiatives, however, open up a broader concept of understanding (media) accessibility, shifting attention from provision of access to audiovisual production to designing more inclusive content, information and communication for all (Di Giovanni 2021). In such a dynamically evolving area, with increasing demand for specialist professionals, implementation of dedicated undergraduate and postgraduate accessibility modules within translation and interpreting studies curricula (and beyond) can be witnessed (Valdez – Secară – Perez – Bywood 2023), although not much is known about how and by whom media accessibility university education and training is provided. This proposal aims to provide insight into the evolving landscape of media accessibility training within translation and interpreting curricula, with its main focus on the media accessibility trainers. Based on data obtained from qualitative in-depth interviews with media accessibility trainers from multiple European regions, it explores their diverse backgrounds, expertise and methodologies, as well as their different training realities. Acknowledging the pioneering work done by audiovisual translator trainers in integrating accessibility topics in their classrooms, the authors then investigate the extent to which translator trainers more generally could also benefit from integrating accessibility. Moreover, given the interrelated nature of translation and accessibility, both having as core aim the provision of access to information, we explore ways in which technology developed for one can, and does benefit the other.

Keywords

media accessibility, translator training, trainers

LT.06 | General panel | Translation Technology

Chair: David Orrego-Carmona

Investigating (Non-)Professionalism in Human-Computer Collaborative Translation

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Dr. Chuan Yu

(Clara) Chuan Yu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong. She is the author of Online Collaborative Translation in China and Beyond: Community, Practice, and Identity (2022, Routledge) and the Principal Investigator of the project Investigating the Role of Communities and NGOs in Supporting Sustainable Crisis Translation in Hong Kong (supported by the Research Grants Council, Hong Kong SAR Government). Clara conducts community- and participant-oriented translation studies research from anthropological and sociological perspectives. Her work explores the complexities of translation processes involving both human and non-human actors, participants' identities, and the online digital media platforms on which these practices occur. More recently, her ongoing projects investigate the linguistically and culturally mediated communication needs of minority language speakers with a focus on South Asian residents in Hong Kong. In addition to her book, Clara has published articles in journals such as The Translator, Translation Studies, and The Journal of Specialised Translation, as well as chapters in edited volumes. Website: https://tiis.hkbu.edu.hk/en/staff/detail/63/.

Dr. Tom Bartindale

Tom Bartindale is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer and Information Sciences at Northumbria University, the UK. He is a Human Computer Interaction researcher who has formed and managed multiple cross-disciplinary teams that offer a research capacity to NGOs and 3rd sector. He specialises in new media production technologies and the opportunities arising from novel interaction technologies, collaborative interaction, mobile and situated computing. Tom has a passion for exploring the possibilities for new media production tools, processes and social dynamics, particularly given the vast array of innovative interaction technologies and networking infrastructure now available. He brings his firsthand experience of working with production technologies, as an event manager and technician, to envision new forms of media consumption, production and delivery. Website: https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/our-staff/b/tom-bartindale/.

Abstract

Cultural and linguistic mediation activities undertaken by people without formal training or remuneration are referred to as non-professional translation (Antonini and Bucaria 2016, 7). According to this definition, credentialling and remuneration are the two criteria that define translation professionalism. However, the boundary between professionalism and non-professionalism is not clear-cut in real-life situations, especially in collaborative translation where both professionals and non-professionals are often engaged. Additionally, non-human (technology) actors increasingly collaborate or act as mediators in various translation scenarios, further challenging the notion of professionalism. In this paper, we re-examine the meanings of (non-)professionalism by drawing on our ongoing project in which human-to-machine collaborative translation is adopted. We frame collaborative translation assisted by various technologies as a form of human-computer interaction (HCI), defined as the "construction of an interactive artefact for some purpose in human use of computing" (Oulasvirta and Hornbæk 2016, 4958). Different stakeholders, including NGOs, community members and translation professionals, participated in a series of collaborative translation activities aimed at facilitating communication on food safety between majority (English and Chinese) and minority (Hindi and Urdu) language speakers in Hong Kong. We ask two interrelated research questions: i) How do members from different stakeholder groups interact with each other and with technologies during the process of collaborative translation? And ii) how is (non-)professionalism understood by them and in the context of the available technological tools used during these processes? In this way, we can explore the potential of tools to enhance collaboration and mediate interactions among the participants. The data analysed include participants' demographics, training materials, ethnographic fieldnotes, and interview

transcripts. The findings suggest that translation professionalism is relational. Rarely does one single participant possess the full set of skills and knowledge. When a minority language is involved, technologies can potentially empower minority communities, while also risking their further marginalisation.

Keywords

Human-Computer Collaborative Translation, Translation Professionalism , Ethnographic Action Research

Revealing ethical perspectives of students and professional translators on translation technology: a Q-methodological study

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Mr Yizhu Li

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Abstract

Technological impacts on translation ethics have sparked extensive discussion and debate over the past decade. However, despite the prevalence of theoretical and hypothetical concerns, there remains a paucity of empirical knowledge in the area. Inspired by empirical ethics studies and the attitudinal approach to translation technology, this study adopted Q methodology to explore stakeholders' ethical perspectives on translation technology, with a specific focus on students and professional translators in the context of translation education and industry. After revealing four salient viewpoints among the two groups, i.e., "Boldness with Conservatism," "Relativism in Intersectionality," "Empowerment without Agency," and "Optimism and Social Darwinism," the study further uncovered their difference in perspectives on clients' interest, human translators' sustainability, the technological impact on the humanist values of translation, and communicated technological usage. It also revealed an intergroup similarity in acceptance of technology motivated by social responsibility. Based on the findings, the study argues that notwithstanding the revealed ethical gap between the two groups, lack of ethical knowledge may also exist on the professional side, so translation education is not necessarily designed to meet industry's needs, and the traditional mentality, i.e., translation education is in the service of translation industry, should be tempered with equality and reciprocity. Considering gap but also bridge, the study also argues that the revealed consensus between the two groups can be a starting point for a broader space for dialogue and exchange where translation education and industry can converge to build a more inclusive ethical vision that encompasses a wider range of stakeholders (e.g., general MT consumers).

Keywords

ethical perspectives, translation technology, Q methodology

Uses and Perspectives of Translation and Interpreting Technology in the Artificial Intelligence Era: Findings from an Australian Survey

Dr Vanessa Enriquez Raido, Prof. Marc Orlando, Dr Sixin Liao, Prof. Jan-Louis Kruger
Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

Dr Vanessa Enriquez Raido

Vanessa Enríquez Raído is Senior Lecturer in Translation Technologies at Macquarie University's Department of Linguistics in Australia. She teaches human-centred machine translation and conducts research that encompasses translator education, translation technologies, translation-oriented web search and, more recently, large language models. Vanessa serves on the editorial board of The Interpreter and Translator Trainer and Tradumàtica: tecnologies de la traducció and is a member of the advisory board of the Research Methods in Translation and Interpreting Studies series published by Routledge.

Prof. Marc Orlando

Marc Orlando is Professor in Translation and Interpreting Studies at Macquarie University in Sydney. His research interests are in the training of translators and interpreters and in the synergies between practice, research, and education, as well as in the impact of new technologies on the T&I professions. He is a member of the international editorial board of The Interpreters' Newsletter and of Interpreting and Society. He is also an active conference interpreter, member of AIIC and NAATI certified.

Dr Sixin Liao

Dr. Liao is a Post-doctoral Researcher in Linguistics at Macquarie University in Sydney. Her research uses eye tracking to study multimodal reading, such as reading subtitles in videos. Her current projects also explore the use of subtitles as a reading intervention for literacy development. She is the First Laureate for the 2022 CIUTI PhD Award and has more than 10 publications in eye-tracking research. Her latest publication on Trends in Cognitive Sciences explores how digital technology affects the way we engage in reading. She is also a reviewer for journals such as Target, PLOS One and Applied Psycholinguistics.

Prof. Jan-Louis Kruger

Jan-Louis Kruger is Professor of Linguistics at Macquarie University and extraordinary professor in the UPSET focus area at North-West University in South Africa. His research focuses on the processing of language in multimodal contexts, specifically in audiovisual translation, reading, and interpreting. His main approaches are aligned with cognitive psychology and psycholinguistics. Primarily, his projects focus on investigating cognitive processing when more than one source of information have to be integrated, as in the reception of subtitles or the production of interpreting. He is on the editorial board of the Journal of Audiovisual Translation.

Abstract

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to reshape the language industry, understanding the various uses and perspectives of translation and interpreting (T&I) technology within the professional community is crucial, particularly for informing training and curriculum development. This paper presents findings from a comprehensive survey conducted with over 1,400 professional translators and interpreters in Australia, focusing on their engagement with various T&I technologies. The survey examined the use of computer-assisted translation (CAT) and machine translation (MT) tools, alongside emerging technologies such as computer-assisted interpreting (CAI) tools and large language models (LLMs). The results reveal that while a significant portion of respondents regularly employ CAT and MT tools to enhance their productivity and work quality, the adoption of CAI tools and LLMs remains limited. Respondents demonstrated a nuanced understanding of these technologies, acknowledging their benefits while also recognizing the associated risks, limitations, and ethical concerns. Notably, many professionals reported a lack of confidence in their

proficiency with AI tools, particularly in understanding the underlying processes of MT systems. This paper discusses the insights gained from this Australian survey and explores the implications of these findings, offering valuable perspectives for global T&I practice and training as AI technologies become increasingly integrated into the field.

Keywords

artificial intelligence (AI) , large language models (LLMs), translation and interpreting technology

Which kind of experts in which loops? Redefining the relationship between translators, data, and models

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Dr. Moritz Schaeffer

Moritz Schaeffer received his BA in Translation Studies and MA in Theory and Practice of Translation from the University of Middlesex and his PhD in Translation Studies from the University of Leicester, his Habilitation from the University of Mainz and has published widely on translation process research. He has worked as a research assistant at the Center of Research and Innovation in Translation and Translation Technology (CRITT) (Copenhagen Business School) and the Institute for Language, Cognition and Computation (University of Edinburgh). He is currently a research associate at the TRACO Lab at the Faculty of Translation Studies, Linguistics and Cultural Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.

Dr. Dominik Sobania

Dominik Sobania received the bachelor's degree in computer science from the Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, in 2012, the master's degrees in internet and web-based systems as well as in computer science from the Technical University Darmstadt, Darmstadt, Germany, in 2015 and 2020, respectively, and the Ph.D. from Johannes Gutenberg University in 2023. For his Ph.D. thesis he received the dissertation award of the Teves Foundation. Currently, he is a Researcher with the Johannes Gutenberg University. His current research focuses on automatic code generation with genetic programming as well as large language models.

Mr. Martin Briesch

Martin Briesch received the bachelor's degree in management and economics and the master's degree in management with a focus on information systems and operations research from Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, in 2017 and 2020, respectively. He is currently a Research and Teaching Assistant with the Johannes Gutenberg University. His current research focuses on generative artificial intelligence, in particular large language models for code generation and natural language.

Dr. Andrea Hunziker Heeb

Andrea Hunziker Heeb (she/her) is a translation studies researcher and lecturer at the ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences in Switzerland. Her research has focused on cognitive load, cognitive ergonomics, translation processes and working conditions, L2 translation, and translation apps and generative AI in health and education. She is a member of TREC.

Prof. Silvia Hansen-Schirra

Prof. Dr. Silvia Hansen-Schirra is a full professor of English linguistics and translation studies at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in Germersheim, Germany. Her main research interests include specialized communication, text comprehensibility, post-editing, translation process and competence research. As fellow of the Gutenberg Research College she is the director of the Translation & Cognition (TRACO) Center in Germersheim and co-editor of the online book series "Translation and Multilingual Natural Language Processing"

Prof. Franz Rothlauf

Franz Rothlauf received a Diploma in Electrical Engineering from the University of Erlangen, Germany, a Ph.D. in Information Systems from the University of Bayreuth, Germany, and a Habilitation from the University of Mannheim, Germany, in 1997, 2001, and 2007, respectively. Since 2007, he is professor of Information Systems at the University of Mainz. He has published more than 150 technical papers in the context of planning and optimization, evolutionary computation, e-business, and software engineering, co-edited several conference proceedings and edited books, and is author of the books "Representations for Genetic and Evolutionary Algorithms" and "Design of Modern Heuristics". At the University Mainz, he is Academic Director of the Executive MBA program and Chief Information Officer. Recently, he received the prestigious ACM SIGEVO Outstanding Contribution Award in 2024.

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Abstract

MT and generative AI have led and will lead to new translation practices. On the one hand, the language industry requires experts-in-the-loop who coordinate AI services and turn mechanically produced text into high-quality output (Txabarriaga 2024). On the other hand, many human translators work as data labellers via platforms for extremely low rates in uberized conditions (Fırat, 2021). These circumstances ignore that the long-term risks of decreasing high-quality human data in Large Language Models have been highlighted (Simard, 2014; Briesch et al., 2023; Martínez et al., 2023): Less than ten generations of recycled synthetic training data lead to complete degradation and/or a dramatic loss of diversity in the output. New (business) models are certainly called for! We investigate to what extent quality of the output increases when a GPT-like model is trained with a dataset consisting of multiple translations per source text – compared to a model trained with only one translation per source text. We expect to see a dramatic improvement not only in the quality of translations of the same kind of texts present in the training data, but also regarding emergent aspects. If this leverage effect arises, i.e., that an extremely high increase in knowledge results in the model with relatively little, high-quality data, this logic could also be applied to other areas (programming, graphic design, etc.) where there is more than one correct solution to a problem. Human, manual work would increase in value and long-term dangers of training with (purely) synthetic data would decrease. If translators can monetise alternative translations of existing translations, the resulting business model raises a number of legal, economic, but also practical issues, and allows for a potential redistribution of the economic value associated with translators' work.

Keywords

LLMs, quality of training data , human translation

LT.07 | General panel | Research methods

Chair: Christopher D. Mellinger

What translators have to say: mixing materials and methods in literary translation process research

Dr Andrea Bergantino
Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

Dr Andrea Bergantino

Andrea Bergantino is a researcher based at the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation, Trinity College Dublin, where he has taught modules on literary translation theory and practice, as well as Italian language and culture. His doctoral thesis, which won a 2022 Government of Ireland Postgraduate Award, bridges transfiction and Translator Studies. Andrea is currently working on a new project threading together the notions of the classic and transfiction.

Abstract

This paper proposes a mixed methodological approach to researching literary translation processes. Placing human translators as the pivotal agents in these processes (Kaindl, Kolb, and Schlager 2021), the paper investigates the potential of autobiographical transfiction and non-fictional accounts authored by literary translators to provide insights into translators' perceptions of literary translation as a process. While autobiographical transfiction refers to narratives featuring translator-characters inspired by their writers' first-hand experience as literary translators (see Kaindl 2014, 8), non-fiction is exemplified by forms of life writing by translators. Walking the line between fictionalised accounts of translation experiences and their non-fictional and academic descriptions, this paper homes in on what translators have to say about literary translation as a process. It reads various translatorial statements as a form of autotheory, whereby "translators can speak as practice-led researchers [...] of their works" (Grass 2023, 67). Remaining cognisant of the inherent complications of taking fiction as a direct source of factual information, the paper uses transfiction to complement interviews, surveys, protocols, and other traditional methods in translation process research. Combining autobiographical transfiction, translators' non-fiction, and participant-based studies, the paper ultimately identifies innovative ways of substantiating triangulation both at the level of methodology and materials. The paper shifts the attention traditionally placed on target texts to the processes underpinning literary translation. It also seeks to achieve a balance in Literary Translation Studies between the subjectivity of literary translators and depersonalised findings (Risku 2024, 70-71; Kaindl 2021, 10-11). The methodological observations it makes are transferable to other subfields of Translation Studies, such as sociological research in translation and technological innovation, in which humanisation can be developed.

Keywords

humanisation, transfiction, mixed methods

Translation awareness and ethical considerations in multilingual research process

Mrs Erja Vottonen, Dr Juha Lång, Prof. Helka Riionheimo, Dr Juho Suokas, Prof. Esa Penttilä
University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland

Mrs Erja Vottonen

The authors belong to the ReTra research team of the University of Eastern Finland (Joensuu). The team concentrates on studying research translatoriality, i.e. the whole variety of multilingual activities involved in research work. Related to the theme, the team also organizes a course on translating research material for PhD researchers from various fields. Erja Vottonen works as a post-doctoral researcher. Her PhD work concentrated on the relationship of theory and practice in translator training, and she is also interested in the reception of translated Russian literature in Finland.

Dr Juha Lång

Juha Lång is a post-doctoral researcher. His other research interests include cognitive translation studies and language technology.

Prof. Helka Riionheimo

Helka Riionheimo works as professor of Finnish and Karelian at UEF. She has published various articles with translation scholars and led the Kiännä! project, which organized translator training for the endangered language of Karelian.

Dr Juho Suokas

Juho Suokas works as university lecturer in English language and translation. He did his PhD work on user-centered translation.

Prof. Esa Penttilä

Esa Penttilä works as professor of English language and translation. He has also studied non-professional translation, cognitive translation studies, multilingual communication, and metaphorical language.

Abstract

Research as an international and cross-cultural phenomenon is hardly monolingual, yet the language of scientific publication is overwhelmingly dominated by English. Due to this illusion of monolingualism, the role of multilingualism and translation in research processes may often be overlooked and translation remain invisible within research. Even in some fields that specifically study cross-cultural settings, it has been common among the researchers to hold the misconception that translation is a mechanical process that is neutral of any interpretation and that translation issues, once “solved”, do not need to be addressed further (Temple & Young 2004, Wong & Poon 2010). This means that also the various implications that translation can have on research in general and (translated) research data in particular, remain invisible and unaddressed. In our presentation, we will report findings of an ongoing research project (Research Translatoriality, ReTra), which explores the role of translation in academic research work. We collect data with an online questionnaire from Finnish and European universities and conduct interviews with researchers from different fields and universities. In this presentation, we concentrate on ethical aspects of the phenomenon: How do researchers acknowledge translation and translators in different stages of research? And how are the implications of translation taken into account? We argue that, as translation is a prominent part of almost all research work, increasing researchers’ translation awareness (a term coined by Kuusi et al. 2024) can have a positive impact on the quality of research in all fields. Kuusi, Päivi; Tuija Kinnunen, Simo Määttä & Svetlana Probirskaja 2024. “Kääntämistietoisuus koronakäännöksiä koskevissa

laatukäsityksissä.” [Translation awareness in quality perceptions of COVID translations]. Mikael. Vol. 17, p. 73–88. Wong, Josephine Pui-Hing & Maurice Kwong-Lai Poon 2010. “Bringing Translation Out of the Shadows: Translation as an Issue of Methodological Significance in Cross-Cultural Qualitative Research.” Journal of Transcultural Nursing 21 (2): 151–58.

Keywords

translation awareness, research ethics, research translatoriality

The translator-scholar: at the cross-section between translation, research and publication ethics

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Faculty of Arts and Humanities (FLUC), Coimbra, Portugal. Centre for English, Translation, and Anglo-Portuguese Studies (CETAPS), Lisbon, Portugal

Ms Phillippa Bennett

Phillippa May Bennett is a teaching fellow in English and Translation at the University of Coimbra (Portugal), a Life Sciences translator, and a writer and an editor of medical English. She submitted her PhD focusing on the translation and publication of the Portuguese Journal of Cardiology to Nova University of Lisbon in May 2024. She holds an MA in Modern and Medieval Languages from the University of Cambridge and the Diploma in Translation from the Chartered Institute of Linguists. She is a Chartered Linguist (Translator), member of APTRAD, MET and TREMEDICA. Her areas of research interest include translator ethics, medical translation and the dissemination of science through translation.

Abstract

The role of the translator-scholar (Koskinen, 2014) in ethnographic research has been explored in Translation Studies (Hubscher-Davidson, 2011; Koskinen, 2014; Risku, 2017) in recent years. It is argued that being actively immersed (Risku, 2017) in the translation setting or being 'personally involved' (Saldanha & O'Brien, 2013, p. 209) enables researchers to collect and examine more accurate data on the actions and behaviours of those they are observing. However, being an insider and reporting on observations of real-life translation situations can lead to several ethical dilemmas from a translation, research and publication ethics perspective. Drawing on examples from recent ethnographic research into the translation and publication of the Portuguese Journal of Cardiology, this presentation will examine these ethical dilemmas, the role of the translator-scholar and consider how research ethics, codes of conduct from the Chartered Institute of Linguists and Institute of Translation and Interpreting, and the Committee on Publication Ethics guidelines can at the same time aid and hinder translator-scholars. It will explore some of the following questions: where should a translator-scholar's allegiances lie? Do participants in translation research reveal more, as has been reported, when they are comfortable with the interviewer and what are the implications for the translator-scholar? How can we exclude translator-scholar bias? How can we protect research participants beyond informed consent and ethical approval for studies? It will end by considering whether there is a need for new debates on guidelines for translator-scholars and whether this can be extrapolated to other fields where practitioners are immersed in their research settings.

Keywords

Translator ethics, Translator-scholar , Ethnographic research

LT.11 | General panel | Accessibility

Chair: Sharon Black

Translator strategies in sign language accessible televised sport.

Mrs Debi Cox
Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, United Kingdom. BT, London, United Kingdom

Mrs Debi Cox

Debi Cox has enjoyed a 25-year career in the telecommunications and media sector, working for BT. She has focused on BT and EE television services for most of her career. After pursuing studies in British Sign Language in her spare time, she qualified as an interpreter in 2012 and has subsequently been splitting her time between EE TV and sign language interpreting work. The delivery of sign language accessible live sporting content on BT Sport in 2021 presented a happy collision of her two careers. It prompted Debi, appreciating the challenges from both sides, to explore how live sporting content can be best made accessible to deaf audiences. This is the focus of her PhD, which is being undertaken at Heriot-Watt University.

Abstract

A proportion of mainstream UK television programming is made accessible to deaf audiences by the inclusion of a deaf sign language translator or hearing sign language interpreter overlayed on the video. Sporting events have not historically been made available in this format. However, in 2021, this changed with BT Sport providing live sign language translation for FA Disability Cup football matches. This ushered in a new era for deaf translators working in the media industry. They are familiar with their audiences splitting attention between the programme video and the sign language text (Wehrmeyer, 2015; Bosch-Baliarda, Soler-Vilageliu and Orero, 2020) but have had little exposure to fast-paced commentary which inserts snippets of contextual information into descriptions of what is happening on the sports field, and which describes match action that may or may not be visible to the programme viewer. Deaf translators have lived experiences as members of the target audience and have broad exposure to the language variations used by deaf viewers (Adam et al., 2014). They prioritise the delivery of a coherent output, and whilst their output has been studied in other contexts (Steiner, 1998; Stone, 2019; Stone and Köhring, 2021), published research on the sign language translation of live sporting events is not evident. This presentation outlines the preliminary findings of research into the strategies exhibited by pioneering deaf translators faced with making live football events accessible to deaf audiences. Seven translations for FA Disability Cup matches aired in 2021 and 2022 have been analysed, using Wadensjö's model (1998), in order to explore the relationship of the sign language renditions produced to the source audio commentary. The findings presented will highlight the specific challenges of translating sporting commentary, drawing attention to how deaf translators manage these in their search for equivalence of experience for deaf viewers.

Keywords

Sign language interpreting, Deaf translators, Translation norms

Behind Subtitling for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SDH): Exploring the Decision-Making Processes of SDH Subtitlers

Ms. Rongyu Wang
Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland

Ms. Rongyu Wang

Rongyu Wang is currently a PhD student at the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies, Dublin City University, and a member of its Centre for Translation and Textual Studies. She holds a BA in English and Spanish Studies from Changchun Normal University (China), and an MA in Translation Studies from Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain). Her PhD research focuses on the reception of subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing in China, aiming to promote this accessibility service where it is not yet widely available. Her research interests include audiovisual translation, media accessibility, and subtitling for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Abstract

Subtitling for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SDH) is an essential service that provides access to audiovisual content for individuals with hearing impairments. Given its critical role in ensuring media accessibility, significant efforts have been made to improve the quality and effectiveness of SDH, particularly in conveying non-verbal audio information, such as music, sound effects, and paralinguistic cues. However, current research mainly focuses on viewers' reception of these subtitles, leaving the perspectives of subtitlers relatively unexplored. In light of this, this study aims to explore the decision-making processes of SDH subtitlers during the production of SDH, with a particular emphasis on how non-verbal audio information has been addressed. To this end, semi-structured interviews with nine SDH subtitlers are conducted. The interview questions involve topics such as the expression of character emotions, views on subjective and objective descriptions of music, and common challenges in producing SDH. Specific questions include how current guidelines might be improved, considerations for selecting which sounds to subtitle, and the use of emojis to convey emotions. Furthermore, the interviews gather opinions on the challenges of captioning non-verbal audio information and the most difficult types of media content for creating SDH. Preliminary findings indicate that SDH subtitlers typically describe music in terms of its atmosphere or the emotions it conveys, rather than categorizing it by genre. Additionally, different types of video content bring varying levels of difficulty. Reality shows are generally considered the most challenging for SDH production, while comedy and horror films are seen as relatively straightforward. Regarding the use of emojis to convey emotions, most SDH subtitlers indicate they have not explored this creative method, reasoning both technical constraints and the concern that individual emojis are insufficient to convey complex emotional expressions.

Keywords

Audiovisual translation, Subtitling for the deaf and hard of hearing (SDH), SDH subtitlers

Enhancing cognitive accessibility: designing and trialling ‘Accessible Questionnaires’ for cognitively diverse audiences.

Mrs Andreea Deleanu, Prof Constantin Orasan, Prof Sabine Braun
University of Surrey, Guildford, United Kingdom

Mrs Andreea Deleanu

Andreea Deleanu is a PhD Candidate at the University of Surrey, UK, specializing in Media Accessibility under the supervision of Sabine Braun and Constantin Orasan. Her project focuses on repurposing Easy to Understand language, Audio Description, Audio Narration and integrated subtitles for audiences with diverse cognitive abilities, to guide and support their comprehension, enjoyment and immersion when accessing audiovisual narrative. She holds an MA in Conference Interpreting from the University of Trieste, Italy and has specialized as a healthcare interpreter and audiovisual translator. Andreea was a Visiting Scholar at Macquarie University, Australia, where she developed her 'Accessible Cues' under the guidance of Prof Jan-Louis Kruger. Andreea was involved in the EU project EASIT (Easy Access for Social Inclusion Training) under the guidance of Prof Elisa Perego. She focused on unit 3, on the application of E2U language to AD to improve access for users with visual impairment. More information about the project and its outputs can be found here: https://transmediacatalonia.uab.cat/easit/

Prof Constantin Orasan

Constantin Orasan is Professor of Language and Translation Technologies at the Centre of Translation Studies, University of Surrey, UK and a Fellow of the Surrey Institute for People-Centred Artificial Intelligence. Before starting this role, he was Reader in Computational Linguistics at the University of Wolverhampton, UK, and the deputy head of the Research Group in Computational Linguistics at the same university. He has over 25 years of experience in the fields of Natural Language Processing (NLP), Translation Technologies, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for language processing. His recent research focuses on the use of Generative AI as a support tool for translators and the use of Automatic Speech Recognition for interpreters. In the past he was the deputy coordinator of the FIRST project, a project which developed language technologies for making texts more accessible to people with autism. In addition to managing a consortium of nine partners from academia, industry and heath care organisations, he also carried out research on text simplification and contributed to the development of a powerful editor which can be used by carers of people with autism to make texts more accessible for these people. His research is well known in these fields as a result of over 130 peer-reviewed articles in journals, books and international conferences. More information about him can be found at https://dinel.org.uk/

Prof Sabine Braun

Dr Sabine Braun is Professor of Translation Studies and Director of the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Surrey, a Research-England funded Centre of Excellence. She also serves as a Co-Director of Surrey’s Institute for People-Centred AI. She specialises in human-machine integration in translation and interpreting to improve access to information, digital content and public services. For over a decade, she spearheaded a European-funded research programme investigating video-mediated interpreting in legal proceedings to improve language access in the justice sector (AVIDICUS 1-3; 2008-16), while contributing her expertise in video interpreting to other justice sector projects (e.g. QUALITAS, 2012-14; Understanding Justice, 2013-16; VEJ Evaluation, 2018-20). Subsequently she advised justice sector institutions on the use and risks of video-mediated interpreting, delivered training, developed European guidelines, and co-authored a DIN standard. She has also explored the use of video and virtual reality platforms for training interpreters and users of interpreting services (IVY, 2011-3; EVIVA, 2014-15; SHIFT, 2015-18; EU-WEBPSI, 2021-24) and is currently involved in projects investigating the application of communication technologies and AI-enabled language technologies to multilingual health communication (MHealth4All, 2021-24; Interpret-X, 2021-24). Furthermore, she conducts research on audio description and other translation modalities related to accessible communication. In the Horizon 2020 project MeMAD (2018-21), she explored the potential for (semi-)automating audio description to enhance digital media inclusion. In 2024, she launched a Leverhulme Trust-funded Doctoral Training Network on AI-Enabled Digital Accessibility (ADA). Her overarching interest centres on fairness, transparency, and quality in the use of technology in language mediation.

Abstract

This presentation explores the use of Easy Language formats for data collection in translation research involving participants with diverse cognitive abilities. Accessible Communication has become a core area in

today's discussions around accessibility (Perego, 2020), with Easy-to-understand (E2U) language varieties increasingly employed to make domain-specific communication more comprehensible for diverse users (Maaß, 2020). Those with cognitive-related impairments are not only entitled to Easy Language formats (UNCRPD, 2006; European Commission, 2021; European Parliament, 2016) but should also be included in the validation of E2U documents (Bernabé Orero & Cavallo, 2022). However, existing guidelines for creating E2U documents are often vague (Deleanu, Orasan and Braun, 2024), while time constraints, costs and lack of access to trained validators and end-users mean that professionals find themselves relying on in-house guidance with little feedback from actual end-users (Bernabé Orero & Cavallo, 2022). This issue extends to academic research, where universities typically provide only standard or plain language versions of research-related documents, encouraging researchers to adapt them when participants with disabilities are involved. This often results in the creation of ad-hoc forms by researchers lacking training in intralinguistic and/or intersemiotic translation. Yet, the way data is collected from cognitively diverse participants is crucial to ensuring the richness and reliability of the data. Standard surveys and forms need to be adapted to meet the individual needs, expectations, and preferences of participants to ensure accuracy. This presentation addresses this challenge by presenting a detailed procedure for designing, validating and adapting research data collection forms to the individual preferences and needs of E2U users. Specifically, it outlines the development and reception of adapted demographic, enjoyment and immersion questionnaires used to assess the experience of adult audiences with learning disabilities during film screening sessions, to facilitate their inclusion in the discussion around Media Accessibility.

Keywords

Cognitive Accessibility, Easy-to-understand language, questionnaires

LT.17 | Panel 24 | How Do We Train Translators and Interpreters for Emergency Contexts?

Chairs: Carmen Pena-Díaz, Carmen Valero-Garcés

Training speakers of Languages of Lesser Diffusion in Public Service Translation and Interpreting: the DIALOGOS project

Prof Carmen Pena-Díaz, Prof Carmen Valero-Garcés, Ms Andrea Sanz de la Rosa
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Prof Carmen Pena-Díaz

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CARMEN VALERO-GARCES is a Full Professor of Translation and Interpreting at the Universidad de Alcalá. Former Head of the European (EMT) Public Service Intercultural Communication, Translating and Interpreting Master's Degree, and former Head of the MA in Conference Interpreting (Business Oriented). She has taught and lectured in translation and interpreting programs at several countries (p.e. since 1994 to 2006 , U of Minnesota (USA), University of Bucarest and Babes-Bolai Cluj Napoca University (Romania), Lessius Hogeschool (Belgium), SISU in Shanghai and BSUF in Beijing, China), Peoples' Friendship University (Russia), Auckland University (New Zealand) among others). Moreover, she is the coordinator of the Research Group FITISPos® and of the teaching innovation group FITISPos E-Learning. She is the managing editor of the peer review FITISPos International Journal and president of the association AFIPTISP. She has edited and authored several books and articles. She has led several nationally accredited research projects and participated in EU research project (AGORA; OPTIMLAE; QUALETRA; BUILDING MUTUAL TRUST). More info at: https://portal.uah.es/portal/page/portal/epd2_profesores/prof122524/publicaciones

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Andrea Sanz de la Rosa is a PhD candidate, researcher and lecturer at the University of Alcalá. She holds a degree in Modern Languages and Translation and a Master's Degree in Intercultural Communication, Interpreting and Translation in Public Services. Her research focuses on legal translation, with a special interest in terminology analysis, translation methods and strategies, and translation training. As members of the FITISPos research group, she has attended numerous conferences and participated in several projects, both at international (e.g., the Erasmus+ project Dialogos) and national level (INTERCOMSALUD). As lecturer, she has taught modules related to Translation and Interpreting and English as a Foreign Language, and provided cross-disciplinary training for future jurists who might have to work with linguistic professionals in their future.

Abstract

The reception, integration and management of incoming migrants calls for urgent initiatives to address communication barriers and linguistic obstacles which they encounter when arriving to their destination. In this context, it is crucial to provide translators and interpreters for the incoming population. There is, however, a lack of qualified translators and interpreters for languages of lesser diffusion (LLD) for which there is usually no linguistic training. To address these communication barriers of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, specialized training for non-professional interpreters and translators is required within a short timeline to meet the immediate and urgent nature of the intervention. The DIALOGOS Erasmus+ project, co-funded by the European Union, focuses specifically on the mapping of LLD in Mediterranean countries (Italy,

Greece, and Spain), identifying communication needs and developing materials and resources to help bridge communication gaps with institutions and public services. Its final objective is the development of a training course for migrants with adequate bilingual and bicultural competences of LLD to be able to recruit them as professional and qualified public services interpreters and translators (PSIT). In this presentation we will be offering outcomes of 1) the mapping of LLDs in the partner countries; 2) LLD speakers' communication needs; 3) an analysis of the process of developing resources and materials that address these needs; and 4) insights into the course-designing process and the results obtained from the pilot course that took place in Spain in March 2023 as well as the final online course.

Keywords

languages of lesser diffusion, translation and interpreting training , public service translation and interpreting

Intersectoral education and peer learning to develop languages of lesser diffusion interpreters and translators' skills: an exploratory study

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Dr. Mara Morelli

Mara Morelli worked as a freelance conference interpreter since 1991 until 2003. She holds a PhD. in Translation and Interpreting from the University of Granada. At the moment she is a lecturer at the Department of Education Sciences (University of Genoa) and is currently carrying out research in both domains of interpreting and mediation, in particular with an on-field project on multilingual communication, interpreting and mediation in healthcare, social settings and prisons.

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Abstract

The DIALOGOS Erasmus+ project (2022-2025), co-funded by the European Union, focuses on Languages of Lesser Diffusion (LLD) and linguistic barriers when accessing public services. The operational definition of LLD agreed in the project is the following: "A language for which few language resources (i.e. translation, interpreting, mediation) exist in the public services of a given host country". One of the project aims is to develop training resources to bridge communication gaps with public services, by people with adequate bilingual and bicultural competences in LLD, coming from different experiential and educational backgrounds. They could be trained in basic translation and interpreting skills by using the materials and resources being mapped, co-designed, tested and revised within the project. This presentation describes four learning interventions carried out by testing a selection of materials that had been co-designed and developed for a pilot course that took place in Madrid in March 2024. These training occasions were held in May and June 2024 as tasks of two Masters' Degree Theses: one in Pedagogy (University of Genoa), and the other in Translation and Interpreting (University of Bologna-Forlì). Both learning interventions were divided into two sessions of approximately one hour and a half each, involving LLD young speakers of Farsi, Fula, Mandinka, Polish and Swahili. The aim of the sessions was to raise participants' interest and awareness about linguistically and culturally discordant communication in public services, mixing formal education methods (content exposition by the conductor) with experiential activities. None of the participants had been trained in interpreting and translation. The theoretical framework draws on peer learning (the master's degree students conducted the sessions) and intersectoral education. The results of these learning interventions are presented, with a special emphasis on decision-making in potentially conflictive and emergency situations that stemmed from the participants' reflections and activities.

Keywords

intersectoral education, peer learning, languages of lesser diffusion

Mapping of the current situation and needs analysis for PSIT training in LLD, within the Greek context

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Dr. Elpida Loupaki

Dr. Elpida Loupaki is Associate Professor at the Department of French Language and Literature and member of the Laboratory Translation and Natural Language Processing (EMEL) at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece. Since 2002, she has been teaching General Translation, Specialized Translation and Terminology Management both at the undergraduate and postgraduate level. She obtained her degree in French Language and Literature from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She was awarded an MA in Professional Translation from the Institut de Traducteurs d'Interprètes et de Relations Internationales at Strasbourg University and she obtained her PhD in Language and Communication from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. From 2022, she is coordinating an Erasmus+ project for communication in Public Service Interpreting and Translating (PSIT) with Languages of Lesser Diffusion, in cooperation with two more academic institutions. She was member of the research team of the TRAMIG, Erasmus+ project for training newly arrived migrants for community interpreting and intercultural mediation (2019-21). She had published several papers in international journals and collective volumes, in the fields of Terminology Management, EU translation, News Translation as well as Translation and Ideology. She is an ECQA certified Terminology Manager (Advanced Level). She has participated in several EU-funded projects and nationally funded programs. She is a member of the European Society for Translation Studies, a member of the Board of the Hellenic Society for Terminology and President of the Hellenic Society for Translation Studies. She is a member of the scientific board of the Panhellenic Association of Translators.

Dr. Parthena Charalampidou

Dr. Parthena Charalampidou holds a PhD in Website Localisation and Translation. She is Senior Teaching and Research Fellow at the School of French, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Greece. She also teaches at the EMT Postgraduate Programme "Interpreting and Translation", Greece and she is a Research Associate at the Laboratory of Translation and Natural Language Processing, AUTH. Her research interests include semiotic, rhetorical and cultural approaches to translation as well as localisation of promotional digital genres and application of technology and corpora to multimodal translation. She has published several articles on these subjects in specialised journals such as The Journal of Internationalisation and Localisation (2019) and The Journal of Specialised Translation (2023). She is also co-editor of the book New Perspectives in Media Translation: Transcreation in the Digital Age, Palgrave McMillan (2024). She currently participates in the Cost Action "Language in the Human-Machine Era (LITHME)" and the Erasmus+ programme "Dialogos" for communication in Public Service Interpreting and Translating (PSIT) with Languages of Lesser Diffusion. She is also coordinator of the "Multilingual Student Translation Corpus (MUST)" programme (UCLouvain) at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki for the language pair English-Greek and representative of the Aristotle University EMT programme at the International Network of Simulated Translation Bureaus (INSTB). She has been Academic representative for the MTPE Training SIG of the Globalization and Localization Association (GALA) (2023-2024) and member of the Leadership team of Women in Localization, Greece chapter (2022-2024). Currently she is a member of the Board of the Hellenic Society for Translation Studies.

Abstract

In the European geographical area, the need for urgent communication among people who speak different languages is a very common phenomenon (Pena 2016, Štefková et al. 2020). However, the way European countries address these communication needs in public services and in particular in healthcare and legal settings, differs, depending on the speakers' language profile and on the amount of allocated resources. This variation, though, could create language equalities/inequalities which may be an important factor of inclusion/exclusion, both in social and economic space (c.f. Bayón Cenitagoya 2024: 222). A practice that contributes to the enhancement of language equality and social integration is Public Service Interpreting and Translation (PSIT). In recent years, a number of advances have been made regarding PSIT training and PSIT educational programmes, however, at a different pace for various public structures and EU Member States (Valero-Garcés 2019). This paper aims to present the current situation on PSIT training and investigate the needs for speakers of Languages of Lesser Diffusion (LLD) in the Greek context. More specifically, first, we

are going to present the findings of the mapping that we have conducted regarding training programmes and training material for PSIT in Greece and secondly, we are going to analyze the results of a survey carried out within the framework of DIALOGOS, “Communication in PSIT with LLD”, an Erasmus+ project. Thirdly, the needs analysis will be further extended through the presentation of a case study on terminology-related competence. To this end, we are going to investigate terminology-related competence, as presented by Remael at al. (n.d.) and explore the needs of LLD speakers in the Greek context, in relation to terminology resources, based on questionnaires and interviews.

Keywords

PSIT training, needs analysis, terminology-related competence

New approaches in training interpreters for crisis contexts: the ReTrans training materials

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Dr. Katia Iacono

Katia Iacono is currently working as a postgraduate researcher and teaching assistant as well as a senior lecturer at the Centre for Translation Studies of the University of Vienna. Her main research interests include dialogue interpreting, especially in medical settings, translation/interpreting management and interpreting/translation didactics. She has been a freelance translator and interpreter since 2009 and her working languages are Italian, German, Spanish and English.

Prof. Sonja Pöllabauer

Sonja Pöllabauer holds a position as Professor for Interpreting Studies at the Centre for Translation Studies, University of Vienna. She has been involved in projects on interpreting in asylum procedures, healthcare interpreting and interpreter-mediated communication in institutional settings, as well as the organisation of training courses for lay interpreters.

Abstract

During the last two decades, Austria and Slovenia have been faced with an increase in migration. Consequently, ensuring proper communication between migrants and institutions of the destination country was often challenging. Although both countries have experienced a surge in the growth of interpreting for refugees, there are little to no interpreting training materials dealing with the specific challenges in the field of crisis translation (Federici, 2016). As in most European interpreter education institutions, Austrian and Slovenian universities have mainly focused on conference interpreting and preparing students to work in business, technical and diplomatic contexts. Hence, they usually have little insight into the field of emergency context. Additionally, the respective universities only offer study programmes for the most diffused languages and do not consider languages of lesser diffusion (LLD), which are usually required in those contexts. The Erasmus+ funded project 'Working with Interpreters in Refugee Transit Zones' (ReTrans) was created to raise awareness for interpreting in transborder migration contexts and draw attention to its specificities (Iacono, Heinisch & Pöllabauer, 2024: 10). The training materials produced within the project are based on authentic experiences and insights of different stakeholders in the field, e.g. interpreters, refugees, institutional and NGO representatives. The primary objective was to sensitise the digital native generation of students, public service interpreters (PSI), and users to the professional and ethical challenges arising. As a result, different sustainable and ready-to-use digital tools (e.g., podcasts, vodcasts, educasts and interactive stories) were designed. In our contribution, we will present these didactic materials and suggest some teaching scenarios in which they can be included in the training.

Keywords

humanitarian interpreting, crisis translation, ReTrans

LT.19 | Panel 21 | From Local to Global: Interdisciplinary and Transnational Perspectives to Global Food Translation

Chairs: Saihong Li, Renée Desjardins

Edible translationality: Rewriting migrancy through food

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Prof África Vidal Claramonte

África Vidal Claramonte is Full Professor in Translation Studies at the Universidad de Salamanca, Spain. Her recent books include: "Traducción y literatura translingüe. Voces latinas en Estados Unidos" (2021); "Translation and Contemporary Art: Transdisciplinary Encounters" (2022); "Translating Borrowed Tongues: The Verbal Quest of Ilan Stavans" (2022); "Translation and Repetition: Rewriting (Un)original Literature" (2023), and "Translation and Objects. Rewriting Migrancy and Displacement through the Materiality of Art" (2024). She is a member of the AHRC network Experiential Translation: Meaning-Making in a Multimodal World.

Prof Piotr Blumczynski

Piotr Blumczynski is Professor of Translation and Intercultural Studies, and Director of Centre for Translation and Interpreting at Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland. He has authored the monographs "Ubiquitous Translation" (2016) and "Experiencing Translationality" (2023), and co-edited the volumes "Translating Values" (2016, with John Gillespie) and "The Languages of Covid-19" (2022, with Steven Wilson). He is the Editor-in-chief of the journal Translation Studies.

Abstract

In this presentation, we bring a dual contribution to the table, reporting on our ongoing collaboration on a monograph devoted to translation and food. To start with, we offer a theoretical contribution grounded in the materiality of both food and translation (in short, food is constituted by objects that are in transformative motion). Bringing into dialogue our respective recent projects (Vidal 2022, 2024; Blumczynski 2023), we turn to the ancient notion of translatio (often involving precious objects and sacred relics) and its etymological roots that signal material transfer and bodily movement, and apply these insights to a range of translational phenomena we witness and experience today. For example, migrants move their bodies but also some vitally important emotional objects (Vidal 2024). Among those objects, they move their gastronomy: special ingredients, culinary items, and types of food unknown or unfamiliar in their host countries – but also ways of cooking, serving, and eating. "In the global era, food is a semiotic system that can separate people or bring them closer, radicalize or open minds, because it is a form of translatio" (Vidal 2024: 55). If "translationality is that aspect of material culture that experientially connects us to other people, places, times, and sensations" (Blumczynski 2023: 192-192), then edible translationality is the power of culinary objects, gustatory stimuli, and familiar flavours to evoke memories and foster a sense of identity and belonging in the complex process of translating migrancy. These theoretical insights are then applied to two case studies: (1) "Solito" by Javier Zamora -- a book in which food plays a crucial role, as the protagonist traces his journey from Salvador to the USA; and (2) "La filla estrangera" by Najat El Hachmi -- with a focus on kitchen utensils and objects which only appear in Amazigh.

Keywords

translationality , food, materiality

Identity Conflict and Food in Transnational Narratives: An Ethical Translation of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Americanah.

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Ms Teresa García-Salcedo

Teresa García Salcedo is a PhD student at the Department of English and German Philology at the University of Córdoba (UCO), where she teaches and pursues doctoral research under the FPU Doctoral Fellowship. She earned two BAs from the UCO—one in English Studies and another in Translation and Interpreting, graduating with first-class honours. She also obtained a MA in Translation for the Publishing World from the University of Málaga, receiving an Academic Excellence Award. Additionally, she was honoured with the María Zambrano Award for Best Bachelor's Dissertation in Gender Studies for "The Dynamics of Female Sacrifice in George Eliot's Scenes of Clerical Life". Her research interests focus on literatures in English, particularly black British and American fiction written by female authors, from an interdisciplinary perspective. She has recently published an article, "Deconstructing the Other: Heteroglosia and Postcolonial Translation in Nnedi Okorafor's Lagoon," in Hikma: Revista de Traducción.

Abstract

Food has been widely addressed as a semiotic system in literary studies. As a cultural sign, food conveys information about the values and relationships articulating cultures, communities and individual identities in literary texts. Particularly, it plays a significant role in contemporary migrant narratives, where migrants' hybridity and identity conflicts are symbolically reflected through food consumption and eating practices. Thus, in the last decades, Translation Studies have explored the ethical conflict and cultural challenges posed by the translation of food in migrant literature. Having said that, the objective of this paper is twofold. First, it aims to analyse the (re)negotiation process of hybrid identities in Americanah (2013), by renowned author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and the role of food in the text as a semiotic system, from the perspective of Cultural and Food Studies (Montanari, 2006; Chiaro y Rossato, 2015). Second, we compare Adichie's text to its translation into Spanish in order to describe the translation strategies employed to address food references. To carry out the analysis, we resort to theories on translation, ethics and conflict (Koskinen and Pokorn, 2021), paying special attention to Vidal Claramonte's ethical methodology (2015; 2021), departing from notions of hybridity (Bhabha, 1994) and cosmopolitism (Delanty, 2009). This research ultimately delves into the intersection of food, identity, culture and translation. It concludes by demonstrating that a transnational text requires an equally transnational translation, an approach that may contest traditional notions on cross-cultural adaptation. Likewise, the analysis of the source text evinces instances of self-translation and questions how globalising practices tend to overcome the potential "untranslatability" of some culture-specific food terms, unveiling asymmetric power relations.

Keywords

Ethical Translation, Food, Identity

Principles of Culinary Glossary Compiling for Mobile Devices

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Gulnoza Odilova is Dsc, professor and head of the Theory and Practice of Translation department in the University. the author of more than 100 articles, several textbooks in food discourse analyses, translation studies, and literature studies which are studied as main text books in Universities of Uzbekistan. She is the translator of the Uzbek culinary encyclopedia “Delicious Uzbekistan”, and culinary book “Uzbek Breakfast” and the first Uzbek-English mobile apps dictionary. As a scientist she is a founder of food discourse translation, restaurant menu translation field in Uzbek linguistics. She is the president of NGO Gastronomy Tourism Association of Uzbekistan which helps to raise the quality of service in the sphere of F&B. She has awarded with medal “Glory” by President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. E-info links about the author: https://uz.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulnoza_Odilova https://scholar.google.ru/citations?user=q613-a4AAAAJ&hl=ru

Abstract

Scientists claim that a good menu is a seller who does not receive a salary (Gribova N). Scientists have confirmed the success of gastronomic tourism is associated with menu translation (John T. Bowen). Olyanich highlights the culinary encyclopedia and books, as well as the restaurant menu, as one of the aspects of gastronomic discourse. The problem of translating restaurant menus is a critical element in the development of gastronomic tourism. "The problem with menus is that even if you know the language you may still have to ask questions to clarify what a dish contains," Boutin said. "For example, in German, "Schinken" means ham, but it can be raw ham or cooked ham. If you are going to eat the ham, you might want to know which"(Emil Venere). Menu translation requires the background knowledge of several disciplines. On the other hand, the translator must possess not only linguistic but also extralinguistic knowledge, study an unfamiliar area to explore it. One of the most important tools in translation work is the availability of a specialized terminological dictionary. The root of the problem is the lack of bilingual gastronomic dictionaries, the lack of a gastronomic terminological apparatus of source and target languages. The lack of a special vocabulary for the F&B many inconveniences to tourists. Today, the most convenient way of culinary translation is through mobile devices, and the mobile device can give a wider range of culinary terms through images. In this article, the mechanisms of creating a dictionary of gastronomic terms adapted to mobile devices for adequate culinary translation are presented as part of the first "Uzbek-English gastronomy terms dictionary mobile device" project, and the issues of creating the interface, structural structure, and sections of the mobile application are discussed.

Keywords

Food tourism translation , culinary translation on mobile devices , Restoran menu translation mobil apps

Foreign Cuisine for Chinese Cooks: The English-Chinese Cookery Book (1890) and Culinary Translations in Late Nineteenth-Century Hong Kong

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Dr Lingjie Ji

Lingjie Ji received her PhD in Chinese Studies at the University of Edinburgh. She is now Assistant Professor in the Department of Translation at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her research interests include translation history, literary translation, and generally the literary and knowledge exchange between China and the Anglophone world during the long nineteenth century. Her current research projects focus on the British sinologists' writings and translations of Chinese literature, investigating the interplay between literary translation and Sinological knowledge. She has published articles on Monumenta Serica, Journal of Oriental Studies, Journal of Translation Studies, and Archiv orientální: Journal of African and Asian Studies. Her monograph, Chinese Literature in English Sinology: Cultural Translation of Literary Knowledge, 1807-1901, is forthcoming with Edinburgh University Press.

Abstract

Research on the history of Western food in China during the nineteenth century has placed much attention on Shanghai and the Chinese translations of Western cookery books that were published in Shanghai, such as Zao yangfan shu (Foreign cookery in Chinese, 1866) and Xi fa shipu (Western recipe book, 1889). However, as a British colony since 1842, Hong Kong also witnessed a growing demand for Western culinary delights in its multicultural society. This paper investigates the dissemination of Western culinary knowledge in this British colony in the late nineteenth century by examining a Chinese translation of English cookery book made and published in Hong Kong. The English-Chinese Cookery Book (1890) is a bilingual cookbook that contains 200 Western recipes ranging from soups to pastry. It was compiled and translated by James Dyer Ball (1847-1919), a civil servant at the Hong Kong colonial government. According to the translator, the Chinese translation was intended for native Chinese cooks in foreign households and was made with the specific aim of rendering the content into clear and simple Chinese that would be easily understood. This paper discusses the challenges and strategies employed by James Dyer Ball in translating (or rather inventing) the phraseology and terminology of the ingredients, techniques, and dish names of Western foodways into equivalent Chinese. It also explores the relationship between James Dyer Ball's translation and earlier Chinese translations of Western cookery books, especially the differences of translation in Shanghainese and Cantonese linguistic and cultural contexts.

Keywords

Culinary translation, English-Chinese cookbooks, food and language

LT.20 | Panel 37 | The Changing Face of Literary Translator Studies: A Dialogue Between Academia and the Profession

Chairs: Motoko Akashi, Andrea Bergantino, Goedele De Sterck

Visible translators, audible narratives: literary translators as activists for translation

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Dr Caroline Summers

Caroline Summers is Assistant Professor of Translation and Transcultural Studies at the University of Warwick. Her research explores the intersection of literary and social models of narrative, with an additional focus on Walter Benjamin's concept of 'afterlife' as a frame for the recreation of cultural identity and memory in both translated and non-translated literature. She recently co-organised a conference on 'Afterlives of an Essay: 100 Years of Walter Benjamin's Task of the Translator', which invited new critical responses to a key essay in the discipline. Her publications include a 2017 monograph titled Examining Text and Authorship in Translation: What Remains of Christa Wolf?

Abstract

During the twenty-first century, and in particular against the backdrop of the growth of social media, literary translators have stepped out from behind their texts in order to be seen and heard: examples include the successful Youtube channel Translators Aloud; a growing body of translators' fiction and memoir writing; and the social media campaign to #namethetranslator. This increased visibility outside the boundaries of the translated text and its paratexts is redefining the popular and scholarly narratives *of* translation (Baker 2005) that shape the role of the literary translator. Working at the intersection between the literary narratives in the text and the social narratives that define their role, literary translators claim not only visibility for themselves but also audibility for their narratives of translation. As individual translators increasingly adapt to the threats and opportunities of AI, translators' self-narratives establish a crucial sense of shared community and advocate for the value of the human translator. By promoting, documenting and fictionalising their work, they make explicit the value and the craft of their profession and reveal that there is such a thing as an established narrative of translation to be questioned. Drawing on social and literary models of narrative, and on recent scholarship on translation as activism, this paper explores narrative interventions by literary translators as a form of activism and ethical advocacy for their own work. The discussion will show how translators are using social media, non-translated writing and memoir to claim audibility for their narratives of translation as an embodied, non-neutral and creative process.

Keywords

Narrative, Activism, Agency

Examining Translators' Visibility Through Media-Focused Approaches

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Dr Motoko Akashi

Motoko Akashi is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Research Fellow at the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation, Trinity College Dublin. She holds a PhD in Literary Translation from University of East Anglia. Her research interests centre on the commercial aspects of literary translation and translator status. Her current project, IMPACTRANS, investigates the relationship between celebrity translators in Meiji Japan (1868-1912), their social statuses, and their approaches to producing indirect translations (translations of translations), by incorporating digital humanities approaches. Her recent publications include, (with Peter J. Freeth and Wenqian Zhang), "Locating the Digital in Literary Translatorship". Translation in Society Special Issue 3.1. 2024. Available at https://doi.org/10.1075/tris.24008.zha; "The Implication of Translator Visibility: Investigating the Commercial Impact of Haruki Murakami's Fame as a Translator", Beyond the Translator's Invisibility: Critical Reflections and New Perspectives (Translation, Interpreting and Transfer). Leuven: Leuven University Press, 2024. Edited by Peter J. Freeth (London Metropolitan University) and Rafael O. Treviño (Gallaudet University); "Manifestations of Creativity: Murakami Haruki as Translator", Murakami Haruki and Our Years of Pilgrimage. New York & London: Routledge, 2021. Edited by Gitte Marianne Hansen and Michael Tsang.

Abstract

The interaction between persona and the media is a crucial element in a translator's visibility (Akashi 2024). A translator may accumulate public recognition through recurring media exposure which allows them to form distinctive persona. For instance, when a translator's talent and expertise are talked about in journalistic articles, it develops their persona as an expert in foreign literature, which in turn, promotes them and their work. However, while discussions on translator visibility have already addressed the significance of translators' persona (e.g. Sela-Sheffy 2008, 2010), they tend to overlook the influence the media can have. This paper will demonstrate how a translator's visibility can be examined meaningfully by considering the interaction between the translator's persona and the media (Driessens 2013). The factor that earns a translator their first recognition may form the core element of their persona, which could go on to influence the extent of their media coverage. For instance, when a translator is a world-renowned author, such as Haruki Murakami, their media coverage becomes greater than those for whom translation is the main or only thing for which they are known. Thus, by considering the media-persona interaction, the degree of translators' visibility can be compared. This paper will examine several categories of visibility, based on groups of example translators from linguistic contexts including the Japanese and Anglophone, all of whom have some degree of media presence. It will then compare each group in terms of the level and form of media coverage they receive and how their persona relates to the way their works are promoted by publishers, examining how they are mentioned in promotional materials (e.g. publishers' websites). In this way, the analysis will highlight the translators' commercial roles in the industry and the contribution this makes to the ongoing if unseen dialogue between industry and academia.

Keywords

visibility, persona, media

Multiple roles, multiple visibilities? Shining a spotlight on the performance of scholar-translators in British theatre

Miss Hannah Klimas
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Miss Hannah Klimas

Hannah Klimas is a Research Associate in Linguistics at Nottingham Trent University, having recently completed a PhD in Translation Studies at the University of Leeds, funded by the White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities. She studied German and Russian at the University of St Andrews before commencing study on the MA in Translation Studies programme at Durham University, where she wrote a dissertation on the benefits of applying a sociolinguistic approach to translations of Mikhail Bulgakov's Beg for a British target audience. At Leeds, Hannah has previously taught on the Methods and Approaches module on the MA in Applied Translation Studies programme. Her doctoral research studied the role of the translator in Anglophone British and American staged productions of Bulgakov's work. In 2023, she undertook a 2-month Researcher Employability Project at the National Theatre Archive in London, where she catalogued scripts and made suggestions on how to catalogue contributions from theatre translators. During this project, Hannah also wrote an article 'Archive Unboxed: The House of Bernarda Alba and Translation', which is available on the National Theatre website. She is currently working on an AHRC- and DFG-funded project about coal mining language and identity in the East Midlands and the Ruhr Area in the post-industrial era, in collaboration with the University of Duisburg-Essen. She has also worked as a freelance translator, specialising in business, legal, and medical translation. Hannah's research interests lie in the areas of theatre studies, translation theory and practice, translator studies, Bulgakov, Slavonic studies, and sociology.

Abstract

The burgeoning field of Literary Translator Studies (e.g., Kaindl et al 2021) has emerged from Chesterman's (2009) call for a humanised, process-oriented approach to Translation Studies. Building on this, I propose the necessity of a distinct subfield: Theatre Translator Studies, arising from the unique performative aspect of theatre translation, which distinguishes it from other forms of literary translation. The issue of theatre translator visibility in this context is particularly complex, exacerbated by the prevalent two-tier approach in British theatre, often relegating the so-called 'literal' translator to the background in favour of a more visible celebrity playwright-adaptor who renders their work 'performable'. This dynamic complicates any direct equation between literary and theatre translator visibility, raising crucial questions: how do theatre translators want to be visible, if at all? And to whom? To address this gap, this paper argues that examining the experiences and scholarly reflections of scholar-translators working from Russian into English – individuals who bridge the divide between theory and practice – offers a critical pathway to understanding how theatre translators navigate and perceive their own visibility. By analysing how these scholar-translators simultaneously embody the roles of translator and theorist, this study sheds light on their perspectives regarding credit, recognition, and the pejorative connotations sometimes associated with the label 'literal' translator (e.g., Rappaport 2007), as well as the frustrations expressed by some translators upon receiving full credit (e.g., Miles 2000). Ultimately, this approach allows us to reconsider the position of theorists who are also practitioners as integral to understanding "the inescapably interwoven and mutually sustaining relationship between theory and practice" (Bassnett and Johnston, 2019, p.186) in shaping the landscape of theatre translator visibility within the emerging field of Theatre Translator Studies.

Keywords

Theatre Translator Studies, scholar-translators, visibility

The Changing Face of the Theatre Translator: Anticipating Non-verbal Humour on Stage

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Dr Jorge Braga-Riera

Jorge Braga Riera (PhD) is Associate Professor in the Department of English Studies at the Complutense University of Madrid, where he teaches graduate and undergraduate courses (Degree in English Studies, Master in Literary Translation). Additionally, he has worked as a professional translator for major Spanish publishing houses, such as Gredos and Alianza Editorial. His research primarily focuses on the field of translation, above all literary translation (with particular emphasis on drama) and contrastive studies (Spanish-English, English-Spanish) He has published multiple studies related to these fields in different monographs and national and international journals. He is the author of Classical Spanish Drama in Restoration English (1660-1700) (John Benjamins, 2009) Herramientas y técnicas aplicadas a la traducción: los textos literarios (co-authored, Escolar y Mayo, 2015) and "Theatre is different": la traducción de la experiencia dramática (Madrid, Guillermo Escolar, 2024). He is currently the editor-in-chief of the journal Estudios de Traducción and member of the Madrid Research Theatre Institute and the IULMYT.

Abstract

The translation of verbal humour has garnered considerable attention in recent years (Chiaro 2017, 2021; Martínez Sierra & Zabalbeascoa 2017; Mateo & Zabalbeascoa 2019), particularly in audiovisual and literary contexts. However, few studies have addressed this aspect within the dramatic genre, despite the significant challenge posed by the cultural disparities between a dramatic work and the target audience, as well as the constraints imposed by its mise en scène in the receiving context. Beyond the focus on linguistic elements such as wordplay, comic neologisms, witty retorts, and asides, the theatrical translator can also leverage the possibilities offered by situational comedy, including movements, gestures, sets, costumes, and props, among others (Braga Riera, 2024). This paper aims to illustrate the array of non-verbal possibilities for conveying humour before the text actually reaches other intermedial practitioners, such as the stage director. To this end, two recent Spanish translations (and their corresponding stagings) of Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest will be examined: one translated by Sandra Pedraz (2020, in a version by Ramón Paso), and the other by Cristina Genebat (2023, directed by David Selvas). The provided examples will stress the importance of the spectacular element in facilitating, boosting, or accompanying verbal humour, and in creating comedic situations absent in the source text as a form of compensation. The results of the analysis, which attest to the significance of the non-verbal component in these cases, advocate for a more prominent role for the traditional theatre translator in incorporating textual humour from dialogues with non-linguistic proposals and suggestions. This integration respects the original comedy and, at the same time, ensures its proper reception in the further stages that the translated text must undergo before reaching the target audience.

Keywords

Drama translation, theatre practitioner, non-verbal humour

LT.21 | Panel 1 | Adapting to Change: The Impact of Generative AI on Translator Education

Chairs: Nune Ayvazyan, Anthony Pym, Yu Hao

Artificial Intelligence Literacy for Translation – Conceptual Foundations, Acquisition, Measurement

Prof. Ralph Krüger
TH Köln, Cologne, Germany

Prof. Ralph Krüger

Ralph Krüger is Full Professor of Language and Translation Technology at the Institute of Translation and Multilingual Communication at TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences, Cologne, Germany. He received his PhD in translation studies from the University of Salford, UK, in 2014 and completed his habilitation at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, in 2024. His current research focuses on the performance of neural machine translation (NMT) and large language models (LLMs) in the specialised translation process and on didactic strategies and resources for teaching the technical basics of NMT/LLMs to students from translation and specialised communication programmes.

Abstract

Large language models such as OpenAI's GPT or Google's Gemini models are general-purpose artificial intelligence (GPAI) technologies, which "which "[display] significant generality and [are] capable of competently performing a wide range of tasks" (EU Artificial Intelligence Act 2024 Chapter I Article 3 Paragraph 63). These GPAI technologies increase to a considerable degree the scope of human intellectual tasks that can be (semi-)automated – both in the language and translation industry and in a wide range of other professional fields. In this "AI-saturated world" (Markauskaite et al. 2022:2), the division of labour between humans and machines is being reconfigured – both in terms of cognitive processes and in terms of agency – and new human competences are required in order to live and work in tandem with powerful GPAI technologies. Against this background, this talk discusses the concept of translation-specific artificial intelligence literacy and illustrates how it may be operationalised for stakeholders in the language and translation industry. In order to lay the conceptual foundations, the talk first situates AI literacy within the wider field of digital literacies and discusses its individual proficiency dimensions. It also presents a domain-specific AI literacy framework, in which translational AI literacy is distributed over the five dimensions of 1) Technical foundations, 2) Domain-specific performance, 3) Interaction, 4) Implementation and 5) Ethical/Societal aspects (cf. Krüger 2024). Then, the talk surveys approaches for acquiring AI literacy that have been proposed in the literature and discusses how these may be integrated into modern translation didactics. To conclude, the talk discusses approaches and instruments for measuring AI literacy and presents a draft version of the TransAI Literacy Scale (TrAILS), a self-assessment questionnaire aimed to inspire work on measuring AI literacy among different translation stakeholders.

Keywords

Artificial Intelligence Literacy, Generative AI/Multimodal Large Language Models, Translation Didactics

Raising museum accessibility awareness among translation students through immersive learning and human-GenAI interactions

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Dr Yu Hao

Yu Hao is Lecturer in Translation Studies at the University of Melbourne in Australia. Her research interests are in translation curriculum development, translation-technology teaching, and international education studies.

Dr Juerong Qiu

Juerong Qiu holds a PhD in translation studies from the School of Languages and Linguistics at the University of Melbourne. Her doctoral project delves into how target-language viewers and language learners read, understand, and appreciate subtitled shows. She teaches subjects related to translation technologies and specialized translation at the University of Melbourne.

Abstract

In the context of increased focus on museum accessibility enhancement and its professional training, we will report on a case study, in which a cohort of postgraduate-level translation students, who have limited informed training on accessibility enforcement practices of all kinds, were invited to create audio description (AD) units of a piece of exhibit, Towards a Glass Monument (Old Quad Museum, University of Melbourne), for visually impaired (blind or low-vision) communities. Following a brief teacher presentation on live and recorded audio description in the curatorial settings, the students then engaged in immersive learning, visiting the exhibition of concern at one of the university museums on campus. Student groups were encouraged to take pictures of the glass monuments, but more importantly, "field notes" on what should be verbally described to conquer the sensorial barriers and enhance the low-vision community's museum visiting experience. Back in the classroom, students formulated groups and created AD units in their first language and received teacher and peer feedback on their work. Following this, students were encouraged to experiment with ChatGPT (free version) for the same AD task and compare their own AD units with automated output for information completeness, fitness-for-readership, and the overall auditory experience, e.g., the rhyme and pacing of (non-)human narration. This museum AD module was designed to foster students' awareness about additional dimensions of content, such as visual context and sensory experience, and more fundamentally how they can contribute to making our society more inclusive for all. By comparing human and automation-generated AD units, they were able to recognise potential roles of generative AI and the empathy and care human AD professionals could bring to the community in the spirit of altruism.

Keywords

GenAI in teaching and learning, audio description, accessibility for all

MTPE vs. Translation. Trainees' Attitudes and Performance in the AI Age.

Dr Rossella Latorraca
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Dr Rossella Latorraca

Rossella Latorraca is senior researcher at the University of Salerno and works as a professional scientific and technical translator. She received a full funded Ph.D. in literary, linguistic and comparative studies at the University of Naples 'L'Orientale' with a research on observational learning applied to translation training, for which she was awarded the 2019 AIA/Carocci PhD Doctoral Dissertation Prize. She is currently leading a research project on troubleshooting translation vs. post-editing performance and a research project on epistemic negotiation in the academic discourse. She received two Pannonicum grants by the Hungarian Ministry of Education for conducting studies at the Balassi Intézet (2012) and at Eötvös Loránd University (2013). She authored several papers in international high-ranked journals on specialized translation training and self-efficacy in translation trainees. Her book, "Modeling translation. An interdisciplinary approach to translation training" (2020, Carocci Editore), delves deeply into the design and testing of an approach to translation training informed by neurocognitive and AI findings. She is a member of the advisory board of the International Society for Historical Lexicography and Lexicology and her research focuses on specialized translation, translator/MTPE training and EFL learning.

Abstract

The Language Service Providing (LSP) industry has undergone a significant transformation due to technological advances, notably impacting professionals in the field. A substantial portion of translation tasks, traditionally managed by human translators, now sees automation (CSA, 2020) through services such as AI and Post-Editing (MTPE). The adoption of these automated systems has notably risen within Language Service Companies, and projections suggest this trend may eventually surpass Human Translation (HT) in prevalence (EUATC, 2023). In response to these industry shifts, translation training institutes and universities emphasize their commitment to aligning and developing programs with market needs, although this struggles to occur in the Italian landscape (Latorraca, 2022). Furthermore, both the professional and academic realms harbor beliefs and biased assumptions about the seemingly straightforward and non-specialized nature of MTPE as a professional task, often underestimating the required competencies and effort (Briggs, 2018; Wang et al., 2021; Latorraca, 2023). This study aims to explore translation trainees' attitudes and performance towards AI-based MTPE as compared to traditional HT. Previous results elicited by conducting Rasch analysis of pre-post Likert scale questionnaires highlight the prejudicial value of attitudes toward MTPE and show how the lack of proper metacognitive skills correlates with the misevaluation of task difficulty (Latorraca, 2023). In this study, the performance of 28 participants enrolled in their last year of a MD course in Specialized translation was analyzed in terms of the amount of errors as per an adapted version of Mossop's revision changes (2014). Then, correlation analysis and t-test of performance scores and attitudes showed how the prejudicial attitudes toward MTPE strongly affect outcomes in performance. Findings raise critical questions about the necessity for more AI-targeted and specialized translation training curricula to address specific challenges in the ever-evolving landscape of translation services.

Keywords

MTPE, Translator Training, AI translation

LT.23 | Panel 16 | Embodied Voices: Gesture in Interpreter-mediated Communication

Chairs: Celia Martín de León, Jelena Vranjes, Elena Zagar Galvão

The use of gestures to manage rapport challenge in interpreter-mediated talk – a comparison between onsite and video remote modality

Mr. Dries Cavents, Prof. Dr. Jelena Vranjes, Prof. Dr. July De Wilde
Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

Mr. Dries Cavents

Dries Cavents is a doctoral researcher at the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication of Ghent University. He started his academic career with a Bachelor's in Applied Linguistics (KU Leuven, Antwerp). followed by a Master's in Interpreting (Ku Leuven, Antwerp) and a Postgraduate in Conference Interpreting (KU Leuven, Brussels). Afterwards, he has embarked on a new academic challenge, starting a PhD at Ghent University, which is currently still an ongoing project. His research interests include dialogue interpreting, video remote interpreting, rapport management and verbal and non-verbal behaviour. In his PhD project he examines how verbal and non-verbal rapport management manifest in onsite and video remote interpreting interactions and how interpreters multimodally deal with these manifestations of rapport management.

Prof. Dr. Jelena Vranjes

Jelena Vranjes studied Germanic Philology at KU Leuven (2008-2012) and was granted a PhD in Linguistics at the same University in 2018. She worked as a researcher at KU Leuven from 2012 until 2018, as a guest lecturer at KU Leuven from 2018 until 2019 and as a postdoctoral researcher at Ghent University from 2019 until 2013. She is now assistant professor at the German Section of the Department for Translation, Interpreting and Communication at Ghent University. Her research interests include (dialogue) interpreting, conversation analysis, multimodality in human interaction, the impact of context and technology on the perception and use of embodied resources in communication and CALL. She uses advanced empirical methods, such as eye-tracking, in order to gain a better understanding of the multimodal dynamics of human interaction. She teaches courses on interpreting, writing and translation in German.

Prof. Dr. July De Wilde

July De Wilde holds an MA in Romance Languages and Literature from Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium, 1998), an advanced Master Degree in Development and Cooperation from Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium, 2001) and an advanced Master Degree in Mexican Culture and Literature from Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (Mexico, 2003). She taught French language and culture at the International Center for Language and Culture at the Universidad de las Américas of Puebla (2001-2003) and worked as an assistant lecturer in Spanish (Plantijn Hogeschool Antwerp, Hogeschool Gent, Ghent University). From 2014 to 2017 she worked as a postdoctoral assistant at the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication (Ghent University) and as assistant professor in the Department of Teacher Education of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (2016-2017). She is now associate professor at the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication, Spanish section. She obtained a PhD in 2011 at Ghent University with a doctoral study on the translation of irony in novels of Mario Vargas Llosa, Adolfo Bioy Casares and Guillermo Cabrera Infante. Next to irony and literary translation, she pusblished on the translation of multilingualism in literature, and the intersections between narratology and translation. Since 2013 she is working on multilingualism in superdiverse contexts, communication facilitation in service provision and on interpreter-mediated encounters, where she addresses issues of (professional) identity, face-work, taboo and quality criteria.

Abstract

Recently, video remote interpreting (VRI) is increasingly being used as an alternative for onsite (OSI) dialogue interpreting (Braun & Taylor, 2012). However, the interpreter's use of gestures in VRI has so far received scarce attention, despite already having been investigated in OSI in the context of turn-taking (Licoppe & Veyrier, 2021; Vranjes & Bot, 2021) and footing (Vranjes & Brône, 2021), and as a window into the interpreting process (Gerwing & Li, 2019). Additionally, scholars have recently shown an increased interest in interpreters' management of rapport (e.g. Lee, 2015; Pöllabauer, 2007). Even though research highlights the importance of embodied resources for the management of rapport (Culpeper et al., 2003; Mapson & Major, 2021), earlier

studies predominantly focussed on interpreters' verbal behaviour (e.g. Lee, 2015; Pöllabauer, 2007). The current paper therefore presents a comparative micro-interactional analysis of how interpreters employ gestures when managing rapport challenge (i.e., negatively impacting interpersonal relations) in OSI and VRI interactions. The multimodal analysis draws on insights from Rapport Management Theory (Spencer-Oatey, 2008). The experimental data consist of 14 VRI (i.e., the three participants do not share the same physical space) and 14 OSI interactions in the context of an asylum reception centre, between Dutch and Spanish/Russian. An Eyelink Portable Remote eye-tracker was used in VRI to gain access to the interpreters' gaze behaviour (cf. Vranjes, 2023). The presentation will focus on 1) the type of gestures that interpreters employ and their function for managing rapport challenge and 2) a qualitative and quantitative comparison of the use of gestures to manage rapport challenge in OSI and VRI. The findings will contribute to a better understanding of both the use of gestures for the management of rapport challenge in interpreter-mediated talk and the impact of the VRI modality on interpreters' use of gestures and interlocutors' perceived lack of access to gestures.

Keywords

Video remote interpreting, Gestures, Rapport management

Gestural Patterns in Dialogue Interpreting: Influence of Speakers' use of Bodily Resources on Interpreters' Gesture Production

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Dr Monika Chwalczuk

Monika Chwalczuk is an Assistant Professor of Translation and Interpreting at the School of Media, Languages and Communication Studies at the University of East Anglia. Previously she lectured at Université de Paris (France) and University of Warwick (UK) where she was affiliated respectively with the Department of Intercultural Studies and Applied Languages, and the School of Modern Languages and Cultures. In 2022-2024 Dr Chwalczuk worked as the Principal Investigator of the CoGCIn project (Cognitive Processes behind the use of Gestures in Consecutive Dialogue Interpreting) funded from a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions individual post-doctoral grant. The fellowship was part of the PASIFIC programme for research and innovation, supported jointly by the Institute of Psychology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the European Commission. Monika Chwalczuk received a PhD in Translation Studies from Université Paris Cité (France), where in 2021 she defended a dissertation on the role of co-speech gestures in public service interpreting analysed through the lens of multimodal corpora. She also holds a Master's Degree in Specialised Translation and Language Teaching, completed at the Institute of Applied Linguistics of the University of Warsaw (Poland). Her interdisciplinary research combines the fields of public service interpreting, gestures studies and cognitive linguistics. The range of methods implemented in her studies spans the use of multimodal corpora, behavioural data and self-reported measures obtained in experimental settings, as well as psychophysiological data such as EEG and HRV.

Mrs Alicja Jancelewicz

Alicja Jancelewicz graduated in Iberian Philology from the Institute of Iberian and Ibero-American Studies at the University of Warsaw, specializing in the Portuguese language. In 2022, she defended her MA dissertation on the Polish Question in the Luso-Brazilian World in the nineteenth century. She also holds a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics from the Institute of Applied Linguistics at the University of Warsaw, with a specialisation in translation studies (Polish-English-Spanish). In 2023, she defended her second MA dissertation, investigating South Africa's language policy and its implications for multilingualism. In 2020, Alicja participated in the Sensitive Language Project, a collaboration between the Institute of Applied Linguistics UW and the Polish Translation Unit of the European Parliament. The project focused on researching and translating the Glossary of LGBTI+ Terminology from English into Polish. From 2022 to 2024, she worked as a Research Assistant on the CoGCIn project (Cognitive Processes behind the use of Gestures in Consecutive Dialogue Interpreting), co-funded by the Polish Academy of Sciences and the European Commission within a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions grant. Her role in the project involved multimodal analysis of a corpus of video recordings from dialogue interpreting experiments in English-Spanish and English-Polish language pairs. Since 2022, Alicja has been teaching Spanish and English as a Second Language at Kozminski University and SWPS University in Warsaw. Her research focuses on the social and multimodal aspects of interpreting, with an additional interest in Portuguese literature. She also translates literature (PT>PL) and interprets (PL<>EN, PL>ES,PT).

Prof Robert Balas

Robert Balas is an Associate Professor of psychology currently holding the position of the Director of the Institute of Psychology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw. His research interests include attitude acquisition and change, implicit and explicit evaluations, working memory, and cognitive and affective components of intuitive information processing. He authored and co-authored multiple research papers in top-ranked journals based on several research grants. Also, prof. Robert Balas is currently a member of several scientific societies: European Society for Cognitive Psychology, the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, and The Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, among others.

Abstract

Multimodal studies of interpreting reveal that interpreters tend to mimic gestures of the speakers (Zagar Galvão, 2013). This pattern is confirmed when comparing different interpreters working from the same

source text presented by visible interactants, as individual interpreters align in key gestures in their target renditions (Janzen et al., forthcoming). Nevertheless, mirrored gestures account for only a small portion of the interpreter's overall gestural activity (Gerwing & Li, 2019). This paper investigates the extent to which interpreters' gesture production is driven by the speaker's use of bodily semiotic resources. Fifty-seven trainee interpreters performed a simulated dialogue interpreting task based on a mock police interaction in English-French (N=10), English-Spanish (N=13), and English-Polish (N=34). Video stimuli were presented in PsychoPy in two blocks of 30 trials. In the first condition, speakers' gestures were visible. In the second, the audiovisual input was manipulated so that only the actors' talking heads were visible, with their hands appearing still, thus blocking access to their original co-speech gestures. The experiments investigate how interpreters manage the English source speech depending on the visibility of the speakers' gestures and the target language used. Key questions include: Do interpreters rendering the same content exhibit divergent gestural profiles depending on the target language? Are particular gestural phrases (e.g., representational gestures) reproduced similarly across and within target languages? Does gesture production vary more across interpreters and language combinations when speakers' gestures are not visible, preventing mimicry? Gesture and speech annotation are conducted in ELAN, and JASP is used for quantitative data analysis. Preliminary results suggest that: a) interpreters' gestural profiles vary by target language, b) key embodied actions by speakers lead to similar reproductions across interpreters and language combinations, and c) the absence of visual access to speakers' gestures decreases overall gestural activity and increases idiosyncratic variability in the interpreters' renditions.

Keywords

dialogue interpreting, gestural alignment, speakers' gestures visibility

Coordinating common ground during question-response sequences: a comparative study of consultations with professional and informal interpreters

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Dr. Inez Beukeleers

Inez Beukeleers is a post-doctoral researcher at KU Leuven. In her current research project she focuses on multimodal interpreting strategies and multimodal interaction management in healthcare interpreting. She thereby compares consultations mediated by professional interpreters with consultations mediated by informal interpreters.

Dr. Laura Theys

During her PhD Laura Theys investigated the co-construction of empathic communication in healthcare interpreting. She thereby adopted a multimodal approach.

Dr. Cornelia Wermuth

Cornelia Wermuth is lecturer at the Subfaculty of Applied Language Studies of the KU Leuven Campus Antwerpen and affiliated researcher at the Faculty of Arts at KU Leuven. She lectures German grammar and ICT & Terminology in the Bachelor in applied language studies and specialised (medical/pharmaceutical) translation in the Master in Translation.

Prof. Heidi Salaets

Prof. Dr. Heidi Salaets is head of the Interpreting Studies Research Group at the Faculty of Arts of KU Leuven. At the Antwerp Campus she teaches interpreting studies and methodology as well as interpreting and note-taking techniques and Italian-Dutch interpreting in the Master of Interpreting. At the same campus, she is also responsible for the evaluation procedure in the GVT (Gerechts vertalen en -tolken, Legal Translation and Interpreting) program.

Prof. Barbara Schouten

Barbara Schouten's research interests focus on intercultural health communication, in particular on the role of language-related and culture-related factors explaining communication difficulties between healthcare providers and ethnic minority patients with low language proficiency in the host country's dominant language(s). In addition, she focusses on the use of technology in interventions to mitigate language- and culture-related barriers in communication.

Prof. Geert Brône

Geert Brône is a professor in Linguistics at KU Leuven. His research focusses on multimodality in face-to-face interaction. He often integrates mobile eye-tracking technology in his research design.

Abstract

Interlocutors in face-to-face interaction are continuously coordinating common ground, i.e., negotiating mutual understanding. This is especially challenging in an interpreter-mediated context (IMC), as the primary participants do not share a common language and one of the them can be temporarily unaddressed. According to Davidson (2002) there is no space for direct grounding between the primary participants in an

IMC. Rather, two sets of common ground are co-constructed, i.e., between the interpreter and participant 1 and the interpreter and participant 2. However, multimodal analyses highlight that the interlocutors can maintain triadic participation frameworks and emphasize the importance of eye gaze therein. This study aims to enhance our understanding of the phenomenon by comparing question-response sequences in medical consultations mediated by professional interpreters with consultations mediated by informal interpreters. Existing comparative studies highlight that informal interpreters – in contrast to professional interpreters – often do not relay questions initiated by the primary participants and rather provide answers themselves. This might imply that grounding and the establishment of participation frameworks evolve differently depending on the type of interpreter involved. A comparison of Q-R sequences in 3 authentic consultations with a professional interpreter and 3 with an informal interpreter shows that most questions in the latter consultations were initiated by and responded to by the HCP or the informal interpreter. During the questions and responses, these participants also mainly address each other both verbally and with their eye gaze and body orientation. In consultations with professional interpreters, however, most questions were initiated and responded to by the HCP or the patient. Moreover, during questions and sequence-closing thirds, both patients and HCPs often alternate their gaze between the addressed primary participant and the interpreter. Thus, interpreter-mediated interactions with professional interpreters seem to reflect a more triadic type of interaction compared to interactions with an informal interpreter.

Keywords

Grounding , Participation frameworks, Healthcare interpreting

Multimodality in interpreted interaction at GPs: Interpreters' combined use of different multimodal resources

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Ass. prof. Silje Ohren Strand

Silje Ohren Strand is Associate Professor at the Department of Interpreting Studies at OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University. Her PhD thesis focuses on the interactional dynamics between GP, patient and interpreter in interpreted interaction, and on the joint efforts to establish coherence. Ohren Strand's research centers on the use of combined multimodal resources to convey meaning. Ohren Strand, S. (2023). The collaboration of creating coherence: A study on the interactional dynamics between GP, patient and interpreter in interpreter-mediated medical encounters. [PhD thesis]. Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet (NTNU)

Abstract

Over the past decades, a growing number of studies on multimodality has shown how people use the human body as a multimodal conveyor of meaning in communication, applying diverse semiotic resources (Kendon 2004, Mondada 2011, Enfield 2009, Goodwin 2000, 2013). However, there is still a knowledge gap when it comes to interpreters' utilization of a wide range of different multimodal resources, such as pointing, gestures, head movements, gaze, posture and positioning, use of artefacts in the surroundings etc., in their efforts to achieve accuracy in rendition (Skaaden 2013, Wadensjö 1998; 2018). My presentation discusses PhD-project findings regarding the use and combination of multimodal resources from the points of departure of dialogism (Bachtin, 1981, Linell 2009, 2011, Linell & Marková 2014, Wadensjö 1998, 2001), coherence (Coates 1995, Goodwin 1995, Korolija/Linell 1996) and multimodality (Kendon 2004, Enfield 2009, Dimitrova 1991, Goodwin 2000, 2013, 2018, Vranješ 2018). My qualitative investigation of communicating through interpreter (Norwegian/French, Norwegian/Russian) in naturally occasioned GP-patient-encounters, analyses data consisting of 7 video recordings of 3h10min, involving 3 formally trained interpreters. I will discuss some findings regarding interpreters' strategies when juggling the simultaneous conveying of meaning through different multimodal resources; how they render and recombine the interlocutors' use of composite utterances (Enfield, 2009)/speech-gesture ensembles (Kendon, 2004). Further research is needed to examine how interpreters render interlocutors' embodied utterances, and how embodied action contribute to the collaborative construction of meaning in interpreted interaction.

Keywords

Interpreter-mediated GP encounters , Multimodality, Composite utterances

LT.24 | Panel 34 | Testing the Changing Faces of Translation Reception: Challenges and Approaches

Chairs: Bei Hu, Minhua Liu, Anthony Pym

Researching translation reception by migrant communities in Finland

Dr. Päivi Kuusi, Dr. Svetlana Probirskaja
University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

Dr. Päivi Kuusi

Päivi Kuusi is a Senior Lecturer in Translation Studies at the University of Helsinki, Finland. She is currently working on a research project "Translation, Migration and Democracy", focusing on the reception of translations targeted at migrant populations in Finland. She has published, among other topics, on the role of translator training in language revitalisation, and taught translation for minority language speakers in the language revitalisation project "Translation, revitalization and the endangered Karelian language". Recently, she has been developing the teaching of Easy Language adaptation for translation students at the University of Helsinki, and studying the connections between the processes of translation and Easy Language adaptation.

Dr. Svetlana Probirskaja

Svetlana Probirskaja is a Senior Lecturer in Finnish-Russian Translation at the University of Helsinki, Finland. Her research interests have included wartime translation, everyday translation practices, and translation as a form of aid. Her research project "Translational spaces between Russia and Finland in multilingual world" was financed by the Kone Foundation from 2015 to 2018. Currently, she is working on a research project "Translation, Migration and Democracy", focusing on the reception of translations targeted at migrant communities in Finland.

Abstract

Empirical research on the reception of translations has traditionally focused on literary or audiovisual translation. As part of our research project "Translation, Migration and Democracy", we explore the reception of translated texts issued by Finnish authorities for migrant communities residing in Finland. To grasp the readers´ impressions of these texts, we collected research material using three distinct methods: focus group discussions, social listening and interpreter-mediated playback theatre for migrant audiences. In this presentation, we will describe these three methods in terms of information collected and insights gained. In the focus group discussions with both mono- and multilingual groups of migrants, we discussed translations into the language(s) of the participants, along with more general topics related to receiving information on living in Finland. Social listening (or online audience research) includes monitoring social media to understand what people think or feel about a certain subject, what their concerns, questions, or information needs are (see Boender et al. 2023). With this method, we observed discussions of a Facebook group of Ukrainians residing in Finland to explore their information needs and uses of translations. In playback theatre, Russian-speaking migrant audience shared their impressions on a translated text they had read in advance, and watched actors spontaneously enact their stories. With this method, we aimed to gain better access to the affective aspects of translation reception. To our knowledge, playback theatre has not been previously exploited in data collection in research on translation reception. All three methods show that reception encompasses issues that go far beyond the immediate context of a translated text.

Keywords

translation reception, migrant communities, research methods

Comparison of two key usability methods used for testing translation tools and aids: simulated role plays and field observation

Prof Nike K. Pokorn, Dr Tamara Mikolic Juznic
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Prof Nike K. Pokorn

Nike K. Pokorn is Professor of Translation Studies and Chair of English in the Department of Translation Studies at the University of Ljubljana. Her research interests include translation history, directionality in translation, and community and healthcare interpreting. She is the author of Challenging the Traditional Axioms (Benjamins, 2005) and Post-Socialist Translation Practices (Benjamins, 2012), co-editor with Kaisa Koskinen of The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Ethics (2021), and the general editor of the first comprehensive Slovene history of literary translation (Zgodovina slovenskega literarnega prevoda, 2023).

Dr Tamara Mikolic Juznic

Tamara Mikolič Južnič is Associate Professor at the Department of Translation of the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia). She is Head of the Translation Studies Chair. She was the lead researcher in two EP projects (EP05 2015/16 and EP09 2016/17, "Dissemination of best practices in conference interpreter training between EU and non-EU languages"). She has authored 2 volumes, co-edited a number of publications and published articles in the fields of translation studies and contrastive analysis. Her research interests include translation history, community interpreting, translator and interpreter training and corpus-based contrastive linguistics.

Abstract

The aim of the presentation is to compare the effectiveness and the efficiency of two key translation usability research methods: simulated role play and field observation. The two methods were used to test the acceptability (i.e., the extent to which the users consider it to be appropriate and serve its purpose) of a multilingual phrasebook in eight languages (Multilingual Aid for Better Communication in Healthcare in Slovene, English, Arabic, French, Russian, Chinese, Persian, and Albanian), which was created in 2017 to assist healthcare providers when treating patients who do not speak the societal language. The study focused on the effectiveness (i.e., providing better, more reliable results) and the efficiency (i.e., providing results with the least effort and time involved) of the two methods. Method: The acceptability of the phrasebook was checked through simulated role play, involving 450 healthcare professionals, and through field observation of five healthcare providers and 18 patients using the phrasebook in clinical settings. Results: The simulated roleplay and observation study both yielded comparable results. While the observation study was slightly more effective, if less efficient, the simulation study was very efficient and also highly effective, providing we focus only on the participants assuming the professional identity they have in real life, and thus proved to be a reliable alternative to observation methods in usability research.

Keywords

method comparison, usability research, observation and roleplay

How does readers' trust in human and machine translations affect their reception of translated poems? Evidence from a deception-based study

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The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

Dr Ke Hu

Ke Hu is a Lecturer in Translation Studies at the Asia Institute, University of Melbourne, specialising in the interplay of technology and language. He obtained both his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Melbourne and is a certified professional translator accredited by the Australian National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI). His academic pursuits span a diverse range of fields including language and translation technologies, corpus linguistics, computational linguistics, and digital humanities.

Abstract

As noted by Rossetti, O'Brien, and Cadwell (2020), there is a lack of research on how trust in translation affects readers' reception. The current study seeks to address this gap by exploring how readers' thin trust (Putnam, 2000) in the producer and production modality (human vs. machine) affects the reception of poetry translation. Given that the interplay between trust and translation reception may be confounded by factors such as the linguistic differences between different translation versions, the current study uses a deception-based experiment (see Barrera & Simpson, 2012; Pascual-Leone et al., 2010) to investigate how paratextual information about the translation modality (human- vs. machine-translated) affects Chinese L1 readers' receptions of these poems. In this experiment, raw machine translations of two unrhymed English poems were presented to more than 150 Chinese L1 readers randomly assigned to two groups to read raw machine translations of two unrhymed English poems. The first group (True-MT) received accurate information that the translations were machine-generated, while the second group (Purported-HT) was misinformed that the translations were produced by professional human translators. Readers' reception of these poems was triangulated through an 11-item reading experience questionnaire, an innovative method called "annotation heatmap" (Hu, 2022), and post-hoc interviews. These methods consistently indicate that, while all participants read the same machine translations, the Purported-HT group had more positive receptions of both texts than did the True-MT group. Interview data reveal that the different receptions were primarily due to readers' varying thin trust in human translators and machine translation systems.

Keywords

trust, translation reception, machine translation

Reception of bilingual signs in the public sector - an eyetracking study

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Dr Katharina Oster

Katharina Oster is a postdoc research assistant at the faculty for translation studies, linguistics and cultural studies, and member of the Translation & Cognition (TRA&CO) Center in Germersheim, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. In 2019, she finished her PhD project which was focussing on psycholinguistic and neurolinguistic aspects of word translation. Her main teaching and research interests lie in the field of cognitive translation studies and translation technologies.

Mrs Julia Degenhardt

Julia Degenhardt is doing a French-German PhD at the University of Burgundy, France and the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany. She holds a BA in translation studies and a MA in conference interpreting. Her PhD project focusses on accessible communication and intralingual translation, her research interests also include corpus linguistics and cognitive linguistics.

Mrs Ann-Kathrin Habig

Ann-Kathrin Habig is a PhD student, reserach assistant and member of the Translation & Cognition (TRA&CO) Center in Germersheim, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, where she also obtained her BA and MA degrees in translation studies. Her research focusses on the cognitive and neurolinguistic aspects of translation, interpreting and language production as well as affective translation studies and machine translation.

Prof. Jean Nitzke

Jean Nitzke has been associate professor for translation with a focus on translation technology at the University of Agder, Norway, since 2021. Before, she was a lecturer and researcher in Germany, mainly at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and still is an associate and member of the Translation & Cognition (TRA&CO) Center. Her main teaching and research interests are post-editing machine translation, translation technologies, domain-specific translation, and cognitive translation studies.

Dr Anke Radinger

Anke Radinger is a postdoc research assistant, lecturer, and and member of the Translation & Cognition (TRA&CO) Center at the Faculty for Translation Studies, Linguistics, and Cultural Studies (FTSK) in Germersheim as well as at GESIS Leibniz Institute for Social Sciences, both in Germany. During her PhD, she was a junior member of the Gutenberg-Akademie between 2019 and 2022 for excellent young researchers. Her research interests include translation process research with a focus on audiovisual translation, translation revision, post-editing, and translation technologies.

Prof. Silvia Hansen-Schirra

Silvia Hansen-Schirra is Professor for English Linguistics and Translation Studies, the Director of the Translation & Cognition (TRA&CO) Center and Dean of the Faculty for Translation Studies at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in Germersheim, Germany. She is the co-editor of the book series “Translation and Multilingual Natural Language Processing” and “Easy – Plain – Accessible”. Her research interests include machine translation, accessible communication and translation process research.

Abstract

In the public sector, it is often vital to have multilingual information available, so that all members of a multilingual community can actively participate in society (Taibi and Ozolins 2016). Further, public offices often use signs both to orientate visitors in their buildings, but also to convey rules and information. These signs, however, are often not bi- or multilingual and potentially hinder some members of the community to fully participate. Additionally, if the signs are bilingual, they are often presented in the local language and English, however English proficiencies are not always high (ef.com). In a pilot study, we investigated the reception of bilingual public sector signs in three societies with different language policies, namely France, Germany, and Norway. The stimuli were taken from real-life public sector signs from all three countries and translated into English and the respective local languages (30 comparable stimuli in total). In the experiment, the participants (native and non-native speakers of the local languages) were asked to read the bilingual signs and briefly summarize the contents (for a similar setup see Tardel et al. 2023). To measure reception, we used eye-tracking (AOI-based analysis of first fixation duration, regressions, total reading time, etc.) and analyzed the answers given by the participants. The research questions to be answered by this study are: - Do native and non-native readers perceive the signs differently? - How are reading patterns and descriptions of the signs linked? - Does the order in which the languages are read linked to language policies?

Keywords

bilingual landscaping, eye-tracking, multilingualism

Session 2 | 15:30-17:00

LT.01 | Panel 35 | The (De)Humanising Factor in Automation Technologies for Audiovisual Translation

Chairs: Alejandro Bolaños, Rocío Baños

Automation in the world of audiovisual translation: how European freelance subtitlers perceive their working conditions in the world of automation

Dr Kristijan Nikolic
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Dr Kristijan Nikolic

Kristijan Nikolić holds a university degree in English from Zagreb University, where he has worked since 2001. In 2012, he took a PhD at the University of Vienna, written under the supervision of Professor Mary Snell-Hornby. He has been an Honorary Research Associate at the Centre for Translation Studies, University College London since 2016. He also teaches audiovisual translation at Westminster University in London. Kristijan has given talks at various universities and conferences, and was the main organiser of the Media for All 5 conference. His main research interests are interlingual subtitling and audiovisual translators' working conditions. Kristijan lives and works in London and Zagreb.

Abstract

In the world of subtitling, the first step in the automation process happened in the early 2000s with the inception of templates. Before the introduction of templates, subtitlers were expected to spot or time-code their subtitles themselves. From the point of view of the language industry, this meant greater automation. However, experienced subtitlers were less thrilled about the introduction of templates. Greater integration of machine translation in subtitling, especially by streaming services, has gone one step forward. Apart from the already mentioned templates that had already been a regular part of the workflow, in the early 2020s they started offering templates and pre-translated subtitles in numerous target languages, which means subtitlers are now expected to post-edit these translations. This has caused quite an uproar among subtitlers, to the point where AVTE, Audiovisual Translators Europe, the European federation of national European subtitlers' associations, has issued its Machine Translation Manifesto, and, more recently, a Statement on Generative AI. In both these statements, AVTE points out the reasons why this level of automation brings challenges not only to audiovisual translators, but also to end users. This paper investigates the consequences of automation on the world of subtitling, and also examines the point of view of professionals themselves. AVTE also conducted a large Europe-wide survey on working conditions in audiovisual translation. This paper will focus on the data received in the survey regarding automation to investigate how subtitlers perceive automation in light of the future of their profession.

Keywords

audiovisual translation, automation, working conditions

Evolving Roles in Subtitling: Revising Post-Edited Machine-Translated Subtitles

Dr. Rita Menezes
CEAUL/ULICES, LIsboa, Portugal

Dr. Rita Menezes

Rita Menezes is a seasoned translator and researcher with over two decades of experience in subtitling, transcreation, marketing translation and revision. She holds a BA in Translation, a MSc in Relationship Marketing, and a PhD in Translation Studies from the University of Lisbon, Portugal. Rita is actively involved in the academic and professional spheres, teaching various translation-related subjects, and contributing to several research projects, while being a dedicated and accomplished professional. Her research interests span audiovisual translation, revision and quality control, cognition, creativity, and indirect translation in AVT. Rita has published several papers and book chapters on subtitling revision and pivot audiovisual translation and co-edited a special issue of Perspectives (2024) on pivot audiovisual translation. She is also the co-author of the educational project ApiVoT (2023). Rita's contributions to the field are further highlighted by her involvement with the CEAUL/ULICES research group, where she collaborates on various projects, enhancing the understanding and practice of translation and Translation Studies.

Abstract

In the subtitling industry, technological advancements and changing workflows are significantly transforming traditional roles. Machine translation and post-editing are part of these workflows. This shift from purely human-generated subtitles to a combination of machine-generated and human-edited content marks a major industry change. Revising human-translated text, post-editing machine-translated text, and revising post-edited machine-translated text each presents unique challenges. Automation tools, while improving efficiency, have increased pressure on revisers to adapt swiftly. Despite automation, human expertise remains vital in ensuring quality standards that machines alone cannot achieve. This underscores the essential role of revisers in maintaining the integrity of subtitled content. This paper explores the nature of revising post-edited machine-translated text through a descriptive case study involving nine professional subtitling revisers. They revised a sitcom excerpt in two versions: one with human translation and one with post-edited machine translation. The goal was to compare revisers' approaches to each text, in terms of style and accuracy, revision duration, and type and number of interventions. A mixed-methods approach, including textual analyses, think-aloud protocols, screen recordings, and questionnaires, was used. Data reveals distinct subtitling issues between both versions, influenced by subtitlers' and post-editors' competences, as well as by template quality and machine output quality, along with the fact that European Portuguese is considered a Low Resource Language. The number and type of revisers' interventions on the post-edited file were comparable to those on the human-translated file. Participants also shared their opinions on revising post-edited machine-translated subtitles, enriching the analysis of reviser interventions. This case study aims to highlight the importance of subtitling revisers and their relevance. By examining the challenges and nuances of post-edited machine-translation revision compared to traditional practices, the study seeks to enhance the quality and efficiency of the subtitling workflow in an increasingly automated industry.

Keywords

Revision, Post-editing, Subtitling

Do Free-Speed Subtitles Lead to Media for All?

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Dr. Pablo Romero-Fresco

Pablo Romero Fresco is a Senior Lecturer at Universidade de Vigo (Spain) and Honorary Professor of Translation and Filmmaking at the University of Roehampton (UK). He is the author of the books Subtitling through Speech Recognition (Routledge) and Accessible Filmmaking (Routledge). He is the leader of the international research group GALMA, for which he is currently coordinating several international projects on media accessibility. He has worked as a consultant for institutions and companies such as the European Parliament, Ofcom, Netflix or the Spanish Film Academy, with which he has set up a training course to introduce accessible filmmaking and access coordination in the Spanish film industry. Pablo is also a filmmaker. His first short documentary, Joining the Dots (2012), was used by film schools, universities and film festivals all over the world to raise awareness about audio description. His first feature-length documentary, Where Memory Ends (2022), premiered at the London Spanish Film Festival and the Seminci Festival (Spain) and its accessible version has been screened at special events in New York, London and Montreal. In 2024 he was accredited as a Full Professor by the ANECA (National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain) and he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the international subtitlers' association SUBTLE for his lifelong impact on the areas of audiovisual translation and media accessibility around the world.

Prof. Jan Pedersen

Dr Jan Pedersen is Director of Studies at the Institute for Interpreting and Translation Studies at the Department of Swedish and Multilingualism at Stockholm University, Sweden, where he also teaches audiovisual translation. He has worked as a subtitler for many years and is the president of ESIST, the European Association for Studies in Screen Translation, and Associate Editor of Perspectives: Studies in Translatology

Dr. Nina Reviers

Nina is a practitioner and researcher in the domain of Audio Visual Translation, specialising in Media Accessibility. Particular research interests include AD for film, Theatre and Opera performances, AD teaching, Linguistic aspects of AD, Multimodality and Corpus Studies.I am currently working as coordinator for the newly founded Expertise Centre for Accessible Media and Culture OPEN, of the University of Antwerp (OPEN – Expertisecentrum voor Toegankelijke Media en Cultuur). I am also an Editorial Board Member of JAT, the Journal of Audiovisual Translation.

Abstract

Subtitling speed has always been one of the most debated issues in audiovisual translation and media accessibility, perhaps because it has financial, political and ideological implications as well as a direct impact on the viewers' experience. Over the past years, as a result of AI-based automation and of findings from empirical reception studies, there has been a tendency to increase subtitling speeds and, more recently, even to do away with them. A case in point are the latest best practice guidelines on access services published in 2024 by Ofcom, the influential official communications regulator in the UK, which recommends to remove maximum subtitling speeds and opts for fully verbatim subtitles. This presentation will look at the causes and consequences of the use of free-speed subtitles. The first part will analyse the speed at which interlingual subtitles are currently being presented on streaming services. We will report on the findings of an international study assessing the speed of 3,147,886 subtitles translated into German, English, European Spanish, French, Portuguese, Italian, Swedish and Danish. The second part of the presentation will focus on the reception of verbatim and fast subtitles by groups of viewers who have so far been largely excluded from most user tests and whose access may be compromised by subtitles with no speed limit, such as second language groups with low proficiency in the dominant language, deaf viewers with lower reading skills and the elderly. We will present the results of preliminary studies looking at how the

latter group (viewers over 65 years old) receive (in terms of comprehension and enjoyment) fast/verbatim subtitles vs. slow/edited subtitles for the Irish comedy Derry Girls. A final reflection will follow on upcoming research on the impact that automation and free-speed subtitles have on different groups of viewers.

Keywords

Free-speed subtitles, Reception, Automation

The reception of fast subtitles by different user groups: An eye tracking study

Dr Sixin Liao[1], Prof. Jan-Louis Kruger[1,2]
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Dr Sixin Liao

Sixin Liao is a post-doctoral researcher in linguistics at Macquarie University in Sydney. Her research uses eye tracking to study multimodal reading, such as reading subtitles in videos. Her current projects also explore the use of subtitles as a reading intervention for literacy development. She is the First Laureate for the 2022 CIUTI PhD Award and has more than 10 publications in eye-tracking research. Her latest publication on Trends in Cognitive Sciences explores how digital technology affects the way we engage in reading. She is also a reviewer for journals such as Target, PLOS One and Applied Psycholinguistics.

Prof. Jan-Louis Kruger

Jan-Louis Kruger is professor of Linguistics at Macquarie University and extraordinary professor in the UPSET focus area at North-West University in South Africa. His research focuses on the processing of language in multimodal contexts, specifically in audiovisual translation, reading, and interpreting. His main approaches are aligned with cognitive psychology and psycholinguistics. Primarily, his projects focus on investigating cognitive processing when more than one source of information have to be integrated, as in the reception of subtitles or the production of interpreting. He is on the editorial board of the Journal of Audiovisual Translation.

Abstract

It is no surprise that the massive need for subtitled content to meet the demand of proliferating streaming services would only ever be attainable with the assistance of partial (for now) automation. While this is great news for access, the real impact of such automation on viewer reception still has to be tested comprehensively. An inevitable result of automation in subtitling is a shift to verbatim subtitles (or translations created from a verbatim template). But while verbatim subtitles seem to be a simple response to the wishes of some users (i.e. they are perceived to be more equivalent to what was spoken), there is no denying the fact that verbatim subtitling of fast speech result in fast subtitles, or that automatic translations from verbatim templates will equally result in faster speeds. There is also little doubt that a move to verbatim subtitles is not informed only by user needs but also by profit margins: the lower the involvement of humans, the lower the cost. Verbatim subtitles created with the use of ASR and AI can already produce a product that requires minimal human intervention if verbatim subtitles are required. The question remains whether all viewers will be able to keep up with fast (often verbatim) subtitles. In this paper we will present the results of an eye tracking study to determine the way in which fast (verbatim) subtitles (in this case those created for the fast-paced Irish comedy, Derry Girls) vs. slow (edited) subtitles affect the enjoyment, reception and processing of the content. We compare the reception of slow vs. fast subtitles in two groups: a deaf group who have sign language as first language (and therefore rely on subtitles for access) and a hearing group of English participants (who do not need the subtitles for access).

Keywords

Verbatim subtitles, Eye tracking, Reception

LT.06 | General panel | Workplaces, workflows and language diversity

Chair: Jiaqi Liu

Coaching for wellbeing: A study of the benefits and drawbacks for translators in the workplace

Prof. Severine Hubscher-Davidson
The Open University, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom

Prof. Severine Hubscher-Davidson

Prof. Séverine Hubscher-Davidson is Head of Translation at The Open University (UK). Her research interests are in the areas of translators' emotions and psychological processes. In addition to publishing academic works on the emotional and psychological wellbeing of translators and interpreters, she also creates and delivers professional development courses on these topics.

Abstract

The world of work in the twenty-first century is characterised by insecurity and rapid processes of change. While the United Nations urgently called for a focus on decent, sustainable, and productive employment (2015), the unstable labour markets across the world have had a detrimental impact on worker wellbeing. Various crises in recent years have exacerbated this trend (Covid-19, AI), and current working life is threatened by a multitude of health risks including stress, anxiety, and chronic fatigue (e.g., Irvine and Rose 2024). For professional translators, intensive interactions with digital tools and unrealistic productivity demands are additional health risks impairing their emotional and physical wellbeing. Translators have to adapt, deal with setbacks, be creative, look for new opportunities, self-motivate, and develop ecologically and ethically sustainable translation practices (FIT Position Paper 2022). In this context, it seems useful to turn to the field of coaching psychology, as it has been shown that psychologically informed coaching approaches facilitate effective workplace outcomes, such as goal attainment, self-efficacy, and other aspects of objective and self-reported work performance (Wang et al. 2021). Group coaching in particular is believed to play a key role in supporting culture change, building awareness and relationships at work, and promoting goal development (Britton 2015). There is also widespread recognition that coaching interventions are an effective way to accelerate emotional wellbeing, alongside learning and development in soft skills (e.g., Cox et al. 2018). Drawing on substantial feedback from several coaching workshops involving 350+ language professionals from FIT and the UN, this talk will present findings regarding the key benefits and drawbacks of implementing coaching interventions targeting translators' emotional wellbeing. While coaching interventions based on sound theoretical principles can contribute to the development of healthy translators and sustainable workplaces by managing some important health risks and providing tools for psychological wellbeing (Hubscher-Davidson 2024), a long-term strategy that is context-sensitive, systemically-minded, and suitably tailored is more likely to lead to in-depth change and a healthier translation profession in years to come.

Keywords

psychological sustainability, professional development, coaching

The Behavioral Dynamics of Positive Emotions and Flow Experience in the Translation Process

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Miss Yanze Li

Miss Yanze Li is a Ph.D. candidate at the School of Foreign Languages, South China University of Technology, where she also obtained her BA and MA degrees. Her research focuses on the application of quantitative research methods and statistical techniques in translation process research, cognitive translation and interpreting studies, and the investigation of brain activities during translation.

Dr Yu Weng

Dr. Yu Weng is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. She holds a Ph.D. in Translation Studies from Durham University, UK. Her research interests encompass the psychology of translation, Cognitive Translation and Interpreting Studies, and the application of multi-method approaches in translation process research. Dr. Weng has published articles in renowned journals such as Target, Meta, and LANS-TTS. Her work contributes to the understanding of the cognitive and psychological aspects of translation and interpreting, as well as the advancement of research methodologies in these fields.

Abstract

The role of emotions in the translation and interpreting process has gained increasing attention in recent years. Research shows that emotional factors—from textual valence and affective elements at the workplace to translators' emotional states—significantly affect translators' cognitive processes, behaviours, and overall performance (e.g., Korpal & Jasielska, 2019; Lehr & Hvelplund, 2020; Bednárová-Gibová, 2022). Despite the progress made so far, the interactive impact of positive emotions and flow, a psychological state of complete immersion in an activity (Csikszentmihalyi, 1975) observed in various cognitive tasks, including translation (Mirlohi et al., 2011), remains underexplored. This study explores the relationships among positive emotions, flow experiences, and translators' cognitive and behavioural responses using a mixed-method approach. Data were collected through self-reported scales for positive emotions and flow, as well as eye-tracking methods to capture behavioural indicators during the translation process. The results indicate that although positive emotions did not significantly affect overall flow scores, they correlated with specific flow dimensions and interacted with flow to promote translation efficiency and cognitive economy. Translators primed with positive emotions demonstrated larger mean saccade amplitude and fewer ST-TT transitions, indicating more efficient information intake and code-switching. They also exhibited shorter mean fixation durations that signaled reduced cognitive effort and a higher ST-TT fixation duration ratio, reflecting more balanced attention allocation patterns. Furthermore, results suggest a broaden-and-build effect: flow-generated positive experiences potentially balanced translators' attention allocation and encouraged parallel processing in the later phase of the experiment. This study contributes insights to cognitive translation research by revealing how positive emotions and flow synergize to optimize translation processes. Practically, it highlights the value of cultivating positive emotions and flow experiences to improve both efficiency and well-being in translation practice.

Keywords

Flow experience, Positive emotions, Translation process

Mediation and democratic participation through language access in superdiverse societies

Dr. Javier Moreno-Rivero
City University of New York, New York, USA

Dr. Javier Moreno-Rivero

Javier Moreno-Rivero is an Assistant Professor in Translation & Intercultural Studies at the City University of New York (CUNY). He earned his Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Cambridge, where he taught linguistics, translation and Spanish. His expertise spans applied and sociolinguistics, translation studies, language policy and planning, law and language, sociology of language, and political science. Javier has held academic positions in institutions in the United Kingdom (including Heriot-Watt University, the University of Sheffield, University of Westminster, Open University and the University of Cambridge) and the United States (first at UCLA and currently at CUNY). He has been an invited speaker at international conferences and symposia at London, Cambridge, McGill, MIT, Princeton, Sevilla and Geneva, among others. Javier has supervised over 50 postgraduate students in applied linguistics and translation studies in universities across Spain and the UK. In 2024, he was appointed as Expert Consultant in Multilingualism to the UNESCO.

Abstract

This paper examines the critical role of translation and interpreting within the broader framework of language access, with a focus on their influence on the democratic participation of individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in the United States. Language barriers have been widely recognized as significant obstacles to social justice (Monzó-Nebot & Jiménez-Salcedo 2018; Piller 2020; Rosa & Flores 2023), adding another layer of inequity in access to public services, particularly for ethnic minorities. In the U.S., language access includes the translation of written materials, interpreting services, multilingual websites, and bilingual support via phone or video. Despite ostensibly favorable legislation at both local and federal levels, numerous non-profit organizations have identified systemic shortcomings in effectively meeting the needs of multilingual populations. Utilizing recent developments in the study of "translation policy" (Meylaerts & González-Núñez 2017) as a theoretical framework, this paper has two primary objectives: first, to present a comprehensive repository of language access measures in the U.S., with an emphasis on investigating macro- and meso-level policies; and second, to explore the extent to which micro-level policies challenge the adequacy of existing legislative measures. This analysis is supplemented by data from semi-structured interviews and focus groups with key decision-makers at federal and local levels, including representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice, the New York State Government, and the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. Ultimately, I argue that these findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how translation and interpreting policies can be leveraged to enhance equity and inclusivity in multilingual urban environments, offering valuable insights for policymakers, legal professionals, and language service providers.

Keywords

language access, translation policy, social justice

Is translation an effectiveness safeguard for linguistic diversity? The Little Prince in Franco-Provençal

Dr Aurora Maria Garcia Martinez
University Autonomous of Madrid, Madrid, Spain

Dr Aurora Maria Garcia Martinez

Aurora Mª García Martínez, born in Switzerland, Assistant Professor at the Autonomous University of Madrid since February 2022, teaches French language in different degrees (Modern Languages, Culture and Communication, Translation and Interpreting, English Studies, Tourism and Hispanic Studies: Spanish language and its literatures). She has been an associate lecturer (2016-2020) in the Faculty of Letters at the University of Castilla-La Mancha where she studied a degree in Modern Languages and Literatures (French-English). At the University of Cordoba, she completed the master's degree in Specialised Translation: English/French/German-Spanish. In April 2019, she defended her PhD Thesis in Languages and Cultures on the French work of the Dutch writer Isabelle de Charrière (1740-1805), carrying out the translation-oriented analysis of three of her novels, as well as the unpublished version into Spanish of two of them. Her scientific activity is based on French-Spanish-French translation, French literature of the 18th century, gender studies and the French language. She is a member of the research groups TRADHUC at the University of Valladolid, Escritoras y Escrituras (HUM753) at the University of Seville, LAEC and the Laboratory TiLc&Com at the Autonomous University of Madrid. She has also been a collaborating researcher in the group MOLAF-La Mirada del Otro en la literatura anglofona y francófona (2017 and 2020) at the UCLM. As well, she has held different positions at UCLM as an administrative staff of the UCLM (1993-2022).
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Abstract

The "Jean-Marc Probst Foundation for The Little Prince" in Lausanne (Switzerland) has set itself the goal of commissioning new translations to promote and enhance this masterpiece. As a result, there are versions in different varieties of Franco-Provençal, among others. In the context of the general theme of the 11th EST Congress "The Changing Faces of Translation and Interpreting (Studies)", this proposal of paper aims to answer the question of whether translation is a guarantee of effectiveness for regional or minority languages by presenting the linguistic reality of the dialects through the example of three versions of The Little Prince in three minority languages: the Franco-Provençal of canton of Fribourg, Vaudois and Valdôtain dialects and the way in which they have been received. We will then be able to answer these questions and conclude that this tale is not only one of the most translated books, but also a boundless international cultural agent likely to reviving and preserving languages.

Keywords

The Little Prince, Franco-Provençal, Translation

LT.07 | General panel | Gender and Translation

Chair: Caroline Summers

Archives and intersectional feminist translation: how the genetic file of Robin Morgan's poem "Four Visions on Vietnam" (1972) forms and informs its translation

Mrs Clara Joubert
Université de Lille, Lille, France. McGill University, Montreal, Canada

Mrs Clara Joubert

Clara Joubert is a PhD candidate in translation studies at McGill University and the University of Lille. Her research is at the intersection of feminist translation theories, research-creation, and genetics. As part of her thesis, she is translating poems written by the American poet and feminist activist Robin Morgan, published in 1972 and in 1976 in the collections Monster and Lady of the Beasts. She is interested in how translation enriches and multiplies the source text. The contributions of research-creation, genetic criticism and feminist translation theories encourage the conception of translation as a creative process, in which the translatress plays a full part in the creation of meaning. Diachronic translation, and the general differences between second-wave American feminism and fourth-wave French feminism, rather than being considered as a hindrance or a factor of untranslatability, increase the semantic richness of the text.

Abstract

In 1972, American feminist activist and writer Robin Morgan published the poetry collection Monster. It includes a four-part poem titled "Four Visions on Vietnam", which is described as "in no way English versions or translations from the Vietnamese", despite being inspired by "images or themes" in the work of Vietnamese poets. In 1967, in the Hudson Review, Morgan had published poems titled "War Poems from the Vietnamese", translated with Vietnamese professor Nguyễn Ngọc Bích. In 1968, she had published poems in the Students for a Democratic Society's review Caw! along with an article detailing their collaboration. One poem, "Warscape", reoccurs throughout these publications. There are similarities between the versions, blurring the boundary between plagiarism, translation, cultural appropriation and creation. However, in Caw!, Morgan had claimed ownership of these poems, stating that "We felt the poems were our versions, and that we could do with them as we liked"... and pointing out that the Vietnamese authors had never been remunerated. The French translation of Monster offered in this thesis embraces an intersectional feminist perspective. The archives enable us to adopt a critical approach to translation that considers the relations of domination at work in the text production. As demonstrated by Karpinski (2015), genetic criticism and feminist theories of translation both offer a reassessment of the authority of the source text and promote a horizontal relationship between the translator and the author. Here, the genetic file of Morgan's work invites us to think of the text as part of a textual continuum, with a pre-text and a translation that is no longer seen as subordinate but, as Haisan (2017:176) put it, "as post-text (the next stage in the genesis of the source text)". We will therefore be looking at the ways archives guide the translation process and support intersectional feminist translation.

Keywords

Genetic criticism, Feminist translation, Research-creation

Unravelling the Archive: Maghrebi Women's Literature Through the Prism of Translation (1920s–1990s)

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Dr Christina Bezari

Christina Bezari is a senior post-doctoral fellow at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). Her research is located at the intersection of Spanish and comparative literature, translation studies and women's history. She is the author of Transnational Modernity in Southern Europe: Women's Periodicals and Salon Culture (Routledge, 2023) and the co-editor of "Las Vanguardistas: Women and the Avant-Garde in Ibero-America" (2022). Her research has been published in three languages (English, Spanish and French) and has examined the role of editors, literary translators and cultural mediators in Spain, Portugal, Belgium and South America. She has previously co-directed the project "Les imaginaires de la traduction" at Sorbonne University.

Abstract

Interdisciplinary collaboration between translation history and post-colonial studies has opened new research avenues by examining intercultural relations in regions primarily characterized by unequal power dynamics. Despite its rich translation history, Maghrebi literature has often been studied through the lens of colonial dominance, either as a post-colonial "Francophone literature" or as a marginalized "imitation of belles lettres" (Ait Kharouach 2020: 446). Maghrebi women's position in the literary field has been even more complex both due to social conservatism and to the politics of erasure and invisibilization of the colonial era. This paper will delve into digital and non-digital archives in order to examine Maghrebi women's literature through the prism of translation. What strategies did women use to open up channels of intellectual exchange and disseminate their work beyond the Maghreb? Who were the translators of their works and which works did they choose to translate? What was their role in perpetuating the legacy of Maghrebi women writers and poets? What are the methodological challenges that modern researchers face in order to locate the archives and access literary translations and other archival material? To address these questions, I will explore online digital resources like the "Arab Women's Writing" database created by Maria Assif and the University of Toronto Library as well as literary translations found at the Centre des Archives d'Outre-Mer in Aix-en-Provence. Both of these archives shed light on women writers, poets and translators, offering new perspectives on historical and cultural interactions between Europe, North America and the Maghreb. By examining the role of these agents in the dissemination of Maghrebi literature by women, this study aims to challenge the traditional division between the French metropole and its "peripheries", highlighting the Maghreb as a zone of hybridity and cultural exchange in constant dialogue with other regions.

Keywords

Women Writers, Maghreb, Translation and Post-colonial Studies

Translating Women from Song China: Reworking of the Gender Constructions in the German Version of Shediao Yingxiong Zhuan (Legends of the Condor Heroes)

Ms Xingyan Zhu
University of Goettingen, Goettingen, Germany

Ms Xingyan Zhu

Xingyan Zhu is a second-year PhD student in Intercultural German Studies at the University of Goettingen in Germany. Her research focuses on the German translation of Jin Yong's Shediao Yingxiong Zhuan (English: Legends of the Condor Heroes). She completed a Double M.A. in Intercultural German Studies from Nanjing University in China and University of Goettingen from 2020 to 2023. Her master's thesis explored interculturality in translation, specifically analysing the translations of the Daodejing by Richard Wilhelm and Wolfgang Kubin. Prior to her postgraduate studies, she earned a bachelor's degree in German Studies from Nanjing University, graduating in 2020.

Abstract

Feminist translators draw inspiration from feminist writers who challenge and redefine conventional language use to create new avenues for women to articulate their experiences (Godard 1989, von Flotow 1991, Arrojo 1994, Simon 1996). Based on the propositions that language constructs social reality (Berger/Luckmann 1966) and that gender is socially constructed (Butler 1990), the German branch of gender linguistics advocates for discourse linguistics, which includes descriptive discourse linguistics and critical discourse analysis, as the methodological framework for studying gender linguistics (Spieß 2012), with a primary focus on how language constructs gender differences, gender-specific communicative behaviours, and gender-neutral language representations (Günthner 2019). This paper aims to introduce the discourse linguistics approach in gender linguistics into translation studies and to explore gender awareness in translation practice of a Chinese historical fiction into modern German language. The martial arts novel Shediao Yingxiong Zhuan (Legends of the Condor Heroes) by Hong Kong author Jin Yong (Louis Cha), published in 1957, is set during the Song Dynasty in China (960-1279) and features a wide array of female characters. In 2020, the first volume was translated into German by Karin Betz and published under the title Die Legende der Adlerkrieger. After annotating passages that talk about/with women as well as general speech patterns of women and men, this study employs the discourse linguistics DIMEAN-model (Spitzmüller/Warnke 2011) and Zhu/Ang/Sun's (2024) categorisations of gender translation strategies to analyse the reworking of gender expression in the German translation of the Chinese historical fiction. It examines the gender representation embedded in the original Chinese text and considers by what strategies masculinity and femininity are constructed in the German translation. The paper emphasises that the German translator revises gender representations by adapting the lexical units and propositional structures of the Chinese gender discourse.

Keywords

gender and translation, discourse analysis in translation studies, historical fiction

LT.11 | General panel | Interpreting in health environments

Chair: Cyril Joyce

Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Intercultural Communication in Catalonia's Healthcare Through Evidence-Based Insights

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Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Bellaterra, Spain

Ms. Ana Isabel Pérez-Real

Ana Isabel Pérez-Real is a doctoral researcher at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). She is a member of the research group MIRAS, the CIMAS project (Mediated Intercultural Communication in Healthcare Services), and a lecturer in conference interpreting. She holds a master's degree in Conference Interpreting (UAB), a bachelor's degree in Translation and Interpreting (UAB), and a bachelor's degree in Interpretation of Classical and Contemporary Music, specialising in Singing (ESMUC). Her research focuses on the voice of the interpreter and its use during the interpreting process as well as intercultural communication.

Mr. Marc Miranda

Marc Miranda is a predoctoral researcher at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). He is a member of the CIMAS research project led by the MIRAS research group at UAB and focuses on non-professional mediated intercultural communication.

Dr. Mireia Vargas-Urpí

Mireia Vargas-Urpí is Serra Húnter Senior Lecturer at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She is a member of Gelea2LT, MIRAS and TXICC research groups (at UAB), and is mostly interested in translation and interpreting from Chinese into Catalan and Spanish, digital literacy in language teaching and translation education, and intercultural communication.

Abstract

Despite significant advancements in healthcare interpreting research over the past decades, most studies have concentrated on the perceptions of healthcare providers, with less attention given to users and even less to policymakers (Valero-Garcés, 2024). Furthermore, there has been a notable absence of research findings effectively being transferred into tangible improvements in service quality or the working conditions of interpreters and intercultural mediators, who continue to navigate between limited and precarious contractual arrangements (Ugarte Ballester & Vargas-Urpí, 2018; Monzó-Nebot & Álvares-Álvarez, 2024). Unfortunately, the ever-changing landscape of interpreting research and training has not brought changes to the realities of increasingly multicultural and multilingual healthcare centres (Álvaro Aranda & Lázaro Gutiérrez, 2021; Arumí and García-Beyaert, 2022). Addressing this gap, the CIMAS project aims to provide evidence-based healthcare data to both healthcare providers and policymakers concerning a critical issue: the ineffective communication between healthcare providers and users with limited local language proficiency. This study focuses on mediated intercultural communication in Catalonia. The primary objective of this paper is to compare the perceptions and views of healthcare providers with those of policymakers, thereby contributing to a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in healthcare interpreting. Data were collected using questionnaires for healthcare providers—to reach a broader sample of potential informants—and semi-structured interviews for policymakers and stakeholders—to obtain more detailed, holistic information from a substantially smaller sample. A total of 1,390 questionnaires from a population of 70,484 healthcare providers were collected, as well as 38 questionnaires from approximately 100 intercultural mediators, and 15 policymakers and stakeholders were interviewed. We present quantitative figures for the first sample, while qualitative content analysis has been applied in the second one. The results indicate a discrepancy between the needs of healthcare providers for effective intercultural communication—where ad hoc interpreting remains prevalent in many healthcare centres—and policymakers' perceptions of public service interpreting policy implementation, which began in the late

2000s in Catalonia. In conclusion, we will reflect on the implications of these findings and present actions to translate research into practical applications. Additionally, these results will have broader applicability to various contexts requiring intercultural mediation.

Keywords

healthcare interpreting, intercultural mediation, public service interpreting policies

Encoding Miscommunication: A Proposal of Indicators for Non-Professional Healthcare Interpreting

Mr Marc Miranda
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

Mr Marc Miranda

Marc Miranda is a predoctoral researcher at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). He is a member of the CIMAS research project, which focuses on intercultural mediated communication in health care settings in the region of Catalonia (Spain). This project is led by the MIRAS research group at UAB. His research focuses on non-professional intercultural mediated communication in health care settings.

Abstract

Non-professional interpreting (NPIT) is a common practice in healthcare settings when communicative barriers arise between practitioners and users with limited knowledge of the host society's official languages. Nevertheless, this does not ensure effective communication, which, given the sensitive context, may have adverse consequences. NPIT studies have identified this by focusing predominantly on either stable contexts, where linguistic communities are defined by the presence of stable migrant populations, or crisis contexts, such as disaster relief and refugee crises. However, linguistic diversity can be stable and ever-changing at the same time. This presentation focuses on one such context, namely the Catalan region of Lleida. Here, 19.75% of the resident population are migrants. Additionally, every year the region welcomes about 30,000 temporary workers from different countries who come to work throughout the harvest season. Agriculture represents the primary economic engine in the region, and migrant workers, both temporary and resident, are a vital workforce. The objective of this presentation is twofold: first, to propose a list of miscommunication indicators in NPIT-mediated consultations with the aim of identifying and classifying situations of ineffective communication and their causes. Secondly, to explore the impact of epistemic differences on health beliefs between practitioners and users. The methodology is based on the multimodal discourse analysis of a corpus of five consultations that have taken place in a public obstetrics and gynaecology centre in Lleida known for providing medical attention to a high percentage of migrant users. The preliminary results suggest that the miscommunication indicators list might be used to identify solutions to communicative barriers in healthcare, regardless of language combinations. Following, the need for raising awareness on practitioners' side regarding epistemic differences with patients will be argued to reduce their bias and consequently improve communication.

Keywords

Non-professional Interpreting, Healthcare Interpreting, Intercultural Mediation

Bridging the gap between interpreting and healthcare through the interdisciplinary situated training of future professionals

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Prof. Ana Isabel Foulquié Rubio

Ana Isabel Foulquié Rubio holds a Ph.D. in Translation and Interpreting from the University of Murcia and an Undergraduate Degree in Translation and Interpreting from the University of Granada. Currently, she is a Permanent Full Time Lecturer of Translation and Interpreting at the University of Murcia where she is responsible for teaching Public Service Interpreting, amongst other courses. She is also the coordinator of mobility at the Department of Translation and Interpreting. She has participated in different Erasmus+ Teaching Mobilities and in the Promotion of the Internationalisation of the UMU in different countries such as the United States, Vietnam, China, among others. She has been the promoter of different Erasmus+ Agreements. She has participated in training for Virtual Exchange, given some courses for VE and has done a project on Virtual Exchange with the University of Texas at San Antonio in USA. She has participated in different research projects such as "Conceptualization and Assessment of Creativity in Translation" (funded by the Seneca Foundation) and "EMOTRA, Translation and Emotions" (funded by the Spanish Ministry of Education) and the ReACTMe Project (funded by the European Commission). She has published many different articles and chapters mainly related to public service interpreting and has edited different books. She has worked as a freelance translator and interpreter for 20 years. She is also a Sworn Translator and Interpreter appointed by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1999. She is also the President of APTIJ, the Professional Association of Legal and Sworn translators and Interpreters.

Mrs. Magdalena Fernández-Pérez

Magdalena Fernández Pérez is a part-time lecturer at the University of La Laguna, where she teaches English for specific purposes (Education, Health Sciences and Economics) in the Department of English Philology. She is also the academic coordinator and one of the trainers of the Master's Degree in Conference Interpreting, which is a member of the EMCI Consortium. She has extensive experience as a trainer of public service interpreters. She has been working as a freelance conference interpreter in the private sector for 18 years. Her main line of research focuses on remote interpreting, especially telephone interpreting and interpreting education.

Prof. Juan-Miguel Ortega-Herráez

Juan-Miguel Ortega-Herráez is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Alicante, where he lectures liaison and legal interpreting. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Granada, where he presented his dissertation on court interpreting in Spain and the role of the interpreter. He belongs to the Incognito and Logoi research groups based at the University of Alicante. He has been actively involved in various EU-funded on procedural rights in multilingual and multicultural proceedings and has published extensively in legal translation, court interpreting and the role of interpreters. In the professional field, he is sworn translator & interpreter of English and has been a staff translator & interpreter for the Madrid Regional High Court of Justice (2001-2008) and the National Police Service in Alicante (2008-2011). He is also a founding and active member of the Spanish Professional Association of Court and Sworn Interpreters (APTIJ).

Abstract

According to both research and practice, training interpreters and service providers jointly offers benefits for both professions and, it may serve as a stepping stone to professionalization. Through interprofessional education and collaborative practice (Krampe et al. 2022) both interpreters and providers acquire a better understanding of their respective needs and expectations and improve their ability to adapt communication strategies (Sanz-Moreno, 2017; Krystallidou et al., 2018; Bansal et al., 2014). Specialised literature in medical education and PSI (Crezee, 2015, González-Davies & Enríquez-Raído, 2016) highlights the benefits of situated learning to ease the transition from the classroom to professional practice. Studies by Julià Sanchis et al. (2019) show the effectiveness of high-fidelity simulations to teach non-technical skills to nursing students and in the case of PSI, Abril-Martí, Calvo-Encinas and Ortega-Herráez (2019) describe educational

innovation experiences in the field of liaison interpreting training following a multidisciplinary approach. This on-line project, carried out by four Spanish universities involving nursing and interpreting students and trainers, is based on a simulated learning approach. The aims were to make both groups aware of their respective expectations and needs in interpreter-mediated healthcare encounters. The teaching intervention was preceded and followed by a questionnaire-based exploratory study of the expectations of all participants. This paper will describe in detail the design and implementation of the educational experience and will present the preliminary results showing how the project affected the perception of both nursing and interpreting students and their own self-perception as professionals.

Keywords

interprofessional education, situated learning, medical interpreting

Healthcare providers' perceptions of 'the interpreter': Insights from a linguistic ethnography in the emergency department of a Belgian hospital.

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Mrs. Sinem Bilican

Sinem Bilican studied at the Faculty of Arts of KU Leuven (Antwerp). She holds a bachelor's degree in applied linguistics and a master's degree in multilingual communication. She is currently a PhD-researcher focusing on the linguistic/communication aspect of the project Managing Language Barriers in Unplanned Care (MaLBUC). Her research interests are multilingualism, language diversity, (multilingual) healthcare communication, health literacy and non-professional interpreting in healthcare.

Prof. Heidi Salaets

Prof. Heidi Salaets is chair of the Research Unit Translation Studies (KU Leuven). As an interpreting studies scholar, her research is situated on the cross-roads of multiple disciplines: linguistics, law, medicine, sociology, communication. Therefore, inter-and transdisciplinary research represents the focus in her research projects.

Prof. Antoon Cox

Prof. Antoon Cox is assistant-professor and head of the Research Group Interpreting Studies (KU Leuven). He is also a research fellow at Vrije Universiteit Brussel. His research focuses on interpersonal communication in stressful multilingual settings such as emergency departments and asylum reception centers.

Prof. Birgitte Schoenmakers

Prof. Birgitte Schoenmakers is a general practitioner and professor in Medicine (KU Leuven). She is head of the Academic Centre for General Practice (KU Leuven) and Principal Investigator of the research project MaLBUC.

Prof. Marc Sabbe

Prof. Marc Sabbe is a clinician, teacher, scientist within the medical field of emergency and disaster medicine and chair of the Research Unit Emergency Medicine (KU Leuven). All interfaces with this field trigger him to think outside the box and translationally. But quality care and patient comfort, in whatever language, remain the central focus.

Abstract

Language barriers (LBs) in healthcare context are gaining increasing attention in academic research, especially with the constantly rising migration numbers (World Migration Report, 2024). Numerous publications discuss that LBs compromise the quality of care and can have possible negative clinical consequences. Research advocates for the use of professional (public service) interpreters, but in practice this is not always as convenient due to practical, logistical (time, availability, etc.) or financial constraints, especially in unplanned care settings (cf. Brenner et al, 2018; Cox & Lázaro Gutiérrez, 2016). This frequently leads to ad-hoc solutions such as the use of translation technologies or involving patient companions or multilingual healthcare personnel without a clearly defined role in the medical interaction. This paper explores the expectations and perceptions of healthcare providers regarding these 'interpreters' and their roles in linguistically diverse medical interactions. A linguistic ethnography (LE) was conducted between May 31st and July 30th 2024 in the emergency department of a Belgian hospital. This LE ethnography resulted in

multiple observations of healthcare provider-patient interactions, recordings of doctor-patient interactions, interviews with healthcare providers and an extensive amount of written and audio-recorded field notes. The interviews with healthcare providers, fieldnotes, and recorded interactions collected from the LE were thematically analysed (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The different types of data facilitated data triangulation. The focus was gaining insights into healthcare providers' perceptions of 'the interpreter'. The initial analysis indicates that the term ‘interpreter’ is given different meanings and that healthcare providers’ perception of 'the interpreter’ changes depending on this meaning. This contribution aims to present the results of this analysis opening the floor for discussions on the role of (non professional) interpreters in emergency contexts, public service interpreting (PSIT) and training for both PSITs and the people who may have to work with them.

Keywords

non professional interpreting, public service interpreting in healthcare, language barriers in healthcare

LT.17 | Panel 24 | How Do We Train Translators and Interpreters for Emergency Contexts? (cont.)

Chairs: Carmen Pena-Díaz, Carmen Valero-Garcés

Training humanitarian interpreters

Prof. Lucía Ruiz Rosendo, Dr. Rhona Amos, Dr. Maura Radicioni, Mr Conor Henry Martin
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Prof. Lucía Ruiz Rosendo

Lucía Ruiz Rosendo is an associate professor at the University of Geneva's Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, where she is Head of the Interpreting Department. She is also a conference interpreter working in the institutional market in Geneva. Her research has been published in Linguistica Antverpiensia, Target, War & Society, The Interpreter and Translator Trainer and Armed Forces & Society, among others, as well as edited collections, including the Oxford Handbook of Translation and Social Practice. She teaches in the MA in Conference Interpreting and the MAS in Interpreter Training (University of Geneva). Her main areas of research are interpreting in conflict zones and scenarios, interpreting at international organisations and interpreter training. She is also the coordinator of the FTI-ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) programme to train ICRC interpreters who work in the field and the co-coordinator of the FTI-UNOG course "Interpreting in UN field missions". She also collaborates with the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN), in which she provides specialised training and counselling for professional and non-professional interpreters who work in different humanitarian organisations, such as the ICRC, UNHCR, WFP, MSF Switzerland, and HD.

Dr. Rhona Amos

Rhona Amos is a Teaching and Research Fellow in the Interpreting Department of the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting (FTI), University of Geneva. Her interdisciplinary research work, often carried out in collaboration with psycholinguists, considers language processing during simultaneous interpreting from a psycholinguistic perspective. She is the lecturer in charge of the Interpreting Theory and Research course on the MA in Conference Interpreting at the FTI and has also taught simultaneous and consecutive interpreting at MA level. She was involved in the design of the online version of the joint ICRC-University of Geneva course in Basic Consecutive Interpreting, and has been a trainer on both face-to-face and online versions of the course since 2019. Rhona obtained a PhD in Conference Interpreting from the University of Geneva in 2020, for which she was awarded the CIUTI PhD Prize 2022. Prior to that, she completed an MA in Languages (Interpreting and Translation) at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh and the MA in Conference Interpreting at the University of Geneva. In addition to her research and teaching work, she is also a professional freelance conference interpreter.

Dr. Maura Radicioni

Maura Radicioni holds a PhD in Interpreting Studies from the FTI, University of Geneva (Switzerland), with a research project on humanitarian interpreting. She obtained her MA in Conference Interpreting from the University of Bologna, DIT at Forlì (Italy) in 1997. Since then, she has worked as a conference interpreter with over 3,000 days, as well as an interpreter trainer. She was lecturer in English-Italian liaison and conference interpreting at the Forlì-based DIT of the University of Bologna from 2003 to 2019, with teaching assignments also at the University of Macerata and Università Politecnica delle Marche. From July to October 2017 she was involved as a trainer in the first humanitarian interpreting pilot course carried out in Italy, jointly organized in blended-learning mode by the University of Bologna DIT and the University of Geneva FTI. Since June 2021 she has been a member of the team of trainers of the basic consecutive interpreting courses jointly organized by the University of Geneva FTI and the ICRC.

Mr Conor Henry Martin

Conor Henry Martin is a PhD candidate at the Interpreting Department of the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, University of Geneva, where he also works as a teaching and research assistant. Supervised by Professor Lucía Ruiz Rosendo, his research focusses on the interpreter's positionality and ethics, with a particular focus on how interpreters manage their positionality in challenging contexts. Conor also works as a trainer on the department's MAS in Interpreting Training and the FTI-ICRC course in Basic Consecutive Interpreting. In addition to his work in the academic sphere, Conor is a professional freelance conference interpreter working principally for the international institutions in Geneva. Conor completed his undergraduate degree in Modern Languages (French and Spanish) at Trinity College, University of Oxford, before completing the MA in Conference Interpreting at the University of Geneva.

Abstract

There is a growing need for interpreters in international crises and humanitarian emergencies, such as armed conflicts, health emergencies, and natural disasters. These interpreters facilitate communication between migrants, refugees, displaced persons, authorities, and public services, and play critical roles in asylum procedures, reception centers, NGOs, and other contexts marked by human suffering and power imbalances. They must regularly adapt to various contexts, often without tailored training in interpreting, linguistic, and cultural skills, nor in the ethical and psychological aspects of their work. At the forefront of training professional interpreters, the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting (FTI) at the University of Geneva has long taken charge of training interpreters active in the contexts outlined above. This presentation provides an overview of the FTI's training activities designed for humanitarian interpreters working for various international organisations. Within the FTI, the AXS ("access") research strand generates evidence-based data to inform context-specific training programs responding to the needs of interpreters working at different stages of conflicts and humanitarian crises. Some examples of training programs are the FTI-ICRC Basic Consecutive Interpreting Course for ICRC field interpreters; the FTI-University of Bologna blended learning project for interpreters working at the Asylum-Seekers Commission in Forlì; and the joint programme with the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation, which provides specialised training and counselling for interpreters who work in a range of humanitarian organisations. These in-person and blended-learning courses cover language and interpreting skills, ethics, intercultural mediation, emotional and psychological aspects. The courses are founded on an interdisciplinary approach and aim to raise awareness of the need to meet the challenges of interpreters operating in multiple complex and sensitive contexts. The findings of post-course effectiveness studies show that participants feel better equipped to face the challenges of interpreting in the situations described above after participating in FTI training courses.

Keywords

crisis communication, humanitarian interpreting, interpreter training

Public service interpreting and translation: new needs and prospects in services designed for emergency risk reduction

Mr Mustafa Keshkeia
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Mr Mustafa Keshkeia

Mustafa Keshkeia is currently a third-year PhD student at the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies (SALIS), Dublin City University. His research examines the role of interpreting/translation in multidirectional risk and crisis communication between different stakeholders and the growing Arabic-speaking population in Ireland. Mustafa has been a professional interpreter/translator since 2006. He got his BA in English literature (2006) and MA in Audiovisual translation (2010) from Damascus University. In 2015, he was certified as a Sworn Translator by the Ministry of Justice, Syria. Between 2008-2018, He worked as an (English-Arabic) interpreter/translator in the diplomatic corps in Damascus, Syria. He was also involved as a translator/interpreter with some INGOs operating in Syria between 2013 and 2020. He was a lecturer of translation studies and translator training at the Department of Translation, Damascus University from 2019 to 2022. In 2022, he was awarded a full PhD scholarship by the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies (SALIS), Dublin City University, Ireland. Since then, he has been conducting his research and continuing his practice as a professional (English-Arabic) interpreter/translator in Ireland.

Abstract

While public service interpreting and translation (PSIT) have been crucial in addressing communication challenges posed by evolving migration patterns in the EU, their potential in supporting services and activities designed to reduce the risks to which migrants may be exposed in their host societies remains largely unexplored. Needs analyses for PSIT have traditionally and understandably focused on services provided through hospitals, police stations, refugee offices, etc. Training programmes have been developed in line with these settings. Services offered by public authorities outside these settings to do with risk reduction activities, such as information sessions on local hazards, disaster preparedness workshops, and community safety drills, have yet to be considered in detail and training for PSIT in these contexts has not yet been optimised. This presentation is based on a broader study that examines the potential role, use, benefits and challenges of integrating translation into risk reduction strategies targeting newly arrived and long-term migrant groups, focusing on Arabic-speaking migrants living in Ireland. Following a bottom-up approach and as part of this broader study, an online qualitative survey of Arabic-speaking migrants residing in Ireland was conducted. Participants were asked about their needs for interpreting and translation to reduce risk and prepare for crises. Key findings highlighted: (1) strong willingness among participants to engage in community-level risk reduction activities, and (2) desire for interpreting services and translated materials to facilitate active participation in risk reduction activities. These results suggest not only significant potential for PSIT to contribute to safer, more resilient societies, but also new business opportunities and training needs for PSITs to contribute to community safety and integration through improved multilingual communication in risk reduction contexts. This presentation will restrict its suggestions to opportunities and needs in the context of migration of Arabic speakers to Ireland, however, suggestions could be relevant to PSIT in other locations.

Keywords

Public service interpreting and translation, Training, Risk reduction activities

Training Interpreters for Crisis Contexts: Insights and Strategic Recommendations from Crisis Interpreters in the USA

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Dr Lili Xia

Lili Xia is a PhD candidate at University of Wales Trinity Saint David, UK, specialising in the training of interpreters for crisis contexts. Her research is dedicated to exploring effective interpreter training methods for handling emergencies, drawing on in-depth interviews and empirical analysis. Her current project focuses on the experiences of U.S. crisis interpreters, aiming to uncover the unique challenges, psychological pressures, and coping strategies they face in crisis situations. Her work not only highlights the shortcomings of existing training models but also underscores the potential role and responsibility of international organisations in crisis interpreter training. The findings of her research will provide valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and international bodies, helping to better prepare and support future crisis interpreters. As an emerging voice in academia, her work is increasingly relevant in today's interconnected world, where globalisation and crisis response are becoming ever more intertwined.

Postdoctoral Researcher Khetam Al Sharou

Khetam Al Sharou is a Postdoctoral Researcher at SALIS, Dublin City University, funded by the Irish Research Council and an Honorary Research Associate at Imperial College London. In her current work, Al Sharou is looking into the use of machine translation in social media and the associated risks of information distortion. Her research lies at the intersection of Translation Studies, Computer Science and Natural Language Processing, producing work with academic and industrial impact in tool development and user-experience. Her research interests include human-machine interaction and their wider applications, translation pedagogy, didactics in Higher Education, and intercultural communication and training in healthcare. In particular, she is enthusiastic about employing her expertise in language and translation technology to find solutions to enable multilingual communication and improve user experiences. She has contributed to several EU/UK funded cross-disciplinary projects in this area, working closely with developers and in fieldwork with users. Al Sharou holds a PhD in Translation Studies (University College, London) and an MSc in Translation and Computer Assisted Translation Tools (Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh). Previously, she has held research and teaching positions at various universities in the UK (Imperial College London, UCL, LSE, Surrey), Belgium (University of Antwerp) and Syria (University of Damascus).

Postdoctoral researcher Nadia Georgiou

Dr Nadia Georgiou has a BA in Foreign Languages and Translation and an MA in Comparative Literary Studies. She was awarded a PhD in Translation Studies from the University of Surrey. Her research is interdisciplinary, adopting tools and theoretical frameworks from Sociology, Psychology and Empirical Literary Studies, in order to focus on the role and professional identities of translation agents (translators, editors, publishers) and their networks. Her research interests include the sociology of translation, gender and translation, the production and circulation of translated literature and reader responses to (translated or multingual) literary texts. She translated Jules Verne's Meridiana: The adventures of three Englishmen and three Russians in South Africa (2011) into Greek and Head over heels in Paris by Dora Milatou-Smith (2012) and is an active freelance translator. She currently works as an AHRC-funded postdoctoral researcher at Sheffield Hallam University and as postgraduate research supervisor for the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David.

Abstract

Interpreting in crisis situations is a complex and high-stakes task that extends beyond the typical demands of conventional language mediation. This study explores the experiences and perspectives of crisis interpreters in the USA to understand the reality of working in crisis settings and how that could inform the development of training programmes tailored for such contexts. Through the analysis of comprehensive data gathered via semi-structured interviews with interpreters working in the USA, this work highlights both challenges faced by interpreters as well as strategies employed when responding to a crisis and working with vulnerable

people. In these situations, beyond linguistic expertise, interpreters pointed out the need to display empathy towards those they interpret for while staying resilient to carry out their work in a professional manner, ensuring effective communication. Results also revealed that current training programmes might not be sufficient to provide interpreters with needed training to work in these contexts. Participants pointed out the need to have knowledge and awareness of the special requirement and demands of working in such contexts to be able to provide effective training—an aspect that is largely missing from current training programmes. Furthermore, the vast majority of participants consistently identified international organisations as key stakeholders in crisis interpreting, emphasising their crucial role in the training of interpreters as a key recruiter of interpreters to work during crises. In light of these findings, this study proposes a set of recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of interpreter training programmes to better equip interpreters with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate future crisis scenarios and provide professional services while ensuring their well-being.

Keywords

Crisis Interpreting, United States, Interpreter Perspectives

The necessity of training future interpreters and translators for emergency contexts based on the role of non-professional interpreters supporting Ukrainian refugees in Poland

Ms Joanna Nachman
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Ms Joanna Nachman

Joanna Nachman is a 3rd-year PhD student in Linguistics and a researcher at Doctoral School in the Humanities and Chair for Translation Studies, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland. She majored in Philology and Applied Linguistics: English and French with a translation programme at the University of Silesia. She had her Master of Arts in Linguistics, Translation and Intercultural Communication at Chair for Translation Studies, Jagiellonian University and post-graduate studies in Employer Branding. This year she started her Master's in Psychology at SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities. In her PhD thesis written under the supervision of Professor Maria Piotrowska in the discipline of Linguistics, she researches children's language brokering as a translation, psychological and sociological phenomenon on the example of Ukrainian children's translation in Polish schools and institutions. This topic combines her research interests, psycholinguistics (children's bilingualism), public service interpreting and humanitarian interpreting. Her research includes surveys and interviews with language brokers, parents, and teachers working with Ukrainian refugees. In the PhD project, she plans to implement LENA technology (often referred to as a "talk pedometer") to measure 'conversational turns' between Ukrainian children and their Polish peers in Polish classrooms and to monitor real-time language brokering situations and analyze qualitatively and quantitatively. When she doesn't work, you can find her learning calligraphy and new languages. She always wanted to work with children since she worked as a babysitter and au pair in England, France, Spain and the Netherlands.

Abstract

The ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine has led to an influx of refugees into Poland, underscoring the critical need for language mediation in emergency contexts. Since 2022, more than 1.5 million Ukrainian refugees arrived in Poland (UNHCR data). To address the communication gaps between refugees and public services, non-professional interpreters (NPITs) with little or no formal training stepped in. This situation highlights a major gap in Polish higher education, where specialized training programs for Public Service Interpreting and Translation (PSIT) in emergency contexts are lacking. Even the topic of interpreting for refugees is scientifically neglected in Poland and only several researchers explore this field (Tryuk 2004, 2006, 2017, 2024, Ndiaye 2014, Springer 2009,2010). This presentation explores the challenges faced by NPITs in Poland who assisted Ukrainian refugees in Kraków and the perspective of current translation and interpreting students. The analysis begins by mapping the current state of PSIT courses in Poland, describing translation and interpreting efforts for Ukrainians, predominantly organized by NGOs, and emphasizing the urgent need for training initiatives tailored to crisis contexts. The research identifies the specific skills and competencies required for PSIT in emergency settings based on an online survey conducted among NPITs working at the Kraków train station in 2022, as well as a questionnaire distributed to students studying translation and interpreting. Additionally, it addresses the design and delivery of PSIT training programs that could be implemented in Poland to meet this urgent need. Ethical dilemmas and emotional challenges in emergency interpreting will also be discussed, advocating for their inclusion in training curricula. By examining the current landscape and proposing educational interventions, this research aims to contribute to the broader conversation on how to rapidly and effectively train interpreters and translators for emergency contexts, ensuring that refugees receive the support they need during times of crisis.

Keywords

PSIT in emergency contexts, Ukrainian refugees, non-professional interpreters

LT.19 | Panel 21 | From Local to Global: Interdisciplinary and Transnational Perspectives to Global Food Translation (cont.)

Chairs: Saihong Li, Renée Desjardins

The Role of Food Translation in Cultural Dissemination: The Case of Uzbek

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Dr,Prof,Mr Sergio Portelli

Sergio Portelli obtained his PhD in Italian at the University of Malta. A former teacher of Italian and paper-setter of national examinations at all levels, he also worked as a translator at the European Parliament in Luxembourg. He has been a full-time member of the Department since 2010 and Head of Department since 2018. He is also the coordinator of the Department's Termbase Digitization Project. Currently a member of the Executive Committee of AIPI (Associazione Internazionale Professori d'Italiano), he published four books as author or co-editor and numerous peer-reviewed articles in international journals. He is a professor of department Translation, Terminology and Interpreting Studies Faculty of Arts at University of Malta now.

Dr,Prof,Mrs GULNOZA ODILOVA

Gulnoza Odilova is Dsc, professor and head of the Theory and Practice of Translation department in the University. the author of more than 100 articles, several textbooks in food discourse analyses, translation studies, and literature studies which are studied as main text books in Universities of Uzbekistan. She is the translator of the Uzbek culinary encyclopedia "Delicious Uzbekistan", and culinary book "Uzbek Breakfast" and the first Uzbek-English mobile apps dictionary. As a scientist she is a founder of food discourse translation, restaurant menu translation field in Uzbek linguistics. She is the president of NGO Gastronomy Tourism Association of Uzbekistan which helps to raise the quality of service in the sphere of F&B. She has awarded with medal "Glory" by President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Abstract

Translation plays a crucial role in cultural dissemination and global communication. It facilitates understanding between diverse cultures and enables the spread of literature from less-spoken languages through dominant intermediary languages (Accácio, 2010). For such cultural encounters to be successful, translators must convey not only language but also cultural connotations and values (Gu, 2023). Among the culturemes that pose a challenge to translators, food occupies a prominent place. However, scholars of Translation Studies have been slow to investigate the cultural implications of food translation (Chiaro and Rossato, 2015). The social and cultural importance of food is an aspect of cultural dissemination that deserves greater attention from a translation perspective, especially as interest in foods from lesser-known cultures is growing faster thanks to the current proliferation of recipe books and gastronomical video content on traditional and social media. The presentation focuses on Uzbek food and the role played by translation in its promotion on the international stage as a symbol of Uzbekistan's cultural heritage and identity. The first part discusses the issues and strategies involved in the translation of Uzbek food culturemes into English, while the second part presents a case study of the strategies adopted in the indirect translation of food-related items in a collection of Uzbek short stories into Maltese using English as a pivot language.

Keywords

cultural implications of food translation, translation of food-related items , pragmatic aspects of food translation

Translating between worlds: understandings of the body, food and nutrition through postpartum care work in Hong Kong.

Ms Georgine Leung
University College London, London, United Kingdom

Ms Georgine Leung

I am a UK Registered Nutritionist and Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. I have a keen interest in food and nutrition education, and helping people to understand food and healthy eating in the wider context of eating. My professional experience spans the charitable, higher education and industry. I consult project work on various food and nutrition communications, as well as recipe writing and food labelling. As a food educator working on cross-cultural food projects, my key objective is to communicate nutrition messages accurately and effectively, to different audiences across the UK, EU and abroad, with a strong understanding of people's cultural and social contexts of eating. I had taught and managed food and nutrition projects at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and St Mary's University London, and had worked as Nutrition Scientist in Education for the British Nutrition Foundation. I am a part-time PhD student at the Institute of Education at University College London, and my thesis explores the postpartum practices and infant feeding practices of women, as well as the organisation of care in Hong Kong Chinese society. My PhD supervisory team comprises Dr Charlotte Faircloth at the University College London, Professor Rebecca O'Connell at the University of Hertfordshire, and Professor Therese Hesketh at King's College London.

Abstract

Challenges in translations between Chinese and English have long been established by food and health scholars which include over-literal translation, meanings which are not properly conveyed and the absence of cultural and historical contexts which result in countless misinterpretations (Miao, 2019; Yunus et al. 2022). This is further complicated by local and regional Chinese dialects that use their own lexicons, such as Hong Kong Cantonese. Translating Chinese medical thought and concepts which underpin shiliao (‘diet therapy’) requires a strong understanding of the colloquial language and the cultural context used, as they are very different to allopathic medicine and principles in nutrition science. Translation is a critical process in qualitative research to ensure the correct transfer of meanings from non-English populations to the anglophone world for the dissemination of research outputs (Gawlweisz, 2019). Through ethnographic accounts that include participant-observation at a postpartum nanny training course and interviews with women who had given birth in the past year, their family members, medical professionals, domestic workers and postpartum service providers in the city of Hong Kong, I will use examples to demonstrate the importance of translation in understanding the discourses in diet and health by my informants. I will also present how infant - especially breast - feeding is discussed by mothers and their caregivers, as well as how it is translated in the public health discourse that enables a culture of pumping that is unique to Hong Kong society. Lastly, I will offer reflections on my positionality as a bilingual researcher embedded within the social fabric of the families I interviewed, and how it impacts on the understanding of the organisation of postpartum care received by the women.

Keywords

nutrition and health translation, breastfeeding and pumping, postpartum care

Translating Metaphors in Wine Language: Challenges and Strategies for Global Engagement

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Dr. Allison Creed

Dr Allison Creed researches in the field of Cognitive Linguistics, focusing on metaphorical language in communication and education. Currently a Teaching Specialist in the Faculty of Arts, she holds Masters degrees in Education (TESOL) and Learning and Development, underpinned by a Bachelor of Learning Design. Allison's research and teaching experience spans applied linguistics, wine marketing, and career development. Her published work appears in the British Journal of Guidance and Counselling, International Journal of Educational and Vocational Guidance, Journal of Career Assessment, the Edward Elgar Handbook of Research Methods in Careers, and Palgrave Macmillan's Management and Marketing of Wine Tourism Business.

Dr. Aletta G. Dorst

Aletta G. Dorst is an Associate Professor in Translation and Human-centred AI at Leiden University. Her research focuses on metaphor variation, metaphor translation, style in translation, literary machine translation, and machine translation literacy. She recently led an NRO Comenius Senior Fellow project on "The value of machine translation in the multilingual academic community" (2020-2023), which resulted in an open access educational website for Machine Translation Literacy in Higher Education (www.universiteitleiden.nl/machinetranslationliteracy), and is currently the lead researcher on a 5-year Vidi project on "Metaphor in Machine Translation: Reactions, Responses, and Repercussions" (2025-2029), funded by the Dutch Research Council.

Abstract

In an era where culinary and sensory experiences transcend borders, the translation of figurative language emerges as a critical challenge in global food translation. Metaphor is central to wine discourse, influencing how sensory, technical, and hedonistic qualities are described, evaluated, and communicated (Caballero, Paradis et al. 2019). It is used to capture and convey the descriptive and emotional components of what is essentially an aesthetic experience. However, metaphorical language presents unique challenges in both recognition and translation since many wine metaphors appear not to have a clear literal equivalent, rendering their translation even more difficult and suggesting that traditional metaphor translation procedures (e.g. 'convert to sense') as proposed by Newmark (1983, 1988) and Van den Broeck (1981, 1991) fall short (Demaeker, 2017). Furthermore, winespeak has no internationally standardised and universally accepted nomenclature and, as the language continues to evolve with new forms of digital communication and a focus on personalised recommendations, there are more fuzzy terms with culture-sensitive definitions. This paper advances a cognitive-linguistic approach to wine metaphor translation with the aim to understand the challenges and propose effective strategies to limit compromise of sensory and affective associations cross-culturally. Our approach involves three stages: (i) linguistic analysis using the Metaphor Identification Procedure Vrije Universiteit (Steen et al. 2010; Nacey et al. 2019) to determine potentially metaphorical language in Robert Parker's Wine Advocate Glossary of Terms; (ii) identification of the semantic domains involved in the source language conceptualisations following Cognitive Metaphor Theory (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980); and (iii) a reconstruction of the target language conceptualisations and contrastive cultural analysis yielding a possible translation strategy. We demonstrate how this approach can advance metaphor translation and aid consumer perception, understanding, and the ability to convey sensory experiences and appreciation. Ultimately, this paper advocates for interdisciplinary collaboration to address the complex networks of translation that bring global flavours to our tables and shape our winescapes.

Keywords

metaphor translation, wine metaphors , wine communication

The emergence of food tourism in Italy: a diachronic approach to the translation of tourist communication

Prof. Linda Rossato
Ca'Foscari University of Venice, Venice, Italy

Prof. Linda Rossato

Linda Rossato is Associate Professor of English Language and Translation at Ca' Foscari, University of Venice, in the Department of Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies, where she coordinates the BA programme in Linguistic and Cultural Mediation. Her research interests include audiovisual translation, intercultural communication, the language of food, non-professional translation and child language brokering. She was a member of the competitive DAC research project on the Distribution, adaptation and circulation of Anglophone television at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Bologna and is currently part of the nationally funded DIETALY project on the promotion of Italy as a tourist destination. She co-edited a special issue of the international journal The Translator on Food and Culture in Translation (2015). She has recently published the book Food Television Discourse: A cross-cultural diachronic approach (2022) and is currently co-editing a Journal special issue on the diachronic development of Audiovisual Translation.

Abstract

Food tasting tours and pub crawls have constituted an established component of global tourism for some time. However, it is only recently that food tourism has emerged as a pivotal promotional instrument for a considerable number of destinations. Italy, despite its rich culinary heritage, has only recently begun to utilize its food culture as a means of attracting international tourists. This research examines the emergence of food tourism in Italy, focusing on the role of multilingual magazines published by the Italian Tourism Promotion Board (ENIT) between the 1930s and 1950s in promoting Italian food culture to English-speaking tourists. Since its establishment in 1919, the Italian Tourism Promotion Board (ENIT) has undergone a significant transformation in its promotional strategies, evolving from print media to digital platforms. ENIT promotional campaigns have played a pivotal role in shaping Italy's image as a tourist destination. The study concentrates on a selection of articles pertaining to Italian cuisine from a number of periodicals, including Ospitalità Italiana (1930-1931), Italia (1936-1938), and L'Italia, together with its English counterpart, Italy (1955-1959). This period, spanning the interwar years and the pre-Ministry of Tourism era, offers insight into the role of translation and intercultural communication in the promotion of Italian food culture as a key element of Italy's appeal in the era preceding the advent of mass tourism.

Keywords

translation of food discourse, early food tourism in Italy, tourism promotion in Italy 1930s-1950s

Food as the main marking of protagonists social status in novels: Qualitative research in translating food narratives from Uzbek fiction

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Kimyo International University in Tashkent, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Prof Gulnoza Odilova

Gulnoza Odilova is Dsc, professor and head of the Theory and Practice of Translation department in the University. the author of more than 100 articles, several textbooks in food discourse analyses, translation studies, and literature studies which are studied as main text books in Universities of Uzbekistan. She is the translator of the Uzbek culinary encyclopedia “Delicious Uzbekistan”, and culinary book “Uzbek Breakfast” and the first Uzbek-English culinary dictionary for mobile apps. As a scientist, she is a founder of food discourse translation, restaurant menu translation field in Uzbek linguistics. She has reserched problems of translation of Uzbek food, cuisine, and culture, problems of gastronomy tourism in her dissertation. She is the president of the NGO Gastronomy Tourism Association of Uzbekistan which helps to raise the quality of service in the sphere of F&B. She has been awarded the medal “Glory” by President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Miss Mahliyo Yunusova

Yunusova Makhliyo is a 2nd-year student at the Kimyo International University in Tashkent in Uzbekistan. Her project focuses on linguocultural issues of fiction translation from the perspective of food discourse.

Abstract

Food has long been a fundamental aspect of human survival, shaping cultural identities and social hierarchies. If food is considered a substance in literature, a milestone in culture and civilization then it is also a source of fundamental research for literature studies (K.Killing, S.Pollard). Food and eating are two main means of perceiving literature and art. Food is considered a daily necessity, the primary tool in their struggle for the survival of humans. Food as a physiological phenomenon that an individual must deal with daily, occupied a specific linguistic «territory» in the language during the early stages of human evolution. In literature, national cuisine serves as a key marker of tradition, history, and status, making food discourse an essential area of study in translation. This paper explores how food functions as a social identifier in Uzbek fiction and examines the challenges of translating these culturally embedded narratives into the target language. Building on the framework of cultural and literary translation studies, this research employs a qualitative approach to analyze the translation of food discourse in a selected corpus of Uzbek novels. The study specifically investigates how references to food convey social status and whether these nuances are preserved, adapted, or lost in translation. By closely examining translators' linguistic and pragmatic strategies, this paper highlights the extent to which food-related narratives in Uzbek fiction contribute to character development and social stratification in both the source and target texts. This analysis aims to bridge the gap between literary translation and sociocultural interpretation, demonstrating how food discourse functions as a narrative device and a site of cultural negotiation in translation. This paper contributes to broader discussions on global food translation and its implications for intercultural communication by making explicit connections between food, social identity, and translation strategies.

Keywords

food as social marking, food discourse translation in fiction,, national food nominees pragmatism

LT.20 | Panel 37 | The Changing Face of Literary Translator Studies: A Dialogue Between Academia and the Profession (cont.)

Chairs: Motoko Akashi, Andrea Bergantino, Goedele De Sterck

The Practisearcher's Lens: Exploring the Application of Autoethnography in Literary Translation Studies

Dr Claudine Borg
University of Malta, Msida, Malta

Dr Claudine Borg

Claudine Borg is a tenured lecturer at the University of Malta where she teaches in the Master in Translation and Terminology Studies. She received her PhD in Translation Studies from Aston University, Birmingham in 2017, and her research interests lie primarily in cognitive translation studies, translator studies and literary translation. She has presented her work at various local and international conferences, and published several scholarly works, including 'A Literary Translation in the Making. A process-oriented perspective' (2022, Routledge). She is also a published literary translator, member of the TREC network, and of the Executive Board of the European Society for Translation Studies (EST).

Abstract

This contribution discusses the application of autoethnography to the study of Literary Translation, with a specific focus on its potential for Literary Translator Studies. To date, few translation researchers have explored autoethnographic approaches, despite many of us being practitioners ourselves. This dual role as practisearchers uniquely positions us to employ autoethnography in investigating our own processes and practices, as well as those of others involved in the extended translation process. Building on the observation that relatively few studies have adopted process-oriented perspectives to investigate literary translation, and recognizing the valuable insights offered by this limited body of research (e.g., Kolb 2011; Borg 2022), this paper explores the potential of autoethnography to deepen our understanding of literary translation processes and further enrich the field. The paper begins by describing how autoethnography was recently applied by the author in two case studies examining the production of two literary translations. The procedures applied and the steps taken to strengthen the methodology will be discussed. The advantages, challenges and limitations of autoethnography for both the practisearcher and the discipline will also be explored. The findings suggest that when conducted by experienced and rigorous researchers, autoethnography emerges as an invaluable methodology. These studies demonstrate that autoethnography allows researchers to tap into the abundant empirical material generated during the translation process—real-life material that is often not easily accessible to researchers. Moreover, they show that autoethnography offers rich insights into literary translation practices, the agents involved, their roles, interactions, power dynamics, and more. Autoethnography, therefore, is a promising methodological approach for advancing our understanding of translators' roles within the publishing industry and for fostering a stronger dialogue between academia and the profession. The presentation will conclude with suggestions for best practices in applying autoethnography to Literary Translator Studies and will open a discussion on possible finetuning.

Keywords

literary translation, autoethnography, translation processes

Autoethnography and (research) journals: self-reflexive tools & data collection methods providing an intimate insight into literary translators' lives

Ms Elisa Ruckstuhl
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Ms Elisa Ruckstuhl

Elisa Ruckstuhl is a PhD student and research & teaching assistant at the Faculty of Translation and Interpretation of the University of Geneva. She holds an MA in Translation and Specialised Multilingual Communication (2023). In her doctoral project, she investigates the experience of master's and PhD students who keep a reflexive and reflective research journal alongside their dissertation or thesis. She uses autoethnography in her works and has been writing her own research journal for more than two years. Her research interests include research journals, self-writing, autoethnography, translation theory and volunteer translation.

Abstract

The last decades have seen a growing interest in studies on translators' lives, with the focus on Translator studies and the rising number of works on translators' identity and life writing. Autoethnography and research journals have long been used by researchers to document and reflect on their work and life. Autoethnography is a qualitative research method that draws from autobiography, ethnography and arts-based research and pursues the goal of cultural understanding of self and others. In translation studies, it has been used in the context of religious or sign-language interpreting, audiodescription, and literary translation. Research journals are written by researchers and can be used to document and show the practicalities of doing research, write the self, foster creativity, and develop one's self-reflexivity. They can give an almost simultaneous account of the event they describe. In this paper, I argue that findings associated with research journals can be transposed to the field of literary translation. I use in-depths interviews with translation students that kept a journal alongside their dissertation or thesis – some of which are about translating literary works – as well as excerpts from my autoethnographic journal and those of the students'. I will show how writing a journal can help translators reflect on their role(s), practice reflexivity, and reflect on their doubts and decisions, and will demonstrate how autoethnography and journals can be used as data collection methods that can give researchers an intimate insight into the lives and practices of literary translators. Findings will contribute to the use of methodologies and tools such as autoethnography and journals in translation studies and add to the existing literature on literary translators' memoirs, autobiographies, and working notes.

Keywords

Research journal, Autoethnography, Writing the self

"Where the fun begins, AI breaks down": mediating a conversation between literary translators and a company using literary postediting

Dr Paola Ruffo[1,2], Prof Joke Daems[1], Prof Lieve Macken[1]
[1]Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium. [2]University of St Andrews, St Andrews, United Kingdom

Dr Paola Ruffo

Paola Ruffo is a researcher in the field of Computer-Aided Literary Translation. From 2022 to 2024 she worked as a Marie Skłodowska–Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at Ghent University on the project 'Developing User-centred Approaches to Technological Innovation in Literary Translation (DUAL-T)'. She co-organised the First Workshop on Creative-text Translation and Technology (CTT 2024), co-located with EAMT 2024. She has previously worked as an English>Italian freelance translator and as a Lecturer in Translation Technology at the University of Bristol. She is currently teaching Italian at the University of St Andrews.

Prof Joke Daems

Joke Daems is assistant professor human-computer interaction in empirical translation & interpreting studies at Ghent University. They are a member of the EQTIS research team (Empirical and Quantitative Translation and Interpreting Studies) and the LT3 Language and Translation Technology team. Their research focuses on the impact of translation technology (such as machine translation) on translation (process and product), translators (attitudes), and society (e.g., gender bias). They obtained a PhD in Translation Studies in 2016, based on a comparative study of manual translation and the post-editing of machine translations by students and professional translators. In 2017, the thesis was awarded the CIUTI PhD Award. Later work focused on interactive, adaptive MT and the potential of MT for literary translation. Although mainly involved in research, they have taught numerous classes on translation technology and machine translation post-editing on a master's and postgraduate level.

Prof Lieve Macken

Lieve Macken is Associate Professor of Translation Technology at the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication of Ghent University (Belgium), where she also teaches Machine Translation. At Ghent University, she coordinates the Computer-Assisted Language Mediation postgraduate programme. In her research she often combines product- and process-based approaches to compare different methods of translation (human, machine translation, post-editing, computer-aided translation). She was guest editor of the Special Issue "Advances in Computer-Aided Translation Technology", of the peer-reviewed journal Informatics (2019). Together with CrossLang, she organized the EAMT Annual Conference in 2022 and she was part of the organizing committee of the first Workshop on Creative-text Translation and Technology (CTT 2024) which was co-located with EAMT 2024.

Abstract

The past decade has seen literary translation going from a profession whose very essence was seen as directly opposed to translation technology, to one where AI and machine translation postediting have become pressing issues. In this respect, professional associations have started taking a stance on automation (e.g. the European Council of Literary Translators' Associations manifesto on AI and the UK Institute of Translation and Interpreting "slow translation manifesto"), with the topic also making an appearance in mainstream media such as The Atlantic and The Guardian. Research has primarily focused on literary translators' attitudes, the impact on creativity, and the translator voice. However, discussions of the topic appear to be compartmentalised, and conversations between relevant stakeholders are still lacking. This presentation addresses this gap by presenting results from a focus group study whose aim was to mediate a conversation between literary translators and stakeholders from the publishing industry, engaging the two in a mutual exchange of views on translator agency in the age of AI. The study was part of the wider Horizon Europe project "Developing User-Centred Approaches to Technological Innovation in Literary Translation" (DUAL-T), which studied literary translators' process and perceptions of word processors,

computer-aided translation tools, and literary postediting. Data was collected in June 2024 via means of two focus groups involving seven professional literary translators and one representative of a Swedish book translation company using literary postediting. This presentation will focus on the two groups' understanding of the use of AI and postediting for literary translation, the role of the literary translator, the conceptualisation of literary translation as a cultural and professional activity, and views on the future of the profession. Furthermore, reflections will be offered on using the focus group method for literary translator studies and the analysis of group dynamics in such a setting.

Keywords

literary translator studies, machine translation postediting, human-computer interaction

(In)hospitality in Translator-Author Collaboration: A Comparative Study of John Minford's Kinship with Leung Ping-kwan and Breakup with Louis Cha

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Ms Shuang Xiao

Currently a first-year PHD candidate in Chinese Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, I hold a Master's degree in English Translation Theory and Practice from Sichuan University, PRC. I have many years' work experience in translation and teaching: 10 publications of translated works, 3 prestigious awards in international translation competitions, and the passing of the China Accreditation Test For Translators (Level 1). I am also a part-time translator for "The World of English", the first English-Chinese magazine since the founding of the People's Republic of China. My research interests include translation studies, Chinese literature, comparative literature, sinology, and cultural studies. My current PHD project, under the supervision of Prof. Carole Hang-fung HOYAN and Prof. Kristof VAN DEN TROOST, attempts to enrich the translator-centered research by adopting a humanizing approach to study an individual translator's life-work, identity, agency and creative energy under a specific historical, social and cultural context. By presenting in great detail the life-work of the British sinologist and translator John Minford (born 1946), my work seeks to generate valid observation about literary translators as West-East cultural mediators in the contemporary world.

Abstract

Inspired by Jacques Derrida's theory of hospitality and recent discussion on translator's life writing, this paper examines literary translator's narratives about interpersonal relationships between translators and authors. Through a comparative study of John Minford's collaboration with two Hong Kong authors, Leung Ping-kwan and Louis Cha, I attempt to illustrate how translation practice is shaped by the lived experience of translators. This study also makes comprehensive use of primary sources kindly provided by John Minford himself, thus contributing behind-the-scenes information about his work and network. The first section clarifies key concepts including "(in)hospitality", "collaboration", and "the translator's gaze". The second section unfolds the longtime close collaboration between Minford and Leung Ping-kwan, exploring how their zhiyin-like friendship enriches both the translator's work and the author's creation. In the third section, I look at the from-friends-to-foes relationship shift between Minford and Louis Cha in the translation project "The Deer and the Cauldron": identifying the often-neglected risks in the business of translation and investigating how a discorded relationship influences the translator's work. This study shows that, (in)hospitality in translator-author collaboration exerts a long-term influence on what texts are translated and how they are represented, especially in the case of established translators. With mutual trust, respect and hospitality, the translator and the author often lead to a fruitful and sustainable collaboration; otherwise, a translation project starting as exciting and fulfilling tends to end up agonizing and unsatisfying. Those shared narratives of translators serve as important clues to decipher the "secrets" of translation profession.

Keywords

hospitality, translation collaboration, John Minford

LT.21 | Panel 1 | Adapting to Change: The Impact of Generative AI on Translator Education (cont.)

Chairs: Nune Ayvazyan, Anthony Pym, Yu Hao

Student translators' web-based vs. GenAI-based information-seeking behavior in translation process: A comparative study

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Dr Yuxing Cai

Dr. Yuxing Cai, a lecturer at Xiangtan University, China, has a primary research interest in translation process studies, particularly in translation-oriented web search behavior.

Dr Sha Tian

Dr. Sha Tian, a lecturer at Central South University, specializes in the English translation of classical Chinese texts and the teaching and research of interpreting.

Abstract

The rise of Generative AI (GenAI) tools, such as ChatGPT, is transforming translators' information-seeking behavior (ISB), traditionally centered on web search. This study compares student translators' ISB in web-based and GenAI-driven contexts using a literature-informed ISB analytical framework, developed from a systematic review of existing ISB theories and models, with a focus on time-related, query/prompt-related, and process-related aspects. To compare these two conditions, twenty-four student translators completed two tasks under each condition. Their on-screen activities were recorded and analyzed using a comparative approach, which involved evaluating differences in the three aforementioned aspects. The data were collected through screen recording, coded using NVivo, and analyzed using mixed-effects regression models to assess behavioral patterns and determine how these aspects vary between web-based and GenAI-based ISB. Findings reveal distinct patterns: 1) Time-related: GenAI-based ISB takes longer, with extended information-seeking durations, whereas web-based ISB is quicker and more efficient; 2) Query/prompt-related: Both focus on source comprehension, but GenAI-based ISB addresses complex, segment-level tasks with broader objectives, whereas web-based ISB handles immediate, word-level issues with narrower goals; 3) Process-related: GenAI-based ISB is dynamic, involving frequent switching with less depth, while web-based ISB is more linear and structured, supporting deeper exploration within online resources. Overall, GenAI-based ISB is dynamic and interactive, allowing broader exploration of translation tasks, yet it may sacrifice depth and lead to increased reliance. In contrast, web-based ISB is more structured and precise, well-suited for word-level tasks, but lacks the flexibility for more complex translation challenges. Theoretically, this study extends ISB frameworks by demonstrating GenAI's dynamic yet reliance-prone model, while pedagogically, it highlights the need for balancing GenAI and web-based tools and fostering critical evaluation through multi-step tasks, error analysis, and cross-verification.

Keywords

Translation-oriented information-seeking behavior, web-based, GenAI-based

Something old, something new: integrating functionalist approaches with modern translation technologies

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Dr. Gys-Walt Van Egdom

Gys-Walt van Egdom holds a doctor's degree in Linguistics and Literary Studies, along with a master's degree in Translation Studies.He is currently affiliated to Utrecht University as a lecturer specialising in translation and Translation Studies. His expertise spans across translation didactics, translation evaluation, translation ethics, translation processes, AI translation and human-computer interaction.

Dr. Christophe Declercq

Christophe Declercq is a lecturer in translation at Utrecht University and an honorary senior research fellow at University College London. He holds a PhD from Imperial College London on the socio-cultural impact of temporary exile on national identity and has published on cross-cultural communication during conflicts. He has evaluated multilingual ICT projects for the European Commission for a decade and has written on translation and language technology. Christophe has significant teaching experience in British area studies, practical translation, language and translation technology, and localisation.

Abstract

Throughout time, technological advancements have driven us to continuously adapt our practices. Ensuring alignment with market demands, translation curricula have always had to respond to technological innovations (EMT 2022). However, the fervour for technological integration risks neglecting core competencies crucial to translation. This paper emphasises the need to reconsider the trend of technologisation in translator training by advocating the reverse: a resurgence of the functionalist approach within translator training. Central to our claim is the idea that while technology brings the notions of progress – associated with productivity but less so with quality – working around technologised approaches inadvertently takes us back in time. Early research in translation equivalence has been central to the epistemological debate on translation and quality assessment (see Snell-Hornby 2005). Traditionally, a good translation closely followed the source text. Throughout the 1980s, the prescriptive notion of equivalence became obsolete. Descriptive translation studies (e.g. Toury 1995) and functionalism (e.g. Reiss & Vermeer 1984; Nord 1988) introduced flexibility, even allowing for non-equifunctional translations. With the rise of automated translation quality is once again gauged by source-text comparability, and equivalence is re-emerging as a yardstick (see Moorkens et al. 2018; Chatzikoumi 2020; Vanroy et al. 2023). This renewed emphasis on source-orientedness affects translator training. With technology becoming increasingly ingrained in the curriculum, correspondence between source and target texts is overemphasised, thus sidelining the target-oriented communicative nature of translation. Functionalism is introduced as a remedy by focusing on the function of the translation within the target culture, while retaining a liberal approach to tech-oriented training. Translation-oriented text analysis, rooted in functionalism, is instrumental in assessing the quality of synthetic output and enhancing expert-in-the-loop workflows. This paper aims to bridge 'something old', functionalist approaches, with 'something new', machine translation and large language models, by exploring potential applications of functionalist principles in technology-integrated learning methods.

Keywords

technology, functionalism, didactic templates

From the craft of writing to LLMs and back: creative skills and training translators to write fiction in the era of AI

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Dr Ana Guerberof-Arenas

Ana Guerberof Arenas is an Associate Professor in Translation Studies at University of Groningen. From 2020-22, she was a Marie Skłodowska Curie Research Fellow working on the CREAMT project that looked at the impact of MT on translation creativity and the reader's experience in the context of literary texts. More recently she has been awarded an ERC Consolidator grant by the European Research Council to work on the five-year project INCREC (2023-2028) that explores the translation creative process in its intersect with technology in literary and AVT translation. She has authored refereed articles and book chapters on MT post-editing; reading comprehension of MT output; translator training, ethical considerations in MT, AI and the industry, creativity and reception studies. She has more than 23 years' experience in the translation industry.

Abstract

The recent advent of a plethora of LLMs has fuelled reflection on whether and how generative artificial intelligence is to be used in different domains. Developers promote the idea of machine assistants for a variety of tasks, given the capacity of LLMs for multimodal output (image, music, sound, text). LSPs are (tentatively) using Gen-AI for product descriptions, social media forays, (personalised) marketing and emailing campaigns and translation tasks (Lommel and Pielmeier, 2023). Individual professional or trainee translators can also harness LLM output for similar purposes. In practical terms, LLMs are on course to affect the way we do things creatively, thus throwing up the fundamental question of what it means to be creative. According to psychology experts, the basic ingredients of creativity are originality and effectiveness (Runco and Jaeger, 2012). When it comes to textual output, this usefulness and originality is the result of distinct yet interrelated processes of iterative planning, engagement with the material form of words and revision, all of which lead to a fit-for-purpose texts. This applies to both original/creative writing and translation, often seen as interrelated modes of context-sensitive writing because they both presuppose textual precedents and a profound critical engagement with the text (dialogue of voices, contextual priority-setting, working with others) (Perteghella and Loffredo 2006). Building on frameworks of creativity from translation studies and the social sciences, this paper presents a framework for creative skills development, as deployed in a module on (creative) writing for translators. The conceptual design and method of delivery for this module were deployed in a postgraduate course, yet has distinct advantages if replicated in other pedagogical settings. The conceptual framework is complemented with qualitative analysis of student focus groups and individual interviews with tutors, both shedding light on upskilling needs and writing-augmenting use of technology.

Keywords

AI, creativity, creative skills

Generative AI in School and Translator Education: The Influence of Automatic Text Generation and Machine Translation on Language Comprehension and Translation Performance

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Prof. Dr. Silvia Hansen-Schirra

Silvia Hansen-Schirra is Professor for English Linguistics and Translation Studies, the Director of the Translation & Cognition (TRA&CO) Center and Dean of the Faculty for Translation Studies at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in Germersheim. She is the co-editor of the book series "Translation and Multilingual Natural Language Processing" and "Easy – Plain – Accessible". Her research interests include machine translation, accessible communication and translation process research.

Abstract

This study adapts methods from Translation Process Research (TPR) to compare how school pupils and university students use traditional translation tools and generative AI (GenAI). Conducted at a German FORTHEM partner school and at JGU Mainz/Germersheim, the study utilized InputLog to analyze the impact of GenAI vs. traditional tools on the development of translator competence. Participants completed C2-level English comprehension and German-to-English translation tasks in two conditions: using traditional tools (dictionaries, search engines, machine translation etc.) and GenAI (ChatGPT) only. We measured technical effort and interactivity (i.e. number of keystrokes) and reception and production processes (window switches). We assume that Gen-Z pupils and students, who are influenced by digitalization, use AI-supported methods in foreign language and translation classes to complete homework. However, there is currently no research available on how this happens, how they interact with GenAI (prompting behavior) or traditional tools, or whether these methods are used without reflection and whether that has an impact on the final product's quality, which we measured using an MQM-based approach for error annotation. Results show that participants using GenAI gave more correct answers in comprehension tasks but included more extraneous information. In translation tasks, GenAI users made fewer mistakes, though terminology issues persisted mostly in pupils, whereas students focused more on conveying meaning through less literal solutions resulting in more faithfulness errors. Our analysis of error categories, research and prompting strategies is indicative of translation competence development. Tasks were completed faster with GenAI, with increased typing indicating higher interactivity. Effective interaction with GenAI, particularly in prompting strategies, significantly boosted output quality. The study emphasizes the necessity of strong language and computer

skills for evaluating AI outputs and achieving high-quality translations. It highlights that while GenAI can enhance efficiency and interactivity, it does not replace the need for foundational language skills.

Keywords

Translator Education, Translation competence, Keylogging

LT.23 | Panel 16 | Embodied Voices: Gesture in Interpreter-mediated Communication (cont.)

Chairs: Celia Martín de León, Jelena Vranjes, Elena Zagar Galvão

Navigating the specific communicational needs of signed-to-spoken interpreting: Gaze and gesture as supportive of dual actions in interpreting practice

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Doctoral candidate Vibeke Bø

Vibeke Bø is an interpreter, interpreter trainer and interpreting researcher with extensive experience in linguistics, interaction studies and interpreting studies. She holds a Master's degree in linguistics from 2010, where she investigated a syntactic phenomenon in Norwegian Sign Language (NTS). Recently, she submitted her PhD dissertation, focusing on the semiotic practices of signed-to-spoken interpreting. This dissertation exemplifies her interdisciplinary approach, situated at the intersection of linguistics, semiotics and interaction studies. From this work, three articles are in the process of being published in peer-reviewed journals. Since 2012, Vibeke Bø has been a faculty member at OsloMet (Oslo Metropolitan University), where she teaches interaction theories to interpreting students. She is particularly interested in how linguistic and interactional resources are intertwined, and how these resources are exploited in interpreted interaction. Bø has made significant contributions to the recent extensive revisions of the BA program in Norwegian sign language at OsloMet. In addition to interpreting students, she also teaches students of sign language didactics. Bø completed her interpreting training (BA) in 2004. Occasionally, she takes on interpreting assignments, primarily in the context of international conferences. Her interpreting experience since 2004 spans a wide variety of interpreting domains, including the public sector, private settings, religious events and large political gatherings. This diverse practical experience is exploited in her teaching, providing students with valuable real-world insights.

Abstract

Embodied resources are frequently used to achieve interactional goals in signed-to-spoken interpreting, consistent with findings from both signed and spoken language interpreting. This aim of this paper is to demonstrate how the semiotic practices of signed-to-spoken on-site interpreting include embodied dual actions (Warnicke & Broth, 2022). To do this, I present examples of signed-to-spoken interpreting from two naturalistic informal conversations. The analysis employs a semiotic approach to languages (Clark, 1996), enabling a modality-free treatment of semiotic contributions in meaning-making processes. Additionally, multimodal conversation analysis (Mondada, 2009) is used in annotating and analyzing the empirical material. In the examples, while verbally rendering signed discourse, the interpreter exploits her multimodal repertoire of semiotic resources to signal interactional goals. Specifically, gaze and gesture seem to play a role in achieving common ground between the deaf participant and the interpreter. Moreover, the interpreter frequently displays embodied signals of alignment toward the deaf participant while producing a spoken language rendition directed towards the non-signing hearing participant. Thus, the interpreter communicates in two directions simultaneously, displaying a pattern of dual actions. Combining linguistic and interactional frameworks to analyze interpreted material demonstrates how linguistic and interactional resources are intertwined in signed-to-spoken renditions. Furthermore, the qualitative micro-analysis of naturalistic conversations reveal some specific patterns of how interpreters navigate their communicational needs.

Keywords

Signed-to-spoken interpreting, Embodied resources, Dual Actions

Self-repairs in signed-to-spoken language interpreting: Form and use of nonmanuals

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Dr. Sílvia Gabarró López

Sílvia Gabarró-López is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Namur (Belgium), from which she received her PhD in 2017. Her thesis is the first to describe discourse markers from a comparative corpus-based perspective in two sign languages, LSFB (French Belgian Sign Language) and LSC (Catalan Sign Language). Before holding her current position, she lectured on Linguistics applied to Sign Language Interpreting and Deaf Culture at the University Saint-Louis-Brussels and at the UCLouvain (Belgium) in the BA and MA programs on LSFB translation and interpreting. She also worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Stockholm University (Sweden) and the Pompeu Fabra University (Spain), where she taught in the BA on LSC translation and interpreting. She is mainly interested in visual and tactile sign languages, translation & interpreting, contrastive linguistics, discourse analysis, and multimodality. She has published 21 articles, book chapters, and conference proceedings related to these fields in peer-reviewed volumes and (co-)edited three special issues. The latest, recently published in the journal Parallèles, is the first known volume gathering contributions on gesture in interpreting.

Mrs. Mireia Isal

Mireia Isal Serna is a sign language interpreter working with LSC (Catalan Sign Language), Catalan, Spanish, and English. She works in different interpreting fields such as the political, the educational, and the artistic, among others. She is also an adjunct professor at the Pompeu Fabra University (Spain), where she teaches sign language interpreting courses. Furthermore, she is part of the Center of Studies LSC-UPF Actua and her preferred research field is interpreting strategies and techniques. Recently she has been working in the creation and collection of teaching materials for LSC interpreting.

Dr. Gemma Barberà

Gemma Barberà is a Serra Húnter associate professor at the Pompeu Fabra University, and a researcher in the Catalan Sign Language Laboratory and the Formal Linguistics research group. Graduated in Translation and Interpreting (2001) and PhD in Cognitive Science and Language with the thesis "The meaning of space in Catalan Sign Language (LSC). Reference, specificity and structure in signed discourse" (2012, International Mention and Extraordinary Doctoral Award). As a postdoctoral researcher, she worked at the CNRS/Université Paris 8 and did research stays at the Institut Jean Nicod (France) and the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (Germany). She is currently coordinator of the Center of Studies LSC-UPF Actua, dedicated to the study, teaching and dissemination of LSC. She also coordinates the LSC Corpus Project (Institut d'Estudis Catalans) since 2013. Between 2018 and 2022 she coordinated the project Common European Framework of Reference for Languages applied to LSC (Directorate General of Policy Linguistics of the Generalitat of Catalonia). Her areas of research are linguistics and formal discourse analysis of LSC, as well as the documentation of LSC and the study of grammar applied to sign language interpreting.

Abstract

This paper investigates the form and use of nonmanual gestures produced in self-repair sequences in LSC (Catalan Sign Language)-to-Catalan video-mediated interpreting. We aim to describe some combinations of nonmanual gestures mainly expressed by the face, the head, and the upper torso employed in target Catalan interpreted discourse. We study these nonmanual gestures in contexts of source-signer-generated self-repair (i.e., produced by the signer and reproduced by the interpreter) and interpreter-generated self-repair (i.e., produced by the interpreter on their initiative). In the literature on spoken language interpreting, self-repair has mainly been described focusing on speech only (e.g., Shen & Liang, 2020), whereas embodied actions have been found significant to recruit other-initiated repair in video-interpreted interactions (Hansen, 2022). In sign language interpreting, self-repairs have received scant attention. In an experimental dataset, Lombart & Gabarró-López (2022) found that interpreters combine various nonmanual gestures when they produce different types of corrections (including self-repairs) in LSFB (French Belgian Sign Language)-to-French

interpreting. However, they are not specific about these combinations and do not examine the differences between source-signer-generated and interpreted-generated corrections, the former being a copy of the source text and the latter being the result of the interpreting constraints (i.e., cognitive load, need for clarification, etc.). The recordings of a conference held biannually on LSC are analyzed for this study. Three interpreters participated in the event, which was fully interpreted between the two languages under scrutiny. For the LSC-to-Catalan direction, 1:33:20 of interpreted discourse was equally produced by the three interpreters. They could see the presenter who was signing or speaking, but they could not see the audience, so their work was to the camera (De Meulder & Stone, 2024). Based on a detailed annotation of nonmanual gestures, we present an analysis of combinations of nonmanuals and we hypothesize that, due to this setting and the interpreting constraints, there will be an increased use of nonmanual gestures in interpreted-generated self-repairs as compared to source-signer-generated self-repairs.

Keywords

Nonmanual gestures, Self-repair, Sign language interpreting

Interpreting, talking, teaching: A comparative study of the multimodal activity of simultaneous interpreters

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Dr. Celia Martín de León

Celia Martín de León has been teaching translation since 1995 at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain), where she is currently an associate professor. Her research focuses on the empirical study of translation and interpreting processes from a multimodal, embodied, situated and distributed perspective of cognition. Her work has addressed meaning-making processes in translation and interpreting from various theoretical angles, including conceptual metaphors, implicit theories, mental imagery, mental simulations, and co-speech gestures. Her current research focuses on the multimodal activity of simultaneous interpreters. She has authored several articles and book contributions on these topics, and she is a member of the international network "Translation • Research • Empiricism • Cognition" (TREC). She currently directs the TIBÓN collection of translation studies, published by the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Abstract

Research into the multimodal activity involved in simultaneous interpreting has shown that interpreters perform co-speech gestures (e.g. Zagar Galvão, 2015) and adaptors (Cienki & Iriskhanova, 2020). These movements may help manage the high cognitive load associated with simultaneous interpreting (Stachowiak-Szymczak, 2019; Cienki & Iriskhanova, 2020). Moreover, simultaneous interpreters' gestures have been found to align with those of speakers (Zagar Galvão, 2013; Olza, 2024). This suggests that gestures fulfil relevant cognitive functions, even when not visible to the audience. However, despite the unique demands of simultaneous interpreting (Cienki, 2024), it is still unclear whether the multimodal behaviour associated with this activity has specific characteristics. This study continues the work of Martín de León and Zagar Galvão (2025), which compared the multimodal activity of five simultaneous interpreters in the booth and during an interview. That study found a higher rate of gestures in the booth, contrary to the initial hypothesis. The current study aims to further investigate the specific characteristics of multimodal activity in simultaneous interpreting by comparing it with two other communicative activities: an interview and a university lecture. The three participants are professional interpreters with over ten years of experience and university lecturers. All three are native German speakers. They were recorded while interpreting a simulated remote simultaneous interpreting assignment from English into German, during an interview with the researcher, and while giving a university lecture. The videos were analysed and annotated using ELAN, and a comparative microanalysis was conducted, focusing on the rate of co-speech gestures per minute, the rate of adaptors per minute, the functions performed by gestures in each situation, and the gestural alignment of participants during interpreting and in the interview. The results show that gesture and adaptor rates in interpreters vary with communicative context and individual style, with interpreting not reducing gesture frequency, showing a predominance of pragmatic gestures, and revealing gestural alignment influenced by the speaker's style.

Keywords

simultaneous interpreting, co-speech gestures, adaptors

Gesturing interpreters: research-based teaching innovation

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Ruth León-Pinilla PhD is assistant professor at the Department of Translation, Interpreting and East Asian Studies (DTIEAO) at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and member of the publicly funded research group MIRAS since May 2024. Previously, she worked as an associate professor at the Department of Translation and Languages of the Universidad Europea de Valencia for 12 years, as a collaborating lecturer at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) for 3 years, and as a substitute professor at the Universitat de València for an academic term. She also worked as senior research technician at the Social Psychology Department, Universitat de València, for a project on dance and well-being. Additionally, she has served as a translator and interpreter for the European institutions in Brussels and has professional and academic experience in different countries such as Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, France, Germany, Italy or the United Kingdom. She received her Ph.D. in International Studies of Peace, Conflicts and Development in 2015 from the Universitat Jaume I de Castelló (Spain). She completed a Master of Arts (Magister Artium) in English Studies and Romance Studies from the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg (Germany) in 2005, a Postgraduate Degree in Conference Interpreting from the University of Leeds (England) in 2008, a Postgraduate in Audiovisual Translation from Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in 2009, and a specialisation in Conflict Studies from the UNESCO Chair in Philosophy for Peace at the University Jaume I of Castellón in 2010. Her research interests include interpreting in refugee contexts, ad-hoc interpreting, asylum, wellbeing, embodied education and dance. She has been involved in official research projects devoted to interpreting in refugee contexts and wellbeing, as well as education innovation.

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Monika Chwalczuk is an assistant professor of Translation and Interpreting at the School of Media, Languages and Communication Studies at the University of East Anglia. Previously she lectured at Université de Paris (France) and University of Warwick (UK) where she was affiliated respectively with the Department of Intercultural Studies and Applied Languages and the School of Modern Languages and Cultures. In 2022-2024 Dr. Chwalczuk worked as the principal investigator of the CoGCIn project (Cognitive Processes behind the use of Gestures in Consecutive Dialogue Interpreting) funded by a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions individual post-doctoral grant. The fellowship was part of the PASIFIC program for research and innovation, supported jointly by the Institute of Psychology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the European Commission. Monika Chwalczuk received a PhD in Translation Studies from Université Paris Cité (France), where in 2021 she defended a dissertation on the role of co-speech gestures in public service interpreting analysed through the lens of multimodal corpora. She also holds a Master's Degree in Specialised Translation and Language Teaching, completed at the Institute of Applied Linguistics of the University of Warsaw (Poland). Her interdisciplinary research combines the fields of public service interpreting, gestures studies and cognitive linguistics. The range of methods implemented in her studies spans the use of multimodal corpora, behavioral data and self-reported measures obtained in experimental settings, as well as psychophysiological data such as EEG and HRV.

Abstract

Counter to their historical bad press inherited from conference interpreting trainings (Zagar Galvão, 2013), gestures while interpreting interactions have a positive impact on message recipients (Cienki 2024; Chwalczuk, Garcia-Beyaert & Balas, forthcoming). Consequently, downplaying their impact is potentially detrimental to the communicative autonomy of the parties who rely on interpreting services. However, a renewed approach is unraveling: the "re-discovery of the body" (Mondada, 2019) moves us away from logo-centrism. "Treating verbal and embodied phenomena on a par as essential features of the meaning making process" becomes essential (Vranjes & Brône, 2021). To embrace this embodied turn, interpreters ought to develop a sophisticated awareness of body language and its impact on the communicative situation. Training programs, therefore, need tools to address these new layers of complexity in mediated interaction. This presentation addresses the need for tools. We propose a methodology and a toolkit developed as part of an ongoing action-research project for the teaching of interpreting skills: Situated Dialogues. Based on recent results of experimental research on gestures in dialogue interpreting, we propose a teaching methodology where multimodality is front and center. We draw on video-recorded non-scripted interactions generated at the UAB school of medicine's simulation lab. The videos, the associated activities and the overall methodology are tested during the second edition of the professionalizing program ISPyAC, which teaches interpreting techniques to practicing intercultural mediators. This program is addressed to non-language specific groups, and thus, gestures are not only covered as a subject-matter (an end), they are also a means to analyze meaning-transfer strategies with contextualized references available to all (Sagli and Skaaden, 2023). Two distinct outputs of this effort are (1) a collection of tested self-contained and progressive activities designed to complement pre-existing content for general interpreting programs and (2) a taxonomy of multimodal dimensions to be addressed in class.

Keywords

multimodality, interactional interpreting, non-language specific training

LT.24 | Panel 34 | Testing the Changing Faces of Translation Reception: Challenges and Approaches (cont.)

Chairs: Bei Hu, Minhua Liu, Anthony Pym

Reading between the lines – why readers can process badly translated fiction without visible cost

Prof. Bogusława Whyatt, Dr Olga Witczak, Ms. Ewa Tomczak-Łukaszewska, Dr Olha Lehka-Paul, Ms. Maria Kuczek, Ms. Agata Kucharska
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland

Prof. Bogusława Whyatt

Bogusława Whyatt is an associate professor and Head of the Department of Psycholinguistic Studies at the Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. With her background in psycholinguistics, her research interests focus on the interface between bilingualism and translation, translation process, expertise development and cognitive translation studies. She was the principal investigator in two large-scale projects funded by the National Science Centre Poland—the ParaTrans project and the EDiT project. Currently she is the leading researcher in the Read Me project, also funded by the National Science Centre Poland, in which a team of researchers investigate how translated texts are read and received by target readership. She has published articles in Translation, Cognition & Behavior, Translation and Interpreting, The Interpreter and Translator Trainer, and recently contributed a chapter to The Routledge Handbook of Translation, Interpreting and Bilingualism. She is a member of EST, TREC and CTER, and an affiliate of the MC2 Lab.

Dr Olga Witczak

Olga Witczak holds a PhD in linguistics and is an assistant professor at the Department of Translation Studies, Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. Her research interests include the use of eye-tracking in reading studies, machine translation, and translation and post-editing process research. She worked as a post-doctoral investigator in a grant project, funded by Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange, entitled 'Unleashing the Power of Second Language Mastery: Cognitive Foundations of the Foreign Language Effect and Strategic Language Use'. She was a co-investigator in the EDiT project and is currently working in the Read Me project – both funded by the National Science Centre Poland. Her most recent publications include papers in Scientific Reports, Ampersand, and The Interpreter and Translator Trainer.

Ms. Ewa Tomczak-Łukaszewska

Ewa Tomczak-Łukaszewska is a senior lecturer at the Department of Psycholinguistic Studies, Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. She holds an MA in English and in Psychology. Her research interests include psycholinguistics, language processing in translation and reading, bilingualism, the use of eye-tracking in research, applied statistics and sport psychology. She was a co-investigator in the EDiT project exploring the impact of language dominance and directionality on the translation process and product. Currently, as a co-investigator she is working in the large-scale Read Me project devoted to how translated texts are read and received by target readership, where she is preparing her PhD thesis. Both projects received funding from the National Science Centre Poland. Her publications include papers in Scientific Reports, Ampersand, and Translation and Interpreting, and Modern Language Journal. She is a member of EST and a laureate of the Scholarship from the Minister of Science and Higher Education for outstanding young researchers.

Dr Olha Lehka-Paul

Olha Lehka-Paul holds a PhD in linguistics and is an assistant professor at the Department of Psycholinguistic Studies, Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. Her research interests include personality studies, psycholinguistics, translation process research, and multilingualism and translation. She is also a certified court translator and interpreter with Polish and Ukrainian as her working languages. She is the author of a monograph, Personality Matters: The Translator's Personality in the Process of Self-Revision published by Universitaire Pers Leuven. Her most recent publications include papers in Ampersand and Applied Psycholinguistics. She is a member of EST and CTER.

Ms. Maria Kuczek

Maria Kuczek is a graduate of Creative and Specialized Translation programme from the Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, and holds an MA in English. Her research interests include reading studies and translation reception. She has been working as a research assistant in the Read Me project funded by the National Science Centre Poland. Together with

Agata Kucharska, they were awarded student grant Study@research from AMU for their MA projects in reception studies. She is also a practicing translator, specialising in audiovisual translation and accessibility, among others.

Ms. Agata Kucharska

Agata Kucharska is a graduate of Creative and Specialized Translation programme from the Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, and holds an MA in English. Her research interests include reading studies and translation reception. Together with Maria Kuczek, they were awarded student grant Study@research from AMU for their MA projects in reception studies. She worked as a research assistant in the Read Me project funded by the National Science Centre Poland.

Abstract

Informed by the enhanced understanding of the complexity of the translation process, we seem to have forgotten that for the reader a translated text is just a text to process. The reader will approach the text with a well-defined purpose to obtain information or, in case of literary reading, with the aim to become immersed in the story world and enjoy a pleasurable reading experience. In this presentation, we share the results of an eye-tracking reception study involving 60 participants who read excerpts from published translations of popular fiction differing in translation quality. We used eye movement measures as proxies for cognitive effort needed to process the texts. To complement objective eye movement measures with subjective assessment, we asked the participants to rate their narrative engagement (Appel et al., 2015). To our surprise, we found no statistically significant differences in cognitive effort indexed by eye movements for the entire texts. This finding might show that the quality issues are resolved locally without globally visible cost. Skilled readers are known to adapt their reading strategies to the text they read and will perform the so-called "mental edits" using their general world knowledge and prior context to arrive at the most probable interpretation of meaning (Ryskin et al., 2018). A close analysis at the local level shows that the effect of increased processing in response to badly phrased sentences becomes diluted when comparing entire texts. However, the subjective rating on the narrative engagement scale shows that badly translated fiction fails to engage the reader to the level to which a well-translated fiction does. We share our methodological experience of conducting a large-scale translation reception study pointing out difficulties related to using authentic translated texts with ill-defined translation problems in eye-tracking studies (Whyatt et al., 2023).

Keywords

reception studies, eye-tracking, translated fiction

Visitors' Reception of Museum Translation: Examining Entry Points of Digital Texts through Social Semiotics and Eye-movement Tracking

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[1]Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom. [2]University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

Ms Renwen Xu

Ms Renwen Xu is a PhD candidate at the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, Durham University. Her research project triangulates eye-tracking technology, questionnaire and interview to investigate the multimodality of museum translation.

Dr Boya Zhang

Dr Boya Zhang obtained her PhD from the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, Durham University, and works as a curatorial officer at the Bodleian Libraries, Oxford University. Her research interests include museum studies, visual arts and cultures, and museum translation.

Prof. Binghan Zheng

Binghan Zheng is full Professor in Chinese and Translation Studies at Durham University, UK. His research interests include the conceptualisation of translation/interpreting, cognitive translation studies, and comparative translation studies. His recent publications appeared in journals such as Target, Translation Studies, the Interpreter & Translator Trainer, Across Languages & Cultures, Journal of Pragmatics, Brain & Cognition, Perspectives, LANS-TTS, and Translation & Interpreting Studies.

Abstract

Museum translation in a digital context is inherently multimodal, encompassing both verbal (e.g., written text) and visual (e.g., object images) representations. These multimodal museum texts, as products of translation, play a critical role in shaping visitor engagement. A review of the literature identifies three key research gaps in understanding their reception: (1) a disconnect between theoretical analysis and empirical investigation; (2) a scarcity of empirical studies on visitor reception and perception, particularly from a cognitive perspective; and (3) an increasing demand for real-time, objective data collection methods to assess the actual reception of museum translations by visitors. This study aims to address existing gaps by examining visitors' cognitive processes through the lens of visual attention, with a specific focus on identifying the entry points of multimodal museum texts. By conducting a comparative analysis of social semiotic assumptions and eye-movement data, the research assesses the alignment between theoretical predictions and empirical observations. The results reveal a significant discrepancy between these two approaches. Contrary to social semiotic assumptions that the object image serves as the primary entry point, empirical evidence from eye-movement data consistently indicates that written text functions as the initial point of engagement. This pattern persists regardless of the written text's placement, the presence of audio input, task type (task-based or task-free), or the visitors' level of prior knowledge. Understanding the elements that capture visitors' attention and how actual entry points align with the intended design of exhibits is crucial for bridging the gap between museum curation and visitor engagement. By utilising eye-tracking technology, this study provides real-time, objective data, making a significant contribution to empirical testing of social semiotic approaches. By bridging the gap between theoretical and empirical investigations, this research advances the field of museum translation and reception studies.

Keywords

reception of museum translation, social semiotics, eye-movement

Dubbing and reception: The revival of Chinese dubbese as internet memes on social media

Dr Xuemei Chen
Lingnan University, Hong Kong, China

Dr Xuemei Chen

Xuemei Chen is Assistant Professor in the Department of Translation at Lingnan University. She received a PhD degree in translation studies from Lingnan University. Her main research interests include translation and social media, reception studies, translation and gender, and children's literature in translation. Her articles appear in internationally peer-reviewed journals such as Translation Studies, Target, Perspectives, Babel, Journal of Sepcialised Translation, Children's Literature in Education, and Humanities & Social Sciences Communications. She is co-editor of the edited volume Translation Practices as Agents of Transformation in Multilingual Settings (Springer, 2025). She is an Editorial Board Member (Associate Editor) of Humanities & Social Sciences Communications and an Editorial Board Member of The International Journal of Chinese and English Translation & Interpreting (IJCETI).

Abstract

Chinese dubbese, a stylised register of Mandarin used in dubbed audiovisual content, originated in the pre-digital era but has recently undergone an unexpected revival on social media platforms. While existing research has focused on dubbese's formal linguistic features, this study shifts the focus to its circulation, reception, and various functions in participatory digital culture. Drawing on a curated corpus of highly viewed dubbese-themed videos and user comments from Bilibili, China's most popular video-sharing site, this article uses a qualitative analysis to examine how online audiences reappropriate dubbese as a memetic and performative linguistic resource. The findings challenge the prevailing assumption in audiovisual translation studies that audiences prioritise linguistic naturalness in dubbing. Instead, users embrace dubbese for its stylised foreignness, nostalgic resonance, and playful aesthetic, transforming it into a source of affective engagement and internet humour. Dubbese expressions function as both reusable phrasal templates and widely circulated catchphrases, revealing how language from dubbed media is revitalised as internet memes. By situating dubbese within the framework of internet memes and online subcultures, this study contributes to ongoing debates in audiovisual translation studies, and calls for a reassessment of how dubbed language operates in contemporary digital life.

Keywords

reception, dubbese, Internet meme

The Interpreting Goes on: Receptions of Interpreting as a Narrative on Social Media

Ms Xiaoyi Li
Shanghai International Studies University, Shanghai, China

Ms Xiaoyi Li

Li Xiaoyi is currently pursuing her PhD Degree in Translation Studies at Shanghai International Studies University. She is also a freelance interpreter/translator after she received her Master's Degree in Conference Interpreting from the University of International Business an Economics. Her academic interests include interpreting reception, audiovisual translation and media accessibility.

Abstract

Since the 1990s, translation has been extensively studied as a narrative, and it is well-accepted that translators play an undeniable role in contesting and reformulating existing public narratives. However, while interpreting is subsumed under the generic concept of translational activity, the research on interpreters' conscious mediation of narratives remains limited. The advent of new media forms (short videos, social media, etc.) has profoundly challenged the conventional belief that interpreting is temporal and dedicated to a specific group of audience. With new media emerging, interpreting is now accessible to almost any audience at any time. For audiences in these media, interpreting is not a faithful reproduction subordinate to the original speech, but is the original content of the media. In other words, interpreting has become an independent narrative in public communication domains, where interactions between the interpreting and audiences are dynamic and accumulative. This evolution prompts new inquiries into the reception of interpreting as an independent narrative and how its assessment differs from that of interpreting as a linguistic product. By conducting a case study through mixed methods on a video of Vucic's speech at the UN General Assembly and viewer-generated comments, this research aims to extend the border of narrative studies to incorporate interpreting as a specific kind of public narrative. The research reveals that: (1) the receptions of interpreting as a narrative are widely based on viewers' expectations; (2) contrary to the conventionally fidelity-focused interpreting assessment, some audiences acknowledge and appreciate the interpreter's mediations despite differences from the original speech; (3) the research proves that the interpreting as a linguistic product ends when certain temporal and spatial condition perishes, but the interpreting as a narrative persists and engages dynamically with audiences in public communications. The results may shed new light on the importance of interpreting as a narrative.

Keywords

interpreting reception, narrative studies, public communications

Keynote | The scope and future of Translation Studies

Professor Jeremy Munday, University of Leeds

Jeremy Munday is Emeritus Professor of Translation Studies at the University of Leeds. He previously worked in the Centres for Translation Studies at the Universities of Bradford (1994-2000), Surrey (2000-2006) and, from 2006, Leeds. In 2016, he was honoured to be the Chair Professor at the CETRA Summer school. He retired from his post in Leeds in 2022 but remains active despite having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2015.

His research interests cover linguistic translation theories, the translation of political speeches, Latin American writing in translation and translator archives. He is author of *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and applications*, published by Routledge in 2001, 2008, 2012, 2016 and, with the assistance of Sara Ramos Pinto and Jacob Blakesley, 2022. The book has been translated into fourteen languages. Other publications include *Translation: An advanced resource book* (co-authored with Basil Hatim, Routledge 2004, 2019), *Translation and Ideology* (co-edited with Sonia Cunico, special issue of *The Translator* 2007), *Style and Ideology in Translation* (Routledge, 2008), *The Routledge Companion to Translation Studies* (as editor, Routledge 2009), *Evaluation in Translation* (Routledge, 2012), followed by a series of co-edited volumes on discourse analysis and translation (including special issues of *Target*, *Perspectives* and *Meta*). He is Series Co-Editor for Bloomsbury's Advances in Translation.

He is also a qualified and experienced translator from Spanish and French into English.

Abstract

We find ourselves at a crucial juncture. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the world of work but for many is viewed as a threat to their livelihood, not least by those employed in the creative industries, among which translation. At the same time, Large Language Models (LLMs) continue to amass huge amounts of text from sources that are protected by copyright; these same texts are then used for training LLMs in order to improve their outputs, which may then compete with the original text producers, whether they be authors, journalists, translators, transcreators, or others. Advances in digital technologies also render translation instantaneously through automatic software on the screen of a smartphone. This inevitably leads to the devaluing of translation and language learning. Why bother to expend huge energy to learn a new language when you can communicate interlingually by tapping on a screen? In this scenario, what will the role be for the human translator or language service provider? These questions are becoming central to the academic discipline of translation studies, as can be seen in many of the panels that make up this EST conference in Leeds. Furthermore, AI is causing us to re-visit central tenets of translation studies, such as equivalence of meaning, translation strategies and 'universals', functional translation theories, genre and text type and translation quality assessment, even the concept of 'translation' itself, while the translated texts examined are now increasingly multimodal and multilingual. As many have shown, the scope of translation studies has extended far beyond the classic three types of translation (intra-lingual, inter-lingual and inter-semiotic), proposed by Roman Jakobson in 1959, to embrace translation in its cultural, sociological, historical, ideological, philosophical and ethical contexts. Indeed, such an expansion is arguably the only way of ensuring the continued blossoming of the discipline as we enter the second quarter of the twenty-first century. I will discuss how translation studies has arrived at this juncture and will suggest what I see as possible avenues for the future practice, teaching and research of translation and interpreting.

Keynote | Distributed, collective enaction: Reframing the study of translation and translation expertise

Professor Hanna Risku, University of Vienna

Hanna Risku is professor for translation studies and head of the research group Socio-Cognitive Translation Studies (socotrans) at the University of Vienna, Austria. Her research areas include translation and situated cognition, translation workplace and network research, and translation expertise. She has published on sociological and cognitive approaches in translation studies and the ethnographic study of translation processes. Prior to her work in Vienna, she was professor for translation studies at the University of Graz, professor for applied cognitive science and technical communication, head of the Department for Knowledge and Communication Management and vice rector at the Danube University Krems, guest professor at the University of Aarhus, Denmark, and lecturer at different universities in Austria, Finland and Sweden.

Professor Risku served as co-editor of Fachsprache – International Journal of Specialized Communication and as president of TCeurope – the European umbrella organisation for technical communication. In 2010, she was awarded the TCeurope Award for Services to Technical Communication in Europe. In 2023, she was CETRA Chair Professor at KU Leuven and DOTTSS Guest Professor at Tampere University. She is a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters.

Abstract

Since the 1990s, we in TIS have been studying the many roles that translators and interpreters assume, the many challenges they tackle and the revolutions and evolutions they are mastering at any given moment. At the same time, TIS as a scholarly field has also evolved and reinvented itself. In this keynote, I will describe some of the theoretical and methodological developments related to recent extensions of perspectives in translation and interpreting research. In particular, I will reflect on how taking a socio-cognitive view can contribute to recognizing the situational, material and social embeddedness of translation and interpreting.

To illustrate this with a specific research topic, I will show what taking such a perspective implies for the studying of translation expertise. As translation and interpreting scholars and teachers, we often complain that society, e.g., clients, employers and institutions, do not recognize the high level of expertise that is required for translation and interpreting. However, for a long time, TIS did not make the grounded, lived expertise of practitioners the key focus of research either. My colleagues and I address this gap in our current empirical research project "Rethinking translation expertise: A workplace study" (Retrex), where we investigate what being a translation expert can mean today and how translation expertise is perceived and demonstrated by working professionals. To acquire an insider perspective of this expertise, we use a multi-case research design with extensive field observations, interviews and focus group discussions. Our findings indicate that translation expertise is not sufficiently explained by referring to individual skills, rational strategies or absolute process characteristics, but needs to be reframed to account for its distributed and collective dimensions. In our analysis, we identified translation expertise in the ways our participants build and share professional identities, responsibilities and infrastructures, learn as a social unit and adapt workflows to context-specific needs.

Session 3 | 10:30-12:30

LT.01 | Panel 43 | The Mediated and Multimodal Nature of Song Translation

Chairs: Johan Franzon, Annjo K. Greenall, Anna Rędzioch-Korkuz

Ecosystems of song translation. How printed, recorded, and oral tradition songs differ in translingual migration.

Dr Johan Franzon
University of Helsinki (Department of Finnish, Finno-Ugrian and Scandinavian Studies), Helsinki, Finland

Dr Johan Franzon

Johan Franzon teaches Translation and interpreting, as well as Nordic languages at the University of Helsinki, Finland. He wrote his dissertation on musical comedy translation in 2009, studying My Fair Lady translated into Scandinavian languages, and has since then published articles on various aspects of song translation. He is currently translating the Off-Broadway musical Between the lines into Swedish and is a co-editor of a themed issue of the journal Studia Translatorica, vol. 15: Song Translation Studies (published online in 2024).

Abstract

In recent years, song translation studies have seen more ambitious empirical investigations than before. Often such studies focus on one single music genre, branch of business, or cultural context. But perspectives and practices of song translation are as varied as the uses and functions of song. My aim is to compare translated song in different spheres of function. In both ethnomusicology and popular music studies, the concept of ecosystem is used to describe musical/medial/economic/cultural webs of agency, affordances, challenges, and change. The ones most relevant to song translation may be three: the oral tradition, the printed music, and the (commercially recorded and marketed) pop song ecosystem. I will explore them through various questions: Where are the most significant points of variation? May they be in singability norms, commissions and patronage, sociocultural resonance, and practical or multimodal use? How do they compare in terms of genesis and afterlife, functional form, and the fidelity aspect? Is there a place for non-singable translation? I tentatively chart the systems by looking through the prisms of three specific cases: 1) “Chanson de l’oignon” (from around 1800), a French military song that somehow evolved into an American spiritual, a French children’s song, and a Swedish action/dance song (the culturally deeply embedded “Små grodorna”, around 1920). 2) “L’Internationale”, a French poem (first printed in 1887) set to music and translated into many languages as an anthem for both revolutionary groups and political systems. 3) “Raindrops keep fallin’ on my head”, an American pop song (Burt Bacharach–Hal David 1969) that spread as cover recordings in many countries and languages in the 1970s. Most focus lies on the translator as provider of the verbal part of the song. I see genre-transcending comparisons as important steps toward a sound and systematic song translation theory.

Keywords

song translation, ecosystem, functionality

Song Translation and Religion: The Turkish Call to Prayer (1933)

Dr. Alaz Pesen
Atlas University Translation and Interpreting Department, Istanbul, Turkey

Dr. Alaz Pesen

Alaz Pesen is a translation studies scholar and a singer-songwriter with recorded music. He completed his Master's thesis centered around the translation of pop music in the context of Turkey. In 2017, he was honored by Boğaziçi University with the "PhD Dissertation of the Year" award for his dissertation, which delved into the history of Greek-Turkish song translation. He is also a professional song translator himself and holds the distinction of pioneering the instruction of the Song Translation course in Turkey, having taught it at both Boğaziçi University and Yeditepe University. His primary academic research revolves around the realm of song translation as well. Among his recent presentations are "Song Translation as Humor: Trevor Noah's Comic Versions of the German National Anthem" at the "Laughs in Translation Workshop" held at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna (April 2024) and "A Microhistory of Song Translation: Charles Aznavour's La Mamma in Turkish (1964)" at the "Adaptation, Appropriation and Translation Conference" held by the Theatre and Drama Network (December 2023). Currently, Alaz Pesen imparts his knowledge at Istanbul Atlas University as a faculty member in the Department of Translation and Interpreting and keeps composing, translating and releasing songs. Academia: https://atlas.academia.edu/AlazPesen Orcid: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8115-8349?lang=en Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=7rS7YUgAAAAJ&hl=tr Official Website: www.alazpesen.com

Abstract

In 1933, the Islamic call to prayer was recited in Turkish instead of Arabic. This song translation sparked a long-lasting debate. While nationalists regarded the Turkish call as a natural outcome of the modernist reforms, conservatives heavily criticized the idea of reciting the call in a language other than Arabic. Academia started showing interest in the subject in the mid-1990s. While some of these scholarly articles adopt an objective attitude, others take sides in the debate. Nevertheless, all of them have one thing in common: while the existence of the translation has heavily been commented on, the translation itself has never been analyzed. That is where this study comes in. Translating the lyrics and adapting the music accordingly is a common strategy in song translation (Franzon 2008: 376). This observation can be directly applied to any singable translation where the translator wishes to prioritize the content over form (Pesen 2022: 4). However, for the case of the call to prayer, there is much more to it. Positioning Atatürk as the "patron" (Lefevere 1992: 15) behind the song translation, the study demonstrates that the Turkish call is a symbolic representation as well as the culmination of the modernist reforms made during the early Republican period in the fields of religion, history, language, alphabet and clothing. Foregrounding Sadettin Kaynak as one of the song translators and the only recorded performer of the Turkish call to prayer, the study carries out a holistic analysis (Kaindl 2020: 63, 2005: 243; Pesen 2019: 80) and demonstrates that the song translation was carried out at the musical, lyrical and visual levels in an attempt to rewrite the cultural memory of the Turkish nation. This was a direct reflection of the early Republican ideology: to replace religious symbols with those that were national (Hanioğlu 2011: 132).

Keywords

song translation, the turkish call to prayer, translation and religion

Medium-bound Partial-cum-Non-Translation: The Case of Animated Nursery Rhymes

Prof. Dr. Mine Güven
Doğuş University, Istanbul, Turkey

Prof. Dr. Mine Güven

Mine Güven holds the following degrees from Boğaziçi University, Istanbul: B.A. in translation and interpreting studies; M.A. and Ph.D. in linguistics. Her main areas of interest include semantics of tense/aspect/modality and adverbs, language contact, interpreter training and media accessibility. She is the author of Adverbials in Turkish: The Third Parameter in Aspectual Interpretation (LincomEuropa, 2006). She co-edited Exploring the Turkish Linguistic Landscape: Essays in Honour of Eser E. Erguvanlı-Taylan (John Benjamins, 2016). She is currently a Professor of Linguistics at Doğuş University, Istanbul.

Abstract

This paper views song translation from a multimodal perspective, analyzing a database of Turkish dubbed versions of 3-D animated nursery rhymes created by CoComelon. While these music videos are presented on YouTube with Turkish subtitles, the same videos appear with the original English karaoke-style subtitles on Moonbug Kids TV, constituting a case of non-translation, a practice often associated with ideology (e.g. Ferreira Duarte, 2000). Former research has underlined the multimodal and complex nature of song translation (e.g. Kaindl, 2020; Greenall et al., 2021). Likewise, the future of audiovisual translation is predicted to take a multimodal course (Gambier, 2023). Given that few studies focus on song dubbing in animated audiovisual content (e.g. Reus, 2020), this paper aims to join the current discussion on song translation within an audiovisual medium, where the typical constraints in song translation (e.g. prosody, syllable count) are compounded with further auditory and visual ones, some of which lead to partial translation of the original content (e.g. giggles and filler words (e.g. yeah) in the sound track; onomatopoeia; a label on a bottle). Moreover, misunderstanding of the content is likely (e.g. ASL signs produced by an animated character in “Harvest Stew”: AUTUMN – VEGGIE - START OUT -SMALL ‘Autumn veggies start out small’ synchronized (on YouTube) with Turkish words (sung and highlighted in karaoke-style): her yer sebze sonbahar ‘There are vegetables everywhere. It’s autumn.’ (literally ‘everywhere vegetables autumn’)). A preliminary analysis also reveals cases of retranslation (e.g. multiple animated versions of “Twinkle, twinkle, little star” in a culture where “Yaşasın Okulumuz” is the canonical version of Mozart’s variations on "Ah! Vous dirai-je, Maman" (KV 265)). In brief, this paper suggests an ever-expanding concept of text, and of translation beyond interlingual transfer, with a focus on the implications of the medium of presentation for the translation of animated nursery rhymes as multimodal texts.

Keywords

song translation, audiovisual translation, multimodal text

A socio-cognitive approach to analysing song translations as multimodal entities: Henning Kvitnes' interlingual cover of Steve Earle's "Pilgrim" as a case in point

Prof., Dr. Annjo Greenall
Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

Prof., Dr. Annjo Greenall

Annjo K. Greenall is Professor of English language and translation studies at the Department of Language and Literature, at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). She has published a great number of articles on various topics, which often take as their point of departure the special role of English (as a global language) in translation, and the English-Norwegian language pair. She has published several articles and book chapters within the field of song translation and has co-edited a number of books, among others Song Translation: Lyrics in Contexts (2021), with Johan Franzon, Sigmund Kvam, and Anastasia Parianou. She is also a song translator and a singer, and has released two albums with her own translations of songs from English into Norwegian, with herself as a performer (Eg vandrar langs kaiane [I wander along the quays] (2012), Løgn og forbannet gjendiktning [Lies and bloody rewriting] (2017)).

Abstract

In popular music, language, music and visual elements act together in making a holistic impression on listeners/viewers. Semiotics has often been used to show how such apparently disparate elements are all forms of meaning-making devices which operate on an equal level in that they all 'mean' in the same way, linking (some form of) signifier to a specific signified. In songs, a word, a note and an artist's onstage costume, for example, can all be considered signifiers linked to signifieds which, within the work as a whole, may pull in the same or different meaning-making directions. One weakness of semiotics, however, resides in its implicit depiction of the relationship between signifiers and signifieds as something that exists in a space outside of interpreting individuals ('society'). Hence (perhaps), the theory's characteristically objectifying and static approach to the signifier-signified relationship and its lack of psychological plausibility. Here, I argue that a socio-cognitive approach which looks at 'signifiers' as contextualization cues (Gumperz 1992) which evoke scenes (Fillmore 1982) within listeners'/viewers' cognitive environments could go some way towards rectifying these issues, thus providing a more valid basis for analysing and comparing songs and their interlingual covers (Susam-Saraeva 2019) as multimodal entities. In support of this argument I analyse Henning Kvitnes' Norwegian cover of American singer-songwriter Steve Earle's song "Pilgrim." I show how linguistic, musical and visual cues in Earle's version trigger scenes in listeners'/viewers' socio-cognitive environments, and to what degree and in what ways Kvitnes has used cues that trigger similar or different scenes in his version, in trying to fulfil the often quite contradictory aims of such performers, i.e. those of ensuring an acceptable kind and degree of recognizability of the original on the one hand, and branding the cover with their own artistic stamp, on the other.

Keywords

song translation, contextualization cues, Fillmorian scenes

Singability for deaf audiences: enhancing subtitling for musicals

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Abstract

Following Low's (2017, 38) theories on rhyming songs, this study develops a model for the subtitling of musicals, with a specific emphasis on metrical aspects and singability. (How) can the musicality of a song be conveyed in subtitles? This question is pertinent, not only for audiences from different linguistic communities wishing to engage intersemiotically with the musical form, but also for audience members in different linguistic communities using subtitles to negotiate conditions such as deafness, but wishing to experience something of the musicality of the text. The paper relies on two case studies, both directed by Dexter Fletcher, that specifically explore the lives of two British rock legends, Elton John and Freddie Mercury. Both of these individuals are highly respected and renowned figures with remarkable life experiences. The first case study is Rocketman, which depicts Elton John's career as a source of inspiration for musical storytelling. The other example is the film Bohemian Rhapsody, which follows a more conventional biographical format. In each case, the songs explored in the text add layers of information that the model aims to convey explicitly or implicitly through the subtitles. Multimodal cohesion being a particular challenge in audio-visual translation. The model proposed in this study aims to lay the groundwork for the negotiation of multiple complex constraints by translators of subtitles, especially the singability for hearing and deaf and hard of hearing people. Its approach acknowledges that subtitles can do more than convey the gist of a character's utterances, and can encode complex stylistic and sociocultural signifiers as well, in particular when they are used not just to convey a source message, but when they are used to make the message accessible to everyone.

Keywords

singability, accessibility, musical translation

Intersemiotic transposition in popular culture - examining how cultural concepts travel through music

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Britt W. Svenhard is Professor of English Literature at Østfold University College (Norway) where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in literature and film. She has been an adviser at the Norwegian National Centre for Foreign Languages in Education and has supervised several national CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) projects. Her field of research includes narrative, adaptation, intertextuality, and literature and film didactics.

Prof. Berit Grønn

Berit Grønn is Professor of Spanish and Didactics at Østfold University College (Norway) where she has taught since 2008. She is former Head of Studies for foreign languages and online studies in the Department of Economy, Social Sciences and Modern Languages (2017 – 2021). Grønn has also been Head of Section at the Norwegian National Centre for Foreign Languages in Education. She has published books and articles on Spanish, Foreign Language Teaching and Learning, including song translation as a didactic tool. Her field of research includes narrative, intertextuality, paratextuality, and literature didactics. She has published several books about the Norwegian and Spanish languages from a comparative perspective. Also, she has published extensively on the acquisition of foreign languages and intercultural understanding, and on paratextuality in translation and Spanish poetry from Spanish into Norwegian.translation.

Abstract

In this paper, we look at specific cultural concepts used in Spanish and Norwegian and how they are adapted in animated Disney musicals to become popular globally. The concepts can be considered hypotexts due to their position in the folklore and narrative modes of Colombia and Norway. We examine how these local hypotexts are transposed in different intermedial contexts and ask what purpose these intersemiotic strategies serve. With former studies (Grønn & Svenhard, 2023; Svenhard, 2021) as our point of departure, we concentrate on the influence of the musical genre on the status of the cultural concepts. We rely on Julia Kristeva's concepts of intertextuality and transposition (Kristeva, 1980; 1984), Nicola Dusi's research on source- and target-oriented translation and the relationship between form and content (Dusi, 2015), as well as Robert S. Miola's classification of hypotexts (Miola, 2004). Dusi, Nicola (2015): "Intersemiotic translation, theories, problems, analysis". In: Semiotica, 206, 181–205. Grønn, Berit & Svenhard, Britt W. (2023).Magic Realism and the Feminine in "Encanto". Genre and Narrative Mode as Paratext. .Tidskrift för litteraturvetenskap. ISSN 1104-0556. 52(4), s. 64–80. doi: 10.54797/tfl.v52i4.11758. Kristeva, Julia (1980): Desire in Language: A Semiotic Approach to Language and Art. Trans. Thomas Gora, Alice Jardine and Leon S. Roudiez, ed. Leon S. Roudiez. New York: Columbia University Press. Kristeva, Julia (1984): Revolution in Poetic Language. New York: Columbia University Press. Miola, Robert S. (2004): "Seven Types of Intertextuality". In Michele Marrapodi, Shakespeare, Italy and Intertextuality, 13-25. Manchester, New York: Manchester University Press. Svenhard, Britt W. (2021)."There must be trolls in what I write": Ibsen's mythopoesis adapted (in)to music and film. I Franzon, Johan F.I.; Greenall, Annjo Klungervik; Kvam, Sigmund & Parianou, Anastasia (Red.), Song Translation: Lyrics in Contexts. Frank & Timme. ISSN 978-3-7329-9334-5. s. 395–423.

Keywords

musical , hypotext, Disney

LT.06 | Panel 12 | Cultural Diversity and Literary Translation Policy-Making in the 21st Century

Chairs: Lucia Campanella, Diana Roig-Sanz, Laura Fólica

Ink of inclusion: A conceptual and methodological research agenda on diversity in literary translation

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Dr. Gys-Walt Van Egdom

Gys-Walt van Egdom holds a doctor's degree in Linguistics and Literary Studies, along with a master's degree in Translation Studies.He is currently affiliated to Utrecht University as a lecturer specialising in translation and Translation Studies. His expertise spans across translation didactics, translation evaluation, translation ethics, translation processes, AI translation and human-computer interaction.

Prof. Dr. Haidee Kotze

Haidee Kotze completed her PhD in Translation Studies in 2010 at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. Her first monograph was published in 2012, titled Postcolonial polysystems: The production and reception of translated children's literature in South Africa. In 2013 she was the co-recipient of the European Society for Translation Studies (EST) Young Scholar Award. Haidee's current research interests focus on language variation and change in contact settings, with an emphasis on both the psycholinguistic and social conditions of language contact. Within this framework, she studies translated language, World Englishes, and learner language. Her most recent work is at the interface of linguistics and digital humanities, and focuses on language change in parliamentary discourse across varieties of English, and the role of language mediators like editors and translators in this process. Haidee is the editor-in-chief of Target: International Journal of Translation Studies, as well as co-editor of the series Translation, Interpreting and Transfer at KU Leuven University Press. She is an staff member of the Centre for Translation Studies (CETRA) at KU Leuven, and a member of the international Thematic Network on Empirical and Experimental Research in Translation (TREC). She is a contributor to the grammar of Afrikaans for Taalportaal, and has worked in projects in the framework of World Englishes, including the Varieties of English in the Indo-Pacific: English in Contact (VEIP-EIC) project. Haidee holds a position as honorary professor in the focus area Understanding and Processing Language in Complex Settings (UPSET) at North-West University (South Africa).

Mrs. Nour Ghazlane

Nour El Houda-Ghazlane obtained a Bachelor's degree in English Language and Culture, followed by a Master's degree in Translation Studies with a focus on Professional Translation, graduating cum laude. In 2024, she was affiliated with Utrecht University.

Abstract

The importance of diversity and inclusion in the literary translation field has received increasing emphasis in recent years, viewed principally from broadly sociologically informed perspectives of ethics and social equity (see the responses to Susam-Saraeva 2021). Initiatives to diversify the publishing industry and the selection mechanisms for translators underscore the relevance of this topic (see ALTA 2021; Auteursbond 2021). However, current discourse on this topic is characterized by a comparatively underdeveloped conceptual framework, as well as limited empirical research (for exceptions, Ghazlane et al. 2024). In this paper, we establish a research agenda on diversity and inclusion in literary translation that addresses these limitations. We set out a framework for conceptualizing the notion of 'diversity' that encompasses the complex relations between cultural representation, linguistic diversity (including aspects such as language variation and language contact), ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, and ability. = Scaffolded on this conceptual framework, we outline a set of methodological approaches suited to exploring these complex relationships, including quantitative methods such as bibliometric and network analysis, and qualitative methods such as surveys. We illustrate the relevance and applicability of these methods through a case study on the selection mechanisms for literary translators in the Netherlands (2002–2022), based on a dataset of 25,000 titles translated from English and published in the Dutch-language region, and metadata on source authors, translators, publishers, and year of publication. The paper offers a potential basis for future research into

social (in)equality in the literary translation field, which may inform future policy, publishing decisions and training programs. ALTA. 2021. ALTA statement on racial equity in literary translation. https://literarytranslators.wordpress.com/2021/03/22/alta-statement-on-racial-equity-in-literary-translation/ Auteursbond. 2021. Tijd voor een inclusiever boekenvak: Verklaring over diversiteit. https://auteursbond.nl/tijd-voor-een-inclusiever-boekenvak/ Ghazlane, Nour el Houda, Gys-Walt van Egdom & Haidee Kotze. 2024. Diversiteit en inclusie in het literaire veld nader bekeken. Filter: Tijdschrift over vertalen 31(2): 74-83. Susam-Saraeva, Şebnem. 2021. Representing experiential knowledge: Who may translate whom? Translation Studies 14(1): 84-95.

Keywords

diversity, research methods, literary field

Diversity in Literary Translation from Polish: The Policy of the Book Institute

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Dr Zofia Ziemann

Zofia Ziemann is Assistant Professor at the Department of International Polish Studies, Faculty of Polish Studies, Jagiellonian University, where she has been affiliated with the Centre for Translation Studies. Her main research interests involve translation history, translator studies, and the reception of translated literature; she is particularly interested in retranslation and in the literary transfer from Polish into English. Co-editor, with Magda Heydel, of Retracing the History of Literary Translation in Poland: People, Politics, Poetics (Routledge 2022). She was a visiting researcher at Indiana University Bloomington on a scholarship from the Kosciuszko Foundation (Fall/Winter 2023/2024). She also works as a freelance translator/interpreter, editor, and proofreader.

Abstract

The proposed paper adopts the lens of diversity to look at the translation policy, insofar as it can be inferred from publishing data, of the Polish Book Institute [Instytut Książki], a governmental agency promoting literacy in Poland and Polish literature abroad (since 2004), as well as its short-lived institutional predecessors (1999–2003). It seeks to investigate how the official funding bodies throughout the 21st century have navigated between maintaining/constructing a uniform identity of 'Polish literature' – which can be felt to be necessary in promoting writing translated from a peripheral language, from a country with relatively little cultural capital – and representing heterogenous voices of more loosely defined 'literature from Poland' or 'literature in Polish'. Following up on, expanding, and qualitatively probing the author's recent quantitative research on the Book Institute translation policy in 2008–2022 (Ziemann 2025), the analysis is based on publishing figures (a data set of translations published with the Institute's support) and auxiliary materials such as the Institute's catalogues (presented to foreign publishers at bookfairs), official documents, and stakeholder interviews. Diversity here is understood as broadly as possible: it pertains to the genre and thematic make-up of the Book Institute's translation portfolio, the author and translator profiles, including gender and ethnic background, and the diversity of target languages. Results will be contextualized in terms of historical developments (the Cold War heritage in translation flows from Central and Eastern Europe), supply-demand tensions (promoting the national canon versus catering to the interests of foreign publishers and readers), ideological entanglements (the Institute's governmental patronage and political power in various periods), and worldwide socio-cultural changes that Poland has been part of in the 21st century (globalization, migration, and the resulting 'loosening' of boundaries of national literatures).

Keywords

translation policy, diversity, literature from Poland

Brazil's Literary Translation Policy-Making: Supported Spanish Translations and Diversity in the Brazilian National Library Program between 2011 and 2024

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Dr Rosario Lazaro Igoa

Rosario Lázaro Igoa is a researcher of the National Agency for Research and Innovation (ANII, Uruguay) and an external lecturer at the Postgraduate Program in Translation Studies from the Federal University of Santa Catarina (PGET, UFSC, Brazil). She holds a PhD in Translation Studies (UFSC, Brazil) and is an active literary translator and writer. Rosario co-edited and translated into Spanish an anthology of Mario de Andrade's non-fiction, Crónicas de melancolía eufórica (2016), and has recently co-edited a volume in the Palavra de Tradutor Book Collection, Gonzalo Aguilar (PGET, 2024). She is a member of the History of Literary Translation Research Group at the University of the Republic (Udelar, Uruguay), and her current research focuses on the history of literary translation in Uruguay and the links between vernacular and translated literature.

Abstract

This paper will analyse Brazil's global literary translation policy through the “Support Program for the Translation and Publication of Brazilian Authors”, which is part of the Brazilian National Library Foundation. Specifically, it will focus on the program's representation of cultural and literary diversity in relation to Spanish translations, both published in Hispanic America and in Spain, between 2011 and 2024. The starting point of this work is 2011, when the institution's translation program was restructured after its creation in 1992 (Muniz and Szpilbarg, 2016) and given a more international focus in preparation for the 2013 Frankfurt Book Fair, where Brazil was the Guest of Honour. I will begin by analysing the conceptual basis of the “Support Program for the Translation and Publication of Brazilian Authors” (website, application forms, press releases, social media, etc.) through the lens of cultural and literary diversity. I will then relate it to Dujovne´s findings in other South American countries´ programs (2024). Particular attention will be paid to the explicit criteria for the selection of works to be funded, as they show the principles of diversity that Brazil seeks to export via translation. Following a description of the impact of the program in publishing houses from Argentina and Uruguay (Lázaro and Costa, 2020), I will offer a quantification and initial characterisation of the translations into Spanish supported in terms of the number of translations, the amounts awarded, the countries and the publishing houses involved through the lens of politics of translation (Heilbron & Sapiro, 2018). The findings will also be correlated with the Brazilian political context, specially the Bolsonaro government and the cessation of programme activities between 2019 and 2023. Finally, I will consider the representation of cultural and literary diversity that emerges from Spanish translations, taking into account the corpus of authors (language, ethnicity, gender), and the corpus of works (literary genres, previous consecration in Brazil, etc.). The purpose will be to look for areas of convergence and divergence between the program's approach and its implementation in terms of soft power through translation (Roig-Sanz, Campanella & Carbó-Catalan, 2025).

Keywords

Translation Studies, Translation Policy-Making, Brazilian Literature

Implicit Translation Policies and Cultural Diversity: Lusophone Literature in 21st Century China

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Dr. Lidia Zhou Mengyuan is a Lecturer in the Department of Translation at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Her main research interests include literary communication and exchange in the Global South, Image of China in Lusophone countries and Chinese-Portuguese-English translation/ interpreting studies, with a strong focus on digital humanities, sociological approaches in translation studies. She had published several articles in international peer-reviewed journals, including Babel, Corpus-based Studies across Humanities, Diacrítica Journal, East-West Poetry Journal, Macau Studies, among others.

Abstract

This project explores how implicit translation policies—understood here as informal, unarticulated preferences shaping translation choices without direct government mandates—affect the circulation of Portuguese-language literatures across different regions. Building upon UNESCO's 2001 Declaration on Cultural Diversity, which emphasizes the importance of diverse cultural expressions, this study argues that these implicit policies play a crucial yet often overlooked role in shaping cultural exchange. To investigate this phenomenon, this paper focuses on literature from Portuguese-speaking countries (Portugal, Brazil, Mozambique, and Angola) that has been translated into Chinese and published in the Chinese market from 2000-2023. Employing a big translation history approach (Roig-Sanz & Fólica, 2021), it will conduct an analysis of metadata about translated Lusophone works, examining data points such as translated authors, translated genres, original countries, publication dates, and publishers. Through this analysis, it aims to identify the presence and impact of implicit translation policies within this specific cultural exchange. More specifically, this research investigates how these implicit policies affect cultural diversity in three key areas: the balance between canonical and contemporary works, genre preferences, and gender representation among translated authors. By examining these areas, it uncovers the often-invisible mechanisms that either facilitate or hinder the flow of diverse literary voices. This study complements existing research on explicit translation policies implemented by government or national cultural institutes (González Núñez, 2016; Carbó-Catalan & Roig-Sanz, 2022). By highlighting the role of implicit translation policies, it demonstrates how these less visible forces also shape cultural diversity within translation ecosystems, particularly those involving (semi-)peripheral language systems. y comparing cases across Lusophone countries, the project aims to show that while explicit translation policies pursue strategic cultural diplomacy, implicit translation policies often reveal deeper, less visible currents shaping literary visibility on the global stage.

Keywords

Implicit Translation Policies, Cultural Diversity, Lusophone Literature

Intra-cultural diplomacy and intra-national translation grants within contemporary multilingual Spain

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Dr Olga Castro

Olga Castro is “Beatriz Galindo” distinguished senior researcher at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain, and Reader (Associate Prof) in Translation and Transcultural Studies at the University of Warwick (on leave, 2024-2027). Her research focuses on the social and political role of translation in the construction of gender and national identities in the Hispanic world, with a particular focus on transnational feminism, multilingualism and stateless cultures in Spain. She is co-founder and editor-in-chief of the journal Feminist Translation Studies (Taylor & Francis). She is currently Co-I of the externally-funded project "Feminist Translation Network" (AHRC, 2024-2025) and member of the project "Translation and Reception of Contemporary Feminisms in Catalonia" (Solidarity Fund UAB, 2024-2026). She has been Principal Investigator of the projects “Stateless Cultures in Translation” (British Academy, 2018-2021) and “Changing the translation landscape from multilingual Spain" (Arts and Humanities Impact Fund, 2022-23). She was Vice-President of the Association of Programmes in Translation and Interpreting of Great Britain and Ireland (APTIS, 2017-2021), as well as Secretary and Vice-President of the International Association for Galician Studies (2009-2015). Since 2017 she is also corresponding member of the Royal Galician Academy.

Abstract

There is much consensus today about the role translation plays in cultural diplomacy via the internationalisation of national literatures. This is also the case in multilingual contemporary Spain, where linguistic diversity determines the common literary heritage of the nation-state. Given the official status of Basque, Catalan and Galician (alongside the hegemonic Castilian-Spanish), since the 2000s different cultural institutions and national/regional governments have been promoting their literatures abroad (Castro and Linares 2022). Yet, literature originally written in the non-hegemonic languages remained mostly inaccessible to fellow Spanish citizens from other territories, except for best-selling authors who often resorted to self-translation into Spanish to reach wider audiences. To fill this gap, in 2021 the Spanish Ministry of Culture put in place a new intra-cultural diplomacy strategy via a translation grant scheme that supports translation within the languages of Spain, with the stated purpose of facilitating mutual understanding among the different literary communities. In this paper, I take the diglossic nature of multilingualism in contemporary Spain as a starting point -which consolidates the hierarchical relationship between hegemonic and non-hegemonic languages- to analyse the sociolinguistic dimension of these intra-state translation grants. Combining a study of both the design of the call for applications and the allocation of funding (publicly available on the government website), I will discuss literary exchages within Spain mediated by these translation grants, with a two-fold aim: first, to offer a better understanding of the ecosystem of agents taking part in these exchanges and their motivations for it; and second, to reflect on the implications of granting State funding for supporting horizonal translations (between non-hegemonic languages) and vertical translations (into or from the hegemonic language), with a view to assessing to which extent they may actually enable (or not) their self-claimed purpose of fostering mutual understanding among the different literary communities.

Keywords

Intra-national translation grants, Literary diversity within the official languages in Spain, Cultural diplomacy within the Spanish nation-state

The representation of cultural diversity in literary translation from Basque

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Dr. Elizabete Manterola Agirrezabalaga

Elizabete Manterola Agirrezabalaga is a Senior Lecturer in Translation and Interpreting at the University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU. She completed her PhD in 2012, which focused on the translation of Basque literature into foreign languages. She has been a member of the research group TRALIMA/ITZULIK since its inception in 2010 and is currently its principal investigator (GIU21/060). She has contributed to research projects such as TRACE (UPV/EHU) and EACT (UAB), which were funded by the Spanish Ministry of Culture. Manterola is the author of the books La literatura vasca traducida (Peter Lang, 2014), where she studies the translation and exportation of Basque literature. Additionally, she established the Catalogue of Basque Literature in Translation (ELI Catalogue), which compiles the references to books translated from Basque into other languages. Her principal research interest is the study of translation from Basque, with a particular focus on literary translation. However, she has also contributed to the field of audiovisual translation. Her research interests include Basque literature and translation, translation in minority language contexts, and self-translation. She has published numerous articles in academic journals as well as monographs with referential publishers. She frequently participates in conferences, symposia and other academic events, and has experience organising them.

Abstract

This paper addresses the general concern of this panel on cultural diversity and literary translation policy-making. To that end, it examines the role of cultural policies as a tool for promoting a national cultural identity abroad. It proposes a case study of the foreign action developed by the Etxepare Basque Institute (hereinafter, Etxepare), a substate national institution created by the Government of the Basque Autonomous Community. Etxepare fosters the cultural creation of local artists abroad, as well as creation in Basque by artists living elsewhere (be it in the neighbouring Basque-speaking regions of Navarre in Spain and the Northern Basque Country in France). In contrast to other substate institutions in Spain which concentrate their promotional activities exclusively on cultural production in the co-official language, Etxepare is distinctive in its promotion of works created in Spanish and Basque. In light of this context, the present study seeks to investigate the way in which Basque culture (as ideological and identitarian concept) is shaped by language and the extent to which linguistic diversity is reflected in the international promotion of translated Basque culture. The autonomy from political powers is a necessary precondition for the success of national institutions (Carbó-Catalan and Roig-Sanz, 2022). Consequently, this paper will assess Etxepare's level of autonomy in defining the notion of Basque culture and in designing actions of cultural promotion for fostering the cultural diversity of the original culture. Actions linked to literary translation performed by Etxepare will be examined, including translation grants, travel aids, cultural exchange projects, and a translation prize. The objective is to evaluate the equilibrium between the promotion of works written in Basque and in Spanish. To this end, the significance of the linguistic component in the promotion of Basque culture abroad will be observed. *Carbó-Catalan and Roig-Sanz, 2022. Culture as Soft Power. DeGruyter.

Keywords

Translation policy, linguistic diversity, foreign action

LT.07 | Panel 39 | The Changing Face of the Translation Studies/Linguistics Interface

Chairs: Léa Huotari, Mairi McLaughlin, Franz Meier

At the Interface of Translation Studies and Linguistics: a Mixed-Methods Analysis of the Translation of Quotations in International News Dispatches

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Dr Léa Huotari

Léa Huotari (PhD) is a university teacher in French and Translation Studies at the University of Turku (Finland). Her main areas of research are cognitive approaches to translation, translation strategies, the visibility of translation and, more recently, journalistic translation and the language of the media. Lately, she has been working on her postdoc project "Translation as a journalistic tool" at the University of California, Berkeley (funded by the Fulbright Finland Foundation) and the University of Tartu (funded by The Finnish Cultural Foundation). Léa is on the editorial board of the Finnish Journal of Linguistics and a member of the Interdisciplinary Research Network in Translation Studies and Linguistics, IntraLing. She is also a member and founder of the research network in journalistic translation NewsTraN.

Prof. Mairi McLaughlin

Mairi McLaughlin is Professor in the Department of French and an Affiliated Member of the Departments of Linguistics and Italian Studies at UC Berkeley. She specializes in French/Romance Linguistics and in Translation Studies. She has published extensively on language contact in French and Romance, on the language of the media, and on journalistic and literary translation. She has a particular interest in the language of the media, especially the role that it plays in language variation and change, the use that is made of reported speech, and the linguistic and textual effects of news translation. Mairi's first book, Syntactic Borrowing in Contemporary French: A Linguistic Analysis of News Translation was published by Legenda in 2011 and her second book, La Presse française historique: histoire d'un genre et histoire de la langue, was published by Garnier in 2021. She published a digital edition of the first periodical devoted to the French language itself, François-Urbain Domergue's Journal de la langue françoise, soit exacte, soit ornée (1784-1795) (McLaughlin 2022) and a critical paper edition of the same periodical is forthcoming with Garnier. Mairi is co-editor (with Wendy Ayres-Bennett) of The Oxford Handbook of the French Language which was published by Oxford University Press in 2024. She is also co-editor (with Janice Carruthers and Olivia Walsh) of the volume Historical and Sociolinguistic Approaches to French which was also published by Oxford University Press in 2024.

Abstract

News agencies occupy a pivotal position within the media system, acting as a primary source of "raw material" and participating in agenda-setting (Lagneau 2002, 59). However, despite their crucial role, little is know about their translation practices, largely due to the methodological challenges inherent to carrying out research on news translation (Davier and van Doorslaer 2018, 242). This paper adopts a methodological approach that lies at the intersection of Translation Studies and Linguistics. It deepens the interdisciplinary work already undertaken on the corpus of news dispatches under analysis (McLaughlin 2011, 2013) within the dynamic field of research on the translation of news (Valdeón 2020). The paper presents a mixed-methods analysis, in line with current standards in the field (Davier et al. 2018). This study focuses on the translation of quotations in news agency dispatches. The analysis combines quantitative and qualitative methods to examine a parallel corpus of 989 dispatches that were translated from English into French by journalists working on the international desk of one of the top three global news agencies. It examines what happens to quotations in the translation process at the dispatch level and the strategies used to translate them. The results of the study underscore the importance of quotations in news agency dispatches. The quantitative analysis clearly identifies three factors that influence the retention or omission of quotations: dispatch length, proportion of quoted tokens within the dispatch, and number of quotations in the dispatch. The qualitative analysis reveals that the vast majority of quotations are retained in translation and translated quite literally. Furthermore, it reveals that the position of the quotation within the dispatch, the nature of the

dispatch, the purpose of the quotation, and the stylistic conventions of newswriting influence the decision to retain, omit, or substitute quotations.

Keywords

News translation, quotations, translation strategies

Particle Verbs in Multiple Contact – Evidence from (Indirect) Translations from French and English in the Italian Scientific Press of the late 18th century

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Franz Meier is an Assistant Professor and teaches French and Italian linguistics at Augsburg University in Germany. His research focuses on the areas of translation studies, language contact, historical syntax, medialinguistics, sociolinguistics, interactional pragmatics, modality, discourse analysis and language ideologies. In April 2016, he received his PhD with a media- and sociolinguistic study on the relevance of linguistic and textual norms in the language awareness of Francophone journalists in the Canadian province of Quebec (title: La perception des normes textuelles, communicationnelles et linguistiques en écriture journalistique: une contribution à l'étude de la conscience linguistique des professionnels des médias écrits québécois). In his habilitation thesis, which he completed in October 2024, he studied the possible influence of Italian translations of French scientific texts on the syntactic development of the Italian scientific language of the late 18th century (title: Konstruktionen in Kontakt: Übersetzungen aus dem Französischen und ihre Rolle für die Entwicklung der Syntax der italienischen Wissenschaftssprache des späten 18. Jahrhunderts). The aim of the study was to analyse translation induced variation in the frequency, form and function of cleft sentences and diathesis constructions. The study contributed to a better understanding of translations as a site of language contact in the history of Romance languages. For the investigation of such translation induced contact phenomena, the study drew on a Diasystematic Construction Grammar (DCxG) approach, which allows a realistic modelling of the translator's multilingual language competence by assuming the existence of language-unspecific constructions.

Abstract

In the Age of Enlightenment, a large part of scientific communication takes place through the periodical press, which constitutes an innovative response to the need to rapidly gather and disseminate knowledge in the European Republic of Letters. From the outset, these journals are closely linked to translation, as they are published at a time when Latin loses its importance as a universal language. In the Italian scientific community, translations from French and English are particularly important. While the Italian scientific language is still strongly influenced by a literary style rich in subordinates and inversions, scientific French and English are characterised by shorter and less convoluted sentences. In the journals under study, translations from English are often indirect translations, i.e. the English texts are first translated into French and these translations then serve as a template for the Italian translation. In this contribution, I look at the use of particle verb constructions in Italian translations of French and English scientific texts from the late 18th century. Particle verbs are multi-word verbs consisting of a verb and one or two particles (e.g. to hand in). While syntagmatic verbs do not exist in French, they are a typological peculiarity of Italian and English. The analysis aims to investigate to what extent the contact with French and English has an influence on the frequency, form and function of particle verbs in late 18th century scientific translations when compared to original, untranslated scientific texts. The analysis is based on a corpus of translations from French and English (direct and indirect) published between 1770 and 1800 in seven Italian scientific journals and on a corpus of untranslated Italian texts published in the same journals.

Keywords

Language contact in translation, particle verbs, indirect translations

Extending the scope of translation-induced language change: migration terminology in multilingual texts

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Dr Edward Clay

Edward Clay is currently a teaching fellow in translation studies at the University of Birmingham, UK. His research interests include empirical and interdisciplinary approaches to translation studies, with a particular interest in translation as a form of language contact and legal translation. He has published research on translation-induced language change in EU legal texts, the third space of legal translation, methodologies for researching terminological variation and translation of migration law. He has also worked as a professional translator for over 10 years and has had a number of fiction, non-fiction and audiovisual translations published. His educational, research and employment background has given him a keen interest in exploring the interface between translation studies and linguistics, especially through applying empirical, data-driven methodologies to gain new insights into both fields of study.

Abstract

This paper presents the first sustained study investigating translation-induced language change in the field of migration terminology and provides a number of innovative corpus approaches to gain new insights into the influence of translation on language change in this area. Building on previous research in translation-induced language change in different language combinations (e.g. Bisiada, 2016; Malamatidou, 2016; McLaughlin, 2013), this research examines changes in migration terminology in two purpose-built corpora consisting of English, French and Italian EU legal texts and press articles covering a pre-defined time frame (1992-1998 & 2015-2018). The research methodology combines novel quantitative and qualitative corpus methods to detect and measure different types of variation (intralingual, interlingual, diachronic and synchronic) in both corpora and identify potential sites of translation-induced language change in migration terminology. This research seeks to determine the extent to which changes propagated by translation can be detected in multilingual legal texts and whether they can spread beyond the genre in which they originate. The key findings from this research reveal i) persistent widespread terminological variation across all three languages in EU legal texts on migration ii) terminological convergence among the three languages studied, suggesting the occurrence of translation-induced language change; iii) isolated instances of contact-induced changes originating in EU texts, before becoming de-terminologised and appearing in press articles.

Keywords

Translation-induced language change, Terminology, Migration

Universal features in machine translations: delving into textual connectives in a comparable corpus with multiple genres

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Abstract

Earlier studies have corroborated that human translations exhibit unique features, usually referred to as translation universals, when compared with source texts and original texts in the target language. With the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence, machine translation is reshaping the landscape of translation studies. This is especially true when large language models are used in translation practices. Does machine translation also show translation universals when compared with reference texts? This study endeavors to answer this question by observing the use of textual connectives that play a crucial role in constructing text and arranging textual elements coherently. Methodologically, we built a comparable corpus with English machine translations, human translations, and English original texts. Machine translations were produced by traditional machine translation systems Google Translate and DeepL and large language models ChatGPT and Claude. To explore the potential influence of genre on the use of connectives in different text varieties, we collected texts with three different genres. We found that 1) for the use of logical connective, adversative and contrastive connective, and temporal connective, both machine translations and human translations are significantly lower than original texts in government documents; 2) for the use of causal connective, machine translations are significantly lower than human translations and original texts in academic abstracts and government documents, while the differences between human translations and original texts are not statistically significant; 3) for the use of additive connectives, machine translations are significantly higher than both original texts and human translations in academic abstracts, while the differences between human translations and original texts are not statistically significant. In addition, differences between traditional machine translations and large language models are also observed in contemporary novels.

Keywords

translation universal, connective, machine translation

Comparing translated and spontaneous speech through the lens of speaker metacommentary in a verbal sentence translation corpus: A call for more translation literacy across linguistic subdisciplines from psycholinguistics to language documentation and revitalization

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Ms Dakota Robinson

Dakota Robinson is a PhD student in Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley. She researches multilingualism at the individual and community levels from both psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic perspectives. In particular, she studies the ways in which cognitive, social, and linguistic factors interact to shape variation above and below the level of speaker consciousness. Her recent work includes studies of phonetic variation in Breton, assessing the dynamic influences of cognitive factors such as priming, lexical accessibility, and language dominance; social factors such as age and gender; and speaker attitudes toward Breton and toward multilingualism. She is also interested in the roles that translation and interpretation play in shaping language attitudes and ideologies and the impact of visibilizing translation and translators on the status of minoritized language varieties.

Abstract

Research in most, if not all, subdisciplines of linguistics frequently calls upon translation methodologies. Some of these applications include the use of lexical or grammatical elicitation tasks in language documentation and description, word and sentence translation tasks in studies of regional dialectology, and experimental paradigms that prompt language switching for analyses of multilingual language processing. In spite of the frequency with which linguists engage with translation, it is often treated as a basic skill at which all multilingual speakers are equally proficient, and it is rarely considered from a more critical perspective in the interpretation of quantitative results, in particular. In order to elucidate the need for increased translation literacy within linguistic research, we examine recordings of a verbal sentence translation task from a speech corpus of Breton (Blanchard & Thomas 2022), a rich resource for both speakers and researchers interested in the language, from multiple angles. First, we present qualitative and quantitative analyses of the differences between translated and spontaneous speech in the corpus. We illustrate the relevance and value of speakers' metacommentary on the act of translating for making sense of observed variation within and between speakers. Additionally, we present results from a sociophonetic study of the translated Breton sentences in the corpus that indicate a positive correlation between the syntactic complexity of the source language sentence and the degree of inter-speaker variation in the production of rhotic segments in the corresponding Breton targets, illustrating the need for linguistic research to treat translated speech more thoughtfully. Lastly, we propose a set of guidelines informed by research in cognitive translation studies (e.g. Halverson 2015) for linguists to more responsibly use translation as a methodology for theoretical linguistic research in the hopes of leading to higher quality, more ethical, and more replicable language research.

Keywords

linguistics/translation studies interface, linguistics pedagogy, research methodologies

Cultural studies as a gateway between translation studies and linguistics in urban context

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Dr. Ge Song

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Abstract

Translation studies were closely linked to linguistics during its early development as a discipline in the latter half of the 20th century, with linguistic approaches serving as the primary means to study translation phenomena. However, the cultural turn in the 1980s brought a significant shift, introducing various new approaches, including hermeneutic, feminist, and philosophical perspectives, which allowed translation studies to proceed independently of linguistics. In the study of languages in urban contexts, the linguistic landscape is crucial for understanding multilingual cities. Since the early 21st century, scholars have delved into this field, primarily using photography to collect data, counting and analyzing language pairs and their prevalence. Their discussions have revolved around issues such as identity, power relations, and language policy. Sherry Simon was a pioneer in linking translation studies with urban linguistic landscapes through her publication Cities in Translation, which initiated fruitful dialogues between the two fields. Over the past five years or so, scholars like Tong King Lee and Ge Song have further examined linguistic landscapes through the lens of translation studies, yielding innovative results that reinterpret the relationships between different languages and between languages and semiotics. Their works have expanded the boundaries of both translation studies and sociolinguistics. Building on these studies, I argue that cultural studies can serve as a powerful link between (socio)linguistics and translation studies in urban settings. The cultural turn in translation studies, combined with the sociocultural context of language display in cities, merges the two disciplines into a new academic paradigm. This interdisciplinary approach enriches our understanding of multilingual urban environments and the complex interplay of language, culture, and translation.

Keywords

cultural studies, linguistic landscape, translation studies

LT.11 | Panel 33 | Shaping the Future of Interpreter Training: Extended Reality and New Digital Tools in the Interpreting Classroom

Chairs: María Abad Colom, Susanna Calvert

Survival of the Fittest: Exploring the Impact of Technology Readiness on the Effectiveness of Virtual Reality in Interpreter Training

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Dr. An-Chi (Angy) CHEN

Chen, An-Chi is an assistant professor of interpreting at the Department of Applied Foreign Languages, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taipei, Taiwan. She holds a PhD in interpreter education from the University of Leeds. Her research of interest includes the learning and development experiences of interpreters, and the use of narrative accounts to demonstrate how trainee interpreters develop to become professional interpreters. Parallel to academic work, An-Chi is also a practicing conference interpreter with Mandarin Chinese (A language) and English (B language). Professionally, as a certified Chinese-English conference interpreter, Angy has accumulated over 800 days of interpreting assignments, providing interpreting services to both public and private sectors in Asia and Europe, across various fields. Angy is also a published author, her renowned “Splendor not Required— An Interpreter’s Life in Sync” is a must-read for anyone looking to understand the art of interpreting.

Abstract

Technological advancements have made integrating technology into education, including interpreter training, a growing trend (Braun et al, 2013; Braun & Slater, 2014; Parmaxi, 2020). This study involved 15 English majors without prior interpreter training, randomly assigned to experimental and control groups with equal pre-test scores for a semester of basic training by the same instructor. The training materials were identical; the experimental group used VR headsets (Meta Quest 2) for simulated themes generated in CoSpaces for interpreting exercises, while the control group performed the exercises in a traditional way with no technological assistance at all. Most of the students generally believed that VR technology was helpful for interpreting learning before the experiment, however, after one semester, the results of the post-test of interpreting proficiency showed that the addition of VR technology did not significantly improve interpreting learning, and there was no significant difference in interpreting performance between the experimental group (VR group) and the control group (non-VR group). To find out whether the difference in learning effectiveness was due to the students' different acceptance of technology, the Technology Readiness Index (TRI) (Parasuraman, 2000) was administered to the subjects and it was found that the higher the TRI, the better the performance on the post-test of interpreting. Therefore, the conclusion of this study is that VR technology is suitable for interpreter training, but it is only suitable for students who have a high level of acceptance of technology. In short, as the integration of technology into interpreter training is becoming a trend, student interpreters with a higher level of technological readiness might be able to learn faster and better in the AI era.

Keywords

interpreter training, virtual reality, Technology Readiness Index

AI-Enhanced Self-Assessment in Interpreter Training: Integrating Digital Platforms and AI Tools

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Chia-chien Chang is a professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at National Taiwan University. She received her MA in Chinese/English Translation and Interpretation from the Monterey Institute of International Studies and her PhD in Foreign Language Education from the University of Texas at Austin. Her major research interests include theoretical and pedagogical aspects of interpreting and translation, second language acquisition, and teaching English as a foreign language.

Prof. Masaru Yamada

Masaru Yamada is a professor in the College and in the Graduate School of Intercultural Communication at Rikkyo University. He received his PhD in intercultural communication (specializing in Translation and Interpreting) from Rikkyo University Graduate School of Intercultural Communication. Drawing on his extensive experience as a linguist and project manager in the translation industry, his current research focuses on translation processes, translation technologies (including CAT, MTPE, and LLMs), and Translation in Language Teaching (TILT). He co-edited Metalanguages for Dissecting Translation Processes: Theoretical Development and Practical Applications (Routledge, 2022) and the special Ampersand issue Empirical Translation Process Research (2024). Other recent publications include “Optimizing Machine Translation through Prompt Engineering: An Investigation into ChatGPT’s Customizability” (MT Summit XIX, 2023). He has served as a board member of the Japan Association of Interpreting and Translation Studies (JAITS) and the Asia-Pacific Association for Machine Translation (AAMT). He is also a member of the editorial board of The Interpreter and Translator Trainer.

Abstract

Self-assessment is a critical component of interpreter education. Yet, students often struggle to evaluate their performance accurately, identify issues to be addressed, and develop solutions, particularly when interpreting into their foreign language (A-to-B language interpreting). This study investigates: 1) How does the integration of AI tools (customized ChatGPTs) and digital platforms (GoReact) impact undergraduate students' engagement in self-assessment when practicing consecutive interpreting into their B language? 2) How does the iterative process of AI interaction and guided discussion influence students' learning experience and metacognitive development? Four interpreting scenarios designed by Chinese/English professional interpreters based on real-life experiences were assigned to students over 8 weeks. Each scenario was accompanied by a professional interpreting example that could be used for comparison during the in-class discussion. During the 8 weeks, students learned to create customized ChatGPTs that can provide feedback in line with the assessment criteria of consecutive interpreting, to experiment with different prompts, and to regularly update their AI learning assistants. They also wrote reflective essays to examine the benefits and limitations of AI and to analyze differences between AI-generated output and professional interpreter examples. While data collection included platform analytics, students’ chat records, reflective essays, questionnaires, and in-depth interviews, the analysis focuses primarily on students' prompts to investigate how their engagement with AI evolved over time and how prompting functioned both as a learning strategy and as an indicator of metacognitive development. The findings suggest that when implemented thoughtfully, AI can not only support target language production but also facilitate deeper forms of learning, including the development of reflective habits and learner autonomy—competencies essential to professional interpreting. However, the study underscores that this development does not occur organically. Students' increasing sophistication in AI interaction was driven by deliberate pedagogical scaffolding, including structured classroom discussions, purposeful task design, and guided reflection. These elements

enabled students to critically engage with both the possibilities and limitations of AI. The results thus highlight the importance for interpreter educators to move beyond merely providing technological tools and basic prompting techniques. Instead, they must adopt pedagogical strategies that nurture critical engagement and metacognitive development.

Keywords

AI tools, self-assessment, interpreter education

Creating an interactive training environment for dialogue interpreting

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Dr. Anne Catherine Gieshoff

Anne Catherine Gieshoff received her PhD in interpreting studies from the University of Mainz and is now a research associate at the ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences, where she conducts research relevant to interpreting studies using quantitative and psychophysiological methods. She focuses on cognitive effort and load, visual input, and extended realities. She is a co-host of the science podcast 'Minds between Languages' with Nataša Pavlović (idea and design by Adolfo García) and a member of IATIS, EST and TREC.

Mrs Birgit Fuhrmann

Birgit Fuhrmann received her M.A. in Applied Linguistics (specialization: Organizational Communication) from the ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences. She dedicates herself to research and teaching activities in Technical Communication and Usability and is currently leading the lecturer group "Technical Communication" at ZHAW. She is a member of tekom Germany, UIG e.V., and SENTeCom as well as a board member of Tecom Switzerland.

Mr Samuel Truniger

Samuel Truniger holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Information Technology. He is pursuing a Master of Science in Engineering with a specialization in Data Science at the ZHAW Centre for Artificial Intelligence. As a research assistant at ZHAW, he actively contributes to projects in web development, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence.

Mr. Zaniyar Jahany

Zaniyar Jahany is a research associate at ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences, School of Engineering, with a background in software engineering. He is involved in varios projects related to Industry 4.0 and Augmented Reality and is currently working on a blockchain- and augmented reality-related startup. Zaniyar is a Core Contributor at swissDAO.

Abstract

Community and public service interpreters (CPSI) interpret encounters in health care, legal or social settings. The skills required to interpret in these settings are similar to those of conference interpreters (Tiselius, 2021). Compared to conference interpreters, however, many CPSI seem to receive only short training (Hanft-Robert & Mösko, 2024). In a recent project, we explored the feasibility of creating a virtual reality app (VR) that leverages AI to generate bilingual, interactive dialogues for dialogue interpreting practice. VR has already been tested as a means to enhance the training of CPSI. They work with pre-recorded dialogues (Chan, 2022; Eser et al., 2020; Gerber et al., 2021) or video chat with other trainees (Braun et al., 2013, 2020). The reports published on these applications show that students experience these applications usually as very engaging and relevant for their training (Braun et al., 2020; Chan, 2022; Eser et al., 2020). But pre-recorded dialogues, though authentic, have important limitations as the trainee has no possibility to interact with the VR avatars. Video-chats offer the opportunity for live role-play and hence, more interaction, but require co-trainees who share the working language. To overcome these limitations, we tested the use AI to generate a bilingual dialogue. The dialogue was embedded in a VR environment that simulated an encounter between a patient and a doctor. The aim was to generate dialogues that 1) dynamically adapt to the interpretation, 2) resemble

encounters typically mediated by CPSI, 3) use typical migrant languages which such as Tigrinya, Dari or Kurmanji. A prototype of the app was tested in a user observation with 11 CPSI to assess the practicality and feasibility of this idea. Each participants tested the app with one of the 20 most common migrant languages in Switzerland, filled in the User Experience Questionnaire (Laugwitz et al., 2008) and SUS (Brooke, 1996), and described their experience in a post-task interview. We will present the functionalities of the prototype and report on the results user observation.

Keywords

community and public service interpreting, interpreter training, virtual reality app

(Un-)finished Stories: Crafting interactive digital training tools of interpreted encounters through the use of storytelling

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Mr. Harald Pasch

Harald Pasch studied Transcultural Communication and Interpreting at the Department of Translation Studies in Graz. He worked as a Hungarian tutor and co-hosted a university-based study skills and peer mentoring workshop throughout his studies. Since 2015, he has been working as a freelance interpreter and translator. His working languages are German, Hungarian, and English. He is involved in training interpreters both within and outside of the university context, regularly organises workshops for counsellors and psychologists working with interpreters in the asylum context and has given lectures for the Austrian Association of Sworn and Court Certified Interpreters on interpreting for victims/survivors of gender-based violence. As a member of the Erasmus+ funded project ReTrans – Working with Interpreters in Refugee Transit Zones, he participated in carrying out a needs assessment with stakeholders working with interpreters, conducting interviews with interpreters, and the production of interactive stories on interpreting in trans-border migration contexts. He is currently a university assistant at the University of Vienna (2020 – 2024) and is preparing his doctoral dissertation on multilingual access to counselling services of Violence Protection Centres in Austria. His research interests include trust-based cooperation in interpreter-mediated communication, interpreting in the context of gender-based violence, self-care practices for interpreters working in the psychosocial sphere, interpreting and vulnerability, interpreting didactics, and interprofessional education.

Ms. Maria Bernadette Zwischenberger

Maria Bernadette Zwischenberger is a research assistant (2020–2024) and doctoral candidate at the University of Vienna's Centre for Translation Studies. She holds a BA in Transcultural Communication and an MA in Translation (German, English, French) both from the University of Vienna and specializes in Dialogue Interpreting. She also completed further training on speech-to-text interpreting for DHH people. Her PhD research is concerned with feminist approaches, especially intersectional thinking, in interpreting studies and interpreting in women-run social movement organizations. As part of an EU-funded project team (ReTrans – Working with Interpreters in Refugee Transit Zone: Capacity Building and Awareness-Raising for Higher Education Contexts) she devised and produced open access training materials for interpreters and stakeholders in refugee transit zones. In cooperation with scholars from Applied Game Studies, she headed an interdisciplinary elective course together to craft interactive stories on interpreted events for people affected by forced migration drawing on game-based education and storytelling. Maria Bernadette teaches note-taking, dialogue interpreting and interpreting techniques to students and practitioners in the MA Translation program at the University of Vienna and a vocational training centre. Through user-training workshops, she also works with psychologists and counsellors in the Austrian asylum context on interprofessional cooperation.

Abstract

Literature on interpreting in conflict, public services, and for humanitarian aid response repeatedly drew attention to the many different challenges arising in interpreter-assisted cross-cultural communication, underlining the need to address these issues in interpreter training (Ruiz Rosendo & Todorova 2023). To better equip future interpreters for these realities, it is crucial to explore such challenges when training interpreters, using teaching formats that simulate real-world conditions. Produced as part of the Erasmus+ project ReTrans – Working with Interpreters in Refugee Transit Zones, researchers and students of Translation Studies and Game Studies collaborated to devise digital interactive stories which function as open educational resources. Game-based education, playful learning, and interactive storytelling are combined to foster interpreters' critical thinking (Angelelli et al. 2023) when navigating challenging circumstances. In this contribution, we discuss students' experiences creating stories that mirror interpreting events in transborder migration zones by drawing on their reflections written as part of the elective course "Interpreting Studies meets Game Studies" offered at the University of Vienna (summer semester 2023). These reflections are thematically analysed (see Braun & Clarke 2022) to examine the interdisciplinary collaborative production

process and the use of storytelling in interpreter education. Angelelli, C. V., Muller de Campos Ribeiro, G., Roris Severino, M., Johnstone, E., Borzenkova, G. & Costa Oliveira da Silva, D. (2023). Developing Critical Thinking Skills through Gamification. Thinking Skills and Creativity 49, 1–13. Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2022). Thematic analysis: A practical guide. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications Ltd. Lightfoot, M. H. (2015). Interaction and Gamification: An Evolving Intersection with Online Interpreter Education. In S. Ehrlich & J. Napier (Eds.), Interpreter education in the digital age: innovation, access, and change (pp. 68–94). Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press. Ruiz Rosendo, L., & Todorova, M. (2023). Interpreter Training in Conflict and Post-Conflict Scenarios. Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge.

Keywords

interpreter training, game-based education, humanitarian crisis interpreting

Beyond skills training: VR as a safe space for future interpreters and public sector professionals

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Dr María Abad Colom

María Abad Colom is Associate Professor at Oslo Metropolitan University in Norway. She holds a BA in Translation and Interpreting from the University of Alicante (2007), a European Master's Degree in Conference Interpreting from the University of La Laguna (2008), and a PhD in Conference Interpreting (cum laude) from the University of Alicante (2019). She has been Newsletter editor for the European Society for Translation Studies since 2019, and an editor for the European Union's Public Sector Interpreting Mapping Community at the Knowledge Center for Interpretation since 2022. María teaches consecutive and simultaneous interpreting at the BA in Public Sector Interpreting at OsloMet. This BA trains students in four different language combinations each year, with Norwegian as the common language. The degree is designed to meet the needs of the Norwegian society, so many of the working languages offered are languages of lesser diffusion (LLD). Since 2017, María has taught consecutive and simultaneous interpreting technique to students working between Norwegian and Amharic, Arabic, Dari, English, French, Latvian, Lithuanian, Mandarin, Turkish, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Somali, Sorani, Spanish, Tigrinya, Urdu, and Vietnamese. She is currently teaching a group with Polish, Somali, Thai, and Ukrainian. As a researcher, María is interested in the pedagogy of interpreting, the application of new technologies to interpreter training, and the status of translation and interpreting in the public sector. She is currently leading VR-LINK, an cross-sectional, interinstitutional research project exploring potential uses of VR simulation to train future interpreters and public sector professionals in Norway.

Ms Susanna Calvert

Susanna Calvert holds a BA in Norwegian as a Second Language from the University of Oslo and is currently writing her masters' thesis in the same field. She has been responsible for overseeing technical solutions in the Interpreting Department at OsloMet for over 15 years and is one of the precursors of VR-LINK. Susanna currently teaches Interpreting in Complex settings at the BA in Public Sector Interpreting at OsloMet.

Abstract

The importance of interpreting for safe communication in the public sector (PS) is well-known to the TIS community, but not necessarily to those sitting at the other end of the table. In Norway, PS professionals are likely to depend on interpreting at some point in their professional lives, and interpreting in the public sector is regulated by Law (Tolkeloven, 2021). Despite this, future teachers, nurses, social workers, lawyers, etc. generally get little to no training on how to work with interpreters during their studies. At the same time, interpreters in training can rarely practice in real-life scenarios or shadow professional interpreters. Training programs typically compensate for the lack of first-hand educational experiences in the field with role-play, group discussions on theoretical scenarios, observation of public court sessions, and other off-site resources. In recent years, virtual reality (VR) has emerged as a new tool in university education, also in interpreter training. So far, VR has been mostly approached from a practical perspective, for example in simultaneous interpreting practice (see Braun et al., 2013; Eser et al., 2020; Gerber et al., 2021). In contrast, the ERGOTOLK-VR project is aimed at targeting future PS interpreters and professionals alike to reflect on the realities and challenges of multicultural communication. To do so, four 360° VR films were developed, and pilot tested on 19 interpreting and occupational therapy students at OsloMet in 2023 and 2024. The films depict realistic situations on communication across language barriers, with and without interpreting. The results of this quantitative study, based on individual questionnaires and group interviews, show that VR can help prepare PS professionals to detect the need for interpreting and learn how to communicate via interpreters. Among interpreting students, VR was perceived as a valuable tool to get insights on the work of PS professionals, and a safe space to discuss situations where interpreters are faced with difficult choices.

Keywords

virtual reality (VR), interpreter training, public sector interpreting

LT.17 | Panel 13 | Disruption or Facilitation? Teacher Development and HE Responses to Language-industry (R)evolutions in the AI Age

Chairs: Maria Piotrowska, Gary Massey, Mariusz Marczak

Navigating AI Disruption in T&I Education: A Case Study of Institutional Responses Including a Curriculum Reform

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Dr. Katia Iacono

Katia Iacono is a Senior Lecturer and researcher at the Centre for Translation Studies of the University of Vienna, where she also serves as the Director of Studies. Her main research interests include dialogue interpreting, especially in medical settings, translation/interpreting management, and interpreting/translation didactics. She has been a freelance translator and interpreter since 2009, and her working languages are Italian, German, Spanish, and English.

Dr. Michaela Ripplinger

Michaela Chiaki Ripplinger is a Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Translation Studies of the University of Vienna and currently also serves as one of two Vice-Directors of Studies. Holding degrees in both technical translation and conference interpreting, she has worked as a freelance translator and interpreter since 2007. Her working languages are German, English, and Japanese.

Abstract

The disruptive force of recent technological advances and particularly generative AI have been both facilitating and complicating the practice and teaching of Translation and Interpreting (T&I). While technological developments have been incorporated on the institutional level, the research on integration of AI in HE often presents inconclusive findings about these technologies (Bates et al. 2020). Faculty in T&I programs particularly perceive the question of dealing with generative AI as challenging (ELIS 2024). This report examines a T&I department's responses to these challenges. At the university level, strategies included university-wide guidelines on legal and ethical issues and access to a data privacy-centric AI -tool. At the T&I department level, a working group was established to develop guidelines for the use of AI in undergraduate and graduate programs. To support lecturers in developing the skills needed to deal with technological possibilities, upskilling workshops and opportunities for lecturers to reflect on their ways of teaching and assessing T&I have been increased. A further response to the rapid evolution of the field was a reform of the master's curriculum. Adaptations in competence modelling resulted in the establishment of new courses and assessment modalities, and the strengthening of specific profiles. As part of the process, working groups were formed to work out course designs based on the new curriculum. To ensure that also student perspectives were considered in the changes made to the curriculum, a student survey was carried out and student representatives were members of the curricular working group. Furthermore, student multipliers and tutors have been recruited to support teachers in implementing digital pedagogy methods and tools. Bates, Tony, et al. 2020. "Can Artificial Intelligence Transform Higher Education?" International Journal of Educational Technology in Higher Education 17 (42): 1–12.ELIS. 2024. "European Language Industry Survey 2024." ELIA.

Keywords

T&I education, Generative AI, Teacher development

Transformation in Competence Modeling of Translation Teachers in the AI Age

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Xi'an Shiyou University, Shaanxi, China

Prof Hui Liu

Liu Hui, Professor of English at Xi'an Shiyou University. Master of Arts in Translation, graduated from Xi'an International Studies University. Sponsored by the China Scholarship Council to conduct research as a visiting scholar at the University of Portsmouth in the UK from 2012 to 2013, where she focused on computer-assisted translation and translation teaching. She has been extensively involved in teaching English and Translation. Lectures cover a wide range of undergraduate courses including "Translation Theory and Practice," "English-Chinese Translation," "Basic English" and "English Phonetics." For graduate students specializing in Translation, she teaches courses such as "Introduction to Applied Translation" and "Computer-Assisted Translation." A principal editor of the "New Century Chinese-English Dictionary", a main translator for "DK Oxford Illustrated English-Chinese Dictionary", and the associate chief editor for the second edition of the "New Century Chinese-English Dictionary". Author of two textbooks: "A Practical Coursebook on English-Chinese and Chinese-English Translation" and "English Phonetics: E-Learning and E-Practice". In recent years, she has led and participated in over 30 scientific research and educational reform projects related to translation, and has published over 60 academic papers. Additionally, she has long been engaged in the translation of scientific documents, accumulating more than one million characters in translation practice. She has been awarded the second prize of the "Fourth China Outstanding Achievement Award in Humanities and Social Sciences among Universities" and the first prize of the "Shaanxi Province Philosophy and Social Sciences Outstanding Achievement Award" as a key contributor.

Dr Yan Zhang

Zhang Yan, PhD (Philology), Dean of the Russian Language Faculty, Xi'an Shiyou University (Xi'an, China), has her main research areas focused on language theory, cognitive linguistics, language and culture, and foreign language teaching. Meanwhile , she has published over 20 papers, one monograph, and edited two textbooks in related fields.

Miss Yan Wang

Wang Yan, female, 26 years old, graduated from Xi'an Shiyou University with a master's degree major in translation. During her undergraduate years, she was awarded the second-class scholarship for three consecutive years. Simultaneously, she actively participated in various English competitions and Model United Nations conferences, which not only honed her speaking and debating skills but also equipped her with invaluable teamwork experience. In her graduate studies, she focused on translation practice and research, engaging in multiple innovative and practical projects. During her internship, she successfully completed translation tasks exceeding 150,000 words. Furthermore, she participated in multiple research projects under the guidance of her supervisors and published one paper on Advances in Higher Education.

Mr Yutian Luo

Luo Yutian, male, 24 years old, graduated from Xi'an Shiyou University with a Master's degree in Translation. He is currently working as a English teacher at Xi'an Minde Institute of Technology. During the graduate studies, he obtained relevant English proficiency certificates and published a paper in the journal Advances in Higer Education.

Abstract

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into translation practices has fundamentally altered the translation industry, necessitating a paradigm shift in translation education. This paper examines the impact of AI on translation workflows, and explores its implications for translator training. By analyzing trends such as curriculum modernization and challenges like ethical dilemmas and technological dependency, the study highlights the evolving role of translation educators, thus constructing a competence model for future translation teachers. This model emphasizes technological proficiency, pedagogical innovation, ethical

oversight, and adaptive lifelong learning. Practical recommendations for teacher training include AI-integrated professional development, industry-academia collaborations, and policy reforms. The study contributes to advancing translation pedagogy in the AI era, ensuring educators are equipped to foster critical, ethically aware translators.

Keywords

Artificial Intelligence, Competence Modeling, Teacher Training

Translators' Environmental Impact in the Age of AI: Implications for Translation Competence and Training

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Dr Patricia Rodríguez-Inés

Patricia Rodríguez-Inés, PhD, is a senior lecturer in the Department of Translation, Interpreting and East Asian Studies of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Her research interests include translator training; corpus linguistics applied to translation; and translation competence, its acquisition and the identification of its levels. Her doctoral thesis on developing competence in the use of electronic corpora for translator training earned a number of accolades. She has been a member of the PACTE research group and chair of the TREC researcher network. She has participated in 20 regional, national and international funded projects, the most recently completed being the European project EFFORT (Towards a European Framework of Reference for Translation), which she coordinated. She is the author of over 50 publications about translator training, corpora and translation competence. She is the principal investigator of the FORTI (Translator and Interpreter Training) research group and currently coordinates a project aimed at raising awareness of the environmental impact of translators' professional activities among teachers, students and practitioners.

Abstract

The intersection of translation practice and environmental sustainability is an area of increasing concern, especially with the recent surge in popularity of (generative) artificial intelligence. While AI can streamline translation processes, optimizing the use of resources such as energy and time, increased reliance on AI technologies also brings environmental challenges, including the substantial energy consumption required to train and operate large-scale language models. Recent technological advancements call for a re-evaluation of translation competence, particularly in areas such as technological proficiency and ethical awareness. A deeper understanding of AI tools and their environmental implications must now be incorported into some of the traditional components of translation competence, which include linguistic, cultural, thematic and instrumental knowledge and skills. Translators must be trained to rationalize and optimize the use of AI tools in an environmentally responsible manner, balancing efficiency in their productivity with sustainability. This shift underscores the need for an updated translator training curriculum that emphasizes the responsible use of technology, awareness of the environmental costs of digital practices, and the development of strategies to mitigate these impacts. That entails upskilling translation teachers, who should, we feel, develop students' AI and environmental literacy simultaneously. A project aimed at raising awareness of the environmental impact of translators' professional activities is currently being carried out at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. This paper will presents its first results, which include a guide to everyday activities — notably including AI-driven searches — that translators could perform in a more environmentally friendly manner, with all suggestions backed up by scientific data. Additionally, AI-related learning outcomes and translation activities for achieving them will be described. Lastly, the results of a study on the prominence of translation-related environmental concerns in (1) publication databases and (2) a corpus of professional associations' codes of ethics will be presented.

Keywords

environmental awareness in translation, AI literacy, translation competence

Exploring the use of Creativity and Critical Thinking in the Translation Classroom: a case study

Dr. Raquel Martínez Motos
University of Alicante, Alicante, Spain

Dr. Raquel Martínez Motos

Raquel Martínez Motos holds a BA in Translation and Interpreting from the University of Granada and a PhD in Translation and Interpreting from the University of Alicante. She is also accredited as a Sworn Translator and Interpreter of English. She has been working as a lecturer at the English Department of the University of Alicante since 2004, where she currently teaches general translation, legal translation and economic translation In 2007 she published A Terminological Dictionary of the Pharmaceutical Sciences (English-Spanish), co-authored with Dr. Enrique Alcaraz Varó and Dr. Alfonso Domínguez-Gil Hurlé and sponsored by the Spanish Royal Academy of Pharmacy. Currently, her main lines of research are creativity and critical thinking in translation as well as non-sexist langue and translation.

Abstract

In the current socio-economic scenario –globally marked by artificial intelligence, volatility and instability- new studies seem more necessary than ever to explore alternative teaching perspectives and practices that address the concerns and needs of current higher education, including the training of translators-to-be. Creativity and critical thinking present themselves as key competences that may contribute to the provision and enhancement of skills such as flexibility and adaptability. And these would contribute to students' competitiveness and dynamism in today's society and labor markets. The CC-Trans project (Creativity and Critical Thinking in Translation) is based on the premise that creativity and critical thinking are trainable and have a parallel and bidirectional relationship. Within this framework, the project aims at assessing the effects of the implementation of tools and dynamics that foster creativity and critical thinking with regards to students' performance and learning experience. Information about their conceptual understanding of both competences, as well as the importance they assign to them in relation to their learning experience and future needs, was obtained through a preliminary survey carried out among our translation undergraduate students. The data obtained were used as a baseline for the design of actions that would provide students with the opportunity to increase their awareness around the potential role of creativity and critical thinking in class and in their future, and to target their use on a practical level. The objectives of this paper are: to present some of the key findings of the above-mentioned preliminary survey; to describe the design and implementation of two tools specifically created for the translation classroom. One is aimed at bringing forward a consensual, shared definition of the concepts of creativity and critical thinking while the other is focused on providing students with a framework for assessing the suitability of these competences in the translation process.

Keywords

creativity, critical thinking, translation

Redesigning T&I programs: Embedding GenAI in Terminology Training

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Prof. Pilar Sánchez-Gijón

Pilar Sánchez-Gijón is professor at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She is member of Gelea2LT at UAB, and is mostly interested in translation technologies and the acquisition of digital literacy skills. She is a member of the coordination team of the Masters' in Tradumàtica and the chief editor of Revista Tradumàtica.

Dr. Christian Olalla-Soler

Christian Olalla-Soler holds a Ph.D. in Translation and Intercultural Studies from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and is an associate professor in the Department of Translation, Interpreting, and East Asian Studies at UAB since October 2023. His research focuses on the metascience of Translation and Interpreting Studies, examining methods, research communication, scientific reproducibility, and research evaluation, with a particular emphasis on bibliometric analysis. His postdoctoral work at the University of Bologna allowed for further exploration into metascience and involvement in organizing international conferences, as well as contributions to European projects on remote interpreting. He has been active in publishing, lecturing, and participating in initiatives related to open science in Translation and Interpreting Studies. Olalla-Soler's earlier research focused on the acquisition of cultural competence in translation, laying a foundation for later studies in metascience. He has participated in several research projects, including those involving artificial intelligence in computer-assisted interpreting. His academic output includes thirty-nine publications, encompassing articles, book chapters, and a co-edited book, contributing to ongoing discussions in Translation and Interpreting Studies, metascience, and open science.

Abstract

The rise of neural machine translation (NMT) introduced us Language Models (LM) and their significant potential for enhancing fluency and text revision. However, it was the advent of large language models (LLMs), particularly those facilitating interaction through chatbots, that truly integrated artificial intelligence (AI) into the digital translation toolkit. The latest innovation in this field, generative AI (GenAI), is already making an impact on professional translation and terminology tasks. As a resource applicable to nearly every task of the translation process, GenAI is reshaping workflows and the conditions under which these tasks are carried out. By closely examining the strengths and weaknesses of GenAI, we can better define its role as a T&I training tool (Sánchez-Gijón and Olalla-Soler, forthcoming). This presentation delves into the integration of GenAI for applied terminology training, specifically for T&I students. Traditional approaches to terminology training, such as term extraction and definition, are often undervalued by those outside the profession and, despite their benefits, are frequently overlooked by professionals due to time constraints. This study explores how GenAI can enhance terminological research, focusing on tasks like identifying terms, understanding conceptual features and relationships, and refining definitions. Utilizing a customized GPT model, the research shows how tools like ChatGPT can simplify these processes, improving the effectiveness of training. The proposed methodology builds on established terminological research principles (Cabré 1992, Wright 2001) and seeks to close the gap between academic training and professional practice by leveraging AI for efficient, high-quality terminological research. This presentation concludes with a reflection on the adaptations teachers must undertake to effectively integrate these tools into T&I education. This dual focus on both the tool's application and the pedagogical strategies required for its integration addresses the broader challenges of teacher development in a context of technological advancement.

Keywords

Generative AI, Terminology training, T&I training

Evidence-informed recommendations for computer-assisted interpreter training: Supporting education and professional development in a changing professional landscape.

Mrs Francesca Frittella
University of Surrey / Centre for Translation Studies, Guildford, United Kingdom. University of Twente / Centre of Expertise in Learning and Teaching, Enschede, Netherlands

Mrs Francesca Frittella

Francesca is a conference interpreter, trainer, and educational consultant. She is concluding a PhD research project at the University of Surrey's (UK) Centre for Translation Studies combining research on interpreting technology (computer-assisted interpreting) with educational design research. She also provides training for interpreters' professional associations and universities and works as an Educational Adviser at the University of Twente (NL).

Abstract

Computer-assisted interpreting (CAI), particularly the use of tools powered by automatic speech recognition (ASR) and AI during simultaneous interpreting (SI), has taken centre stage in discussions about interpreting and technology in recent years. CAI tools offer potential gains in terms of workflow efficiency and performance accuracy. Their effective use may be regarded as an important 'skill of the future' for interpreters, helping them muster the challenges of an increasingly technologised and fast-changing professional landscape. However, despite the growing importance of CAI, the educational dimension of this activity has been dedicated little attention to date. Particularly, no research has been conducted to define training needs and requirements. This presentation is based on a PhD research project which investigated CAI as performed by experienced conference interpreters to identify the key knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for this complex activity and ultimately derive recommendations for training. The presentation will discuss how CAI skills were modelled starting from a combination of performance, behavioural, and interview data, which was analysed and interpreted in a process of Cognitive Task Analysis based on an interpretive framework of complex cognitive skills theory and SI expertise research. It will then discuss how these insights were translated into instructional design recommendations based on the Four-Component Instructional Design (4C/ID) model. The project represents an example of how research can serve as a tool to generate educational knowledge about a new technology-supported activity in T&I. The discussion will highlight how such knowledge may support educators in crucial educational tasks, such as defining an overall training strategy, developing training materials, providing diagnostic feedback, etc.

Keywords

computer-assisted interpreting, skill modelling, evidence-informed instructional design

LT.19 | Panel 15 | Easy-to-Understand Languages in Translation Studies

Chair: Anna Matamala

Easy Audios and How to Make Them: Prosody Results from Experiments with Users

Ms Marina Pujadas-Farreras
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

Ms Marina Pujadas-Farreras

Marina Pujadas Farreras is a PhD student at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, where she studies oral Easy Language and Media Accessibility. She is a member of the research group TransMedia Catalonia (2021SGR00077), and her research is linked to the R&D project WEL (PID2022-137058NB-I00). She is also an FI grant holder from the Catalan Government (2022FI_B 00097) and has collaborated with the H2020 project GreenSCENT (Grant Agreement no. 101036480). She has participated in various national and international conferences, workshops, and schools.

Abstract

Recently, the concept of “easy audios” has gained traction within the field of Easy Language. In Spain, several easy audios services have started to appear. Tourist attractions such as La Pedrera, the Burgos Cathedral, and the Villafranca de los Barros Museum now offer easy audio guides in various languages, such as Catalan, Spanish, or English. Although not currently available, the company Aptent previously provided easy audio explanations for theatre plays a few years ago. In the academic field, projects like WEL (From Written to Oral Texts in Easy Language: Easy Audios in Cultural Visits and Video Games) have begun to explore how existing guidelines and recommendations for Easy Language, traditionally centred on written texts, can be adapted for audiovisual content. Despite these developments, there is still a lack of research on central themes necessary to define how these easy audios should be made. This presentation will report on the results of an experiment focusing on prosody in Easy Language. More specifically, an experiment investigating speech rate. The study included 101 participants divided into three groups: two groups of easy audio users (one consisting of individuals with intellectual disabilities and another of language learners) and a third control group. This experiment assessed the participants' comprehension of easy audios in Catalan at four different speeds: 130 words per minute (wpm), 150 wpm, 170 wpm, and 190 wpm. Additionally, it assessed the acceptability of each speed and the speed preferences of each group.

Keywords

easy language, easy audios, speech rate

Could easy-to-understand language improve game accessibility for players with dyslexia? Results from a focus group

Mr Miguel Ángel Oliva-Zamora, Mrs Carme Mangiron
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Mr Miguel Ángel Oliva-Zamora

Miguel Ángel Oliva-Zamora holds a BA in Translation and Interpreting from the Universidad de Granada (UGR) and a MA in Audiovisual Translation from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). Thanks to the PhD grant he has been awarded with, he is now able to research video game accessibility and the implementation of easy-to-understand language. He is currently a member of the research group TransMedia Catalonia at the UAB and develops his work as part of the WEL project (From written to oral texts in Easy Language: easy audios in cultural visits and video games, PID2022-137058NB-I00, funded byMCIU/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by ERDF, EU).

Mrs Carme Mangiron

Carme Mangiron, PhD, is an associate professor, a member of the research group TransMedia Catalonia at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and a member of the knowledge transfer network AccessCat. She was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award at UAB in 2022. She has extensive experience as a translator, specializing in software and game localisation. Her main research areas are game localisation, game accessibility, audiovisual translation and accessibility to the media. She has published extensively in international journals and participated in several national and international research projects. She is currently leading, together with Anna Matamala, the WEL project (From written to oral texts in Easy Language: easy audios in cultural visits and video games, PID2022-137058NB-I00,funded by MCIU/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by ERDF, EU. She is co-author of Game Localization: Translating for the Global Digital Entertainment Industry (O'Hagan and Mangiron, 2013), and the main organiser of the Fun for All Conference, about game translation and accessibility, which is held at UAB every two years.

Abstract

Video games are fundamental in the entertainment sector. In order to maximise their return on investment, developers should ensure games are accessible to the largest audience possible. This study focuses on elucidating the needs of players with dyslexia regarding video games. To this end, we performed two focus groups: one with four participants and another one with five. For each group, we chose participants with different ages and different playing habits for representativeness. During the discussion, we asked them about their preferences when buying and playing video games, and then showed them written and audio materials with both a standard language and an easy-to-understand (E2U) language, that is, a language with a simplified structure, grammar and vocabulary. Results showed that dyslexic users found difficulties when engaging in a game that was heavily text-driven, thus opting for action games or games with a faster pace in general. They were interested in having all information in audio, and would often use subtitles and controls reassignment. Among the materials we shared, they preferred the E2U version of the written text, and did not notice substantial differences between the standard and the E2U versions of the audios. In the conclusion, we outline the next step of the project, which will consist of a reception study in which these accessibility options can be tested with users, to ensure people with dyslexia can access and enjoy all video games.

Keywords

Video game, Cognitive accessibility, Focus group

Going off the rails: easy-to-understand videos at the Bragança's Railway Museum

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Instituto Politécnico de Bragança, Bragança, Portugal

Prof. Cláudia Martins

Cláudia Martins holds a PhD in Translation by the University of Aveiro, with a thesis on museum accessibility for people with visual impairment. She was awarded a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Translation and Intercultural Studies (Spain) and master in Terminology and Translation and bachelor's degree in Modern Languages and Literatures, both at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto, Portugal. Since 2001, she has been teaching English as a foreign language, English Linguistics, Terminology and Audiovisual Translation at the School of Education in the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Portugal. Her academic interests include Terminology, Phraseology and Paremiology, Audiovisual Translation, with a special focus on Media Accessibility.

Abstract

The ideal easy-to-understand (E2U) texts would be produced as accessible from the start, in line with integrated approaches that have been put forward by, for instance, Romero-Fresco – accessible film making (2018) and access as conversation (2022) – or Thompson – creative audiodescription (2021) and inclusive co-creative audiodescription (2022). However, this is seldom the case and, more often than not, specialists are called in to translate/ adapt already existing audiovisual (AV) texts with fast-pacing sequences of images and dialogues. Therefore, the challenge to overcome the complexity and (in)comprehensibility levels (cf. Mass, 2020) of these texts is heightened. This paper aims to present and describe an experiment conducted with 8 videos on display at the National Railway Museum of Bragança, one of the cultural venues that was part of the project "Cultura para Todos para Bragança" (NORTE-07-4230-FSE-000058) that the Bragança Polytechnic University, in Portugal, carried out for the Municipality of Bragança between 2021 and 2023. The first approach was to simplify the subtitles and slow down the speed of the videos, which turned out to be unsuccessful when tested with our consultants with intellectual disability. As a result, other methodologies had to be devised to meet the requirements of our consultants: 1) to replace the original audios, following international standards for audio information (Matamala, 2023), and 2) to subtitle them complying with easy subtitle requirements (Bernabé-Caro & García, 2019; Bernabé-Caro & Cavallo, 2021). Ultimately, the aim was to create "easy audios" (Matamala, 2023). Therefore, I seek to discuss the various stages of this experiment with the Railway Museum videos, assessing their pros and cons, and how the new easy audios were met by the team of consultants.

Keywords

people with intellectual disability, easy audios, easy subtitles

'Everybody dance!' Easy Language and Audio described alt text as accessible paratext in inclusive dancing

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Dr Martyn Gray

Dr Martyn Gray is Assistant Professor in Translation Studies at the University of Nottingham. He teaches both theoretical and practical translation modules at undergraduate and postgraduate level and is currently Course Director for the BA Modern Languages with Translation. He completed his doctoral thesis at the University of Nottingham in 2021. His recently released monograph (2024), entitled Making the 'Invisible' Visible? Reviewing Translated Works, focusses on the criteria against which translated works are assessed in the year 2022.

Prof Pierre-Alexis Mével

Prof Pierre-Alexis Mével is Associate Professor in Translation Studies at the University of Nottingham (United Kingdom) and is the creator and director of the MA in Translation Studies. He teaches Translation Theory and Audiovisual Translation at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. He is the author of a monograph entitled Can We Do the Right Thing? Subtitling African American English into French (Peter Lang, 2017) and has published extensively in the field of audiovisual translation. He has a particular interest in the inclusive practices for the screen as well as live performances.

Abstract

This presentation focusses on the use of Easy Language and audio described alt text to promote accessibility on the dancefloor. Specifically, it concentrates on the way that Easy Language and audio described alt text can be used to foster inclusivity in a participatory framework in order to engage people from some of Nottingham's most deprived areas in the act of dancing. We examine the ways in which Easy Language and audio described alt text may act as a form of 'accessible paratext' (Mével 2020) and hence be a gateway to people partaking in social activities. The presentation is based on the empirical findings of a project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (United Kingdom) and the University of Nottingham (UK). The project brings together Impacd, a company based in Nottingham, United Kingdom, with an established track record and commitment to creating 'inclusive spaces where people of all abilities and backgrounds can explore the transformative potential of movement' (Impacd, 2024), and an interdisciplinary team of researchers from across the arts and computer sciences at the University of Nottingham. The researchers worked with Impacd towards developing a model for integrating Easy Language and Audio description into Impacd's public-facing environment. Wilmington (2017) identified different types of barriers to engagement for members of the public with disabilities, making them 'hard to reach' and therefore less likely to be involved in community-led activities, shows and performances. Our project addresses these concerns by embedding Easy Language and audio described alt text into Impacd's website, thus adapting the organisation's main marketing stream to its target audience(s), and by developing a methodology that can be rolled out to similar companies in order to further encourage greater participation and provide a truly inclusive dancing experience.

Keywords

Alt text, Website accessibility, Easy Language

A proposal for the Integration of Easy Language and Sign Language into University Websites

Dr Irene Strasly, Dr Silvia Rodríguez Vázquez, Dr Lucía Morado Vázquez, Prof. Pierrette Bouillon, Mr Bastien David
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Dr Irene Strasly

Irene Strasly joined the UNIGE's Faculty of Translation and Interpretation (FTI) in 2013, after obtaining her Master's degree in specialised translation. Here, she is involved in the development of a Swiss Centre for Barrier-Free Communication. As part of this newly created centre, Irene Strasly is currently coordinating the official inclusion of Swiss-French and Swiss-Italian sign languages in the Bachelor of Arts in Multilingual Communication. She also set up the first Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) for Deaf people who want to work as translators in French and Italian-speaking Switzerland. This program started in January 2022. For these two training projects, she received the Innovation Medal of the University of Geneva in 2021. Irene Strasly has recently defended her PhD thesis on the study of accessibility and sign language in the medical field.

Dr Silvia Rodríguez Vázquez

Silvia Rodríguez Vázquez is a Research and Teaching Fellow at the Department of Translation Technology of the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, University of Geneva. Over the last years, her research work has mainly focused on defining the role of translation and localisation professionals in the achievement of a more accessible multilingual web for all, as well as the competences and technology needed for such endeavour. Some of her other research interests include the integration of Easy Language content on the Web and the accessibility of translation technologies for people with visual impairments. A member of the Cod.eX Research Group from its inception, she has been involved in different Swiss research projects, funded by federal contributions, focusing on Barrier-Free Communication. He is also member of the Web for All Conference Steering Committee since 2021.

Dr Lucía Morado Vázquez

Lucía Morado Vázquez is a Senior Research Associate at the Department of Translation Technology of Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, University of Geneva, on the areas of localisation, computer-assisted translation tools and information technology. Member of the Cod.eX Research Group, Lucía also collaborates with other universities and international institutions as course facilitator, research collaborator and external examiner. She holds a PhD in localisation from the Localisation Research Centre, University of Limerick, Ireland. In the last decade, Lucía has been an active member of the localisation standards ecosystem and she is currently the co-chair of the XLIFF (XML Localisation Interchange File Format) Technical Committee. Lucía's research interests are standards of localisation, localisation training and web accessibility.

Prof. Pierrette Bouillon

Pierrette Bouillon has been Professor at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting (FTI), University of Geneva since 2007. She is currently Director of the Department of Translation Technology (referred to by its French acronym TIM) and Dean of the FTI. She has numerous publications in the fields of natural language processing, particularly within lexical semantics (Generative lexicon theory), speech-to-speech machine translation for limited domains and pre-edition and post-edition of machine translation, and more recently in accessibility. In the past, she participated in different EU projects (EAGLES/ISLE, MULTEXT, etc.) and was lead for three Swiss projects in speech translation in the medical domain: MEDSLT 1 and 2 and REGULUS and two projects in computer assisted language learning with speech recognition: CALL-SLT 1 (a generic platform for CALL based on speech translation) and CALL-SLT 2 (designing and evaluating spoken dialogue based CALL systems). She also coordinated the European ACCEPT project (Automated Community Content Editing PorTal) and co-coordinated the "Swiss Research Center Barrier-free communication" with the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), as well as the project BabelDr with the HUG (Geneva University Hospitals). At present, she leads the Swiss component of the PROPICTO project (French acronym standing for "PRojection du langage Oral vers des unités PICTOgraphiques"), funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), the PASSAGE project (Subtitling of Swiss German into Standard German) funded by IMI, and the UNI-ACCESS project (Accessibility of University Websites) funded by Swissuniversities.

Mr Bastien David

Bastien David is a Research Assistant at the Translation Technology Department of the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting at the University of Geneva since November 2018. He holds a Master in History, Archive and Documentation, and a MSc in Science and Technologies of Information and Communication (MASTIC), at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). As part of the BabelDr project, he is working on the creation of virtual characters that will automatically translate from French into the Sign Language of French-speaking Switzerland (LSF-CH). Since February 2018, he is co-founder and leader of a project for cultural accessibility to Sign Language in French-speaking Belgium called the Guide du Signaire.

Abstract

University websites are a major source of information not only for the academic world but also for society at large. They are used to display, amongst others, academic programs, news or outreach activities. Therefore, it seems crucial for these websites to be accessible for all, so as not to exclude people with diverse capabilities from accessing information and services (Campoverde-Molina et al. 2023; Henry 2019). Prior work shows, however, that this is rarely the case (Kurt, 2019; Seale et al., 2019). More specifically, the inclusion of Easy Language (EL) can be instrumental for the access of information to some groups of people due to permanent, temporal or acquired reading and understanding difficulties, such as individuals with cognitive disorders, older adults or second language learners (Hansen-Schirra et al. 2020). Likewise, sign language (SL) videos also offer an alternative way of presenting information that could be vital for deaf people navigating the web (Fajardo et al. 2010; Yeratziotis et al. 2018; 2023). Despite the abovesaid, previous studies have shown that the inclusion of EL and SL content is not still widespread practice in the websites of higher academic institutions (Torres-del-Rey et al. 2023; David et al. 2023). Our project aimed at addressing this gap by investigating how EL and SL could be successfully integrated into university websites. Through the design of a translation pipeline involving different key agents -from content creators; EL, SL and web accessibility experts; to target groups-, we produced alternative versions of a set of Swiss-French university webpages that provide not only an EL version but also interactive SL videos. In the present paper, we will present the design and implementation of the aforementioned pipeline, the results of the first reception studies conducted with target users, as well as the constraints that were found along this action-research process.

Keywords

Easy Language, Sign Language, University Websites

Enhancing cognitive accessibility using ‘Accessible Cues’ for diverse audiences. Results from a reception study with people with diverse cognitive abilities in the UK

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Mrs Andreea Deleanu

Andreea Deleanu is a PhD Candidate at the University of Surrey, UK, specializing in Media Accessibility under the supervision of Sabine Braun and Constantin Orasan. Her project focuses on repurposing Easy to Understand language, Audio Description, Audio Narration and integrated subtitles for audiences with diverse cognitive abilities, to guide and support their comprehension, enjoyment and immersion when accessing audiovisual narrative. She holds an MA in Conference Interpreting from the University of Trieste, Italy and has specialized as a healthcare interpreter and audiovisual translator. Andreea was a Visiting Scholar at Macquarie University, Australia, where she developed her 'Accessible Cues' under the guidance of Prof Jan-Louis Kruger. Andreea was involved in the EU project EASIT (Easy Access for Social Inclusion Training) under the guidance of Prof Elisa Perego. She focused on unit 3, on the application of E2U language to AD to improve access for users with visual impairment. More information about the project and its outputs can be found here: https://transmediacatalonia.uab.cat/easit/

Prof Constantin Orasan

Constantin Orasan is Professor of Language and Translation Technologies at the Centre of Translation Studies, University of Surrey, UK and a Fellow of the Surrey Institute for People-Centred Artificial Intelligence. Before starting this role, he was Reader in Computational Linguistics at the University of Wolverhampton, UK, and the deputy head of the Research Group in Computational Linguistics at the same university. He has over 25 years of experience in the fields of Natural Language Processing (NLP), Translation Technologies, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for language processing. His recent research focuses on the use of Generative AI as a support tool for translators and the use of Automatic Speech Recognition for interpreters. In the past he was the deputy coordinator of the FIRST project, a project which developed language technologies for making texts more accessible to people with autism. In addition to managing a consortium of nine partners from academia, industry and heath care organisations, he also carried out research on text simplification and contributed to the development of a powerful editor which can be used by carers of people with autism to make texts more accessible for these people. His research is well known in these fields as a result of over 130 peer-reviewed articles in journals, books and international conferences. More information about him can be found at https://dinel.org.uk/

Prof Sabine Braun

Dr Sabine Braun is Professor of Translation Studies and Director of the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Surrey, a Research-England funded Centre of Excellence. She also serves as a Co-Director of Surrey’s Institute for People-Centred AI. She specialises in human-machine integration in translation and interpreting to improve access to information, digital content and public services. For over a decade, she spearheaded a European-funded research programme investigating video-mediated interpreting in legal proceedings to improve language access in the justice sector (AVIDICUS 1-3; 2008-16), while contributing her expertise in video interpreting to other justice sector projects (e.g. QUALITAS, 2012-14; Understanding Justice, 2013-16; VEJ Evaluation, 2018-20). Subsequently she advised justice sector institutions on the use and risks of video-mediated interpreting, delivered training, developed European guidelines, and co-authored a DIN standard. She has also explored the use of video and virtual reality platforms for training interpreters and users of interpreting services (IVY, 2011-3; EVIVA, 2014-15; SHIFT, 2015-18; EU-WEBPSI, 2021-24) and is currently involved in projects investigating the application of communication technologies and AI-enabled language technologies to multilingual health communication (MHealth4All, 2021-24; Interpret-X, 2021-24). Furthermore, she conducts research on audio description and other translation modalities related to accessible communication. In the Horizon 2020 project MeMAD (2018-21), she explored the potential for (semi-)automating audio description to enhance digital media inclusion. In 2024, she launched a Leverhulme Trust-funded Doctoral Training Network on AI-Enabled Digital Accessibility (ADA). Her overarching interest centres on fairness, transparency, and quality in the use of technology in language mediation.

Abstract

This presentation examines the potential of enhancing cognitive access to audiovisual narratives for audiences with cognitive impairments. Historically, institutions have overlooked the needs of cognitively diverse audiences, with Cognitive Accessibility (Johansson, 2016) gaining significant attention in research only a decade after its inclusion in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD, 2006). Easy-to-Understand (E2U) language varieties have been proposed as a solution to ensure access to the Web and public-sector communication for people with diverse cognitive abilities (European Commission, 2016; 2021). However, the focus has been on domain-specific written communication (Maaß, 2020), leaving multimodal/audiovisual formats and entertainment underexplored. Nevertheless, recent research (Bernabé Orero, 2020; Perego & Blaž, 2018-2021) encourages the use of E2U in this area to broaden the scope of Media Accessibility. As a case in point, films plunge audiences into storyworlds (Herman, 2002) and promote a sense of inclusion and participation in society (Yorke, 2014), while also having educational value by providing insight into emotions and behaviours (Wassmann, 2015; Thonon et al., 2016). Yet, processing complex audiovisual narratives such as films can prove challenging for people with diverse cognitive abilities (Schlickers, 2009; APA, 2013), excluding them from fully comprehending and enjoying them. Our study has developed a novel type of explanatory cues to support cognitive access to audiovisual narrative. Their design was based on the assumption that the cognitive effort required to process narratives could be reduced when relevant information and complex inferences are explicitated (Braun, 2016; Kruger, 2012; Merritt & Liles, 1987) and that E2U language varieties could further support comprehension by removing language-related complexity. This presentation will report on the reception of prototype explanatory cues in film, trialled with n=30 UK participants with cognitive-related disabilities. The methods and findings of the study will be presented, highlighting participants' experiences, comprehension and enjoyment levels.

Keywords

Cognitive Accessibility, Easy-to-Understand language, reception study

LT.20 | Panel 4 | Archives in Translation: Inquiring on the Past, Understanding the Present, and Informing the Future

Chairs: Audrey Canalès, María Constanza Guzmán

Selecting and translating the past to define the future of Sino-Japanese relations: The Jilin Kempeitai archives and the Irrefutable Evidence translation project

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Dr Martin Ward

Dr Martin Ward (PhD, Hiroshima) FHEA PGCAP is an Associate Professor of Chinese and Japanese Translation at the University of Leeds, UK. He has had published several China-related translations from Chinese and Japanese into English of historical documents, Chinese political discourse (such as chapters 7 & 8 of Bian, J. 2021. The Communist Party of China: A Concise History. ACA Publishing Ltd.), and literature. Specifically retranslated over 1,100 pages of Japanese military documents for the Insights into Japanese Imperialism project from Japanese directly into English (Vol. 1-3, ACA Publishing, 2020-2021) and also conducts research into the translation of the Kempeitai documents, in addition to the translation of Chinese political discourse, translation pedagogy and international telecollaboration. His research has been published in The Translator, and he is also one of the editors of two Routledge volumes published in 2024 on teaching translation and interpreting and live-subtitling. He is currently a fellow of the Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence, researching barriers to COIL-type interventions, and also employs international telecollaboration in his translation pedagogy. He is the founder of the East Asian Translation Pedagogy Advance (EATPA) network, which brings together educators teaching East Asian language translation at HE level across the globe to share best practice and advance pedagogic methodologies.

Abstract

In 2014 and 2015 out of the blue, three translated volumes of over 1,100 pages of WWII Japanese military documents were published in translation in Chinese and English respectively (under the respective titles of 铁证如山 tiezheng rushan and Irrefutable Evidence), as well as Korean and Russian. The material was also separately published for a Japanese readership. Selected from over 100,000 pages of documents kept undisclosed to the world since their discovery in 1953, these volumes were presented to the world as 'concrete proof' of Japanese warcrimes. In the ensuing years a further 16 volumes (and counting), of these documents held in the Jilin Provincial Archives (JPA) in NE China were published alongside translations. As of 2024 a total of 19 volumes, each in five languages, have been published. Hastily buried in August 1945 when time ran out for the Japanese army to burn the documents before their retreat, these documents provide fascinating insights into many well-discussed and other lesser known events of the Anti-Japanese War of Resistance, 'one of the most important events in the formation of modern Chinese nationalism' (Mitter, 2020, p32). But why and how were the chosen pages selected from amongst the over 100,000 held in the JPA, and why translate them into five languages, and release them to the world in this way and at this time? What approach to the use of archived Japanese military documents is evidenced and how does this follow or set a precedent? This presentation will explore the way in which these archives, arguably selected and translated to 'exert enormous power and discretion over societal memory' (Nesmith, 2002, p.32), have been instrumentalised for geopolitical, national and political purposes and propose what may be learned around the value and controversies of translating and disseminating the contents of such archival material.

Keywords

archival translation, Jilin Kempeitai archives, geopolitical purposes

Cultural Memory in Diasporic Translation: Take Eileen Chang's Self-translation as a Case

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Ms Yifei Liu

I am currently a year-three PhD student at the Department of Translation, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). I received my MA degree from Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU). My research interests include translation history, translation theory and literary translation.

Abstract

Since the 1950s, there has been a significant increase in the number of diasporic translators who have relocated due to political factors. Eileen Chang (Zhang Ailing 1920-1955), as a prominent figure within this group, plays a crucial role as a cultural intermediary between Chinese and Western societies through her literary works and translations. However, this relocation also brings about an identity crisis. This paper aims to investigate the formation of Chang's cultural identity from a "memory" perspective. By examining archives, correspondence, essays, and other primary sources, it is found that Chang's translations commonly exhibit traces of memory, primarily manifested in textual structures, discussions of ethnicity, and expressions of culture, all deeply rooted in traditional Chinese literary and cultural heritage. The preservation of these cultural memories within her translations reflects Chang's inclination towards shaping her personal identity as a Chinese, more specifically as a Chinese writer and expert of Chinese culture. Functionally, this representation of cultural identity serves as both resistance against mainstream poetics during the Cold War era and a commitment to her distinctive literary and cultural concepts. By revealing Chang's construction of cultural identity, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of the complex issues faced by diasporic translators and their pivotal role in bridging cultural divides.

Keywords

cultural memory, self-translation, diaspora

Missionary as Diplomatic Translator: Chester Holcombe and the Sino-U.S. Negotiation for American Claims in Tientsin Massacre

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Dr. Siyang Shuai

SHUAI Siyang is Lecturer and Chenhui Scholar at the Department of Translation, East China Normal University. He obtained his Ph.D. from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. His major research interest lies in Chinese translation history, especially the translation activities of protestant missionaries in 19th-century China. He has single-authored several articles that appeared in peer-reviewed journals. He is now preparing a monograph on S. Wells Williams, one of the first American missionaries to China, focusing on Williams' diplomatic translation activities and their influence on early Sino-U.S. relations.

Abstract

Chester Holcombe (1844-1912), a protestant missionary, joined the U.S. Legation in China in 1871 as an Assistant Interpreter and became the second Chinese Secretary of the Legation in 1876, playing a significant role in Sino-American relations in the late 19th century. This paper focuses on an important diplomatic event that Holcombe was involved in during his early days at the legation: the American claims case after the Tientsin Massacre (1870). During this event, Holcombe faced immense pressure as he attempted to influence the outcome of negotiations by manipulating the translation of diplomatic notes, amidst the Chinese and American governments' desire to maintain peace and the numerous demands from the church. Drawing from various archival sources, the paper explores how Holcombe coordinated the conflicting interests of the American government, the church, and the Qing Government through translation. It highlights the crucial and complex role of translation in 19th-century Sino-American diplomacy and re-examines the interaction between religion and politics in early Sino-American relations, offering deeper insights into the history of translation and diplomacy during that era.

Keywords

missionary translator, Diplomatic translation, Sino-U.S. relations

The Importance of Translation for Orphan Archives: Two Case Studies

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Dr. Carla Baricz

Carla Baricz is the Librarian for Literature in English and Comparative Literature at Yale University. She is assistant editor and translator of Romanian Writers on Writing (Trinity University Press, 2011) and the translator of Exiled Shadow: A Novel by Norman Manea (Yale University Press, 2023). She also has published translations in Asymptote, World Literature Today, and National Translation Month. Her academic work has appeared in Sixteenth Century Journal, Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England, Shakespeare Jahrbuch, and other publications.

Abstract

This paper examines two seemingly unrelated archives of Romanian materials held by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University: MS 2029, the Collection on the Jewish Community of Iaşi, Romania, and GEN MS 750, the Benjamin Fondane Papers. Both collections are "orphan collections", or collections that have lost curatorial oversight. MS 2029 is comprised of two boxes of .21 linear feet of materials dating from the nineteenth century to the 1950s and has not been catalogued at item level. The collection includes property deeds and documents related to the administration of the Jewish community in Iaşi, especially from the period of the Holocaust. GEN MS 750 consists of five boxes of 1.67 linear feet of materials in Romanian related to the Jewish poet and philosopher Benjamin Fondane, who was murdered in the Holocaust. The collection includes holograph ms of poetry, early plays, fragmentary notes, and correspondence. The paper focuses on the relationship between Romanian, as a minor language of circulation, the significant difficulty of documenting archival acquisitions in Romanian relating to the Holocaust, and the importance of memory transmission through archival collecting and storage. It suggests that both collections suffer from the same lack of attention despite the importance of the topics they cover due to a lack of language expertise. It also considers how properly documenting these collections is only possible through translation: of the materials held in each, of the relationships between agents represented by the material, and of the institutional networks in which the collections exist. It furthermore suggests that translation initiatives in the form of format and accessibility conversions are necessary to put these materials in conversation with materials held by other institutions and to do the difficult work of reconstituting the lives and communities they document.

Keywords

archives, memory, institutional networks

Translation during the Salazar dictatorship: Archives clarifying the past

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Prof Isabel Chumbo

Isabel Chumbo is an Assistant Professor at the Bragança Polytechnic University, Portugal. She holds a PhD in Translation Studies, having written a thesis on the translation of Salazar's speeches into English as a contribution towards the history of translation in Portugal during the 20th century. She also has a DEA in Translation and Intercultural Studies and a Masters in English Culture, Language and Literature. She graduated in Modern Languages and Literatures, English and German, specialising in translation. Her research interests are the history of translation and translator training.

Abstract

Recent scholarly investigations (Chumbo, 2023; Seruya, 2020) have significantly enhanced our understanding of the Salazar dictatorship's approach to translation during the early decades of the 20th century. Beyond the conventional dissemination of propaganda materials and various publications, the Estado Novo (New State) regime placed considerable emphasis on political communication in foreign languages, particularly to shape international perceptions of Portugal. These efforts were primarily coordinated by the National Secretariat of Propaganda during the 1930s, a period crucial to establishing the regime. Many of these initiatives have remained forgotten in the archives and are not recognized as authentic propaganda efforts aimed at constructing a specific narrative about Portugal—one that emphasized the nation's cultural, historical and economic achievements, with the intent of influencing international relations. Archival research conducted for this study has yielded valuable insights, primarily through the analysis of correspondence among the leadership of the National Secretariat, editors, publishers, and translators. In addition to materials housed in the Portuguese Central National Archive, smaller-scale archives have played a significant role in impacting essential information. Their contributions have enabled a more comprehensive understanding of the Salazar dictatorship's use of translation as a political and soft power tool. The primary objectives of this paper are to assess the significance of translation during this specific period of the 20th-century Portuguese dictatorship and to explore how archival sources can shed light on the regime's propaganda strategies. Through a rigorous examination of a range of documents contained in several archives, this study will clarify the regime's stance on translation. Importantly, it will offer conclusions that significantly contribute to our understanding of the nature of institutional translation managed by the central propaganda office through archival evidence.

Keywords

Translation and propaganda, New State dictatorship, Archives

The role of translation in (uncovering) the history of Belgian refugees in Britain during the First World War

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Dr Christophe Declercq

Christophe Declercq is an assistant professor in translation at Utrecht University, a lecturer at the University of Antwerp and an honorary senior research fellow at University College London. He holds a PhD from Imperial College London on a socio-cultural transnational history and the impact of (temporary) exile on national identity. Christophe has published as an author and co-editor in the domain of cross-cultural communication during times of conflict, in both historical and contemporary settings. Christophe is currently co-leading an international AHRC-funded project on Asylum and Mental Health, with a main focus on Belgian refugees in Britain during the First World War.

Abstract

At the start of the First World War in August 1914, the German invasion of Belgium coincided with widespread atrocities against civilians that led to a massive displacement of Belgians. Before the war settled into trench warfare, nearly one in four Belgians sought refuge, most of them abroad. Between late August and mid-October 1914, almost 1.5 million Belgian refugees arrived in the Netherlands, France, and the United Kingdom. Belgium's official languages—French and Dutch/Flemish—were largely reflected in destinations of France and the Netherlands, while English became the primary, though not the sole, language for those exiled in Britain. By the war's end, over 600,000 Belgians remained in these countries. This paper explores the crucial role of translation in the history of Belgian refugees during the First World War, particularly in Britain, and in the research of that history. Translation was key to the refugee experience, influencing how they navigated new environments, accessed services, and interacted with local populations. It also shaped the host community's perception of refugees and framed their accommodation. Studying the history of Belgian refugees in Britain involves examining the history of translation, including the work of British/English translators on Belgian texts and Belgian translators who produced multilingual content for exile newspapers. The paper also investigates how translation practices like code-switching and translanguaging carried information in official reports, newspapers, and archival records. These findings are analysed within the context of the tension between translation, history, and memory, showing how language practices shaped and reflected the refugee experience.

Keywords

Belgian refugees, translation and history, archive records and fragmented memory

LT.21 | Panel 1 | Adapting to Change: The Impact of Generative AI on Translator Education (cont.)

Chairs: Nune Ayvazyan, Anthony Pym, Yu Hao

Transforming Translation Teaching with AIGC: A Case Study of ChatGPT

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Dr. Hong holds MA and PhD in Corpus and Computational Linguistics from National University of Singapore (NUS). He is Professor and Director of Centre for Language Intelligence & Smart Education at Shanghai International Studies University (SISU), China. Concurrently he is also Research Scientist at Center for Research & Development in Learning (CRADLE) at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. Previously, Dr. Hong held several key positions: 1. Senior Assistant Director and Head of e-Learning at Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine), NTU (2013-2020); 2. Research Scientist at the National Institute of Education (NIE), NTU (2005-2013); 3. Linguistics Engineer at the Institute of InfoComm Research (I2R), Agency for Science, Technology & Research (A*STAR), Singapore. His research interests span multiple areas, including Translation Technology, Multimodal Learning Analytics, Corpus/Computational Linguistics, Education Innovation, Teacher Development.

Mr Yufan Xiao

Xiao Yufan earned his Bachelor's degree in English Translation from Shanghai International Studies University and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Translation and Interpretation at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He has interned at Shanghai Anzhiyi Translation Consulting Services Co., Ltd., specializing in machine translation post-editing (MTPE). His experience in AI-driven translation has fueled his interest in the intersection of AI and translation education. Xiao Yufan's research focuses on the application of AIGC in translation teaching and the ethical challenges it presents.

Abstract

The emergence of AI-Generated Content (AIGC) tools, exemplified by ChatGPT, is revolutionizing translation education. This study employs a mixed-methods approach to investigate the transformative effects, challenges, and strategies for incorporating AIGC in traditional translation pedagogy. Our research centers on a comparative experiment within the Translation Master's Program at Nanyang Technological University, contrasting learning outcomes between AIGC-integrated classes and those using traditional methods. The study encompasses: Quantitative assessment: Evaluating student progress in translation skills through standardized tests; Qualitative analysis: Surveying student perceptions of AIGC integration in learning; and AI-driven feedback: Utilizing ChatGPT for personalized assessment of Chinese-English translations. Key focus areas include: Leveraging AIGC to enhance cultural awareness in translation exercises; Exploring AIGC's potential in fostering dialogical inquiry and collaborative learning; Addressing limitations in traditional translation education, such as lack of interactivity and one-way instructional models. While developing strategies for AIGC integration, we critically examine ethical and pedagogical concerns, including potential over-reliance on AI and quality assurance of AI-generated translations. The study aims to adapt translator competence models to incorporate AIGC literacy, contributing to the ongoing discourse on AI's role in translator training. This research bridges the gap between AIGC tools and their practical applications in translation education. By balancing benefits and challenges, we offer insights into evolving AI-assisted translation pedagogy, aligning with the critical need to reevaluate translator competence in the era of AIGC.

Keywords

AIGC, Translation Teaching, Pedagogical Innovation

Enhancing Socially Shared Metacognitive Regulation through AI: The Impact of ChatGPT and Collaboration Scripts on Translator Training

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Dr. Ya-mei Chen

Ya-mei Chen is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at National Taipei University of Technology, Taiwan. She holds a Ph.D. in Translation Studies from the University of Edinburgh, UK. Her research interests center on news translation, ideology in translation, translation crowdsourcing, metacognitive translator training, and AI-assisted translation. Her articles have appeared in Meta, TTR: Traduction, terminologie, rédaction, Cultus: The Journal of Intercultural Mediation and Communication, Discourse & Society, and The Interpreter and Translator Trainer.

Abstract

This study investigates the integration of ChatGPT and collaboration scripts to enhance socially shared metacognitive regulation (SSMR) among translation students. As the translation industry increasingly demands collaborative skills and adaptability to AI technologies, educators must modify their pedagogical approaches to prepare students for team-based environments incorporating emerging AI tools. Eighteen undergraduate students in an advanced English-Chinese translation course participated in three Wikipedia translation projects over a semester. The first project served as a baseline without interventions, the second introduced collaboration scripts to guide group interactions, and the third combined these scripts with ChatGPT as a collaborative partner. Students were instructed to use ChatGPT to facilitate group discussions, focusing on problem-solving and critical evaluation rather than direct translation. A mixed-methods approach was employed to gather comprehensive data, combining both quantitative and qualitative measures. Pre- and post-tests using the Group Metacognition Scale (Biasutti & Frate, 2018) and the Metacognitive Self-Regulation Inventory (Hu et al., 2020) provided insights into the development of students' SSMR and individual metacognitive regulation over time. Additionally, student surveys, group discussion recordings, and ChatGPT dialogue logs were analyzed to assess the impact of the interventions and to capture students' perceptions of these tools in their learning process. The findings indicated that combining collaboration scripts with ChatGPT significantly improved students' SSMR and individual metacognitive regulation, especially in groups with high engagement levels. Differences in group dynamics and the effective use of ChatGPT led to varying levels of improvement, underscoring the importance of active participation and digital literacy. While students generally valued ChatGPT for facilitating discussions, some expressed concerns about over-reliance on AI and the rigidity of the scripts. These insights highlight the potential of AI-assisted collaboration in enhancing essential skills in translation students and provide strategies for responsibly integrating AI into translation education, aligning with the demands of a technology-driven industry.

Keywords

ChatGPT, socially shared metacognitive regulation, collaboration scripts

The Role of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Translation Post-Editing and Student Autonomy: Insights from a Classroom Study

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Dr. Nune Ayvazyan

Dr. Nune Ayvazyan is a Lecturer in Translation at Universitat Rovira i Virgili in Tarragona, Spain. She holds a B.A. in English Studies from the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, an M.A. in Translation Studies from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain), and a Ph.D. in Translation and Intercultural Studies (with Honours) from the Universitat Rovira i Virgili. Her current research interests fall into the areas of new technologies in teaching, multilingual policies and translation in language teaching. She currently coordinates the Master's in Professional English-Spanish Translation at Universitat Rovira i Virgili and is Board Member of the International Doctorate in Translation Studies (ID-TS) of the European Society for Translation Studies (EST).

Abstract

Translation technologies and post-editing are now essential tools for professional translators and have become a key part of translation classes with the inclusion of machine translation in the curriculum. However, translation students often miss significant errors when post-editing machine-generated translations. This issue arises due to several factors: limited knowledge of the source language, the misleading fluency of machine-generated text, and a false belief in the accuracy of machine translations, leading students to overlook mistakes. Before Generative Artificial Intelligence, the instructor was the sole judge of post-edited text quality in the classroom. However, with tools like ChatGPT (3.5 and above) and similar GPT models, students can now use these technologies to help them post-edit machine translations. These tools may help to identify errors and suggest improvements before the instructor's review, which may enable students to further explore post-editing and develop greater autonomy. This article explores a case study from an undergraduate translation class at Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Spain, where students engage in post-editing a machine-translated text. The process includes several steps: 1) Translating a text from English to Spanish (a high-resource language) or Catalan (a low-resource language) using Google Translate; 2) Post-editing the machine-generated translation; 3) Using ChatGPT for further post-editing while practicing prompt generation; 4) Comparing the human and ChatGPT-edited texts with ChatGPT's assistance; and 5) Conducting a whole-class discussion on the outcomes and ChatGPT's suggestions. The discussion also examines how integrating AI tools like ChatGPT affects students' autonomy and critical thinking skills. This study is part of an ongoing project entitled "Multilingual Competence: Implementing AI (ChatGPT) for a Multilingual Classroom Success" funded by the Institute of Education Sciences (ICE) at Universitat Rovira i Virgili. The objective is to incorporate ChatGPT into various multilingual classes, including translation classes, to enhance learning outcomes, as well as to create teaching materials.

Keywords

GenAI, Post-editing, Translation class

An exploratory study of translation students' prompting behaviours with and perceptions of GenAI tools

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Mr Jia Zhang

Jia Zhang is a Senior Research Officer and a PhD candidate at the University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney). His research interests include translation technology, translator training, and audiovisual translation, with his current research centred on integrating machine translation into translator training. His research has been published in Across Languages and Cultures, edited volumes by Routledge, Peter Lang and Springer, and the Proceedings of Machine Translation Summit.

Prof. Stephen Doherty

Stephen Doherty is Professor of Linguistics, Interpreting and Translation at the University of New South Wales, where he also leads the HAL Language Processing Research Lab. With a focus on the psychology of language and technology, his research investigates human language processing and usage by employing natural language processing techniques and combinations of online and offline methods.

Abstract

GenAI, though not developed specifically for translation, has shown potential to produce translations as good as, if not better than, Neural Machine Translation (NMT), with its role in empowering human translators already being discussed and researched extensively (e.g., Lee, 2023; Katan, 2022). GenAI has been adopted by language service providers and professional translators, and experimented with by students at all levels to facilitate translation-related activities. In the context of tertiary-level translator education, the integration of GenAI has sparked debates and led to divergent policies on its use in teaching. Despite a diverse range of opinions among educators, like MT before it, it is observed that translation students have been using freely accessible GenAI tools for their assignments. We thus argue for the benefits of guiding students in using GenAI systematically and responsibly. This study is among the first to investigate translation students' prompting behaviours with and perceptions of GenAI. It provides focussed insights for tailored instructions and pedagogy in AI training. We collected prompts generated by 15 postgraduate students in GenAI tools (ChatGPT or ERNIE Bot) during twelve teaching weeks to understand their prompting behaviours. Based on the analysis, a quantitative questionnaire was employed to investigate further the prompting behaviours among a larger group of students and their perceptions of and interactions with GenAI. Preliminary findings of a thematic analysis revealed that: (1) the student participants adopted diverse prompting strategies, frequently employing imperative sentences to generate translations of a text, and interrogative sentences to understand the meaning of terms or confirm their equivalents in the target language; (2) most students' prompting behaviours were intuitive and unsystematic (Knoth, 2024), lacking awareness in incorporating contextual cues, which may limit the effectiveness of GenAI in generating appropriate translations (Eager & Brunton, 2023). Our findings suggest an urgent need for translation educators to consider students' agency and critical engagement with GenAI tools.

Keywords

Prompting behaviours and perceptions, Translator education , GenAI

The Digital Rosetta Stone: AI Prompt Engineering in Translation Studies - The Case of Political Translation

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Assistant Professor Stavroula Paraskevi Vraila

Dr. Stavroula Vraila serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation, and Interpreting at Ionian University, where she specializes in Economic-Legal-Political Translation (German-Greek). Her research focuses on the analysis and translation of political and activist texts, with particular emphasis on the German and Greek political landscapes, the role of political correctness in the translation of political texts and the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in contemporary translation studies and practice. As a member of the Centre for Language and Politics within her department, Dr. Vraila contributes to interdisciplinary research initiatives that bridge linguistics, political science, and technology. Her work explores the nuanced challenges of translating politically sensitive content, considering the impact of cultural context, ideological nuances, and linguistic subtleties on the translation process. Dr. Vraila's recent research delves into the potential of AI-assisted translation tools in handling complex political discourse, examining both the opportunities and ethical considerations this technology presents. Her academic background includes a BA in German Language and Literature from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, an MA in Translation Theory and Teaching of Translation from the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation, and Interpreting at Ionian University, and a PhD from the School of Philosophy at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Abstract

The evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly in the field of Large Language Models (LLMs), has brought about significant changes in the translation industry, despite frequently legitimate ethical concerns. The emergence of new theoretical frameworks and practical approaches that complement established methods of linguistic and cultural mediation necessitates the adjustment of Translation Studies (TS) curricula to ensure the quality and reliability of translation (Kanglang, 2021; Kong, 2022; Amini et al., 2024; Alharbi, 2024). According to recent research, AI prompt engineering and fine-tuning can significantly enhance translation quality metrics like accuracy, fluency, and meaning retention (He, 2024; Stap et al., 2024).This is particularly true for political texts, which are known for their intricate stylistic and cultural elements (Liu et al., 2023, Chang, 2024). With an emphasis on the difficulties associated with translating political texts—such as upholding diplomatic sensibilities, navigating culturally specific concepts, and preserving rhetorical devices—the current study seeks to explore the role that prompt engineering can play in TS. The objective is to create a thorough educational model grounded in political linguistics, translation theory, and natural language processing (NLP) research findings (Bernardini et al., 2020; Zhao & Wang, 2022). Based on experiments conducted at the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpreting of the Ionian University, on qualitative assessments of prompt engineering and learning outcomes through quantitative analyses of translation quality metrics, the research shows with case studies how AI models translate different political texts more effectively when optimized prompts are used. Additionally, the research discusses the ethical ramifications of translating political texts with AI assistance, covering topics such as prejudice, openness, and the changing duties of human translators (Hancock et al., 2020; Bender et al., 2021, Dwivedi et al., 2023). Finally, suggestions are offered for prompt engineering's incorporation into TS and professional development programs.

Keywords

Artificial Intelligence, Translation Studies, Prompt Engineering

LT.23 | Panel 11 | Contemporary Chinese Literature in the Anglophone World: Translation, Reception and National Image Building

Chairs: Meihua Song, Pan Xie, Honghua Liu

Subnormal Mind Style through Narration in Yan Lianke's Rixi and its English Representation

Ms Qiyue Zhou, Prof Minhui Xu
University of Macau, Macau, China

Ms Qiyue Zhou

Qiyue Zhou is a PhD candidate at the University of Macau. Her main research interests include literary translation, translation and stylistics and corpus-based translation studies.

Prof Minhui Xu

Dr. Minhui Xu is Associate Professor at the University of Macau. She is author of English Translations of Shen Congwen's Stories – A Narrative Perspective (2013) and A Sociological Study of the English Translations of Shen Congwen's Works (2022). She has published in refereed journals both in English and in Chinese, including Target: International Journal of Translation Studies, Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice, Translation and Interpreting Studies, Babel: International Journal of Translation, and Chinese Translators Journal. Her main research area is translation studies, with special interests in literary translation, sociology of translation, and translation and intercultural studies.

Abstract

Mind styles, particularly those deviant ones associated with paranoia, autism, depression, and schizophrenia, have attracted multi-dimensional research within cognitive stylistics. However, the subnormal mind style, characterized by narrators or characters with symptoms of intellectual disability, has received limited attention despite being considered as an important category within dementia mind style (Leech & Short, 2007; Lugea & Walker, 2023). This study takes Yan Lianke's Rixi (日熄) and its English translation, The Day the Sun Died by Carlos Rojas, as a case to examine how Yan linguistically portrays the mind style of the underdeveloped first-person narrator Li Niannian and how Rojas represents such mind style in the translation. Based on corpus-aided translation analysis, this study finds that lexically, Li's narration features underlexicalization and repetition, prevalent with animal and plant similes, reflecting his highly restricted mind style. Syntactically, his narration is significantly shorter than that of the typical first-person narrators in Yan's other literary works. The narrator often resorts to circumlocution without a specific human subject, lacking both the conceptual and linguistic basis necessary to process information. The textual comparison indicates that although Rojas preserves most of the similes, he omits a large proportion of lexical repetitions and increases syntactic length and density. Discursively, several of Li Niannian's self-references regarding his idiocy in the original text are removed. All these betray Rojas's view (Rojas, 2021) that Li is not an absolute idiot but is the actual "future Yan Lianke". This research suggests that experiencing unusual mind styles through literary reading may enhance intersubjective understanding of individuals with particular conditions. The rewriting of Li Niannian's narration renders the characterization less marked by transforming his idiosyncratic communicative behavior into a less subnormal one, thus mediating target readers' experience of "try[ing] on" (Zunshine, 2006) the narrator's mental states and their access to the fictional minds.

Keywords

Mind style, Literary Translation, Yan Lianke

The Impact of “Translation Consciousness” on the Reception of Jin Yong’s Legends of the Condor Heroes in Anglophone World

Mr Fuqiang Zhao
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Mr Fuqiang Zhao

Fuqiang ZHAO (赵富强) is a second-year PhD student in Translation at the University of Bristol. During his undergraduate studies in Information Management and Information Systems, he discovered his deep passion for language, literature, and translation, leading him to pursue further studies in this field. He earned a distinction in Translation Studies from the University of Edinburgh for his master's degree. His research focuses on literary translation, particularly the English translations of Jin Yong’s wuxia novels and their reception in the Anglophone world.

Abstract

The concept of “translation consciousness”—the reader’s awareness and explicit mention of a text’s translated nature in their reviews—plays a crucial role in understanding the reception of contemporary Chinese literature in English-speaking countries. Despite the growing global demand for translation and engagement with contemporary Chinese works, there has been limited research on how this awareness influences the success and popularisation of such translations. This paper presents findings from an investigation into Legends of the Condor Heroes (2018-2022), the English translation of Jin Yong’s Shediao Yingxiong Zhuan (1957), to underscore the significance of translation consciousness in shaping the reception and popularisation of these translations in Anglophone contexts. The study analyses a dataset comprising over a thousand online reader reviews collected from Amazon and Goodreads, which were categorised according to their recognition of the text’s translated status. Content analysis (Berelson 1952) of these entries reveals that readers who are aware of the translation tend to be more attuned to the cultural fidelity of translation, translation quality, and the potential losses or gains in translation. Such readers often express appreciation for the translator’s efforts to bridge cultural differences, or critique perceived shortcomings in conveying the essence of the original work. Conversely, readers who do not explicitly mention ‘translation’ tend to engage more with the narrative as a self-contained work, focusing on the overall reading experience it brings rather than its translational challenges. This divergence illustrates how varying degrees of “translation consciousness” influence reader reception. The study further explores the factors influencing “translation consciousness,” including the reader’s language proficiency, prior knowledge of the original text, the nature of the text or genre, the quality of the translation, and the specific context or purpose of reading. A deeper understanding of these factors offers important guidance for future translations of contemporary Chinese literature into English.

Keywords

Legends of the Condor Heroes, Reception, Translation Consciousness

Reader Reception of Chinese Crime Fiction in English Translation

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Miss Beixi Li

Beixi Li is a PhD candidate in Translation Studies at the University of Bristol. Her research interests include literary translation, paratext and translation and reader reception. She has a particular focus on crime fiction in translation and reception of Chinese literature in the English-speaking world.

Abstract

Chinese crime fiction has increasingly become part of the surge in translated literature over the past two decades. While previous research has examined Chinese literature and its English translations, the reception of genre fiction by lay readers, particularly crime fiction, remains underexplored. This study addresses this gap by exploring how English-speaking readers respond to translated Chinese crime fiction through online book reviews. The research draws on a total of 1,085 online book reviews collected from Goodreads and Amazon, covering six Chinese crime novels translated into English between 2008 and 2023. The Chinese crime novels include A Perfect Crime (2015) by A Yi, The Borrowed (2017) and Second Sister (2020) by Chan Ho-Kei, Death Notice (2018) by Zhou Haohui, The Golden Hairpin (2018) by Qinghan Cece, and Bad Kids (2022) by Zijin Chen. Using thematic analysis supported by NVivo software, the study examines key aspects such as genre, content, reading difficulty, cultural accessibility, translation quality, anticipation, paratextual elements, and format. Findings show that enjoyment is central to reader satisfaction. Translation quality and cultural references can significantly influence reader reception. Readers call for greater contextual support, such as footnotes and other paratextual elements, while also highlighting the impact of paratextual strategies on expectations. Furthermore, television and film adaptations of these novels appear to enhance reader interest and engagement. The study also considers the limitations of online reviews. The increasing prevalence of AI-generated reviews and commercially manipulated content complicates the process of analysing reader responses. This study reveals how English-speaking readers engage with Chinese crime fiction, uncovering their preferences, perceptions, and the factors influencing their reception. It not only sheds light on how English-speaking readers receive translated Chinese crime fiction but also contributes to understanding the broader dynamics of cross-cultural literary reception.

Keywords

Chinese crime fiction, reader reception, online book reviews

Interweaving Chineseness and born-translated discourse: Can Xue's dual poetics and the changing dynamics of world literature

Dr. Yijia Dong
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Dr. Yijia Dong

Yijia Dong is an assistant professor of English currently teaching at the College of Foreign Languages and Cultures, Xiamen University, China. She holds a PhD in Translation Studies from the University of Edinburgh. Her main research interests include gender and translation, Chinese literature in translation, and sociology of translation.

Abstract

As one of the most translated contemporary Chinese writers, Can Xue provides a unique discourse of literary experimentalism, which has subverted canonical realism and mainstream narration since the avant-garde literary movement in China. While rooted in the post-Mao Chinese socio-cultural context, Can Xue's fiction is deeply influenced by Western modernist fiction, sharing similar themes and drawing on its narrative techniques. This artistic approach contributes to the well-received condition of her works in the West. Adopting a theoretical framework drawing on the theory of "born-translated" literature (Walkowitz, 2015) and explorations of power dynamics in world literature (Damrosch, 2003; Casanova, 2010), this paper delves into how Can Xue's works in English translation serve as a discursive construction interwoven with the formative mechanism of contemporary world literature, and how Chineseness and the internalisation of translation are renegotiated as a unique poetic approach. Two award-winning works, Love in the New Millennium (2013) and The Last Lover (2015) will be analysed as case studies, investigating (1) how the narrations concerning women's life experiences with socio-cultural specificities of contemporary China are reconfigured through English translation, (2) how the stylistic and narrative characteristics that are usually associated with the Western modernist influence are transferred to the Anglophone world and (3) how the dual poetics of Can Xue exemplifies an emerging mode of reconfiguring Chineseness and becoming world literature. The main argument highlights how Can Xue embraces translation conceptually and thematically, and how the translator conforms to the paradigm of producing successful translated fiction in the dominant literary field. The findings also underline the power dynamics determined by the hegemonic position of English and the Western mainstream poetics, while highlighting a pathway of disseminating Chinese literature as literary creations with aesthetic values, rather than as documentaries or ethnographical accounts of Chinese society.

Keywords

Can Xue, world literature, translation

Joint Efforts of Multiple Actors and Diverse Means: A Study on the Dissemination Strategies of Can Xue's Novels in the Anglophone World

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Dr Xiaoxiao Xin

Dr. Xiaoxiao Xin is a lecturer in the School of Foreign Languages, Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST). She holds a PhD in Translation Studies. Her main research interests lie in literary translation, translation criticism, and translator studies. She has published some papers on translation studies in SSCI, A&HCI and CSSCI journals such as Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice, Meta: Translators' Journal, International Research in Children's Literature, and Shanghai Journal of Translators.

Abstract

Can Xue is not only an outstanding representative of contemporary Chinese avant-garde writers, but also one of the most successful contemporary Chinese writers in overseas translation. This paper mainly examines the dissemination strategies of Can Xue's novels in the Anglophone world and its enlightenment to the overseas dissemination of contemporary Chinese literature. It is found that the dissemination of Can Xue's novels in the Anglophone world has been assisted by diverse dissemination strategies including the promotion of paratexts, authoritative reviews, sponsorship, writers' self-marketing, adaptation and multimedia websites, which are jointly constructed by multiple actors such as writers, translators, critics, publishers, foundations, editors, and research institutions. This not only explains why Can Xue's novels have been well-received in the Anglophone world, but also provides some insights and references for the overseas dissemination of contemporary Chinese literature.

Keywords

Can Xue, Dissemination strategy, Contemporary Chinese literature

LT.24 | Panels 46 and 47 | Translation in Multilingual Research

Chairs: Anna Strowe, Serena Bassi (Panel 46); Nadja Grbić, Rafael Schögler (Panel 47)

Translation as a tool of knowledge creation: theoretical and practical aspects

Prof. Esa Penttilä, Dr Juha Lång, Prof. Helka Riionheimo, Dr Juho Suokas, Dr Erja Vottonen
University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland

Prof. Esa Penttilä

The authors belong to the ReTra research team of the University of Eastern Finland (Joensuu). The team concentrates on studying research translatoriality, i.e. the whole variety of multilingual activities involved in research work. Related to the theme, the team also organizes a course on translating research material for PhD researchers from various fields. Esa Penttilä works as professor of English language and translation. He has also studied non-professional translation, cognitive translation studies, multilingual communication, and metaphorical language.

Dr Juha Lång

Juha Lång is a post-doctoral researcher. His other research interests include cognitive translation studies and language technology.

Prof. Helka Riionheimo

Helka Riionheimo works as professor of Finnish and Karelian at UEF. She has published various articles with translation scholars and led the Kiännä! project, which organized translator training for the endangered language of Karelian.

Dr Juho Suokas

Juho Suokas works as university lecturer in English language and translation. He did his PhD work on user-centered translation.

Dr Erja Vottonen

Erja Vottonen works as a post-doctoral researcher. Her PhD work concentrated on the relationship of theory and practice in translator training, and she is also interested in the reception of translated Russian literature in Finland.

Abstract

Translation has always played an essential role in spreading scientific knowledge, although this is not necessarily duly acknowledged (Montgomery 2000). In the present world, where English has become the lingua franca of scholarly work, translation may be even less discernible than before (Bennett 2013). Still, translation can be regarded as integral to the production of scientific knowledge (e.g. Xian 2020), and therefore it is important to understand that the message always changes when it is transferred from one language to another. At least, this is how the social constructionist position views the issue. The positivistic perspective takes an opposite stand viewing language as a straightforward tool that labels the world; the researcher just objectively chooses the label that is needed. Although translation scholars prefer the non-positivist view, Temple & Young (2004) claim that it is actually the latter position that is predominant in much crosslinguistic research. In this presentation, we aim to discuss the role of translation as a tool for creating scientific knowledge. We touch upon some theoretical prerequisites related to the topic but concentrate on practical observations about translation used in research contexts. Our discussion is based on survey and interview data gathered from academic researchers from various backgrounds.

Keywords

knowledge construction, research translation, social constructionism

Translational Dynamics in Academia: A Study of Multilingual Research Practices and Perspectives at the University of Graz

Mr Sascha Essl
University of Graz, Graz, Austria

Mr Sascha Essl

Sascha Essl is a PhD student and University Assistant at the Department of Translation Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. His research aligns with the Translation, History, and Politics research field within the department, focusing on the dissemination of knowledge through translation in Arabic periodicals in 19th- and 20th-century Egypt. In his Master's Thesis, he examined translation as a tool for knowledge production in multilingual research settings within the social sciences and humanities at the University of Graz, emphasising researchers' perspectives on translational practices and their impact on research prior to dissemination. Sascha's main research interests include translation and knowledge, translation history, sociology of translation, and conceptual frameworks of translation. Sascha Essl completed his Bachelor of Arts in Arabic Studies, focusing on Arabic linguistics and translation at the University of Leipzig, and earned a Master of Arts in Translation specialising in the language combination of Arabic, English, and German from the University of Graz, where he also worked as a student assistant. Additionally, he has experience working as a translator in research, translating 19th-century biological scientific texts from German to English and 19th-century Arabic letters into German.

Abstract

In this work, I explore the interplay between translation and multilingualism in pre-dissemination research processes in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Graz. This analysis highlights researchers' strategies and perspectives on integrating or avoiding translation in their multilingual research. Translational agents and practices in research are diverse (Penttilä et al. 2021), often deviating from proposed translation studies standards (cf. Littig & Pöchhacker 2014, Behr 2018). This study illustrates how non-translation studies scholars conceptualise translation in their roles as primary translatorial agents and decision-makers. The study employs a mixed-method approach, comprising a questionnaire and semi-structured interviews, targeting four researchers at the University of Graz. This work, thereby, shifts the focus from theoretical ideals to researchers as translatorial agents, including their multilingual practices and perspectives on translation in their research. The questionnaire and interviews reveal diverse approaches to (non-)translation (Duarte 2000), from the deliberate selection of translators based on non-translational experiences, to using ChatGPT for verifying self-translations, or deliberately avoiding translation. The researchers thus present diverse conceptualisations of translation. Some view translation as a simple linguistic transfer, others as a heuristic process of rendering complex concepts in another cultural or linguistic context. Two participants suggested that "real" translations necessitate "professionals", which they associated with individuals who work as paid translators or have the necessary linguistic repertoires. However, each researcher showed a great, yet reflective, reliance on machine translation, highlighting the importance of such tools in their academic lives. This work shows that researchers hold distinct perspectives on translation, both as a concept and a tool for knowledge production. Consequently, researchers are translatorial agents, employing different translation strategies to construct knowledge. This highlights the significance of their perspectives on translation practices and concepts, both within multilingual research but also to conceptualise translation practices and agents within translation studies.

Keywords

multilingual knowledge production, researchers as translators, conceptualisations of translation

Translation as Homecoming: Material and Knowledge Movement through Translation in the Museum Work Placement

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Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

Dr Ye Tian

Ye Tian is a visiting scholar at the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, Durham University. He is interested in exploring translation theories related to semiotics, knowledge, materiality, and activism.

Prof Binghan Zheng

Binghan Zheng is Professor in Translation Studies at the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, Durham University. His research interests include cognitive translation and interpreting studies, neuroscience of translation, and comparative translation and interpreting studies.

Abstract

This research explores the role of translation in producing cultural knowledge with artefacts originally from China and exhibited in a British university museum. The museum asks student translators to translate these items into Chinese. The research focuses on how the materiality of translationality (Blumczynski 2023) serves as a method for linguistic and material knowledge mediation in museum settings. Initially, these artefacts' journey from China to the museum – seen as the translation of objects (Vidal Claramonte 2024) – is not uncommon in the movement of cultural objects. However, the process of translating these artefacts from English (the display language) into Chinese introduces complexity. English, initially the target language, becomes the source language, while Chinese becomes the target language. This bidirectional movement across languages marks the artefacts' twice-translated journey, materially and linguistically. The identity of translators yields another experiential translation (Campbell & Vidal 2024) perspective. The translators are Chinese students with personal and academic journeys that parallel the artefacts' travel. This adds a layer of embodied translation to the project, as these translators physically and conceptually navigate between cultures, contributing to the museum's knowledge production in a manner that echoes the artefacts' movements. In short, by examining the physical and conceptual travel facilitated by translation, this research aims to highlight emerging pathways of museum knowledge production. The interplay between the artefacts' and translators' journeys through translation showcases the intricate connections between physical and linguistic translation.

Keywords

experiential translation, materiality, museum

(Inter-)Epistemic Translation: Textual Transits between Paradigms of Knowledge

Prof. Karen Bennett
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Prof. Karen Bennett

Karen Bennett is Associate Professor in Translation at Nova University of Lisbon and Coordinator of the Translationality strand at the research unit CETAPS (Centre for English, Translation and Anglo-Portuguese Studies). She is general editor of the journal Translation Matters and member of the editorial board of the Brill series Approaches to Translation Studies. Her research interests include history and theory of translation; intersemiotic translation and multimodality; and ways of construing and translating knowledge.

Abstract

Responding to a challenge raised by Douglas Robinson in the conclusion of his book Translationality (2017: 200-202), the ongoing EPISTRAN project uses concepts, methods and theories from Translation Studies to investigate the semiotic processes (verbal and nonverbal) involved in the transfer of information between different 'epistemic systems'. Drawing upon research from different disciplinary fields, it studies not only the various textual transits occurring when scientific knowledge is repackaged for non-specialist consumption, or when humanistic knowledge is brought to bear on scientific arguments, but also the more complex multimodal operations taking place between the dominant epistemologies of the global North (or West) and the informal knowledges of the global South (including East). It hopes to shed light not only upon the ways in which each of these discourses construes its subject, but also upon the similarities and differences between them as regards their implicit assumptions, semiotic repertoires, and ultimate objectives. By using translation to raise awareness of the fact that the relationship between different knowledges is one of complementarity, with each one ultimately incomplete in itself, it hopes to go some way towards curbing 'epistemicide' and restoring 'cognitive justice' to the world (Santos 2016: 212). This paper offers an overview of the project's aims, methods and preliminary results, framed within the emancipatory discourse of an ecology of knowledges.

Keywords

(inter-)epistemic translation, ecology of knowledges, epistemicide

Ethics and Ethnography: Challenges in Multilingual Empirical Research in Belgian Prisons

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Dra Elle Leon

Elle Leon is a PhD researcher at the Faculty of Arts at KU Leuven, Campus Antwerp. She graduated as a Conference Interpreter from Ghent University after having obtained a Master in Interpreting with a dissertation on multilingualism in asylum procedures. Additionally, she obtained a Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Françaises at Université Jean Moulin Lyon III in Lyon, France. Her research interests include multilingualism, interpreter-mediated communication, reintegration, equality, (forced) migration, displacement, criminology, penology and education.

Prof. Heidi Salaets

Prof. Dr Heidi Salaets is Professor at the Faculty of Arts at KU Leuven (Belgium) and, since 2023, has served as the Head of the Translation Studies Research Unit. Since 2013, she has also led the Interpreting Studies Research Group at the same university. She teaches in the Master of Interpreting program at the Antwerp campus, covering subjects such as interpreting studies and methodology, community interpreting and deontology/ethics, note-taking techniques, and interpreting between Italian and Dutch. Heidi Salaets' primary research areas include legal interpreting and community interpreting, with a particular focus on healthcare interpreting. Her research is inherently inter- and transdisciplinary, addressing issues that have a tangible impact on society through participatory action research across various fields, including Communication Sciences, Psychology, Sociology, Law, Criminology, General Medicine, and Emergency Medicine, just to name a few. She explores concepts of vulnerability and Foreign Language Vulnerability (FLV), considering all participants in the encounter: legal actors/service providers, clients (patients, suspects, victims, minors, prisoners, etc.), and the interpreters themselves. Consequently, interpreter training didactics and the assessment of interpreting quality are of paramount importance in both her research and teaching. Interprofessional education (IPE) is one of the cornerstones of her approach.

Prof. Tom Daems

Prof. Dr Tom Daems is Professor of Criminology at the Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC), Faculty of Law & Criminology, KU Leuven. At LINC he is the coordinator of research line 8 on 'Punishment and Control' which aims to foster in particular research in the field of (comparative and European) penology and prison studies.

Dr Jonathan Bernaerts

Dr Jonathan Bernaerts hold Bachelors in Philosophy and Law (University of Antwerp), and obtained Master degrees in Law (University of Antwerp) and Comparative International Law (University of Toulouse Capitole 1). He was awarded the European Master Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC). Bernaerts obtained in 2020 a Joint PhD from the University of Antwerp and the Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, in collaboration with the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Department Law and Anthropology. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Leuven Centre for Public Law, KU Leuven and a guest lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp.

Abstract

Like many European states, Belgium is confronted with an increasingly multilingual population in its detention facilities. Among detainees, there are significant differences in the proficiency of the official languages in Belgium (Dutch, French and German). The project MiPRiS: Multilingualism in Prisons and Reintegration into Society will study language legislation, policy and practice in Belgian prisons, to map to what extent it impairs the detention process and successful reintegration of prisoners into society. By combining an ethnographic study in situ, with a legal analysis of the European human rights law framework, the project will not only show how language practices impact reintegration trajectories, but also identify

priorities for policy change. More specifically, we will combine quantitative research with surveys and qualitative research through observations in situ and semi-structured interviews with the actors involved: detainees, prison staff and members of prison committees. Particularly relevant to the specific respondent group of our project is the inherent challenge of comprehension in this ethnographic research. Based on an overview of all nationalities present in Belgian prisons, we selected the fifteen most common languages to be included in our project. Considering that the researcher (who will be conducting the observations and interviews) masters only four of those, the assistance of various interpreters and translators will be required for interpreting during the interviews, translation of documents (e.g. informed consent), transcription and translation of interviews, etc. Data collection for MiPRiS will commence in September 2024. For EST 2025, we will therefore expound on the multilingual scope of MiPRiS and draw on the findings of two of our three main observation periods in Belgian prisons, focusing in this panel on multilingualism on how the assistance of interpreters and translators may benefit but also complicate the research on foreign language speaking detainees both intramural and extramural.

Keywords

legal institutional translation & interpreting, language barriers, prison

Session 4 | 13:30-15:00

LT.01 | Panel 43 | The Mediated and Multimodal Nature of Song Translation (cont.)

Chairs: Johan Franzon, Annjo K. Greenall, Anna Rędzioch-Korkuz

Successful Foreignisation through Multimodal Translation: A Case of a Polish Rendering of “A Boy Named Sue”

Dr Anna Rędzioch-Korkuz
University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

Dr Anna Rędzioch-Korkuz

Anna Rędzioch-Korkuz is Associate Professor in the Institute of English Studies at the University of Warsaw, Poland. Her main research interests lie in theoretical translation studies, with particular reference to the relationship between translation and semiotics, the problem of translation constraints and a general theory of translation. Her research concentrates also on opera surtitling and singable translation.

Abstract

Popular songs are considered to be items of mass consumption, aimed at local audiences and composed to match their tastes. When translated and re-released in a different locale, songs are usually domesticated, as they should be familiar to a desired extent and recreate the intended effect. Accordingly, it is the relatability of the lyrics and/or the tune that is at stake, with these two song dimensions being modified to meet expectations of new audiences. Though not so common, foreignisation is also a viable option in song translation. The paper will present an interesting case of a foreignised Polish translation of Johnny Cash’s song “A Boy Named Sue.” The target text “Chłopiec zwany Zuzią,” translated by Wojciech Młynarski, was used in a TV performance delivered by Mieczysław Czechowicz in 1970. The paper will include a multimodal analysis of the lyrics, music, performance and the visual dimension, with special reference to the ways the foreign effect was conveyed or amplified. Even though the strategy of foreignisation was not common to song translation at the time, the Polish song became popular and has had a long afterlife, producing a powerful post-translation effect in the form of three spin-off songs telling the story of a cowboy named Zuzia. The paper will highlight the multimodal approach to song translation research and the question of post-translation effects of translated songs, thus addressing the problem of appropriate methodologies and contributing to the development of target-oriented studies on song translation.

Keywords

singable translation, multimodality, foreignisation

Domesticated interlingual and intergenre translation of rock songs

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Dr Leena Salmi

Leena Salmi works as University Lecturer in French and Translation Studies at the University of Turku. Leena has been involved in translator education for over 20 years (in 2024-2016 as professor of translation studies at the University of Turku), and has 3 years' industry experience as translator and technical writer. Her PhD thesis (2004) dealt with the usability of computer user documentation and since then, her research has dealt with various themes. Her current research interests relate to translator training, translation technology and translation quality assessment. Her teaching focuses on practical translation courses (French-Finnish), translation technology, and translation company simulation, as well as supervision of MA and PhD thesis.

Prof Esa Penttilä

Esa Penttilä works as professor of English language and translation and head of School of Humanities at the University of Eastern Finland. He completed his PhD concentrating on idiomatic constructions in English in 2006 at the University of Joensuu. Since then, his research aspirations have extended to various areas of translation studies. At the moment, he is working with ReTra team (UEF) who investigate various aspects of translatorial activities in research contexts. His main research interests also include non-professional translation, cognitive translation studies, multilingual communication, and metaphorical language. In 2011–2013, he worked as professor of translation studies (English) at the University of Tampere.

Abstract

In this paper, we analyse a selection of interlingual covers (Susam-Saraeva 2018) by Eläkeläiset, a Finnish rock group who cover rock classics "dealing with the life of the elderly, heavy on the sarcasm", as they explain in their collection Humppabingo (2009). They translate popular music into Finnish with fast humppa or jenkka rhythms, adapting both the musical genre and the textual content in their cover versions. The band is especially famous in Germany. Our material consists of covers of well-known rock songs. We analyse the translations using the strategy classification proposed by Greenall et al. (2021) and the translation methods proposed by Franzon (2021). The macrolevel strategy is to translate singably, rewriting the lyrics. The mezzolevel strategy is clearly to domesticate heavily. We also find the last three of Franzon's (2021) methods in the material: single-phrase spinoffs, phonetic calques and all-new target lyrics. Examples of these methods are illustrated in song titles as well as in the lyrics of the songs. Heavy cultural domestication that is applied to these adaptations adds interesting dimensions to the previous classifications and enriches our view into the multimodality of song translation.

Keywords

Interlingual cover songs, translation strategies, popular music

Pop, Protest and Translation - German and French Language Adaptations of Protest Songs in the 1960s

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Mr Nils-Christian Terp

Nils-Christian Terp is a university teacher at the Institute of Intercultural Business Communication of the University of Jena and a PhD candidate. He studied Romance languages and philosophy in Münster and Lyon. He was an assistant for German as a foreign language at the Université du Québec à Montréal and a DAAD lecturer at Sorbonne University in Paris for five years. He is currently working on a dissertation project on multilingualism and translation, which deals with the transfer of pop music from the Anglo-American region to France and the Federal Republic of Germany in the 1960s. His research interests include cultural transfer, the connection between literature and music, translation studies and pop culture.

Abstract

In my paper, I will analyze pop song translation through the prism of the protest song in the 1960s. Often, songs are deeply changed in the process of translation and adaptation. Vernacular versions of English language pop songs may bear little resemblance to the source material. I will make use of the methodological framework for song translation developed by Johan Franzon (2021) to tackle the following questions: How did translators deal with songs whose subject was serious as war? Did they still take liberties in translation or did they try to reproduce a similar anti-war song in their own language? Did potential commercial interests play a role in blurring political messages? I present short case studies focusing on the anti-war songs A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall by Bob Dylan from 1962, Universal Soldier by Buffy Sainte-Marie from 1963 and Eve of Destruction by P.F. Sloan from 1965. My focus will be on their translations into French and German, while also taking a look at Italian and Spanish versions. With the help of the typology of resistance developed by the sociologists Hollander and Einwohner (2004), I will analyze the political content in these adapted songs. In doing this, I assess whether song translation can be seen as a vehicle for a global protest culture or whether the political aspect is reduced or even lost in the process of adaptation.

Keywords

Song Translation, Protest Songs, 1960s Pop Culture

Cultural Retentions in Rhythm and Blues Song Translations

Mr. Kenny Wesley
University of Alcalá, Madrid, Spain

Mr. Kenny Wesley

Kenny Wesley is an adjunct professor of Spanish in the Department of Liberal Studies at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, a musician, and an experienced translator/interpreter (French/Spanish --> English). Currently a PhD candidate in Translation Studies at the University of Alcalá (Madrid), he holds both a B.A. and an M.A. in Spanish from Howard University. His research interests include song translation, cultural competency in translation and interpretation, identity politics in translation, linguistic justice, and the impact of music on second language acquisition. His compositions and song translations have been featured in TV, film, Grammy and Stellar Award-nominated albums, and have been performed by artists such as Snoop Dogg.

Abstract

Rich in allusions, dialect, distinctive vocal, harmonic, and lyrical extemporizations, Rhythm and Blues (R&B) is considered a highly localized cultural production invented by African Americans in the mid-20th century. By the 1960s, interest in the genre skyrocketed, inspiring the creation of countless intralingual and interlingual cover songs around the globe. This article is an exploratory study that seeks to discover the semiotic and semantic retentions present in singable American R&B song translations commercially released in France and Spain from the 1960s to the present day, and their potential sociocultural impact on the target cultures. Song translation strategies were identified using Toury's descriptive-explanatory approach and analyzed using Low's pentathlon principle and Franzon's six pop song translation strategies.

Keywords

song translation, rhythm and blues, semiotics

LT.06 | Panel 44 | Translation in/for Minority Languages in Europe

Chairs: Cláudia Martins, Antony Hoyte-West

Translation as a Linguistic Right: Looking Into the European Union's Western Balkan Enlargement

Dr. Özlem Gülen
Halic University, Istanbul, Turkey

Dr. Özlem Gülen

Özlem GÜLEN graduated as an honor student in 2016 from the Department of English Translation and Interpreting of Istanbul University. During her undergraduate education, she participated in the Erasmus Student Exchange Program in the Spring Semester of 2014 and studied English Philology at the Pedagogical University of Cracow. She earned her MA degree in the program of European Union of Istanbul University with her thesis titled "Democratization and Nation-Building through Language Rights During the Process of Europeanization: Romania, Bulgaria and North Macedonia". In 2022, she participated in the Erasmus Personnel Exchange Program at the University of Deusto in Bilbao, Spain as a visiting academician. Currently, she received her Ph.D. in Translation Studies at Istanbul University in 2025 and works as a professional translator in Turkish, English and German. Her academic research interests focus on European studies, gender and translation, translation sociology and translation in special fields.

Abstract

Translation is regarded as a crucial constituent of the multilingual and multicultural perspective of the European Union (EU). The EU's translation policy, with its 24 official languages and support for minority and regional language protection, has long drawn interest from a wide range of academic fields. However, the majority of the research conducted on the translation policy of the EU focused on the operational basis of its institutions. Therefore, with the intent to present a different viewpoint on the translation policy of the EU, this paper aims to investigate the EU's understanding of translation during the enlargement processes, which carries the application of translation policy beyond the borders of the EU and expands its context to the candidate countries. As the notion of translation as a linguistic right has become increasingly prominent during the EU's Western Balkan Enlargement process, this paper will focus on the Western Balkan states. Considering the ethnic and linguistic diversity in the Western Balkan states, which are strongly connected to linguistic rights and correspondingly, translation policies in these states, the objective of this paper is to identify the role/roles attributed to translation practices by the EU during the Western Balkan Enlargement process. In this sense, the annual progress reports prepared for each Western Balkan state will be analyzed and the information gleaned from the reports will be assessed to reveal the EU's approach to the translation practices in the Western Balkan states. The results of this paper will not only demonstrate the position of translation within linguistic rights but also highlight the many roles that translation could play in promoting linguistic and ethnic diversity as well as European integration.

Keywords

Translation, Linguistic rights, European Union

Between Foreignization and Domestication in the Translation of Modern-Day Fairy Tales: “The Folk of the Air” Trilogy by Holly Black

Lecturer PhD Lorena Clara Mihaes
University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania

Lecturer PhD Lorena Clara Mihaes

I am a lecturer at the University of Bucharest, the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures. I hold a BA in English and French, an MA in Literary Translation, and a PhD in Philology. My research interests include pragmatics, stylistics, cognitive studies, and translation studies and I have published a series of articles and chapters on these topics. I have also translated several fictional books from English into Romanian for various publishing houses.

Abstract

The Folk of the Air is a young adult fantasy series by Holly Black which comprises three novels: The Cruel Prince (2018), The Wicked King (2019) and The Queen of Nothing (2020). The book creates a world full of enchantment and peril, populated by wicked, unpredictable, selfish and sometimes cruel faeries. The term “faery” is loosely used to designate any fantastic creature from the Faerie Land or from the ranks of the Folk of the Air: imps, hobs, goblins, grigs, pixies, nixies, boggans, foxkin and so on. The Romanian translation of the trilogy is foreignizing in many instances. This is explained, on the one hand, because the readership is formed by young adults who have already been exposed to English through global media, which makes them more receptive to foreign elements in the text. Thus, readers are allowed to experience the exoticness and authenticity of the original. On the other hand, the Romanian folklore does not always have equivalents for all the faerie lore in the novels. A domesticating translation, which would have altered cultural markers to bring the text closer to the target audience, might have felt as a kind of appropriation or cultural colonialism (Venuti, 2008). As for the place names (eg. Crooked Forest, Milkwood, etc.), the translator chooses to translate them into Romanian (Pădurea Încovoiată, Pădurea Albă) and the same goes for the names of various plants (some of them magical), like milkweed (iarba-fiarelor) or wood sorrel (măcrişul-iepurelui). The present article will consider both instances of foreignization and domestication in the Romanian translation of the trilogy. It will highlight the translator's efforts to strike a balance between preserving the authenticity of the faerie world and ensuing the text’s readability and accessibility for the Romanian readers.

Keywords

young adult's literature, modern-day fairy tales, foreignization

Translating World Literature Into Silesian: Possibilities And Challenges

Ms Julia Krząkała
Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland

Ms Julia Krząkała

Graduate of Cultural Studies (BA), currently pursuing an MA in Translation Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. Interests include Silesian culture and language, disability studies, and handcraft.

Abstract

The last two decades have witnessed a significant intensification of discourse concerning the status of Silesian as a language, as well as its distinct identity from Polish. This heightened interest is largely influenced by the 2021 Polish census results and the 2024 presidential veto against the law aiming to recognize Silesian as a regional language in Poland. Historically, it has been marginalized and stereotyped in Polish media primarily through comedy shows as a language of unintelligent, "simple" people – one that only describes unserious, daily matter. As such, Silesian has faced significant challenges in achieving recognition and development. Recent years have seen a surge in publication of books translated into Silesian, a trend that holds both promise and potential challenges. This presentation explores the significance of these cultural products in the context of minority language preservation and promotion. The translation of works into Silesian is not motivated by the will to make world literature accessible to the inhabitants of the region – contrary to, for example, Polish translations. Instead, it serves as a powerful form of cultural affirmation and representation. This presentation aims to consider the potential long-term impact of the translation movement on the development and survival of Silesian drawing on the current state of the art in Silesian studies. Although it is too early to definitively assess these consequences, possible scenarios will be discussed, with reference to the trajectory of similar processes concerning other European minority languages. The main methodological approaches applied for the sake of this presentation are literature review, content and media analysis.

Keywords

minority language rights in Poland, Silesian language preservation, cultural heritage

Translation into a Minority Language as a Tool for Language Revitalization: A Case Study of Dutch Retranslations of Lu Xun's Works

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Dr. Audrey Heijns

Audrey Heijns is a part-time Lecturer at the Centre for China Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her publications include the monograph The Role of Henri Borel in Chinese Translation History (2021), and articles in refereed journals, including Translation and Interpreting Studies, Perspectives and Lexikos. She translates Chinese literature into Dutch and English, and is the editor of the database Verretaal Chinese literature in Dutch translation.

Abstract

Among the steps towards "Theoretical Model for Translation as a Tool of Language Revitalization", Belmar (2017) proposes to promote translation from source languages that are not dominant to help revitalize the target minority language, while encouraging direct translation, even from distant languages like Japanese into a minority language such as Basque. (2017, p. 52) To find out how this works for target language revitalization, this paper will compare Dutch retranslations of literary texts by the Chinese author Lu Xun (1881–1936), who is revered in China as "The Father of Modern Chinese Literature." Lu Xun's work has been translated into Dutch several times from the earliest translation of a short story in 1940 to the most recent one in 2006. The focus here is on retranslations of multiple stories directly from Chinese into Dutch by different translators in different historical periods. All translators emphasize Lu Xun's status in China and the relevance of his work for the Dutch reader, but all have a different translation approach. The aim of this comparative study is to show how translators use translation to revitalize the Dutch language, illustrated by examples from different translations. Much depends on the translators' approach to the stories, and their motivation of introducing Lu Xun's work to the readers, including their political motives, academic mindset and cultural background. Moreover, the process of translating canonical works from a distant language into a minority language is not straightforward and can be complicated by external influences of a major language, such as English. The outcome of this comparative study will contribute to the discussion on translation into minority languages and the revitalization of the target language.

Keywords

Minority language, Dutch, Retranslation

LT.07 | Panel 9 | City Museums as City Translation

Chairs: Luc van Doorslaer, Anneleen Spiessens

Translation, Re-narration and the Intertextual Construction of the City as Heritage Space: The Case of Zheng He in the Museums of Melaka

Dr. Robert Neather
Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Dr. Robert Neather

Robert Neather is Associate Professor in the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University, where he was previously also Head of Programme and Department (2013-2022) and Director of the Centre for Translation (2013-2019). He gained his PhD in classical Chinese literature from the University of Cambridge. His research has focused mainly on translation in the Chinese museum context, and has explored several areas including verbal/visual interactions in translation, intertextuality in the construction of translated museum narratives, and issues of expertise, identity and collaboration in the production of museum translations. He also has research interests in Buddhist translation and is currently involved in a long-running collaborative Buddhist translation project. He has published in various venues including Meta, Semiotica, Interventions, Babel and The Translator, and was editor of Martha Cheung's posthumously published Chinese Discourse on Translation, Volume II (Routledge 2017). His book Translating for Museums, Galleries and Heritage Sites (2024) is published in the Routledge "Translation Practices Explained" series. For many years, he was executive editor (English) and later co-chief editor of the Hong Kong-based journal, Translation Quarterly, and is currently an editor of the recently founded journal Encounters in Translation.

Abstract

The city of Melaka (Malacca) may be read as a translation zone whose various historical layers of linguistic and cultural influence (Malay, Chinese, English, Dutch, Portuguese; Christian, Islamic) inscribe a complex history of intercultural contact. Since its designation in 2008 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, museums have proliferated in the city and have come to play a central part in the framing of its heritage and cultural identity. These museums, along with related heritage sites and monuments, form an intertextual aggregate in which multiple "re-presentations" or "re-narrations" of history interweave to form what Bucher and Kolbitsch (2019) call the "city as heritage space". After a broad consideration of the city's museum landscape, the paper focuses on the intertextual construction of Zheng He (Cheng Ho), the fifteenth century Chinese admiral who sailed to Melaka in 1405. Understanding the museum as a translation zone in which a variety of translation processes – cultural, intersemiotic and interlingual – must be examined from a holistic perspective, the paper conducts an analysis of the Cheng Ho Cultural Museum, examining both the "translational gestures" (Celis 2019) through which Zheng He is culturally translated in the museum space, and the Chinese/English/Malay trilingual texts that form part of this cultural translation. Drawing on Lemke's (2002) notion of intertextuality as a form of co-patterning across texts that operates at three levels, the thematic, axiological and rhetorical-generic, it further examines how, through such co-patterning, Zheng He is re-narrated in other museums and sites in the city. The paper concludes by considering how the intertextual construction of Zheng He across the Melakan city heritage space represents a "translation" or repositioning of the city's identity that places greater emphasis on the Chinese aspects of the Melakan cultural imaginary, and that seeks to commodify these as a means to attract Chinese visitors.

Keywords

museum translation, city as heritage space, intertextuality

Tampere 1918 – Exploring museums as intersemiotic translation spaces

Ms Cláudia Mendes, Prof. Mattia Thibault
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Ms Cláudia Mendes

Cláudia Mendes is a PhD student at the University of Tampere and a member of the NEXR project and of the InterReality Research Group. Cláudia has a Master's in Translation and Language Services from the University of Porto and a Bachelor's in Applied Languages from the University of Minho. Her PhD project focuses on LLMs and their potential uses in the localisation of XR applications.

Prof. Mattia Thibault

Dr Mattia Thibault is an Associate Professor in Translation in the Creative Industries at Tampere University and has a PhD in Semiotics and Media (Turin University). In Tampere, he is a member of the Language Unit and Vice Director of the Research Centre in Gameful Realities. His research interests include semiotics and translation, extended realities, speculative research, and playfulness in the built environment (real and digital). He is the leader of the research group InterReality which focuses on the relations between different virtual spaces (and their inhabitants) and their connections with the "real" world.

Abstract

Opened to the public in the early 2000s and transformed into a series of virtual exhibitions starting from 2018, Tampere 1918 is an interesting case study to engage with the layers of translations that connect museums and cities. Tampere 1918 was an exhibition at the Vapriikki Museum, in Finland, about the Finnish civil war and the bloody final battle that took place in Tampere. This exhibition, containing artifacts related to the war and information about the battle and its aftermath, can be understood as a twofold effort of translation: of the past into the present, and of the city into the museum. The exhibition, widely appreciated by the public, remained open for 15 years, and closed in 2018. To preserve its memory and social significance, the Museum engaged in a new, systematic, effort of translation. Tampere 1918 was converted into a series of virtual products, including: a screen-based recreation of the exhibition; a VR immersive experience recreating the train ride that led White soldiers to the battlefield; and a game containing high quality 3D scans of many of the museum artifacts. In this case, both the museum and the city were translated into virtual environments, as part of what can be described as a series of interreal translations (Thibault 2024), a form of intersemiotic translation that takes place across different "realities". Here, the museum acted both as a source and as a mediator between the city and the virtual environment while the city is also translated through technical means (e.g. 3D scanning and modelling) into a digital artifact. In this presentation we use Tampere 1918 as a case study about the translatorial and semiotic dynamics that take place in these different forms of translation and underline the role of museums as intersemiotic translation spaces.

Keywords

Intersemiotic translation, Museums, Extended Reality

Museums for More: Going Multilingual to Advance Connections and Innovate Experiences

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University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA

Professor Regina Galasso

Regina Galasso is an author, translator, educator, and language access leader. She is the author of Translating New York: The City's Languages in Iberian Literatures (Liverpool UP, 2018), recipient of the 2017 Northeast Modern Language Association Book Award. She is the editor of Translation as Home: A Multilingual Life by Ilan Stavans (U of Toronto P, 2024) and This Is a Classic: Translators on Making Writers Global (Bloomsbury, 2023). She is the co-editor of Avenues of Translation: The City in Iberian and Latin American Writing (Bucknell, 2019), recipient of the 2020 South Atlantic Modern Language Association Book Award, with Evelyn Scaramella, and a special Nueva York issue of Translation Review (2012) with Carmen Boullosa. Dr. Galasso is the translator of Alicia Borinsky's Lost Cities Go to Paradise (Swan Isle P, 2015) and Miguel Barnet's A True Story: A Cuban in New York (Jorge Pinto Books, 2010). She founded and edits the Bloomsbury Academic book series TRANSLATED BY with Mario Pereira. She co-curated the exhibition "Read the World: Picture Books and Translation" (2022) at the Eric Carle Museum. She works with schools and organizations to improve language access efforts, including an appointment on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's School Interpreters Task Force. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Center for the Book and the Advisory Board of the Planet Word Museum. She is an associate professor in the Spanish and Portuguese Studies Program and director of the Translation Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Abstract

Museums in the United States generally embrace diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging in a variety of ways from promoting their spaces as ones in which everyone is welcome and removing admission costs to diversifying the selection of art on display. At the same time, museums strive to be global, while being a home to their local community members. These outreach efforts, however, have been largely in English despite the fact that the museums are in multilingual cities and can theoretically attract not only local guests, for whom English is not their preferred language, but also guests from abroad who would also benefit from museum material in languages other than English. In general, museums have made few or sporadic changes to incorporate translation into their planning. Yet, the conditions for museums to be multisensory, multilingual spaces are favorable given the planning required by exhibition curation and programming and their set operating hours, among other factors. This paper offers a panorama of how selected museums from both small (Cambridge, North Adams, Northampton) and large cities (Boston and New York) in the northeastern United States, from 2020 to the present, have used translation in their spaces and explores the obstacles they face as they consider going multilingual. Overall, this paper argues for the potential of translation to transform US city museums into spaces that use multiple languages to connect at both the global and local levels if not only for greater accessibility but also for the symbolic importance of multilingual representation. Translation can help museums recognize and celebrate the linguistic diversity of their own homes while strengthening connections to all guests, deepening representations of the art on exhibition, and using language to find creative avenues to innovate city experiences.

Keywords

Language Access, Linguistic Diversity, Multilingual Museums

LT.11 | Panel 3 | AI-enabled Accessibility

Chairs: Sabine Braun, Elena Davitti, Gian Maria Greco

ARTS (Accessibility via Real Time Subtitling): live subtitling of press conferences in film festivals

Ms Annalisa Sandrelli
Università degli Studi Internazionali di Roma- UNINT, Rome, Italy

Ms Annalisa Sandrelli

Prior to joining UNINT as a Lecturer in English Language and Translation in 2008, Annalisa Sandrelli taught at the universities of Trieste and Bologna/Forlì, and she was Marie Curie TMR Fellow and Lector in Italian at the University of Hull. She has published widely on corpus-based interpreting studies, audiovisual translation, EU English, legal interpreting, and Computer Assisted Interpreter Training (CAIT). She is a member of EST (European Society for Translation Studies), ESIST (European Association for Studies in Screen Translation), AIA (Association of English Studies in Italy) and ESSE (European Society for the Study of English), and she is Associate Member of GALMA (Galician Observatory for Media Accessibility). She has taken part in several EU-funded projects on legal interpreting and translation (Building Mutual Trust, Qualitas, Understanding Justice) and coordinated several research projects on audiovisual translation (DubTalk, TVTalk, Sub!: Localisation Workflows (th)at Work 1 and 2). In relation to live subtitling, she participated in the pilot projects SMART (Shaping Multilingual Access with Respeaking Technology) and SMART2 with the universities of Surrey and Vigo, and was International Co-Investigator in the ERSC-funded SMART (Shaping Multilingual Access with Respeaking Technology) led by the University of Surrey in 2020-2022. She was also a Member of the Advisory Board on the ILSA-Interlingual Live Subtitling for Access project (Erasmus+ 2017-1-ES01-KA203-037948) and Quality consultant in the LiveTextAccess (LTA) project (Erasmus+ 2018-1-DE01-KA203-004218).

Abstract

Over the last few years, a number of hybrid practices involving human-machine interaction have developed to meet the growing accessibility demand across language and sensory barriers in society. An area that has received special attention is live subtitling to make TV broadcasts and live events accessible to all. Respeaking is possibly the best-known method and it is entirely human-centric, although it is based on the interaction between a professional (respeaker) and a speaker-dependent speech recognition software trained to recognise his/her voice. However, there is no “one size fits all” solution, as many factors (including available budget, equipment and expertise) come into play. The proposed paper presents the preliminary results of the ARTS (Accessibility via Real Time Subtitling) project, investigating two workflows currently being used to subtitle the press conference presenting the films selected for the Venice Film Festival every summer. This event takes place about a month before the festival and it is live streamed on YouTube. There is a simultaneous interpreting service (from Italian into English) and YouTube makes it possible to activate live subtitles produced via automatic speech recognition (ASR), i.e. a speaker-independent speech recognition engine. Thus, English live subtitles for film buffs and journalists can be obtained in two workflows, a fully automated one and a partially automated one. The former consists in using the ASR engine to transcribe the Italian source text (the press conference) and then using machine translation (MT) to translate the Italian subtitles into English. The latter workflow consists in tuning in to the interpreter’s channel and using the ASR engine to transcribe the English translation produced by the interpreter. The study compares the accuracy that it is currently possible to achieve in this specific setting via the two workflows and tries to evaluate to what extent accessibility is actually ensured.

Keywords

live subtitling, press conferences, film festivals

Shared responsibility? Users' perspectives on intralingual speech-to-text interpreting for access to communication and linguistic inclusion in dialogic encounters

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Dr. Judith Platter

Judith Platter is senior lecturer at the Centre for Translation Studies of the University of Vienna where she teaches speech-to-text interpreting (STTI), plain and easy language, audiodescription and specialized translation at BA and MA level. She also teaches STTI at the University of Graz and at the Postgraduate Centre of the University of Vienna. She holds an MA in Interpreting Studies (German, Italian, English and French) and a PhD in Transcultural Communication from the University of Vienna and specializes in accessibility and speech-to-text interpreting. In her PhD thesis she examined the professionalization of STTI in Austria. She is part of the Vienna Interpreting Research Group. Her main research interests include interpreting/translation didactics, accessibility and translation, intermodality/intermediality in translation as well as professionalization. Judith Platter is a trained and certified speech-to-text interpreter herself and founding member as well as current chair of the Austrian Speech-to-Text Interpreters' Association OESDV, representing professional interests at national and international level, amongst other within FIT. In 2022, she was head of the organization committee of the 6th European Conference of Speech-to-Text Interpreters, ECOSVienna 2022.

Dr. Ursula Stachl-Peier

Ursula Stachl-Peier holds a PhD in Translation Studies from the University of Graz. She also completed an Mphil in Linguistics at Trinity College, Dublin, and an MA in Ethnology at Uppsala University. She has taught translation and interpreting at the School of Translation Studies at Graz University and at Stockholm University and supervised research in Translation Studies at MA level. Her research interests include translation and interpreting education and curriculum design, Public Service Interpreting, genre and discourse analysis and ethnology. In recent years, she has also investigated speech-to-text interpreting co-authoring, amongst others, a report on the research and practice of STTI in Sweden.

MA Maria Bernadette Zwischenberger

Maria Bernadette Zwischenberger holds an MA in Translation from the University of Vienna. She is currently completing her PhD which applies feminist approaches, especially intersectional thinking, to investigate interpreting in women-run social movement organizations in Austria. She also completed a certificate training programme in speech-to-text interpreting for DHH people. As part of an EU-funded project team (ReTrans – Working with Interpreters in Refugee Transit Zone: Capacity Building and Awareness-Raising for Higher Education Contexts) she developed open access training materials for interpreters and stakeholders in refugee transit zones. In cooperation with scholars from Applied Game Studies, she coordinated an interdisciplinary elective course module to draft interactive stories on interpreted events for people affected by forced migration.

Abstract

Speech-to-text interpreting (STTI) in dialogic encounters is provided in a broad array of fields and settings, ranging from public service and legal settings to education and the workplace. It is delivered by means of various methods, e.g. (steno)typing, respeaking and AI-driven automatic speech recognition. Dialogic encounters offer an opportunity to examine how Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (DHH) users' accessibility needs shape interactions. STTI in dialogic settings, though, has so far been largely ignored by academic research (see Norberg et al. 2022). Therefore, our presentation draws for its theoretical base on research into spoken and signed language public service interpreting, accessibility studies, and audio-visual translation. We present empirical data gathered in observations of STTI in two dialogic settings (one with human STTI and one with an AI-generated target text) and in interviews with DHH users, STT interpreters, and other interactants. These data are analysed for parameters and criteria that can assist the development of user-focused strategies to foster equitable access. We draw attention to possible risks associated with the sole use of non-

human assisted speech-to-text (STT) solutions where DHH users are frequently alone managing the interaction and securing its success. Societal inclusion rests upon multiple pillars, where practitioners, users, institutional stakeholders, and the wider public need to assume joint responsibility for successful and inclusive communication (Skaaden 2021). Literature Norberg, U., Stachl-Peier, U., Laurin, M., Therén, J., Öjefors Q. V. & Tiittula, L. 2022. Skrivtolkning: Forskning och praktik. Stockholm: MTM. Skaaden, H. 2021. 'Interpreter's mistake'. Why should other professions care about the professionalization of interpreters? In The Routledge Handbook of Public Service Interpreting edited by L. Gavioli & C. Wadensjö, 261–276. London/New York: Routledge.

Keywords

intralingual speech-to-text interpreting, user-perspectives, dialogic interaction

AI-supported health information in Plain Language: an evaluation of four AI translation models

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Ms Sarah Ahrens

Sarah Ahrens is a research associate at the University of Hildesheim, Institute for Translation Studies and Specialised Communication, in the project “KI-GesKom” (AI-supported health communication in Plain Language) at the University of Hildesheim. She studied translatology in Leipzig and Hildesheim (both Germany) and took part in the interdisciplinary doctoral programme “Chronic illness and health literacy” (Chronische Erkrankungen und Gesundheitskompetenz, ChEG), financed by the Robert Bosch Stiftung. Her focus is health information in Plain Language for learners of German as a second language. She has expertise in evidence-based health communication, working with other professionals in the Health Literacy Network Germany (Deutsches Netzwerk Gesundheitskompetenz, DNGK e. V.).

Dr Silvana Deilen

Silvana Deilen is a research associate at the University of Hildesheim, Institute for Translation Studies and Specialised Communication, and also a researcher in the project “KI-GesKom” (AI-supported health communication in Plain Language) at the University of Hildesheim. She received her PhD from the University of Mainz. In her PhD thesis, she conducted an eye tracking study on the visual segmentation of compounds in Easy Language. Her main research interests are machine translation, Easy and Plain Language, specialized translation and eye-tracking.

Mr Sergio Hernández Garrido

Sergio Hernández Garrido is a research associate at the University of Hildesheim, Institute for Translation Studies and Specialised communication. He also contributes as a researcher in the project “KI-GesKom” (AI-supported health communication in Plain Language). He is also the administrative director of the Research Centre for Easy Language. His research interests lie on audiovisual and digital accessible communication, accessible health communication, intralingual machine translation, and accessibility in higher education.

Prof. Ekaterina Lapshinova-Koltunski

Ekaterina Lapshinova-Koltunski holds Professorship in Multilingual Specialised Communication at the University of Hildesheim. She has been worked in interdisciplinary projects in the area of translation studies and contrastive linguistics applying methods from corpus and computational linguistics for many years. Her main research interests include inter- and intralingual language variation, translationese in both human and machine translation from both descriptive and cognitive perspective, as well as linguistically motivated machine translation evaluation.

Prof. Christiane Maaß

Christiane Maaß was appointed full professor at the University of Hildesheim in 2011. She has been Director of the Easy Language Research Centre since 2014 and Head of the Master's degree programme in Accessible Communication ("Barrierefreie Kommunikation") since 2018. She is the author and co-author of five books and a number of smaller publications on Easy and Plain Language and Accessible Communication. She is co-editor of the Handbuch Barrierefreie Kommunikation (2019)/Handbook of Accessible Communication (2024) and co-editor of the book series "Easy - Plain - Accessible" published by Frank & Timme (Berlin). From 2018-2021 she was part of the EU project "EASIT" on Easy Language in Audiovisual Media. From 2020-2024, she led the doctoral group Barrier-free Health Communication in the doctoral programme "Chronic Disease and Health Literacy" ("Chronische Erkrankungen und Gesundheitskompetenz") of the Hannover Medical University (Medizische Hochschule Hannover), funded by the Robert Bosch Foundation. She is head of the Accessible Health Communication Department of the German Network for Health Literacy and an authorised advisor to the German government on digital accessibility.

Abstract

Over half of the German population (Schaeffer et al. 2021) have difficulties finding, understanding, appraising and applying health information. Appraising is perceived as particularly difficult: Almost 75 % (Schaeffer et al. 2021: 26) of the population have trouble judging whether information is useful and of high quality. Around 12 % of people have trouble reading even short texts (Grotlüschen et al. 2019: 5). In Europe, health information is distributed primarily through written media (Hernández Garrido et al. 2022). Regarding the numbers on health literacy and literacy in general, complexity-reduced written varieties like Easy and Plain Language become relevant. AI translation tools are a new instrument for making more texts accessible in Plain Language with fewer resources. The question is how accessible and reliable the results of AI-driven translation currently are. We used quantitative and qualitative measures to compare AI-generated translations with their source texts, and with existing human translations (simplified without the use of AI). We compared the output from four tools (based on four different AI models) with regards to 1) correctness, 2) readability, and 3) syntactic complexity. Our study shows that the output quality depends on the model used and on the respective criterion: While the readability of AI-generated translations is generally higher, the human translations contain the least complex syntax (Deilen et al. 2024: 475f.). The AI-generated texts contained mistakes such as incorrect explanations and misspellings (Deilen et al. 2024: 474), which makes them unsafe for low-literacy target groups to use without previous professional post-editing. We can use these results to train professional translators. Trained intralingual translators and post-editors can use adequate AI machine translation tools to quickly and purposefully post-edit AI-generated texts. The results thus facilitate the translation of health information into Plain Language while also mitigating the risk of publishing AI-generated mistakes.

Keywords

Accessibility, Plain Language, Artificial Intelligence

AI-enabled access to democracy through Easy Language: the iDEM project

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Dr Carlo Eugeni

Carlo Eugeni is the programme leader of the MA Audiovisual Translation and Localisation at the University of Leeds, where he teaches live subtitling, media accessibility, and conference interpreting. Carlo launched the International Symposium on Live Subtitling, co-funded the International Association of Respeaking on A.I.R., wrote the first book and Ph.D. thesis on respeaking, and designed the live subtitling self-assessment tool MARS. Carlo has researched and published in the fields of live subtitling, conference interpreting, and subtitling strategies; and has recently published two co-edited books for Routledge on Teaching Translation, and Teaching Interpreting and Live Subtitling. In 2018, Carlo received an honorary award by the Italian Association of Cochlear Implant Users APIC for his commitment in promoting the empowerment of deaf people through live and pre-recorded subtitling. He was Intellectual Output Leader of the Erasmus+ projects LTA on live subtitlers, T2V on Easy-to-Read validators and facilitators, and CCUV on Easy Italian writing; and is currently serving as a partner in the Horizon project iDEM on accessibility to the decision-making process, and as a member of the experts group on accessibility in the metaverse for the UN International Telecommunications Unit.

Prof Horacio Saggion

Horacio Saggion is chair in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence at the Department of Information & Communication Technologies, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), Barcelona, Spain. He is currently co-director of the TALN Natural Language Processing Group where he works in several areas of Natural Language Processing (NLP) including automatic text summarization, text simplification, NLP for Sign Languages, information extraction, figurative language, sentiment analysis and related topics. Horacio is the project coordinator of the Horizon Europe funded project iDEM - Innovative and Inclusive Democratic Spaces for Deliberation and Participation - and principal co-investigator in the AI-BOOST project.

Dr Stefan Bott

Stefan Bott is a Natural Language Processing researcher at the Department of Engineering at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) Barcelona (Spain). He specialises in computational linguistics and natural language processing. He earned his Ph.D. in Linguistics and has been working on automatic text simplification, computational lexicography, computational semantics, the use of machine learning in NLP and Large Language Models. He has been working in the Natural Language Research Groups of the Universitat Politécnica de Barcelona (Spain) and the University of Stuttgart (Germany). Within iDEM he is responsible for the use of Large Language Models for text simplification and assisted text generation.

Dr Nouran Khallaf

Nouran Khallaf is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Leeds, UK, with a focus on natural language processing, AI-driven accessibility, and text analytics, including readability, summarization, and simplification. Her research leverages cutting-edge AI technologies and large language models to enhance accessibility and inclusivity, particularly for marginalized communities and under-resourced languages. Nouran is committed to bridging the gap between advanced technological innovations and real-world applications through interdisciplinary collaboration, ensuring that her work not only contributes to academic knowledge but also delivers tangible societal impact. At Leeds, she plays a key role in the iDEM project, developing AI-powered tools that make public information more accessible and equitable for diverse audiences.

Abstract

In democratic spaces, people debate freely about specific topics and make decisions in a representative manner. However, in the EU alone, around 6 million individuals face difficulties with reading, writing, and comprehending, which restricts their participation in democracy (EU, 2012). Among these, migrants, people with intellectual disabilities, and those who are illiterate are the first who come to mind, but individuals who are unable to access standard deliberative texts due to contextual or temporary reasons are also to be

considered. In this context, the EU-UKRI-funded iDEM project aims to break linguistic barriers thus starting a new era of inclusive and participatory democracy (Saggion et al. 2024). The iDEM project has been developing next-generation multilingual models that adapt texts to diverse needs and provide accessible AI tools to facilitate the reading and understanding of public documents, supporting marginalised individuals in expressing their opinions in various use-case scenarios. In particular, a poietic design approach (Greco, 2019) has been used to develop an AI-powered application, based on a preliminary analysis of language complexities (Sharoff, 2022). Thanks to a user-friendly interface, the app simplifies text in three levels based on users' language proficiency - Easy (B1 of the CEFR), Easier (A2), and Very Easy (A1) - in Catalan, English, Spanish, and Italian. To achieve this, various LLMs - including cross-lingual, monolingual, and multilingual models - have been tested to enhance sentence readability classification and simplification, which ensure accessibility. This speech will briefly illustrate the iDEM project before presenting the app's design and main functionalities. Then, it will discuss data emerging from case studies conducted in Barcelona, Madrid, and Rome with diverse groups of individuals. Finally, it will illustrate the project's plan to integrate interpretability techniques to refine the model, thus enhancing transparency and effectiveness.

Keywords

Democratic Spaces, Easy Language, Large Language Models

LT.17 | Panel 38 | The Changing Face of the Literary Translation Classroom

Chairs: Duncan Large, Anikó Sohár

Implementing the PETRA-E Framework into the MA translation programme in Zadar

Mrs Vanda Miksic
University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia

Mrs Vanda Miksic

Vanda Mikšić works as a professor at the Department of French and Francophone Studies of the University of Zadar, where she teaches translation, and is responsible for the MA in translation. Author and editor of several books and conference proceedings, she also published many scientific papers, and literary translations. She is a member of the editorial board of the magazine Tema, as well as a co-editor of the Domaine croate/poésie collection at the French publishing house L Ollave. As a poet, she published three poetry books in Croatia and five in France. She has been awarded several literary translation prizes and the French Minister of Culture honored her with the Ordre du Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres.

Abstract

In this paper, I intend to analyse the place of literary translation in the MA translation programme at the French and Francophone Studies Department of the University of Zadar. Firstly, I will focus on the PETRA-E Framework to check which competencies have already been a part of the programme and which have been implemented since the University of Zadar joined the PETRA-E Network. In the second part of the paper, the results of a survey based on the PETRA-E competencies, which will be conducted among students, will be exposed. My conclusive remarks will summarise the PETRA-E Framework benefits both for the students and the programme.

Keywords

literary translation, PETRA-E Framework, implementation

Developing Evaluative Competence in Literary Translation: Insights from the PETRA-E Framework

Prof. Loredana Pungă
West University, Timișoara, Romania

Prof. Loredana Pungă

Loredana Pungă is Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the West University of Timișoara, Romania. Her domains of expertise are Translation Studies, applied and cognitive linguistics. She holds a PhD in Philology from the university where she currently teaches, completed on the basis of research mostly carried out at the Univesity of California, Davis, as a Fulbright scholar. Her publications include three books and eight book chapters in thematic volumes, as well as over fifty articles, most of them published abroad. Loredana Pungă is (co)-editor of three volumes published in the UK and a member of the editorial board of four academic journals indexed in a number of international databases. She is also a member of the advisory board of the Translation Studies series at Politehnica Publishing House, Timișoara.

Abstract

Translation competence(s) has/ have constantly been a topic at the heart of Translation Studies research for quite some time now, approaches ranging from a purely language perspective to much more complex models, including, for example, transfer, cultural, instrumental, documentation, translation management, translation market-related, etc. components. Among the latter, the PETA-E framework targets literary translators and is meant as a tool for both competence assessment and competence development at various levels. This paper partly reports on the design and results of a teaching experiment geared towards developing the specific PETRA-E evaluative competence in the case of a group of Translation Studies MA students at the West University of Timișoara, Romania. In particular, it reports on: the tasks set for the students alongside the instructions and pre-task theoretical input provided by the teacher (tasks focus on the translation of literary texts fragments from Romanian into English and vice-versa), students' tasks achievement, teacher's assessment of tasks achievement and feedback to it, students' own reflection on the usefulness of the experiment for the development of the competence targeted. By focusing on these, the paper aims to offer an example of how the evaluative component of the PETRA-E framework may be addressed in a translator training environment and to thus highlight both the usefulness of the framework and potential areas where some rethinking would be welcome.

Keywords

PETRA-E framework, evaluative competence, literary translation

Cultivating PETRA-E Textual Competence in Literary Translation - Motivational DNA, the Key to Skills Development

Associate Prof. Eliza Claudia Filimon
West University of Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania

Associate Prof. Eliza Claudia Filimon

Eliza Claudia FILIMON, Director of the MA Programme 'The Theory and Practice of Translation' of the West University of Timişoara, Romania, is a Ph.D. Associate Professor at the English Department, where she teaches Film Studies, Audiovisual Translation and Literary Translation. Her academic training informs and supports her activities as a literary translator, an audiovisual translator, a film juror, a screenplay assessor in international film festivals, and a creative writing evaluator. She has published academic papers and she has edited books in the fields of Film Studies, Audiovisual Translation and English Literature. Eliza is a member of the European Film Academy, a Board member of the PETRA-E European Association for the Training of Literary Translators, a translation editor of international literary magazines, and the organizer of 7 editions of Shades of Meaning literary translation contest for students and a European Symposium in Audiovisual Translation, Wise Choices in AVT. Eliza Filimon has translated award-winning prose and poetry from English, Dutch and Spanish into Romanian, she has won professional poetry and prose translation prizes and a poetry translation scholarship for translating five poems by the Romanian national poet Mihai Eminescu from Romanian into English, Dutch, and Spanish. Eliza is a member of academic associations of literary and audiovisual translation, and an academic partner of the European Parliament terminology unit DG TRAD-Term Coord- YOURTERM, having supervised several terminology translation projects. Eliza Filimon is a Festival de Cannes accredited professional, and the ProZ Pro Bono Ambassador to Romania.

Abstract

The PETRA-E Framework of Reference for the Education and Training of Literary Translators has given literary translation training and practice a much-needed systematic approach, making the path of skills development clearer and insightful. This paper outlines the results of a teaching exercise aiming to develop the PETRA-E textual competence in an academic environment, with a group of MA students in The Theory and Practice of Translation Programme at the West University of Timişoara, Romania (evaluated as advanced learners / early career professionals) as participants. Specific sub-competencies, such as the ability to analyze literary texts, recognize stylistic features of the source texts, and respond to specific textual challenges creatively will be targeted in the translation of Fiona Sampson's poem Modern Prometheus, from English into Romanian. Given that poetry translation poses additional levels of difficulty, cooperation is invaluable, and this exercise in team translation encourages the students to learn from each other at each stage of the translation process, from initiation, to planning, execution, monitoring, and delivery. Building on theories of motivational DNA, a key objective of this teaching experiment is to find the core of students' willingness to face and overcome challenges, as well as nourish it, so that literary translation becomes a rewarding learning experience.

Keywords

literary translation, motivation, textual competence

“The Naming of Cats is a Difficult Matter” – Training MA Literary Translators in Dealing with Cultural Specificity through T. S. Eliot’s Poem

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University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania

Lecturer Eliana Ionoaia

Eliana Ionoaia is an lecturer at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, English Department. Her Ph.D. was focused on the cultural typologies in the twentieth century British fantastic novel in the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and J.K. Rowling. She teaches 19th and 20th century British literature and Translation Studies. She has published articles on Virginia Woolf, Lawrence Durrell, John Fowles, Jean Rhys, Alasdair Gray, Michel Faber and Doris Lessing to name but a few authors as well as on translation studies on Shakespeare’s Hamlet. She has also translated from English into Romanian and Romanian into English both fiction and nonfiction books. Her interests range from mythology, history and memory to gender studies, Neo-Victorian literature and translation studies. She serves as the coordinator of the Masters in the Translation of the Contemporary Literary Text at the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bucharest.

Abstract

T.S. Eliot’s “The Naming of Cats” from his volume Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats has been translated for the first time in the 1990s by Tudor Cristian Roșca and Viorel Ștefănescu and published by Alma Publishing House (1996) – Cartea lui Moș Oposum despre Pisicile Poznașe (TT1). The translators revised their earlier foreignizing translation for Humanitas Publishing House in (2009) (TT2). The domesticating retranslation of the volume, Pisicoteca Practică a lu’ Moș Pârșu (2015) (TT3), was done by Florin Bican. These three Romanian versions (TT1, TT2 and TT3) and the ST were used as teaching materials, together with theoretical texts in two courses for first- and second-year students at the Master in the Translation of the Contemporary Literary Text (MTTLC) at the University of Bucharest. The programme is a literary translation master, training future translators in the English-Romanian language pair. In the past academic year, students applied to the translation approaches of TT1 / TT2 and TT3 seminal theoretical texts by Antoine Berman, Andrew Chesterman, Kinga Klaudy, S. Susam-Saraeva, Anthony Pym, Charles S. Kraszewski, and Shoshana Blum-Kulka. They evaluated the conclusions of two articles by Cristina-Mihaela Botîlcă (2021) and Corina Dobrotă (2020), in light of their own impressions of the translations. Another task the students worked on were back-translations of TT1, TT2, and TT3, in order to comprehend the translation strategies employed. In the upcoming year, students will be asked to assess the correctness and faithfulness of machine translations of the ST. Finally, in light of my participation in this year’s BCLT International Literary Translation and Creative Writing Summer School, further activities related to register, tone, cultural specificity and load-bearing words will be devised in order to encourage the students to pay close attention to all aspects of the text.

Keywords

retranslation, MA (MTTLC), BCLT summer school

LT.19 | Panel 25 | Interpreting and Armed Conflict

Chairs: Lucía Ruiz Rosendo, Marija Todorova

Interpreting on UN field missions in the Middle East

Ms Cherine Haidar Ahmad, Professor Lucía Ruiz Rosendo
FTI, Geneva, Switzerland

Ms Cherine Haidar Ahmad

Cherine Haidar Ahmad has master's degrees in translation and interpretation and is currently pursuing a thesis at Geneva University on United Nations interpreters in field missions. She is a permanent staff interpreter at United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland. Before joining the United Nations, she worked as a freelance interpreter and participated in field missions especially for the European institutions. She has taught interpretation in Italy currently and teaches interpretation at ISIT, Paris. She has published several poetry and literature translations in Arabic and Italian. Her working languages are Arabic, French, Italian, English and Spanish. Her main domain of research is field missions.

Professor Lucía Ruiz Rosendo

Lucía Ruiz Rosendo is an Associate Professor at the University of Geneva's Faculty of Translation and Interpreting (FTI), where she is the Director of the Interpreting Department. Her main line of research is interpreting in conflict zones and the history of interpreting, with a particular focus on armed conflicts. She has recently co-edited Interpreting Conflict. A Comparative Framework (Palgrave 2021), Interpreter Training in Conflict and Post-conflict Situations (Routledge 2022) and Towards an Atlas of the History of Interpreting. Voices from around the Word (John Benjamins, 2023). Her research has appeared in a range of volumes and journals in the fields of Translation, Peace and Conflict Studies and Social Military History. She is the coordinator of various courses for training interpreters in the field, such as the course run jointly between the FTI and the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross). She participates in a training project for interpreters who work in the context of the Centre of Competence for Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN). Lucía is also a conference interpreter working for the international organisations based in Switzerland and an active AIIC member.

Abstract

This paper aims to present the results of a study carried out as part of a doctoral thesis on UN interpreters who go on field missions to the Middle East. Research focusing on interpreters working in the field has mostly fallen within two main contexts: military and humanitarian . However, UN interpreters who are deployed in human rights field missions have not been the object of inquiry. Drawing on a qualitative inductive research based on semi-structured interviews, focus groups and participant observation, the objective of this study is to describe the field missions deployed by United Nations Office at Geneva in the Middle East and their institutional framework, and to define the characteristics and challenges of these missions . The first sequence of interviews included the organisers of the field missions represented by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. The second sequence included the head of the interpretation section at UNOG. As for the third and final sequence of interviews, it focused on staff and freelance interpreters of the Arabic booth. The interviews were completed by a focus group discussion with administrative staff and an autoethnography of an emblematic mission. The findings show that these missions have their own specificities which emanate from the nature of the organisation which dispatch them. These specificities include aspects relating to selection of interpreters, security, preparation, but also to the places where the interpretive process takes place. These places include prisons, and hospitals. The actors encountered in the field vary and include victims and witnesses of atrocities. This explains the undeniable psychological impact which is among the most remarkable results that we have been able to report. In addition to the psychological impact, interpreters indicate that very little specific training is provided to them.

Keywords

Human rights missions, United Nations, Arabic booth

Self-perceived roles of Polish non-professional interpreters working with/for Ukrainian war refugees

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dr hab. Marcin Walczyński

University professor at the Department of Translation Studies of the Institute of English Studies of the University of Wrocław (Poland) and university professor at the Faculty of Modern Languages of the State University of Applied Sciences in Nysa (Poland), translator and interpreter trainer, sworn translator and interpreter of English; So far, he has taught a variety of classes on the theory and practice of interpreting, translation and specialized languages; his research interests revolve around translation and interpreting studies (community interpreting, interpreter psychology, certified translation and interpreting, translator and interpreter education and translation and interpreting services market).

Abstract

Nowadays, more and more interpreting research projects focus on interpreting for vulnerable populations. One reason for that is that such populations occur worldwide, and their vulnerability can be conditioned by natural, environmental, political, social, or even linguistic factors. One way of supporting such communities is by assisting them in communicating their needs and—generally speaking—in making their voices heard. In such cases, to their aid come professional interpreters. However, sometimes vulnerable communities require more attention and care than professional interpreters can give, for example, because of the limited number and availability of such professionals. Then, the demand for such language mediators is addressed by non-professional interpreters who, having neither formal training nor prior experience, become engaged in providing those in need with various forms of help related to communication by fulfilling numerous roles. This presentation will shed light on how non-professional interpreters working in the context of the war-forced immigration of Ukrainians to Poland perceive themselves while providing interpreting services for Ukrainian refugees. The first part of the presentation will be devoted to discussing vulnerability as an essential construct that forms the basis for further considerations. Another theme presented will pertain to the Poland-based Ukrainian communities as vulnerable populations who were made to relocate from their homeland because of the ongoing war. Then, attention will be directed to interpreting for such people. In the second part of the presentation, the outcomes of the preliminary study concerning non-professional interpreters of Ukrainian refugees and their roles played during interpreter-mediated communication will be discussed. The findings reveal that individuals not professionally affiliated with the market of interpreting services fulfil a vast array of roles, thereby helping the vulnerable communicate in a new country.

Keywords

non-professional interpreters, interpreting for war refugees, interpreter's roles

War Zone Interpreters in the Public Eye: Investigating the Politics of Production and Audience Reception of The Covenant.

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Dr. Mohammed Omar Alzahrani

Mohammed Omar Alzahrani is an Assistant Professor of Translation Studies at the University of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. He earned his Ph.D. in Translation Studies from Kent State University, with a dissertation that delves into the sociology of reading through the full integration of readers. Additionally, he holds a Master's in Arabic/English Translation and Interpreting from Durham University. Within the scope of his academic responsibilities, he has been involved in developing translation courses for the undergraduate program at the University of Jeddah, where he currently teaches various courses on linguistics and translation. His research interests cover translation histories, reception studies, imagology, translation pedagogy, corpora as applied to Translation Studies, and paratexts.

Abstract

Following the withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan—the "graveyard of empires"—in 2021, the footage of the American airplane leaving the airport became a sensation. Sundry narratives were constructed and disseminated, and Hollywood joined the chorus by producing The Covenant (2023), a film shedding light on interpreters left behind despite promises of relocation to the USA in return for their service alongside the US forces in the field. Deploying actual footage of Afghani interpreters, The Covenant defies precise genre categorization, as it combines war, thriller, drama, and documentary elements. Residing at the intersections of cinematography, translation & interpreting studies, audience and reception studies, transfiction, and political sciences, this project examines the portrayal of interpreters in the movie and its impact on the public perception thereof. The project, adopting a case study approach, starts with a discussion of relevant backgrounds, e.g., the history of the military presence in the country. The second part borrows theories from film studies and narrative theories to highlight how interpreters are portrayed and how the reception is guided in a particular direction. The project then culminates in empirical investigation of the actual reception of the movie, focusing chiefly on the viewers' responses. Primary data in the form of posted online responses was culled from IDMB.com (a popular website for reviewing/rating movies). Thematic analysis and NVivo coding will be implemented using the ATLAS.ti tool. The outcomes should help us discern the interplay between the movie and the viewer, allowing us to reach an empirically driven understanding of possible interpretations of the movie, thereby adopting a post-structuralist stance on reception by acknowledging the viewer's active role in shaping perceptions. Consequently, the myriads of narratives regarding interpreters in Afghanistan could be placed adjacently for critical examination, ultimately allowing an infinitely transversal understanding of interpreters in war zones.

Keywords

transfiction , Audience reception, interpreters in war zones

War Zone Interpreters: Language Role in Relief Operations

Dr Ahmed Mohammed Moneus
University of Science and Technology, Al Hudaydah, Yemen

Dr Ahmed Mohammed Moneus

He worked as an interpreter with the UN in Yemen for four years. An assistant professor of Consecutive and Simultaneous Interpreting Courses, Translation Department, University of Science and Technology, AL-Hudaydah, Yemen. Seven years of professional experience in translation with international NGOs, specializing in conflict zones in Yemen. Strong academic background in translation and linguistics. With broad experience in translation and interpreting. Furthermore, he has a strong background in research skills; he has been a reviewer for many esteemed journals and co-author with many Arab researchers for many funded research projects.

Abstract

This study aims to identify the role of war zone interpreters in supporting relief activities in Yemen. The study sample consisted of 30 interpreters who provided relief services to 10 international organisations in Yemen in 2020–2024. It includes translation sections and has interpreters. They are also working in war zones. These organisations, considered among the leading in humanitarian work in conflict zones in Yemen, were selected based on their high humanitarian classification. The 30 translators were selected based on the official database approved by the Yemeni Translators Union, an official Union registered with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour since 2017. A semi-structured interview was conducted to gather data about challenges and difficulties which may interrupt interpreters' work in hot spot areas in Yemen. The Thematic Content Analysis (TCA) was used to analyse data collected during the interview. The study findings showed that using interpreters in areas of armed war considerably supported relief aid efforts and significantly impacted relief operations. Interpreters in war zones played various roles in response to the relief crisis, including supporting, coordinating, facilitating, communicating, mediating, and performing other secondary roles. These results provide a solid base for further studies on the roles of interpreters working in war areas and highlight their value as advocates and facilitators of assistance and rescue operations that meet the needs of the indigenous population.

Keywords

Relief interpreters, crisis, war zones

LT.20 | Panel 4 | Archives in Translation: Inquiring on the Past, Understanding the Present, and Informing the Future (cont.)

Chairs: Audrey Canalès, María Constanza Guzmán

The Interpreter's Invisibility in Archives

Dr Karin Sibul
Independent researcher, Tartu, Estonia

Dr Karin Sibul

Karin Sibul, PhD, is an interpreter researcher, educator and a practicing conference and diplomatic interpreter. Doctorate (Interpreting Studies) was conferred by the University of Tartu, Estonia. She has taught diplomatic interpreting and the history of interpreting at the Universities of Tartu and Tallinn. Since 1996 she has been accredited to interpret for the European Union institutions. Her main research interests and publications concern diplomatic interpreting, simultaneous interpreting of theatre performances and films, the history of interpreting in Estonia, and the analysis of symbolic capital in the diachronic development of interpreting in independent Estonia. Her first book Tõlk ja aeg [The Interpreter and Time] was published in the University of Tartu Press, in 2024.

Abstract

Performing a Google search for interpreter's archive yields writings on ballet. Why are there no hits about interpreter's archives? In researching the history of interpreting in Estonia from 1918 to 1940 to preserve the fast-disappearing oral heritage of interpretation, a socially situated practice, I primarily relied on archives. Applying Anthony Pym's translation archaeologist's approach and cross-examining various authentic sources, I identified interpreters by name. To my knowledge the only personal archive associated with an interpreter belongs to Villem Ernits (1891–1982), the interpreter most frequently mentioned in archives by name and a lecturer of Slavic languages at Tartu University. Ernits was arguably fluent in about thirty languages. The interpreter's invisibility is evident in his personal archive at the University Library, which lists 213 items but makes no reference to his career as an interpreter. Ernits' intellectual production forms his interpreter's archive, bringing together his statements and personal history and constituting an archive as defined by Michel Foucault. This presentation draws upon Pierre Bourdieu's concept of symbolic capital. When examining Ernits' interpreter's archive, what emerges is his deep conviction when discussing language choices: he believed that as a politically and culturally independent state Estonia should not back away from contacts with even the most distant cultures, nations and languages. In my presentation I reflect on reasons why interpreter archives may be so rare (not only in Estonia) and on materials interpreters could donate to archives. Could these perhaps include notes taken when interpreting in consecutive mode, figures and terms jotted down during simultaneous interpreting or printouts of thematic glossaries compiled by interpreters? Personally, I might donate my interpreter logbook, which contains every interpreting assignment I have ever completed. This is a way to remember the interpreting assignments I have interpreted both in Estonia and abroad and how they evolved.

Keywords

interpreter's archive, Pierre Bourdieu, symbolic capital

From transcript to art: experiential translation of oral history in Samia Halaby's Drawing the Kafr Qasem Massacre

Dr Tamara Barakat
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Dr Tamara Barakat

Tamara Barakat is a lecturer in Translation Studies at the University of Strathclyde. She holds a PhD in Translation Studies from Durham University. Her research explores the role of translation in the remediation of Palestinian cultural memory and oral history across media, languages, generations, and cultures. Her publications include a chapter on intersemiotic translation and intergenerational memory in graphic novels (Routledge, 2023) and a forthcoming chapter on the intersections between translation and memory in the Routledge Handbook of Translation and Sociology (Routledge, 2024).

Abstract

This paper explores the role that translation processes play in the construction of oral history archives and the dissemination of their contents across languages, media, and cultures. Oral history research discusses its significance to understanding events as lived experiences, preserving cultural memory, and centring the voices of those marginalised in written historical accounts. This recognition of oral history's unique power has led to the establishment of several non-institutional Palestinian archives documenting testimonies by those who experienced the Nakba of 1948 and subsequent Israeli occupation of Palestine. One such project is artist Samia Halaby's (2016) Drawing the Kafr Qasem Massacre. Based on her own interviews with survivors, the artist creates documentary drawings that visualize the nine stages in which the massacre unfolded. She presents the reader with English translations of the oral histories she collected and her own in-depth reflections on the methodological and ethical challenges of interlingually and intersemiotically translating such traumatic first-hand accounts. In this paper, I will approach Halaby's publication as 1) a multimodal archive of translated oral history and 2) a translator's archive of visual drafts and written reflections that allows us to trace the genealogy of her translations. I will argue that the artist employs translation as 'creative-critical practice' (Grass 2023) in order to reconstruct this fragmented episode of Palestinian memory from the perspective of those who experienced it. I will examine the experiential, embodied, material and collaborative translation processes that underlie the artist's remediation of the survivors' testimonies, bringing to the fore the often-overlooked impact of translation on facilitating ethical engagements with the past in and for the present. In doing so, this paper aims to open the space for dialogue on how translation can be leveraged to create egalitarian, creative, anticolonial oral history archives in the Palestinian context and beyond.

Keywords

oral history archives, experiential translation, art

Surveying Italian Institutional Tourism Communication in English from 1919-1959: A Closer Look to the DIETALY Archival Model

Ms Viviana Mauro
Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Venice, Italy

Ms Viviana Mauro

Viviana Mauro is a PhD candidate in Modern Languages, Cultures and Societies at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Her doctoral research project focuses on tourism translation and intercultural communication, and is linked to the 2020 PRIN project "DIETALY - Destination Italy in English Translation and Language over the Years". Since 2019, she has been coordinating, together with her supervisor prof. Agorni Mirella, a curricular project on promotional tourism communication for young people in the city of Treviso, Italy.

Abstract

This study forms part of the DIETALY Italian National Research Project, which investigates the evolution of Italian institutional tourism communication in English from 1919 to the present from a diachronic perspective. The present study is specifically concerned with the analysis of tourism communication during the period from 1919 to 1959, a time characterised by significant social, economic and political changes. Tourism communication is considered vital in developing and promoting national identity. Examining how tourism discourse shaped Italy's national identity in this particular historical period offers insight into the consolidation of the country's image as well as into the evolution of modern tourism practices. The research involved a survey of tourism promotional materials published by the Italian National Tourism Board (ENIT) to create a corpus of various text types, including brochures, magazines, and travel guides. The analysis of these texts aims to reveal the strategies employed by Italian institutions to promote tourism to English-speaking audiences during the 1919-1959 period. Following the completion of the collection and digitisation processes, a multilingual database comprising approximately 600 different text types was created. This proposal addresses the methods employed in the collection and archiving of the textual sources, as well as the classification model used to identify and categorise them. The development of this archival model aims to facilitate linguistic and translation analysis of tourism promotional texts produced by Italian institutions between 1919 and 1959. This will be instrumental in understanding the role of these communication tools in constructing a cohesive, international image of Italy and tracing the evolution of the country's promotional strategies abroad over time.

Keywords

Tourism communication, Tourism translation, Archival method

Multi-media translations of magazine texts from the era of la movida madrileña

Mrs Nicola Greenhalgh
Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom

Mrs Nicola Greenhalgh

After a lengthy career in the accountancy and finance profession, Nicola is currently a PhD Translation (Spanish to English) candidate within the School of Global Affairs at Lancaster University. Nicola's research is concerned with the translation of cultural magazines utilising technology to facilitate the creation of a digital multi-media, target text. This approach builds upon the portfolio work undertaken for her MA in Translation, which included the development of a multi-media based song translation, together with a literary translation which incorporated hyperlinks to facilitate contextualisation. Nicola's extensive commercial experience has allowed her to apply her acquired analytical and technical skills to formulate an enterprise-based approach to translating magazine texts. This approach seeks to identify their underlying nature as textual entities and analyses their key features of differentiation, so as to convey a fully contextualised, representative target text.

Abstract

Cultural magazines play a fundamental role in both documenting and shaping societies, and given their contemporaneous narratives, they offer a powerful account of the communities of their time (Guzmán, 2019). This project offers a translation of magazine texts from the 1980s Spanish cultural movement, la movida madrileña. I remediate the original print material (from La Luna de Madrid, Madrid Me Mata and Madriz) as a curated, multi-media artefact in the form of human-crafted, contextualised translations. Assmann and Shortt (2011) outline the significant potential of cultural media in constructing, contesting, and reconstructing memories through representations of the past. This paper argues that magazine translations have an important part to play in cultivating collective memories of la movida madrileña. I propose that the scoping work for translating magazines should acknowledge their enterprising nature and devise a framework which contemplates the key stakeholders in the magazine's creation and circulation, their material and temporal characteristics and their socio-historical context. These all combine with linguistic content to convey meaning within the texts. The design of the Enterprise framework is informed by scholarship from translation and periodical studies, alongside textual theories (McGann, 1991; Philpotts, 2013; Beetham, 1989; Littau, 2022; Scott, 2012). For my translation practice, I adopt an experimental approach which sees the static, core texts transformed into dynamic multi-media texts, collated in a designated website. For this exercise, I deploy a reflexive, constructivist methodology (Kadiu, 2019; Scott, 2012) which extends the creativity inherent in the original publications. As a digital artefact, that website incorporates the translations alongside curated, contextual material in the form of imagery, audio, commentary and hyperlinks. This approach demonstrates the curatorial role of translators in such archival projects, providing a legacy for future generations through the re-imagining, preservation and continued circulation of such texts (Benjamin, 2021).

Keywords

magazine translation, movida madrileña, Enterprise translation framework

LT.21 | Panel 1 | Adapting to Change: The Impact of Generative AI on Translator Education (cont.)

Chairs: Nune Ayvazyan, Anthony Pym, Yu Hao

Balancing tradition and technology: A case study of adapting assessment methods in translation studies from a Danish context

Dr Marian Flanagan, Dr Kristian Tangsgaard Hvelplund
University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Dr Marian Flanagan

Marian Flanagan is an Associate Professor at the Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies at the University of Copenhagen. Her research primarily investigates the use of translation technologies by professionals and students, employing both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. She has recently initiated a collaborative project to examine the adoption of generative AI tools among students and staff within the department. This project aims to integrate AI technologies and pedagogical materials into language programmes that address the needs of both stakeholders. Additionally, she is currently conducting corpus linguistics research in the intersection of AI and education.

Dr Kristian Tangsgaard Hvelplund

Kristian Tangsgaard Hvelplund is an Associate Professor in the Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies at the University of Copenhagen. His research focuses on translation processes and the cognitive mechanisms involved in translation. Having a mainly quantitatively oriented and experimental approach, he has published extensively on cognitive, reading and writing processes in translation, comparing the processes of translation students and professionals and their interaction with source and target texts and digital tools using eye tracking and key logging methodologies.

Abstract

The rapidly evolving landscape of the translation profession challenges educators to adapt, balancing traditional translation skills with older but ever-evolving technology like Machine Translation (MT) and newer technology like Generative AI (GenAI). This presentation examines curriculum transition and changing assessment methods in a GenAI context. While some university curricula have focused on literary translation with little emphasis on technology's role in Translation Studies (TS) and professional contexts (Christensen et al. 2024), we recognise the need for a comprehensive approach to TS (Gaspari et al. 2015; Pym 2013) and changes in our translation education, driven by technological advancements (Li & Tian 2024) and declining language programme enrolment (Coda et al. 2022). We present a case study comparing the current timed translation exam at the University of Copenhagen, conducted with limited access to online dictionaries, to potential new assessment methods incorporating MT and GenAI to be integrated into our new curriculum from autumn 2026. While the current traditional exam assesses core skills and competences (Galán-Mañas & Hurtado Albir 2014), it does not fully reflect professional realities or address the AI-infused course content. However, it encourages students to develop translation skills without over-relying on technology. For our new curriculum, we propose hybrid assessment models testing both traditional skills and the ability to critically use and edit GenAI/MT outputs. These models draw on established pedagogical frameworks including González-Davies & Enríquez-Raído's (2016) Situated Learning approach for technology integration. The assessment design is further informed by the EMT Competence Framework (2022) and PACTE's (2003) holistic model of translation competence, particularly as they relate to technological and instrumental competences. These theoretically-grounded assessment methods aim to prepare students for roles as both creators and (post-)editors by evaluating translation proper (language skills), presentation competence, and technological literacy (including MT literacy, AI literacy, and appropriate tool selection). We present approaches that consider learning outcomes and implementation challenges, such as ensuring academic integrity and fair evaluation of skills. Furthermore, we discuss broader implications for curriculum design and

developing transferable skills. By sharing our proposed theoretical framework and planned implementation, we aim to contribute to evolving best practices among educators on effectively preparing students for the rapidly changing translation landscape while maintaining core translation skills and competencies in the age of AI. Christensen, T. P., Bundgaard, K., Dam Jensen, H., & Flanagan, M. (2024). Forskningsrapport: Danske translatørers brug af og erfaringer med oversættelsesteknologi [Research report: Danish translators' use of and experiences with translation technology]. Aarhus Universitet. Galán-Mañas, A., & Hurtado Albir, A. (2014). Competence assessment procedures in translator training. The Interpreter and Translator Trainer, 8(2), 157-176. Gaspari, F., Almaghout, H., & Doherty, S. (2015). A survey of machine translation competences: Insights for translation technology educators and practitioners. Perspectives, 23(3), 333-358. González-Davies, M., & Enríquez-Raído, V. (2016). Situated learning in translator and interpreter training: Bridging research and good practice. The Interpreter and Translator Trainer, 10(1), 1-11. Li, D., & Tian, S. (2024). Translators, technologies, and translations: Generative artificial intelligence in translator education. The Interpreter and Translator Trainer, 18(1), 43-62. PACTE. (2003). Building a translation competence model. In F. Alves (Ed.), Triangulating translation: Perspectives in process oriented research (pp. 43-66). John Benjamins. Pym, A. (2013). Translation skill-sets in a machine-translation age. Meta, 58(3), 487-503.

Keywords

translation teaching, assessment methods, translation technology

Rethinking Assessment Design in Translation Courses in the Age of AI

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The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Dr Chunxuan Shen

Dr Chunxuan Shen is a lecturer in Chinese Translation & Interpreting at School of Languages and Cultures in the University of Queensland, Australia. She is teaching several undergraduate level translation courses in the school and has participated in multiple translation course redevelopment projects. She has accumulated rich practical, theoretical and pedagogical experience in English-Chinese translation. Her research interests include heritage language maintenance, language and identity and English-Chinese translation. She has published in several well-known international journals on her research interests.

Abstract

The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is significantly transforming the landscape of education and assessment (Bearman, et al. 2020). Assessment is regarded as "the heart of the learning process" (Timmis, 2016, p.454), serving as a vital means to trace evidence of learning, monitor student progress, and evaluate understanding of the curriculum and instructional materials. In translation courses, the integration of machine translation (MT) and AI technologies presents unprecedented opportunities for enhancing efficiency and accuracy. However, the widespread accessibility of these tools raises several concerns among educators and institutions. First, the potential misuse of AI may jeopardize academic integrity and raise ethical issues. Second, students may unknowingly adopt flawed AI-generated translations, thereby compromising translation quality; and thirdly, students' over-reliance on AI may undermine their learning process and outcomes, hindering their development of essential professional skills necessary for future careers. In light of these challenges, this paper seeks to propose a rethinking of assessment design in translation education that leverages the benefits of AI while simultaneously fostering student awareness of its imperfections, enhancing students' engagement with these technologies, and cultivating the higher-order thinking skills crucial for professional translators. The proposed assessment is specifically designed for an advanced English-to-Chinese translation course at an Australian university and is guided by: 1) Technology-Enhanced Assessment; 2) Bloom's Revised Taxonomy, which facilitates cognitive skill development; 3) Task-Based Language Learning (TBLL), emphasizing practical application; and 4) Collaborative Learning, promoting peer interaction and knowledge sharing. Through this assessment design project, the aim is to engage students critically with AI tools, cultivate their analytical abilities, and prepare them as competent professionals in an increasingly AI-integrated translation landscape. This initiative serves as a catalyst to prompt fundamental changes in the design and implementation of effective assessments in response to the rapid technological advancements of the AI era.

Keywords

Assessment , Translation courses, AI technology

AI and Individual Differences: Pedagogical Insights from Assessing Novice Translators' Performance of Generative AI-Assisted Translation Tasks

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Professor Marcela Lemos

Marcela Lemos is Assistant Professor of Portuguese at Utah State University. She has a Ph.D. in Portuguese with a minor in Second Language Pedagogies from Indiana University Bloomington. She also holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Literary Studies from the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Her applied linguistics and instructed second language acquisition research is focused on the relationship between task difficulty and task complexity in the design of task-based and task-supported language, translation, and literature curricula, including Portuguese for Specific Purposes. She also researches the uses and understandings of photography and image technology in contemporary Luso-Afro-Brazilian literature about the memory of political and human rights violations. Her work appears in the peer-reviewed publications Journal of Lusophone Studies, Hispania, O Eixo e a Roda, Aletria, and Spanish and Portuguese Review. At USU, she teaches courses in translation studies, cognitive translation, interpretation, and Portuguese language, as well as in Luso-Afro-Brazilian literatures, visual arts, and cultures.

Abstract

This paper demonstrates how translator educators can integrate constructs and methodologies from applied linguistics and second/additional language pedagogy to adapt curricula to the changing landscape of translation studies, particularly when translator training is part of higher-education foreign language programs. Drawing on Peter Robinson's (2001) triadic componential framework for task-based language teaching (TBLT), which distinguishes between a task's complexity (cognitive demands), conditions, and difficulty (learners' perception of demands), this study evaluates the impact of individual differences (IDs) on novice translators' performance of generative AI-assisted translation tasks in an Introduction to Translation Studies in Portuguese course, at an American R1 institution. After completing both computer-assisted and generative AI-assisted versions of three different translation tasks, students provide feedback through post-task questionnaires and stimulated recalls, reporting on perceptions of task difficulty, factors contributing to task difficulty, and performance self-assessments. The tasks consist in producing legal, medical, and academic target texts in Portuguese from source texts in English. Following Zoltán Dörnyei's (2005) operationalization of IDs, the methods of data collection aim at eliciting information about students' engagement with AI by measuring motivation, perceived language aptitude, and anxiety related to second/additional language and technology for each task. This data is then triangulated with learners' actual translation performance, assessed for completeness, adequacy, and quality. The results suggest that the integration of generative AI into translation education curricula should account for students' IDs related to both language and technology instead of adopting a uniform approach. Consequently, rather than threatening translator education, generative AI makes diligent pedagogical task design even more important—especially for less commonly taught languages with limited training materials—, fostering collaboration between translation studies, applied linguistics, and instructed second language acquisition.

Keywords

Generative AI-assisted translation tasks, Individual differences, Task-based Teaching

Literacy in Digital Environments and Resources (LT-LiDER) - mapping the evolution of technological skills in translation practice

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Pilar Sánchez-gijón is professor at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She is member of Gelea2LT at UAB, and is mostly interested in translation technologies and the acquisition of digital literacy skills. She is a member of the coordination team of the Masters' in Tradumàtica and the chief editor of Revista Tradumàtica.

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Dr Nora Aranberri

Nora Aranberri is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Arts at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), where she lectures in translation and interpreting. She is a researcher at the HiTZ Basque Center for Language Technology, specialising in the area of machine translation (MT). Her research focuses on MT evaluation and pays special attention to aspects related to its use by both professional translators and regular users. Although not exclusively, she works with Basque, which provides her the opportunity to explore the implications MT can have for low-resource minority languages.

Prof. Dragoş Ciobanu

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Dr Ana Guerberof Arenas

Ana Guerberof Arenas is an associate professor in Translation Studies at University of Groningen. From 2020-22, she was a Marie Skłodowska Curie Research Fellow working on the CREAMT project that looked at the impact of MT on translation creativity and the reader's experience in the context of literary texts. More recently she has been awarded a ERC Consolidator grant by the European Research Council to work on the five-year project INCREC (2023-2028) that explores the translation creative process in its intersect with technology in literary and AVT translation. She has authored refereed articles and book chapters on MT post-editing; reading comprehension of MT output; translator training, ethical considerations in MT, AI and the industry, creativity and reception studies. She has more than 23 years' experience in the translation industry.

Ms Janiça Hackenbuchner

Janiça Hackenbuchner is an FWO fellow PhD researcher in machine translation at Ghent University. Her research focus lies on machine translation systems and gender inclusiveness. She is a co-founder of the DeBiasByUs platform and co-organiser of the first two Workshops on Gender-Inclusive Translation Technologies. Before her PhD, she worked on the DataLitMT Project (with Ralph Krüger) developing didactic resources for teaching data literacy in the context of machine translation literacy. Her broader research interests cover developments in NLP and fairness, as well as data and digital literacy training. She holds an MA in Specialised Translation and a BA in Sciences, and she has experience teaching at the BA and MA levels.

Prof. Dorothy Kenny

Dorothy Kenny is full professor of translation studies at Dublin City University. She holds a BA in French and German from DCU and an MSc in machine translation and a PhD in language engineering, both from the University of Manchester. Her current research interests include corpus-based analyses of translation and translator style, literary applications of machine translation and approaches to the teaching of translation technology. She was principal investigator on MultiTraiNMT from 2019 to 2022. She is co-editor (with Joss Moorkens) of the journal Translation Spaces and an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Linguists (UK).

Prof. Ralph Krüger

Ralph Krüger is a professor of language and translation technology at the Institute of Translation and Multilingual Communication at TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences, Cologne, Germany. He received his PhD in translation studies from the University of Salford, UK, in 2014 and completed his habilitation at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, in 2024. His current research focuses on the performance of neural machine translation (NMT) and large language models (LLMs) in the specialised translation process and on didactic strategies and resources for teaching the technical basics of NMT/LLMs to students from translation and specialised communication programmes.

Dr Joss Moorkens

Joss Moorkens is an Associate Professor at the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies in Dublin City University (DCU), Science Lead at the ADAPT Centre, and member of DCU's Institute of Ethics and Centre for Translation and Textual Studies. He has published over 60 articles and papers on the topics of translation technology interaction and evaluation, translator precarity, and translation ethics. He is General Coeditor of the journal Translation Spaces with Prof. Dorothy Kenny, coeditor of a number of books and journal special issues, and coauthor of the textbooks Translation Tools and Technologies (Routledge 2023) and Automating Translation (Routledge 2024). He sits on the board of the European Masters in Translation Network.

Dr Miguel Rios Gaona

Miguel Rios is a Postdoc in Machine Translation at the University of Vienna Centre for Translation Studies. He holds a PhD in Computational Linguistics from the University of Wolverhampton. He is developing models for text representation, and Machine Translation. In particular, he is interested in deep generative models for neural Machine Translation. His interests include machine translation, quality estimation, evaluation of machine translation, and medical informatics. e-mail: miguel.angel.rios.gaona@univie.ac.at | Website: https://mriosb08.github.io/

Dr María Isabel Rivas Ginel

María Isabel Rivas Ginel is a postdoctoral researcher at the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies and the ADAPT Centre in Dublin City University (DCU). Her current position involves working on the topics of translation technology, large language models and generative artificial intelligence (genAI), translators' attitudes towards new technologies, and accessibility. Her fields of interest are audiovisual and multimedia translation, translation technology, gender studies, accessibility, and inclusivity.

Prof. Caroline Rossi

Caroline Rossi is a full professor of Applied linguistics and Translation Sudies at Université Grenoble Alpes (UGA). She holds a PhD in Psycholinguisics (on language acquisition), an Habilitation in Translation Studies, and she has expertise in cognitive and corpus linguistics as well as translation technologies. She currently leads UGA's contribution to the LT-Lider project.

Dr Alina Secară

Alina Secară is Senior Scientist in the University of Vienna Centre for Translation Studies where she investigates accessibility practices and technologies, and teaches modules related to accessibility and audiovisual translation, as well as multimedia localization processes and technologies. A UK Stagetext accredited theatre captioner, she worked with theatres across the UK to integrate captioning for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing audiences, and provided customized hands-on training in subtitling and captioning to EU and UN in-house linguists. She managed the UK University of Leeds MA in Audiovisual Translation Studies for over a decade and contributed to a variety of EU-funded translation technologies projects such as eCoLoTrain, eCoLoMedia and DigiLing. Currently she co-leads the University of Vienna contribution to the LT-LiDER project. e-mail: alina.secara@univie.ac.at | Website: https://tinyurl.com/4sfd3568

Dr Antonio Toral

Antonio Toral works as Associate Professor in Language Technology at the University of Groningen, where he coordinates the Computational Linguistics research group. His research interests include the application of machine translation (MT) to literary texts, MT for under-resourced languages and the computational analysis of translations produced by machines and humans. Prior to starting a faculty position, he was a postdoctoral researcher and research fellow at Dublin City University, and before that a PhD student at the Universitat d'Alacant and at the Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale. He coordinated the Abu-MaTran project, which was flagged by the European Commission as a success story and won the best paper award at MT Summit 2019 for his work on post-editese.

Abstract

In today's ever-evolving translation market, professionals are continually challenged to navigate a rapidly changing and highly technologised environment that tests their adaptability. Amidst this fourth industrial revolution, mapping out the skills required by the market and devising targeted training scenarios for future translators has become crucial. Building on previous initiatives spearheaded by its members, such as MultiTraiNMT (Kenny 2022), FOIL (https://foil.cti.gr/), the DigiLing project (https://learn.digiling.eu/), and the DataLitMT project (Hackenbuchner & Krüger 2023), LT-LiDER is an Erasmus+ cooperation project aimed at producing training outputs to help language and translation trainers enhance their skills and adopt effective pedagogical strategies for integrating data-driven technology into their classrooms, with a focus on digital and AI literacy. Focused on bridging the technological skills gap, one of the project's initial steps involves mapping the industry by conducting comprehensive interviews with international industry professionals, educators, and technology providers, and cross-referencing said findings with previous research. By identifying the technologies used and required in language learning and translation contexts, LT-LiDER aims to create an inventory of practical scenarios applicable in training settings and a didactic tool for acquiring translation. We report based on the interviews (http://lt-lider.eu/expert-voices/) and the data gathered, focusing on reasons for adoption or resistance to technology, changes in quality assurance processes, and the added value of the human in the loop in new AI-driven contexts. We will also shed light on current technology use and provide an overview of rising trends while pinpointing areas needing development.
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Keywords

AI literacy, Translator Education, Technological skills

LT.23 | Panel 11 | Contemporary Chinese Literature in the Anglophone World: Translation, Reception and National Image Building (cont.)

Chairs: Meihua Song, Pan Xie, Honghua Liu

Collaborations in Literary Translation: Nicky Harman and Dylan Levi King's Translation of Jia Pingwa's Qinqiang (Shaanxi Opera)

Dr. Liping Bai
Department of Translation, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, China

Dr. Liping Bai

Bai Liping is an Associate Professor at the Department of Translation of Lingnan University. He is the author of the book entitled Mapping the Translator: A Study of Liang Shiqiu (Routledge, 2022). His academic articles appear in international journals including Across Languages and Cultures, Archiv Orientalni, Babel, Neohelicon, Perspectives, Humanitas, Tsing Hua Journal of Chinese Studies, The Translator, and Translation Quarterly. He is also interested in practical translation and has published a number of translations between Chinese and English.

Abstract

This paper explores the intricate collaborations in literary translation through the case of the translation of Jia Pingwa's 贾平凹 novel Qinqiang 秦腔 (Shaanxi Opera) by Nicky Harman and Dylan Levi King. Jia Pingwa is a seminal figure in contemporary Chinese literature, and his award-winning novel Qinqiang intricately weaves the cultural and social fabric of rural Shaanxi, enriched with local dialects and idiomatic expressions. These linguistic elements pose significant challenges, requiring a nuanced approach to make the text accessible to an international audience. This study examines the collaborative efforts between Harman and King, highlighting how their combined expertise facilitated the translation process. Additionally, it delves into their collaboration with the author Jia Pingwa, whose insights were crucial in addressing the complexities of dialect and cultural context. The paper also scrutinizes the role of the publisher Amazon Crossing and its editor in shaping the translation strategy to ensure broader global appeal. Through an analysis of first-hand materials, including interviews, correspondences, and different drafts, this paper sheds light on the multifaceted nature of collaborative translation. By exploring the interplay between translators, authors, and publishers, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of collaborations that underpin successful literary translation, a subject of increasing interest in translation studies.

Keywords

Collaborative translation, Literary translation , Jia Pingwa

Space, Body and Destiny: An Analysis of Heterotopian Characteristics of Science Fiction Waste Tide Based on Spatial Narrative

Mrs Wu Hongxuan
Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hongkong, China. Shanghai International Studies University, Shanghai, China

Mrs Wu Hongxuan

Greetings, I am Wu Hongxuan, currently pursuing my Ph.D. at the Translation Studies Center of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, supported by the prestigious Hong Kong Ph.D. Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS) from the Hong Kong government. Prior to this, I completed my Master's degree in Translation Studies at the Advanced Institute of Translation and Interpretation at Shanghai International Studies University, following my Bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from the School of Foreign Languages at Sichuan University. My research interests lie in the realms of translation history, the translation of popular literature, and the translation of science fiction. Throughout my postgraduate journey, I have presented my work at various academic conferences. Noteworthy among these are my presentations at the First International High-level Forum on Modern Chinese Translation History at Hunan University of Science and Technology in December 2022, the 11th International Conference "Tradition and Innovation in Translation Studies Research XI" at Philosopher Constantine the Great University in Nitra in February 2023, and the Fourth Interdisciplinary Research Student Forum on Literary Ethics Criticism at Zhejiang University in May 2023. I am dedicated to advancing knowledge in the field of translation studies and contributing meaningful insights to the academic community. Thank you for taking the time to consider my abstract.

Abstract

This paper focuses on the Waste Tide, authored by Chen Qiufan, winner of the Global Chinese Science Fiction Nebula Award, and translated by Ken Liu. Despite being published five years ago in 2019, the English version of Waste Tide was still recognized by Book Riot in April 2023 as one of “the 22 Best Cyberpunk Novels of All Time.” This recognition highlights the novel’s dual thematic strengths in addressing contemporary issues and humanistic reflections within Chinese science fiction realism, marking its successful introduction to Western audiences. This success highlights the potential for further exploration by translation scholars to explore choices and adaptations in translating this distinct genre. Drawing on spatial narrative theory, this paper examines three narrative spaces within the text: the “textual space,” grounded in the author’s hometown landscapes; the “social space,” exploring social class divisions and human-nature alienation; and the “acceptance and interpretation space,” drawing on collective cultural memory frameworks. By comparing spatial narratives between the original and translated texts, the study investigates Ken Liu’s approach to portraying attitudes towards technology and ethics, as well as reflections on power structures in postmodern society. The analysis reveals that the translation’s reconstruction of these narrative spaces more clearly underscores the novel’s underlying Chinese humanistic perspectives, facilitating resonance with the international science fiction community. In doing so, this strategy allows Waste Tide to convey universal cyberpunk-style humanistic concerns, enhancing its appeal to foreign readers and paving the way for adaptation into film and television markets. Looking forward, further research is warranted to explore the reconstruction of China’s national image under spatial narrative frameworks in the translation of contemporary science fiction literature. This study contributes to ongoing discussions on the global reception of Chinese science fiction, illustrating its potential to bridge cultural divides and engage international audiences in shared human concerns.

Keywords

spatial narrative, heterotopian, Ken Liu's translation

Self-Translation and the Construction of China's Image in the English-speaking World: A Case Study of Xiao Qian's Literary Self-Translations

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Ms. Qiaoyu Shen

Affiliation: Nanyang Technological University Research Area: Literary translation, translation history

Abstract

During his stay in the United Kingdom from 1939 to 1942, Xiao Qian self-translated his early literary works, which include two essays and ten short stories. This study employs Mona Baker's narrative theory as its framework to analyze the narrative reframing strategies in his self-translated texts. It also investigates how these strategies influence readers' perceptions of Chinese society and contribute to the construction of China's national image. The research reveals that Xiao Qian adopted three primary strategies in his self-translation. Firstly, through temporal and spatial framing, he emphasized the political narrative of anti-fascism, encouraging his target readers to relate the text to their own experiences and fostering a positive national image of wartime resilience. Secondly, by selectively appropriating the original texts, he omitted negative narratives that critiqued social injustices or depicted the low status of Chinese women, thereby cultivating a national image of civilization and progress. Thirdly, the translation either labeled or removed labels from cultural elements in the original narrative, such as culture-loaded terms, enhancing the text's tactfulness and readability. This study holds practical significance for both literary translation and the global dissemination of Chinese culture. By examining the narrative reframing strategies in self-translated literary works, it offers insights into both linguistic and cultural aspects. The findings provide useful references for future literary translation models, strategies, and the shaping of national images in translated literary texts.

Keywords

self-translation, narrative theory, national image construction

Mapping social networks of Chinese-English literary translation: A social network analysis of Renditions (1973–2023)

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Dr Yuan Ping

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Prof. Kefei Wang

Prof. Kefei Wang is research fellow based at the National Research Centre for Foreign Language Education, Beijing Foreign Studies University. His research interest lies in various aspects of translation and interpreting studies, in which he supervises PhD students and has published widely in refereed journals.

Abstract

Despite the growth in research on literary translation in periodicals in Chinese contexts, the social networks for literary translation in these periodicals have received only limited attention. This study investigates the social networks of literary translation in relation to the Renditions biannual Chinese-English translation magazine. This study examines the contributions of notable translators, authors, editors, and publishers through macroanalysis, using Gephi network analysis and visualization software, of 99 issues to uncover patterns in selection, representation, and reception within the realm of literary translation. The study's combination of quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis offers fresh insights into the role of Renditions in shaping the landscape of Chinese-English literary translation over the past five decades. Adopting a sociological approach and drawing on social network analysis, the study identifies key players within the periodical's social network and investigates the intricate web of social institutions and relationships that underlie the production and dissemination of translated content. By bridging between sociology, periodical studies, and translation studies, the study provides a valuable analytical framework for future research and showcases the potential of digital humanities tools in conducting translation studies.

Keywords

Chinese-English literary translation, periodical translation, social networks

LT.24 | Panels 46 and 47 | Translation in Multilingual Research (cont.)

Chairs: Anna Strowe, Serena Bassi (Panel 46); Nadja Grbić, Rafael Schögler (Panel 47)

Teamwork at its Best: Interpreters, translators and researchers coming together in Project EBIC

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Prof. Claudia V. Angelelli

Professor Claudia V. Angelelli is Chair in Multilingualism and Communication at Heriot-Watt University, UK; Emeritus Professor of Spanish Linguistics at San Diego State University, US; and Visiting Professor at Beijing University of Foreign Studies, China. Her research sits at the intersection of Sociolinguistics, Applied Linguistics and Translation and Interpreting Studies.. She authored Medical Interpreting and Cross-cultural Communication (Cambridge University Press), Revisiting the Role of the Interpreter (John Benjamins) and Medical Interpreting Explained (Routledge). She is Guest Editor of The International Journal of the Sociology of Language (2011), Translation and Interpreting Studies (2012 and (2014 w/Colina) and Cuadernos de ALDEEU (2013). She is co-editor of Researching Translation and Interpreting Studies (2015 w/Baer), Testing and Assessment in Translation and Interpreting Studies (2009 w/Jacobson). Her articles appear in The Annual Review of Applied Linguistics, The Critical Link, COMET, Cuadernos de ALDEEU; European Journal of Applied Linguistics, Interpreting, Journal of Applied Linguistics and Professional Practice, META, MONTI (Monografias de Traducción e Interpretación), The Translator, TIS, The International Journal of the Sociology of Language and in numerous edited volumes. Prof. Angelelli designed the first empirically-driven language proficiency and interpreter readiness tests for The California Endowment and Hablamos Juntos(Robert Wood Johnson Foundation). She has conducted funded research projects in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, the European Union (Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain and UK) and the United States. She was World Leader for ISO 13611: Standards on Community Interpreting and co-authored The California Standards for Health Care Interpreters.

Abstract

When a research project requires translation or interpreting, T&I can be treated as a service received or as an integral component of the project. Based on ethnographic data from participatory observations, interviews, workshops and game sessions, this presentation offers a context to reflect about the relationship between researchers, professional interpreters and translators, community leaders and participants in a research project entitled "Empowering Impoverished Communities through Critical Thinking". We describe resources deployed by the research team in Portuguese, English and Spanish while working with three vulnerable populations in deprived metropolitan areas in Goiânia, capital of the state of Goiás, Brazil. We focus on the agency, ethics and professionalism of the translators and interpreters. Communicating effectively, understanding and being understood, prioritizing essential information, as well as differentiating between reliable and fake news, require cognitive and social skills learnt through socialization and education. While these skills are not equal across social sectors (Freire 1992:71), they are essential. We all depend on them to access, analyse and categorize information to make informed decisions which are particularly important, when living through a pandemic in an impoverished community. In our interconnected academic and professional practices, linguistic, cultural and disciplinary diversity permeates every thread of our interactions. Communication in general, and inter-linguistic/cultural communication mediated by interpreting/translation in particular, is a situated practice (Angelelli 2019, 2008). This practice is perceived, valued, and understood differently by different professionals. Project EBIC offers a glimpse into the flexibility and complex continuum of roles deployed by translators and interpreters, which were key to the success of our research. This presentation has implications for the education, training, professionalization and ethics of language service professionals coming together as an interdiciplinary group in a situated practice across the various settings.

Keywords

Interpreter's agency, Ethics, Professionalism

Taking Translation Seriously in Anthropological Research

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Dr Robert Gibb

Robert Gibb teaches anthropology and sociology at the University of Glasgow. He has conducted anthropological research on the antiracist movement in France and on questions of translation and interpretation in the asylum process in France and Bulgaria. His most recent publications are 'Metaphors and practices of translation in anglophone anthropology' (Social Science Information, 2023) and 'Re-Learning Hope: On Alienation, Theory and the "Death" of Universities' (The Sociological Review, forthcoming). With Annabel Tremlett and Julien Danero Iglesias, he also co-edited the book 'Learning and Using Languages in Ethnographic Research' (Multilingual Matters, 2019).

Abstract

'Taking others seriously' is, according to Tim Ingold (2018: 14), a basic principle of anthropological research. Through paying careful attention to what people say and do, anthropologists can learn from them; anthropology, in his view, is a form of education which has the potential 'to transform lives'. Adopting Ingold's argument as a starting point, I focus in this paper on two of the many possible ways of 'taking translation seriously' in anthropological research. The first involves a recognition that in most anthropological fieldwork, as in other types of qualitative research, translation is 'ubiquitous and brings about diverse translatorial moments' (Korak and Schögler, 2024: 1). How can anthropologists address the implications - notably methodological - of this when carrying out their research? I explore this question by reflecting on several 'translatorial moments' that occurred during my own fieldwork in refugee accommodation centres and a detention centre in Bulgaria. In particular, I show how the process of negotiating access to these field sites involved a variety of translation practices on the part not only of myself as a 'less-than-fluent' researcher (Tremlett, 2014) but also of the other social agents with whom I came into contact. Furthermore, I argue that exchanging fieldnotes on a weekly basis with a colleague conducting research in Romania as part of the same project, and discussing these with him in a monthly (online) meeting, created an extremely valuable 'space of "translational deliberation"' (Korak and Schögler, 2024: 1). A second way of 'taking translation seriously' in anthropological research, I then suggest, follows from Ingold's argument that anthropologists are 'educated' by the people with whom they work. In the final part of the paper I therefore reflect on what I learned as a researcher from observing the translation practices of lawyers, social workers and interpreters during my fieldwork in Bulgaria.

Keywords

Anthropology, Reflexivity, Methodology

Translating narrative interviews in qualitative social research - ethical and methodological challenges

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Associate Prof. Mag. Dr. Angela Pilch Ortega

She is Associate Professor in Learning World Research and University Didactics at the Department of Education, University of Graz, Austria. Learning world research explores life histories and living conditions and the way how we understand ourselves in relation to others and the social world with the aim of analysing the complex interrelation between social structures and subjects. Against this backdrop her research focuses on biographical and learning world research, social movements and societal learning, transnationalism and postcolonialism, wherein the role of social learning and emancipatory practice for social change processes gains importance. For her research she uses qualitative methods (Grounded Theory, biographical research, multi-method approach, ethnography).

Abstract

In recent decades, the global interconnectedness of social actors and their living environments has contributed to the transnationalisation of social contexts and created multilingual language spaces, which has raised important questions for qualitative research. The translation of narrative data is a complex challenge in which ethical, methodological and epistemological perspectives must be clarified. Translation activities are to be understood as part of the research process, in the context of which important decisions have to be made. The focus is not only on the question of what exactly is to be translated, but also on the how of the translation, the translation strategy and the translation context. Additionally, translation cannot be understood as (value-)neutral product that can be carried out on the basis of objective criteria. Rather, translation is interwoven into complex dynamics of power relations, dominant norms and conventions that need to be critically highlighted. The fields of research that require translation are increasingly heterogeneous. Multilingual spaces are a genuine part of different living environments as well as the scientific community. Against this background, it seems crucial to focus more on translation in the context of qualitative research from the perspective of power constellations and to stimulate a critical-reflexive discussion about adequate methods and translation practices. The aim of this article is to shed more light on ethical, methodological and epistemological questions in relation to the translation of empirical data in the context of qualitative studies and to outline practice-orientated approaches. On the one hand, I will take up critical discourses in translation studies and explore their relevance for qualitative social research. Secondly, the conditions of qualitative social research are discussed using the example of a biography-oriented study in the highlands of Chiapas, Mexico, and considerations for the implementation of the translation design developed for the study are presented.

Keywords

qualitative research, multilingual spaces, translation

Codes of ethics at odds: Intertwined positionalities of TI practisearchers

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Abstract

By their very nature, TI practisearchers straddle multiple ethical frameworks. On the one hand, professional TI codes of ethics establish a framework within which these colleagues operate as agents moving between or among various languages. Largely deontological in nature, TI codes of ethics establish rules that govern the acceptability of behaviors and practices. Depending on various working contexts (e.g., legal, medical, educational, or conference), these codes may differ; however, several commonly-agreed upon tenets are shared across domains. On the other hand, practisearchers simultaneously inhabit research spaces that rely on different ethical and theoretical underpinnings than their professional, deontological counterparts. For instance, the underlying tenets of beneficence (i.e., maximizing benefit) and non-maleficence (i.e., minimizing potential harm) are, in many respects, consequentialist or utilitarian in nature, seeking to support positive outcomes of research conducted under the auspices of governing ethics bodies. Moreover, funding bodies often dictate adherence to these codes of ethics by explicitly linking research funding to compliance, thereby enmeshing researchers in a network of ethical decisions (Israel, 2014). This paper investigates the multiple intertwined positionalities of TI researchers, particularly in cases of divergent codes of ethics. While previous research has articulated the potential influence they may exert on the object of study as well as the challenges associated with accessing particular data sources (Mellinger 2020, 2024; Lomeña Galiano, 2024), questions remain regarding how TI researchers navigate multiple codes of ethics. The paper also questions how overlapping, but distinct, ethical frameworks shape research practices in the field, not only in terms of data collection, but also in its analysis and dissemination. The paper offers tentative proposals on how to address these challenges at different points in the research process.

Keywords

codes of ethics, positionality, research methods

Session 5 | 15:30-17:30

LT.01 | Panel 43 | The Mediated and Multimodal Nature of Song Translation (cont.)

Chairs: Johan Franzon, Annjo K. Greenall, Anna Rędzioch-Korkuz

The Many Faces of Domestication in Polish Translations of The Tiger Lillies' Songs

Ms Anna Mach
University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

Ms Anna Mach

Anna Mach is currently working on her Ph.D. in translation studies at the University of Warsaw, about the transformations introduced by Polish translators in their renditions of The Tiger Lillies' songs. She holds a degree in applied linguistics from that same university. She is also a graduate of the law school at the Jagiellonian University and had been a practising lawyer for almost twenty years. Currently, her main field of academic interest is music-linked translation, with a particular focus on alternative genres, such as punk cabaret, and on the authorial competence of a song translator. As she is a song translator herself, she combines theoretical research with translational practice.

Abstract

Domestication does not enjoy the best reputation in translations studies. Through the influence of Lawrence Venuti, it has come to be associated with a coercive imposition of the target-culture standards, masking the foreignness and rendering the translator invisible. I would like to offer an alternative view on domestication when applied in translating songs: that of a means for expressing the translator's creativity and enriching the semantic content of the text. I will analyse selected examples of domestication in Polish translations of songs by The Tiger Lillies. I consider it a form of appropriation, in the descriptive sense proposed by Johan Franzon, by which translators make the song "their own". Thus, I perceive domestication as a stamp of the translator's individuality. The discussed cases exemplify an array of operations: from the use of Polish names to elaborate references to topical political issues. Some even constitute intertextual allusions to popular Polish poems or songs, introduced despite the absence of anything similar in the source text – a specific type of domestication I hope to rehabilitate after it had been condemned by the Polish scholar Edward Balcerzan as a "coercive and bizarre Polonization" of a foreign text. Not all examples of domestication appear on the textual level. In one case, a performed song turns into a pastiche of a famous singer, with all his vocal mannerisms, to a hilarious effect only discernible for Polish audiences. Thus, domestication in song translation may be seen as a multimodal operation, undertaken not only by the translator, but also by other agents of the performative process. To sum up, I see the presented cases as a manifestation of the translators' creativity, infusing the songs with new meanings. I hope to show that, rather than leading to translators' invisibility, it may do the opposite: contribute to their greater visibility.

Keywords

song translation, domestication, Tiger Lillies

Meaning, Sound and Performance: Luc Aulivier's French Translations of Bob Dylan's Songs for Serge Kerval

Dr Jean-Charles Meunier
LARSH / UPHF, Valenciennes, France

Dr Jean-Charles Meunier

Jean-Charles Meunier teaches English language and culture, as well as translation studies, at the Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France in Valenciennes. He has published several in-depth articles about Bob Dylan's songs and has given talks on the topic at international conferences. His PhD thesis, entitled Multimodal Refractions of Bob Dylan in French Covers, explores Dylan's songs translated and performed in French over a time span of more than 50 years. In this study, he addresses issues related to metrics and musical adaptation, taking into account Dylan's idiosyncrasies. He approaches the topic of song translation through the lens of multimodality, i.e. investigating the relationships between text, voice, music and sound engineering and how these converge to create meaning.

Abstract

A great number of Bob Dylan's songs have been translated into French and sung by a host of different artists in the last 60 years. As Dylan's fame lies in his texts in particular, translators might be expected to stay very close to the meaning of the source text. However, this is not always the case. Luc Aulivier, one of the three translators who were asked to contribute songs for the album Serge Kerval chante Bob Dylan in 1971, has a very different approach. The analysis of Aulivier's four translations shall demonstrate the extent to which this translator has consistently chosen sound over meaning, and explore the reasons behind this choice as well as the consequences on the reception of the target work. The multimodal scrutiny of these four works shall take into account the other semiotic resources involved in a song, through careful examination of the recorded material rather than the written lyrics. This approach shall cast light on how Kerval's vocal skills contribute to reproducing the sounds of the source work. Similarly, musical features shall be considered, such as the performers' choice to produce covers that are very close to the source works in terms of instrumentation and sound engineering.

Keywords

Bob Dylan, Multimodality, Song translation

Songs Without Words: Interspecies Translation Through Multispecies Musicking

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Dr Alex South

Alex South is a Postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, on a research project titled 'What are the ethical responsibilities of musicians as interspecies translators? An ecomusicology of pilot whale vocalizations.' His interdisciplinary PhD, 'Cetacean Citations' (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland/University of St Andrews, 2024), combined practice-led research from an ecomusicological perspective with bioacoustical studies on the rhythmic variability of humpback whale song. He has published on topics in animal culture, biomusicology, and ecomusicology, and lectures on undergraduate music courses at the University of St Andrews and Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. As a performer, he regularly plays and records improvised and contemporary classical music with groups including Glasgow Improvisers Orchestra, Collective Endeavours, and Ensemble Thing. Compositions resulting from his doctoral research have been performed at festivals in the UK and abroad, and featured in CBC documentary 'The Musical Animal'.

Prof. Şebnem Susam-Saraeva

Şebnem Susam-Saraeva is a Professor of Translation Studies at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Her past research included translation of literary theories, retranslations, research methodology in translation studies, internationalisation of the discipline, non-professionals translating/interpreting, translation and gender, translation and popular music, and ethical & representational issues in translation. Her recent work focuses on translation/interpreting in maternal health and on eco-translation, particularly interspecies communication. She is the author of 'Translation and Popular Music' (2015) and 'Theories on the Move' (2006), and editor of 'Translation and Music' (2008), 'Non-Professionals Translating and Interpreting' (2012, with Luis Pérez-González) and 'Routledge Handbook of Translation and Health' (2021, with Eva Spišiaková).

Abstract

Our contribution focuses on examples of multispecies musicking in which human music-making is inspired or informed by, and/or combined with, cetacean vocalisations. Approaching the topic from the transdisciplinary angle of translation studies and musicology, and adding the perspectives of a musician and a translator, in our talk we will explore the idea of musicians as translators/mediators in interspecies interactions. We will focus on two multimodal works for comparative and contrastive purposes. The first is Judy Collins' 'Farewell to Tarwathie' (1970), a performance that combined a 19th century Scottish folk song with the 'songs without words' of humpback whales. Here we cite Felix Mendelssohn to remind us that he took instrumental music to resist translation: "not thought too indefinite to put into words, but on the contrary, too definite" (Letters, 1864). In Collins' version of 'Farewell', a certain recontextualization takes place: the juxtaposition of lyrics dealing with whaling together with the whale songs plays a vital role in changing how we hear both the whale song and the folk song. The second piece, 'Keening: The Song of the Stranding', is a contemporary collaboration led by visual artist Sam Gare and musician Alex South, created to commemorate the mass stranding of long-finned pilot whales on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland in 2023. Alongside the music inspired by pilot whale calls and traditional Scottish Gaelic keening, the piece involves visual elements (sand sculptures), and formalised, choreographed movement elements from the public participants. By comparing these two examples along musical, visual, structural, narrative, textual and linguistic dimensions, we seek to understand what may have changed in the representation of cetaceans in the last five decades and what may have remained the same, and how these changes may be reflected in and are shaped by the ethical role of musicians in interspecies translation.

Keywords

eco-translation, multispecies musicking, whale song

AI as Muse? A Longitudinal Study on the Creative Potential of AI in Translating Song Lyrics

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Dr Małgorzata Kodura

Małgorzata Kodura PhD is a certified Polish-English translator and a translator trainer, working as Assistant Professor at the University of the National Education Commission in Kraków, Poland. She is staff member of the Chair for Translation Education, whose translation programme is included in European Master's in Translation network. She teaches practical courses in specialised translation and translation technologies. Her interests in the area of translation studies focus on translator training in a digital age and translator trainer's competence.

Abstract

This study examines the creative potential of AI translation tools like ChatGPT and Gemini, focusing on the translation of song lyrics from "Six: The Musical" into Polish. By analyzing translations generated through varied prompts, from literal translation to instructions emphasizing singability and metrical preservation, and using Bayer-Hohenwarter's framework for creative translation shifts, the study aims to uncover the strengths and limitations of AI in handling artistic content. To track potential advancements in AI capabilities, the experiment was conducted three times over several months. The generated translations were evaluated for creativity (via creative translation shifts) and linguistic correctness, with a particular emphasis on maintaining the original meaning and cultural resonance of the lyrics. Ultimately, this research seeks to determine whether AI tools can be considered collaborators in the creative translation process of multi-layered artistic works, or if their primary function remains one of enhancing efficiency and accuracy.

Keywords

Song translation, AI-generated translation, Creative translation

Complexities of source text networks in globally circulated multimodal texts: the case of a compilative anime music video translation

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Dr Riku Haapaniemi

Riku Haapaniemi holds a PhD in Translation Studies from Tampere University, Finland. His research concentrates on the concept of materiality in translation studies, its philosophical and ontological implications, its applications in practical translation analysis, and its connections to research in other fields, including semiotics, textual studies, and language technology development. He currently works as a Postdoctoral Researcher and Project Coordinator for the InterReal (ERC-StG) research project, which combines translation studies, semiotics, and speculative research for the study of virtual realities.

Dr Laura Ivaska

Laura Ivaska is a University Lecturer at the University of Turku, where she teaches translation studies and translation from English into Finnish. She is also a Postdoctoral Researcher in the 'Traces of Translation in the Archives' project at the Finnish Literature Society (SKS). Her research interests include indirect translation, translation history, genetic translation studies and corpus-based translation studies. She recently co-edited the special issues of Target (2022), Perspectives (2023) and Translation Spaces (2023) on indirect translation. She also serves as an Editor of Mikael (the Finnish Journal of Translation and Interpreting Studies) and the Multilingual Website Editor of Target (the International Journal of Translation Studies).

Abstract

In this talk, we demonstrate how the concept of compilative translation can provide a fruitful framework for studying the mediated and multimodal nature of song translation, and, ultimately, lead us to reconsider the concept of source text (ST). Compilative translation implies the use of several STs; in the case of multimodal texts, such as music videos, this may mean that different modes derive from different STs. As an example, we analyze the Finnish opening music video to the anime series Digimon. Combining perspectives from indirect translation research, multimodal theory, localization studies, and song translation research, we see the Finnish Digimon theme as a product of compilative translation: the visual elements and music are derived from the Japanese original, while the lyrics combine elements from other international versions, too. This, however, becomes apparent only if different modes are studied separately, which, in turn, invites us to problematize the concept of ST in multimodal settings. Digimon is an example of how audiovisual texts circulate through multiple language areas and diverse markets, resulting in localized target texts (TT) that derive from complex networks of STs and distribution processes. The contents of different modes may be subject to different degrees of translation in different locales, and translation processes may necessitate the addition of new modes, or the separating and recombining of existing modes into novel combinations. As a result, the different modes of a single multimodal TT may suggest different STs or individual modes may connect to multiple STs. Ultimately, our discussion suggests that while multimodal texts, e.g., music videos, may be theoretically conceptualized as single, unified textual wholes and they may appear as such to recipients, for research purposes the ST-to-TT relations of each mode may need to be studied independently to better account for the complexities of how multimodal texts are produced.

Keywords

audiovisual translation, compilative translation, localization

LT.06 | Panel 44 | Translation in/for Minority Languages in Europe (cont.)

Chairs: Cláudia Martins, Antony Hoyte-West

Self-translation as a tool for recognizing and sustaining minority languages

Dr Magdalena Kampert
University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Dr Magdalena Kampert

Magdalena Kampert is a lecturer in translation studies at the University of Glasgow. She has written on self-translation in the Italian and Polish contexts, and on the Sicilian translation of Le Petit Prince. She has also acted as a guest editor for the special issue "Rethinking (Self-)translation in (Trans)national Contexts" of the journal New Voices in Translation Studies (2020).

Abstract

This paper explores literary self-translation, i.e. translation of one's own writings into another language (Grutman 2020), in minority-language settings. A minority language is defined as any language that is in a subordinate position relative to another language in the sociocultural context in which the writer is creatively active (Dagnino 2019). Using examples of 21st-century Sicilian self-translation, I argue that self-translation may be a tool of recognition and multilingual sustainability. Biocultural research has highlighted an extinction crisis of the diversity of life in all its forms (Maffi 2018). While diversity is a fundamental condition of existence, our socioeconomic and political systems promote homogenization, the spread of dominant languages and a global monoculture. (Self-)translation has the potential to play an important role in sustaining minority languages, although its role in language maintenance is hardly acknowledged. In advancing the concept of eco-translation, Michael Cronin (2017) has argued that translation should lie at the heart of debates about linguicide, global monocultures and biocultural diversity. While Italy is characterized by linguistic diversity, scholarship has neglected dialect self-translation. This paper investigates Sicilian, due to its minorised and vulnerable status. UNESCO recognizes it as a vulnerable language, yet, it is considered a dialect and Italian law does not acknowledge it as a language under protection. Based on the figure of author-translator and its agency (Kampert 2023), and on qualitative data from Sicilian self-translation in mainstream publishing and on social media, I illustrate how self-translation gives space to local varieties and acts as an impetus for the protection of linguistic diversity. Although self-translation in minority settings may be associated with cultural appropriation and further minorization, I claim that it can be a form of resistance to global homogenization. The paper shows that self-translation can contribute to debates on linguistically-based inequalities and be a means of multilingual sustainability.

Keywords

self-translation, multilingual sustainability, Sicilian

Interpreting the Needs of Roma Communities: An Exploratory Study in Eastern Slovakia

Dr Pavol Sveda
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Dr Pavol Sveda

Pavol Šveda is associate professor of translation and interpreting at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, where he specialises in the field of interpreter training, didactics, and the integration of new technologies into curriculum design. His scholarly work extends to the sociology of translation and interpreting, focusing on mapping current trends and challenges within the profession. Pavol is also one of the organizers of the Translation, Interpreting, Culture (TIC) conferences. He is an active conference interpreter, a sworn and literary translator.

Abstract

The Roma population, the largest ethnic minority in the EU with 10 to 12 million citizens, is concentrated in Central and Eastern Europe, facing significant segregation and social exclusion. In Slovakia, this remains one of the most pressing social and economic challenges (see e. g. Nestorová-Dická 2021, Cintulová et al. 2023). This study investigates the need for community interpreters to mediate public services for the Roma community and identifies specific interpreting requirements. An exploratory survey was conducted in ten communities with significant Roma populations in Eastern Slovakia, assessing the needs as reported by Roma community members, local municipality representatives, and healthcare providers. Field research carried out by Barbara Florekova (2024) is supplemented with data from national human rights agencies like the Public Defender of Rights and the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities. Initial findings reveal a need for interlingual, intralingual, and intersemiotic interpreting, reflecting the high prevalence of Roma individuals with hearing and speech disorders (Mašindová et al. 2015). This need is reported by both members of minority and majority. Our findings uncover troubling trends previously unreported, highlighting the complex communication needs within the Roma community and outlining the critical role community interpreters could play in addressing these needs. Overcoming multiple language barriers is an essential precondition for enabling better integration and desegregation.

Keywords

Roma communities, Community interpreting, Desegregation

Addressing Accessibility in Audiovisual Content: Techniques for Managing Diglossia in Live Subtitling

Mrs Luz Belenguer Cortés
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Mrs Luz Belenguer Cortés

Luz Belenguer Cortés holds a degree in Translation and Interpreting and a Master's in Translation and Interpreting Research from Universitat Jaume I (UJI) in Castellón, Spain. Additionally, she earned a Master's in Conference Interpreting from the Universidad Europea de Valencia (UEV). Currently, she is completing a PhD in the Applied Languages, Literature, and Translation Doctoral Programme, where her thesis was awarded the 2nd UJI Social Commitment Research Projects Banco Santander 2022 prize. She is an active member of two research groups: TRAMA (Translation for the Media and Accessibility) and WIKITRAD (Wikipedia and Translation Educational Research Group). Since 2018, she has worked as a live and SDH subtitler for À Punt, where she has also been involved in audio description. In 2024, she assumed the role of linguist at the network. Since 2020, she has balanced this role with her responsibilities as an associate lecturer at Universitat Jaume I, where she teaches courses in French, French culture, French-to-Spanish translation, audiovisual translation, and accessibility. Her international experience includes working abroad as a Spanish teacher and participating in academic exchanges at Murray State University and the University of Geneva as a student and at the University of Leeds as a researcher. Her research interests focus on Audiovisual Translation and Accessibility, and she has authored publications related to live subtitling and accessibility.

Abstract

Over the years, a variety of techniques have been developed and studied to enhance accessibility in audiovisual content, capturing the attention of numerous scholars. These techniques include typing, stenotyping, and respeaking. Among these methods, respeaking has emerged as the most widely adopted approach for producing live subtitles, particularly in television broadcasts. This method is extensively utilised by networks such as À Punt to ensure that their programming is accessible to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Unlike stenotyping, which involves the real-time understanding and transcription of spoken language, respeaking leverages voice recognition software to transcribe a significantly larger volume of words per minute. However, live broadcasts often involve spontaneous speech, which introduces a range of linguistic challenges, especially in multilingual regions where code-switching between languages is common. These challenges add an additional layer of complexity for professionals tasked with converting spoken language into written text, as they must navigate issues of appropriateness, coherence, and cohesion to produce accurate and effective subtitles. This presentation aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the various techniques and resources employed in live subtitling to address the unique challenges posed by diglossia in audiovisual programming. The focus will be on the methodologies implemented by the television network À Punt to manage the coexistence and interplay of the Spanish and Valencian languages within their programming. By highlighting the distinctions between stenotyping and respeaking techniques, the presentation will explore how these methods are adapted to meet the demands of multilingual broadcasts. Finally, the presentation will offer practical recommendations on the most effective techniques for different subtitling scenarios and propose innovative solutions to assist professionals in delivering high-quality accessibility services that cater to the needs of diverse audiences.

Keywords

live subtitling, accessibility, diglossia

Translating informal Basque: analysis of the proposals of MT and GenAI

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Dr Nora Aranberri

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Abstract

This study explores the capabilities of machine translation (MT) for minority languages, focusing on Basque in the context of social media, where informal and colloquial language is prevalent. Recent years have seen increasing research interest in MT for minority languages, with various techniques like transfer learning and data augmentation being developed to address the challenges of low-resource settings. Basque has made notable strides in MT applications, transitioning from early rule-based and statistical systems, which were of limited success, to more effective neural models. These advancements have led to greater adoption among both professional and non-professional users. However, the quality of these MT systems is often evaluated using formal or neutral registers, rather than informal or colloquial contexts. A significant challenge in automatically translating informal Basque stems from the nature of available parallel training data, which primarily comes from official or administrative sources. The recent generative models like ChatGPT and the Basque-specific Latxa model are trained on more diverse monolingual internet sources and could prove more successful in generating and translating informal Basque text. In this study, we analyse the translation of informal tweets from Spanish into Basque by both an MT system and a generative AI model. We collect simulated reaction posts from anonymous volunteers for 10 tweets, totalling over 300 tweets. We then translate these tweets into Basque using both systems and analyze the strategies used by each of the systems to address informal expressions (omissions, changes in register, literal translations, etc.). We also assess the naturalness and acceptability of the proposals with the help of Basque native speakers.
Acknowledgements: This research was partially supported by the project PID2021-123988OB-C31, funded by MICIU/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and co-financed by FEDER, European Union.

Keywords

Basque, informal language, automatic translation

A Comparative Analysis of Lexical and Morphological Richness in Original and Machine-Translated Basque News

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Abstract

The use of machine translation (MT) has increased considerably in recent years. As noted by Vanmassenhove et al. (2021), the linguistic features of target languages in machine-generated translations seem to not fully align with those observed in human-generated texts. This discrepancy highlights the need to examine the potential impact of MT on language use, especially for minority languages like Basque, which could be more susceptible to linguistic changes. This work addresses this issue by analysing the effects of MT on lexical and morphological richness, two areas where diversity loss has been observed for other language combinations (Vanmassenhove et al., 2021). To this end, we employ a comparable corpus of independently created news in Spanish and Basque (Etchegoyhen et al., 2020). Using the MT system Elia, we translate the Spanish text into Basque, adding a parallel machine-translated Basque version to the original set. We then compare the machine-generated and original Basque texts using automatic metrics to analyse different lexical and morphological features (e.g.: lexical diversity, use of discourse connectives, synonym use, use of inflection morphemes, etc.). Contrary to previous research, we do not find considerable differences between the texts in the specific features analysed. However, language modeling techniques, such as perplexity distance metrics and BERT-based text classification tasks, can still distinguish both texts, suggesting subtle differences in other areas and opening avenues for further research. This research was partially supported by the Basque Government (Predoctoral Grant PRE-2024-1-0147) and the project PID2021-123988OB-C31, funded by MICIU/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and co-financed by FEDER, European Union.

Keywords

machine translation, linguistic diversity, low-resource language

LT.07 | Panel 9 | City Museums as City Translation (cont.)

Chairs: Luc van Doorslaer, Anneleen Spiessens

Heritage sites and imagined space: a translation of Fort Santo Domingo in Formosa

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Dr Min-Hsiu Liao

Dr Min-Hsiu Liao is Associate Professor at Centre for Translation & Interpreting Studies in Scotland (CTISS), based at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. Her research interests lie in multimodal translation in museums, heritage sites, and urban landscape.

Abstract

This research engages with the ongoing discussion of the geographical and spatial turn in translation studies (Simon 2012, 2019; Italiano 2016). Specifically, the paper attempts to bring together the concepts of translation space and exhibition space to offer a different perspective, demonstrating how the physical space of heritage sites interacts with the fictional space constructed in literary narratives, jointly functioning as carriers of memories. To connect geographical and fictional spaces, I will refer to geocriticism as a model of literary criticism proposed by Westphal (2011) and Tally (2019), using its concept of intertextuality as an important link between the fictional space and its geographical reference in the world. This paper will use Fort Santo Domingo, a heritage site in a seaside city in northern Taiwan, as a case study. The fort was first built by the Spanish in 1628 and renamed Fort Antonio when it was rebuilt by the Dutch 20 years later. Since then, it has witnessed layers of colonial and multilingual memories now buried in the history of this city. I will examine how the multimodal exhibition space in this heritage site has been used to reactivate memories by staging narratives in relevant geographical narratives produced by foreign travellers to the site. These literary narratives have undergone processes of translation, retranslation, relay translation, and even pseudo-translation. The research demonstrates how the interaction between the material and imagined spaces contributes to the construction of collective memory of a multicultural city .

Keywords

Heritage sites, Translation space, Geocriticism

Communities of Liverpool Translated: The Gallery of Social and Community History at the Museum of Liverpool

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Dr Ümit Türe Pekel

Ümit Türe Pekel works as a lecturer at the department of Translation and Interpreting Studies at Yeditepe University, Türkiye. She has a BA, an MA and a PhD degree in Translation Studies awarded by Izmir University of Economics and Okan University and Boğaziçi University respectively. In her PhD thesis, she analyses the emergence of photonovel magazines in Türkiye as a case of cultural transfer. Her research interests include translation history, agency in translation, multimodality in translation, translation in/of periodicals, translation zones, cultural translation and indirect translation.

Abstract

This paper positions the Museum of Liverpool as a translational space and incorporates Museum Studies and Translation Studies to examine how the museum translates the city and its history. Liverpool's status as a port city has harboured a linguistic and cultural diversity in its population. Thus, Liverpool is a "translational city" (Simon, 2021) and "a space of resistance, challenge, as well as mediation" (Demirkol-Ertürk & Paker, 2014). Located at Pier Head, the museum hosts six collections, which display the social and historical evolution of Liverpool. The communities represented in the museum include the Scousers, the Black, Chinese and Jewish communities. The gallery of Social and Community History presents fragments of history focusing on working life, popular culture and politics. Some of the displays in this gallery are part of the museum's "Our City, Our Stories" program, which means they are curated in partnership with the local people to highlight the communities' narratives and their self-image. Hence, these displays present "the voices of the ethnography's objects" (Sturge, 1997). This paper explores how this gallery contributes to the understanding of the city's history and communities' narratives, and how the polyphony in the museum contributes to the narratives constructed. The paper also investigates how the museum presents different communities, the cultural "others" (Sturge 2006), in a monolingual narrative and the role narrators played as translators of their stories.

Keywords

museum translation, cultural translation, city translation

05.07.03

Translating 400th Anniversary of Tainan: A Case Study of Zeelandia Museum and Tainan City Museum

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Dr Yan Ying is an Associate Professor in Translation Studies at the University of Leicester, UK. Currently, she is working on "Our Memory in Your Language: Translating Taiwan's Museums in Transition", funded by British Academy/Leverhulme small research grant. She has published widely on literary writings and translation. She is also an active literary translator and has translated works by authors such as Marilynne Robinson and Martin Amis.

Abstract

City museums are defined in this paper as local public museums and their extended spaces of parks and historical sites, which are managed at the municipal level. Serving as repositories for artifacts, documents and other items that illustrate the city's past and present, city museums often feature historically significant events and figures. Reading city museums as city translation, I propose, entails a two-pronged approach involving both the etymological meaning of translation--'carried over' and 'transforming and altering', and its more specific and popular reference to linguistic transfer. Such an approach, as demonstrated in my case study, can tease out layers of historical memory in dynamic interaction in today's city space. It thus enables a distinctive perspective in understanding city museums' role in staging the narratives of a city, and in turn, shaping its evolving cultural identity. Capturing the celebration of 400th anniversary of Tainan in 2024, this article presents a case study of two city museums, Zeelandia Museum and Tainan City Museum (including the external historical sites and parks where the museums are located). The article will start from parsing the significance of Tainan's 400th anniversary in the context of today's geopolitical tension over the Taiwan Strait, Taiwan's pursuit for its own identity and Tainan's regional importance. It will then focus on how the Dutch period (1624-1662) and the following Ming-Zheng period (1662-1683) are translated in Zeelandia Museum and Tainan City Museum in conjunction with the anniversary celebration. The analysis will first address the interwoven narratives carried over through centuries to the present day. It will then discuss linguistic transfer in different forms, mainly as interlingual translation (Chinese, English and Japanese) and invisible translation in the ST, as well as the effect of non-translation.

Keywords

historical memory , city space , invisible translation

Natural history museums: translations of the city and for the city

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Ms Sophie Decroupet

Sophie Decroupet is a PhD researcher at Ghent University's Department of Translation, Interpretation, and Communication. Her doctoral research project proposes a translational study of exhibitions of the environmental crisis in natural history museums. Through a comparison of four case studies, the study reveals a transition of museums from natural history to environmental memory. In 2024, together with Irmak Mertens, she co-edited a special issue of Babel titled Museums as Spaces of Cultural Translation and Transfer.

Abstract

Natural history museums: translations of the city and for the city To this day, natural history museums in large cities primarily serve local residents. These institutions are spaces where residents create intergenerational memories and learn about their city's relationship with nature. They often function as museums by the city (institutionally), for the city (targeting local residents), and of the city (representing the city and its nature). Recent research in museum translation has demonstrated the importance of studying museums with a translational perspective. So far, it has allowed researchers to address questions of cultural representation (Sturge), inclusion (Valdeón), memory (Spiessens, Neather), and accessibility to various groups (Bartolini, Martins, Sezzi and Nocella). In this presentation, I build on recent conceptual and thematic development in museum translation and ask: how can city translation (Cronin and Simon) further advance museum translation research? Specifically, I focus this question in relation to the role that natural history museums play in translating nature for a city audience, crucial in the time of the climate crisis. To explore this question, I will present a case study of the temporary exhibition Tout contre la Terre at the Museum of Natural History in Geneva (2021 – 2023). This exhibition translated a global issue (the environmental crisis) for a local context (Geneva). I will focus on two aspects of this translation: first, the targeting of local audiences, evident in the use of interlingual translation; and second, the translation of the city for visitors, taking a multimodal approach to study two displays that recreated local outdoor environments inside the museum. A hypothesis is that the focus and framework of city translation could shed additional attention to questions of localities in museum translation. These are crucial as museums' roles within their communities evolve, with social responsibility becoming their primary mission in the 21st century.

Keywords

translating nature, museum translation, multimodal translation

Aquatic Translation and Maritime Museum: Interpreting Collective Memory of Seascape and Seafarers at Marine Cityscape

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Dr Rindon Kundu

Dr Rindon Kundu is presently serving as the Founder Director of the Sri Sri Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies, Sri Sri University, Cuttack, Odisha, India. He also works as an Assistant Professor of English at the Faculty of Arts, Communication and Indic Studies, Sri Sri University, Cuttack, Odisha, India. In 2014, he earned his MPhil degree in Translation Studies from the University of Hyderabad, Telangana, India, and in 2023, he was awarded with PhD degree in Comparative Literature from Jadavpur University, India. He was elected as the Treasurer of the Comparative Literature Association of India (CLAI) in 2019 and has been working as an office bearer since then. He was nominated as the South Asian Regional Director of the International Association of Eco-Translation Research (IAETR). Recently, he has been elected as a Steering Committee member of the Leadership Group of the International Comparative Literature Association Translation Committee (ICLA) from 2023 to 2026. He has been awarded several international grants including the Volkswagen Stiftung 2021 Grant, the British Academy Full Grant 2019 and the European Society for Translation Studies Young Researcher Travel Grant 2019 and the International Association of Translation and Intercultural Studies 2018 Hong Kong Bursary.

Abstract

An ethnographical excavation of the etymology of 'translation' will take us back to the 12thC when, beyond transference of meaning, it also meant transporting a saint's body or relic. (Asad 1995). These transportations/translations between places during the Middle Ages used to take place through sea routes, but when we think of translation as spatial act, we probably have never imagined it as an act of transportation through maritime geographies. This paper will attempt to reposition the disciplinal imagination of translation studies from a land-centric geosphere to an aqua-centric oceanosphere by looking at the inter/intra semiotic site of marine transactions of bodies/relics/texts as aquatic translation. This proposed research will examine the Odisha State Maritime Museum in Cuttack, Odisha, India, as a 'translation zone' (Nerther 2021) between terrestrial and marine geographies. To battle drought after the 1866 Great Orissa Famine, the British PWD Department formed the Jobra Workshop in 1869 to build irrigation projects to strengthen the inland water-transport system. This workshop, the only one servicing Bihar, Bengal, and Odisha under the Bengal Presidency of British India, was translated as the Odisha State Maritime Museum in 2013. This paper will attempt to navigate a site for a marine workshop that gets translated through a liquefied medium into museum objects of seafaring with its natural and cultural environment and then gets saturated into a maritime museum space passing through the membranes of water, thereby signaling a broader translational framework of a multilayered memorial city seascape. This paper will fathom how Cuttack, known for Bālijātrā festival, a celebration of Intra-Asian maritime travel, located on river Mahānadī, serves as a maritime cityscape which preserved and disseminated artefacts and relics of the sea to interpret collective memory of seascape and seafarers in a maritime museum space celebrating man's relationship with the sea.

Keywords

aquatic translation, maritime museum, seascape

LT.11 | Panel 3 | AI-enabled Accessibility (cont.)

Chairs: Sabine Braun, Elena Davitti, Gian Maria Greco

Co-design of a Voice-Driven Interactive Smart Guide for Museum Accessibility and Management

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Dr Xi Wang

Xi Wang is Lecturer in Translation Studies at the University of Bristol. Her primary research areas of interest are audiovisual translation and media accessibility. Xi was awarded the Emerging Scholar Award at the 13th and 14th International Conference on the Inclusive Museum. Xi has published peer-reviewed journal articles in the field, including Journal of Translation Spaces, Universal Access in the Information Society, and Journal of Audiovisual Translation. She is a member of the European Association for Studies in Screen Translation and an ordinary executive committee member of the Association of Programmes in Translation and Interpreting UK and Ireland.

Prof. Danny Crookes

Danny Crookes is Professor Emeritus in the School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Queen's University Belfast. He was appointed Professor of Computer Engineering in 1993 at Queen's University Belfast, and was Head of Computer Science from 1993-2002. His research interests include image and video processing, speech processing, medical image processing and the use of technology for assisting Blind and Partially Sighted users. He has over 260 publications in international journals and conferences.

Abstract

This paper explores the collaborative efforts in co-designing and creating a voice-driven interactive smart audio descriptive guide for the Titanic Belfast Museum. This smart audio descriptive guide is intended to enhance museum accessibility and visitor experience, especially for blind and partially sighted (BPS) visitors. A key research question is to explore to what extent museums can conveniently produce their own smart guide to enrich the visitor experience for BPS visitors. We will first discuss the varied team roles and the participation of users in the co-creation process. We will then present the main challenges and opportunities arising from the key user requirements from both BPS visitors and the Museum Management perspectives. The paper will then highlight the main design features of the guide that address these requirements. Furthermore, we will present the main findings of our evaluative review of the smart guide with a group of BPS participants and from a Museum Management perspective. Our results suggest that the smart audio descriptive guide has the potential to offer museums and cultural venues a new, affordable approach to providing and maintaining a high-quality accessibility experience with lower design effort than traditional audio descriptive guide approaches. Finally, considering the value of conversational interaction in enhancing tours, we will discuss the potential integration of a ChatGPT component into the smart guide, as part of our future development plans.

Keywords

BPS visitors, museum accessibility, audio descriptive guide

Does it have to be perfect? Exploring the role of AI-generated output in improving media accessibility

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Prof. Sabine Braun

Sabine Braun is Professor of Translation Studies and Director of the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Surrey, UK, a Research-England funded Centre of Excellence. She also serves as a Co-Director of Surrey's Institute for People-Centred AI. She specialises in human-machine integration in translation and interpreting to improve access to information, digital content and public services. For over a decade, she spearheaded a European-funded research programme investigating video-mediated interpreting in legal proceedings to improve language access in the justice sector (AVIDICUS 1-3; 2008-16), while contributing her expertise in video interpreting to other justice sector projects (e.g. QUALITAS, 2012-14; Understanding Justice, 2013-16; VEJ Evaluation, 2018-20). Subsequently she advised justice sector institutions on the use and risks of video-mediated interpreting, delivered training, developed European guidelines, and co-authored a DIN standard. She has also explored the use of video and virtual reality platforms for training interpreters and users of interpreting services (IVY, 2011-3; EVIVA, 2014-15; SHIFT, 2015-18; EU-WEBPSI, 2021-24) and is currently involved in projects investigating the application of communication technologies and AI-enabled language technologies to multilingual health communication (MHealth4All, 2021-24; Interpret-X, 2021-24). Furthermore, she conducts research on audio description and other translation modalities related to accessible communication. In the Horizon 2020 project MeMAD (2018-21), she explored the potential for (semi-)automating audio description to enhance digital media inclusion. In 2024, she launched a Leverhulme Trust-funded Doctoral Training Network on AI-Enabled Digital Accessibility (ADA). Her overarching interest centres on fairness, transparency, and quality in the use of technology in language mediation.

Abstract

Advancing access to digital media for diverse audiences faces significant challenges, including the rapid proliferation of audiovisual content, alongside skills shortages and financial constraints that limit the use of human experts. The need for real-time translation and on-demand services further complicates the reliance on human expertise. In response, AI-driven approaches have been promoted to bridge the accessibility gap. However, despite recent advances in generative AI, reliable processing of language, sound and visual input remains a significant challenge for AI (e.g., Bender & Koller, 2020; Braun & Star, 2022; Davitti et al., 2024), posing risks to users, while the functionality of AI systems is often overstated (Raji et al., 2022). Against this backdrop, this conceptual presentation explores the role that AI can currently play in addressing gaps in media accessibility. Focussing on audio description (AD) as an example, I will first examine patterns in AI-generated AD (using examples from various projects and representing different audiovisual genres) and discuss what they reveal about the areas where AI struggles in AD creation. I will argue that beyond factual errors and a lack of specificity and nuance in describing objects and actions, it is their lack of narrative power (Braun & Starr, 2019) that makes AI-generated descriptions fall short of how human agents use language, sound, and visuals for storytelling. I will then discuss the implications for the usability of AI-generated AD, considering to what extent imperfect AI outputs can still help reduce accessibility gaps in genres where human AD is unavailable, especially given the human ability to derive meaning through processes of inference. Contributing to a new paradigm of AI-enabled rather than AI-driven media accessibility, I will conclude with initial recommendations for responsible uses of machine-generated output in AD, and key questions for the next step: testing the usability of AI-generated descriptions with users.

Keywords

media accessibility, audio description, artificial intelligence

Enhancing access to content in asylum reception centres through a multilingual notification tool: the MaTIAS project

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Ella van Hest is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication (Ghent University) and the Department of Linguistics (University of Antwerp). She is also affiliated to the interdisciplinary Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees (CESSMIR). Her research interests include multilingual communication, (non-professional) interpreting, language policy in linguistically diverse settings, and healthcare interaction. For her PhD research, she conducted a linguistic ethnography on language diversity in abortion care.

Prof. Lieve Macken

Lieve Macken is Associate Professor of Translation Technology at the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication of Ghent University (Belgium), where she also teaches Machine Translation. She often combines product- and process-based approaches (eye-tracking, keystroke logging) in her research to compare different methods of translation (human, machine translation, post-editing, computer-aided translation). She was guest editor of the Special Issue "Advances in Computer-Aided Translation Technology", of the peer-reviewed journal Informatics (2019). In June 2022 she successfully co-organized EAMT2022, together with CrossLang.

Prof. July De Wilde

July De Wilde is Associate Professor in the Department of Translation, Interpreting, and Communication, and a member of CESSMIR, the Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees at Ghent University, Belgium. Her research focuses on multilingualism, intercultural communication, public service interpreting, and the use of digital and non-digital tools to support communication during face-to-face interactions. She is currently supervising projects on rapport management in onsite and video-remote interpreting, public service interpreting in mental healthcare, video-remote language assistance for migrants and refugees with a linguistically vulnerable profile (speakers of lesser diffused languages, low literacies), and the use of automatic translation for more effective communication in reception agencies.

Prof. Katrijn Maryns

Katrijn MARYNS is associate professor in the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication and a member of CESSMIR, the Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees at Ghent University, Belgium. Her research's scientific impact is mainly situated in sociolinguistics, linguistic ethnography and interpreting studies, with a central focus on linguistic mobility and inequality in migration and refugee settings. She is the author of 'The asylum speaker: Language in the Belgian asylum procedure' (Routledge 2006) and supervises several projects on multilingualism and interpreting in asylum and refugee encounters.

Prof. Arda Tezcan

Arda Tezcan is Assistant Professor of Natural Language Processing at the Department of Translation, Interpreting, and Communication at Ghent University (Belgium). His research interests encompass natural language processing, machine translation, quality assessment of machine translation, and human-machine interaction in translation studies. He also teaches courses on programming for natural language processing and translation technology.

Mr Michael Lumingu

Michael Lumingu is a software developer working at the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication at Ghent University. One of his main activities is developing websites, webapps and demos. In general, he provides IT-support to researchers from the department.

Ms Margot Fonteyne

Margot Fonteyne is a doctoral researcher at the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication at Ghent University. She is a member of the LT^3 (Language and Translation Technology Team) and MULTIPLES (Multilingual Practices and Language Learning in Society) research groups. Her research interests include writing process research, computer-assisted language learning, and lay use of machine translation. In her PhD project, she investigated how the use of different translation tools, such as machine translation and online dictionaries, shapes the writing processes of learners of Swedish.

Abstract

The linguistic diversity among asylum seekers presents significant challenges for communication practices in reception centres. Information scarcity and linguistic distance between residents and reception staff can contribute to communicative confinement (Kivijärvi & Myllylä, 2022). Smartphones and machine translation (MT) hold great potential, but also risks, when used by staff to communicate information or by migrants to navigate daily life in and around a reception centre (Ciribuco, 2020; Kivijärvi & Myllylä, 2022; Vieira, 2024). The MaTIAS project (Machine Translation to Inform Asylum Seekers) is conducted in collaboration with Fedasil, the agency that is responsible for the reception of asylum seekers in Belgium. The project aims to develop a prototype of a multilingual notification tool to facilitate communication between staff and residents in Belgian reception centres. The tool allows staff to create text messages in three source languages (Dutch, French or English) containing practical information or instructions for residents (e.g. to inform about a technical problem or how to register for an activity). Residents will then receive the message on WhatsApp, automatically translated into their chosen language. 14 target languages are available, including low-resource languages such as Pashto, Somali, and Tigrinya. The translation is based on MT and a context-specific translation memory (containing professional translations). The project's initial phase involved ethnographically inspired fieldwork (Copland & Creese, 2015) across four reception centres (October 2023 - May 2024). Interviews and observations were used to understand current communication and information practices and gather user preferences and requirements. The fieldwork also generated more than 300 potential messages for the translation memory. This research also identified challenges, including low literacy among residents and the need for a clear institutional policy on the tool's use. Ongoing MT evaluation research evaluates the translation quality of different systems, using both automatic and manual methods. For the automatic evaluation, we used the ChrF metric (Popović, 2015), which measures character-level similarity between source text and translation. ChrF was selected because, unlike other metrics, it supports all 14 chosen target languages. The automatic assessment was based on 100 messages translated by four MT systems: ModernMT, ModernMT with a translation memory (TM), Google Translate, and Microsoft Translator. The ModernMT system with TM achieved the highest ChrF scores in 9 out of the 14 target languages. In addition, this system outperformed the regular ModernMT system in ChrF scores for all target languages. To assess how well ChrF reflects actual meaning preservation across languages, we are also conducting a manual evaluation for all 14 target languages. Language experts evaluate 90 message pairs per language, consisting of an English source message and its corresponding machine translation produced by the ModernMT system with TM. For each pair, the evaluators assess how similar the two messages are in meaning using the 5-point XSTS scale (Licht et al., 2022). Apart from discussing the challenges for implementation and development, our presentation will highlight the project's potential to not only enhance the operational efficiency of reception centres but also to promote social inclusion by ensuring that residents have equitable access to important content.

Keywords

machine translation, asylum reception centres, practice-oriented research

Societal Inclusion and Multilingual Communicative AI in the Public Service Sector: Potentials and Challenges of Hybrid Translation in Government Services

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Univ.-Prof. Dr.phil. Stefan Baumgarten

Stefan Baumgarten is currently head of the Department of Translation Studies at the University of Graz (Austria). He is also heading the research area 'Translation, Ethics, and Digital Transformation'. His research centers on (critical) translation theories, the role of translation as an ideological practice and the social impact of translation technologies. He is co-editor (with J. Cornellà-Detrell) of the special journal issue 'Translation in Times of Technocapitalism' (Target, 2017) and (with Michael Tieber) of the special issue 'Mean Machines? Sociotechnical (R)evolution and Human Labour in the Translation and Interpreting Industry' (Perspectives, 2024).

Dr.phil. Raquel Pacheco Aguilar

Raquel Pacheco Aguilar is postdoc researcher at the Department of Translation Studies of the University of Graz (Austria). Her research interests are translation in migratory contexts, translation in the public services, digital translation policy, philosophy of translation education, and translation ethics. She is co-editor (together with Marie-France Guénette) of 'Situatedness and performativity. Translation and interpreting practice revisited' (2021).

Mr David Weiss

David Weiss ist doctoral researcher at the Department of Translation Studies of the University of Graz (Austria). Her research interests are judicial translation culture, translation and human rights as well as interpreting in criminal proceedings.

Abstract

Driven by the algorithmization and datafication of communication, language-centric artificial intelligence (AI) is meant to help to break down language barriers in the public sector and so to promote societal inclusion (Noordt and Misuraca 2022). It is expected that in the coming years, local, regional, and national public services officers will increasingly interact with citizens in different languages, using technologies such as machine translation, machine interpreting, automatic subtitling, sign language avatars, localization, synthetic speech output, speech recognition, multilingual chatbots, or intelligent voice assistants. The introduction of these so-called multilingual "communicative AIs" (Guzman and Lewis 2020, 71), however, fundamentally changes multilingual communication and raises crucial ethical questions: How do language-centric AIs influence what we actually understand by "language" and "communication" at the epistemological level (Esposito 2021)? How do they change our perception of the conversation partner's communicative identity (Hepp et al. 2022)? Do multilingual communicative AIs actually promote equitable accessibility in the public services? The project "Multilingual Artificial Intelligence in the Public Services" empirically addresses the potentials and challenges associated with the use of multilingual communicative AIs in government services. Based on a hermeneutic technology assessment (Grundwald 2015) and leaning on data from more than 100 participants, this project explores the views, attitudes, and future visions concerning the impact and potential of these technologies in the public service sector, particularly with regard to (1) the hybridization of multilingual communication in government services, (2) the promotion of societal inclusion through language technologies, and (3) the changes brought about by these technologies at the interpersonal and emotional level. With this project, we ultimately hope to make contributions to both 'AI Literacy' and the Digital Charter of the EU.

Keywords

AI-based translation, Societal inclusion, Multilingual communicative AI in government services

Shifting the balance between accessibility and risk: Managing risk in AI-driven multilingual communication in the public sector

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Miss Sarah Herbert

Sarah Herbert is a Research Fellow in Translation Studies at the University of Surrey, having previously completed her BA in Applied Languages (French and German) and MA in Translation at the university. She has former industry experience working as a translator, project manager, teaching English as a foreign language and, most recently, working in translation vendor management before returning to the Centre for Translation Studies. Sarah has since worked on various research projects, such as those centred around the automation of workflow processes in a translation company, teaching translation with the use of high-quality machine translation, and translation and interpreting practices in the public sector. She is continuing to build on her latest work in a PhD assessing the accessibility of digital healthcare content with the use of machine translation for speakers of low-resource languages.

Dr Félix do Carmo

Félix do Carmo is a Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Translation Studies of the University of Surrey, where he teaches and researches the application of technologies to translation work processes, with a focus on their ethical and professional implications. He is a Fellow of the Surrey Institute for People-Centred Artificial Intelligence, and an Expert member of the Surrey Future of Work Research Centre. He worked for more than 20 years in Porto, Portugal, as a translator, translation company owner and university lecturer, and he was awarded a post-doctoral research fellowship to work at Dublin City University. He can be contacted at: f.docarmo@surrey.ac.uk

Abstract

Insufficient translation and interpreting services in the public sector restrict minority communities' access to valuable resources for support, healthcare and security. In the UK, investigations have linked cases of patient deaths and complications to poor multilingual communication practices in the National Health Service (NHS), as staff struggle to find effective solutions to communicate with members of the public who do not speak English (Hill, 2023). Reports have found numerous cases of staff and patients resorting to AI tools in the form of machine translation (MT) (Craig, 2023). However, while MT can facilitate vital communication with those in need, especially with limited time and resources, the significant risks it poses deserve further study. This paper first presents a study conducted by our team over 2023-2024, by means of a Freedom of Information (FOI) request, involving all NHS trusts, police forces and councils in England (n=567). The results uncovered numerous causes for concern regarding practices in these organisations, including unmonitored use of MT, and lack of risk assessment, policies, or training for such use. For example, while only a quarter of NHS trusts reported using MT (n=44), further inspection of their websites found MT present in three quarters of them (n=133). Given initiatives for digital-first primary care in the NHS, effective translation of digital content is imperative. The only NHS England policy that specifically targets MT (NHS England, 2018) advises against its use. However, stress should be placed on effective and responsible measures that increase accessibility without increasing risk. The second part of this presentation introduces a new user-centred project, based on the FOI study. This project will explore case studies of MT use by speakers of low resource languages, assessing the accessibility of digital healthcare content for these groups, to identify effects of MT, risk factors, and strategies to mitigate them.

Keywords

Accessibility, Public service translation, Machine translation

LT.17 | Panel 38 | The Changing Face of the Literary Translation Classroom (cont.)

Chairs: Duncan Large, Anikó Sohár

Literary post-editing as a creative skill?

Ass.-Prof. Waltraud Kolb
University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Ass.-Prof. Waltraud Kolb

Waltraud Kolb is Assistant Professor of Literary Translation at the Center of Translation Studies (University of Vienna, Austria). Her recent research focuses on literary translation as product and process; the use of machine translation in the literary domain; literary post-editing; literary translator studies. She is also a literary translator, court-certified interpreter, and board member of the Austrian Association of Literary Translators. - Recent publications include: Klaus Kaindl, Waltraud Kolb, and Daniela Schlager (eds.), Literary Translator Studies, Benjamins 2021; Waltraud Kolb and Tristan Miller, "Human-computer Interaction in Pun Translation", in Using Technologies for Creative-Text Translation, edited by James Hadley, Kristiina Taivalkoski-Shilov, Carlos S. Teixeira, and Antonio Toral, Routledge 2022, 66-88; Waltraud Kolb, "'I am a bit surprised': Literary translation and post-editing processes compared", in Computer-Assisted Literary Translation, edited by Andrew Rothwell, Andy Way, and Roy Youdale, Routledge 2023, 53-68; Waltraud Kolb, Wolfgang U. Dressler, and Elisa Mattiello, "Human and machine translation of occasionalisms in literary texts. Johann Nestroy's Der Talisman and its English translations", Target 35 (4), 2023, 540-572.

Abstract

There is a general consensus today that translation is an intrinsically creative process (Rojo 2017), but what about post-editing, which is constrained by a pre-existing MT draft? The proposed presentation will explore sites of translatorial creativity in literary post-editing by looking at two dimensions of creativity which have been shown to be key factors in previous studies (e.g., Bayer-Hohenwarter 2011; Borg 2019; Guerberof-Arenas and Toral 2022), i.e., fluency (the spontaneous production of multiple alternative solutions for a source text item) and flexibility (the generation of target solutions that are not literal or conventional renderings). The presentation will use process data from a study on literary post-editing on which I reported in previous publications, though not in the context of creativity (Kolb 2023; forthcoming). In this study, five professional literary translators translated from scratch a short story by Hemingway into German, while five different literary translators post-edited an MT draft of the same story. Based on think-aloud protocols and keylogging data, I will investigate and compare translatorial fluency and flexibility in the two text-production modalities. To analyze fluency, I will look at oral and written alternative solutions generated by the participants in the course of their tasks; for flexibility, I will look at lexical choice, in particular, lexical diversity as a key factor. Based on these findings, I will also discuss implications for the training of literary translators. Training institutions will have to take into account recent developments in the publishing world (see also the updated Petra-E Framework), including a rising demand for post-editing in some sectors of the book market.

Keywords

literary translation, literary post-editing, creativity

Creative solutions to constrained texts: the growing impact of technology and multimodality in translator training

Dr Tamara De Inés Antón
University of Galway, Galway, Ireland

Dr Tamara De Inés Antón

Dr. Tamara de Inés Antón is an early-career academic in the field of Translation Studies. She was recently appointed Lecturer at the University of Galway, where she is the Director of the MA in Translation. She holds an undergraduate degree in Translation and Interpreting from the Universidad de Salamanca (Spain), a MA in Foreign Languages and Literatures from West Virginia University (USA) and a PhD in Translation and Intercultural Studies/Latin American Cultural Studies from the University of Manchester (UK). Her research interests lie in the intersection between gender studies, the sociology of translation and Central American women's writing. She is also fully invested in the teaching of both Spanish and translation and carries out research in that area.

Abstract

Drawing on the available literature on the intersection between constraint, creativity and translation studies, this paper sets out to bridge the gap between theory and practice by suggesting activities and resources that could be used in the translation classroom at the undergraduate level to wean off students from sticking too close to the structure of their source language. Following a competence and project-based approach, the proposed activities (implemented as part of a final year module in translation at the University of Galway) explore the advantages of using different forms of constrained multimodal texts (such as comic strips, picture books, advertising campaigns, formally constrained literary pieces) to encourage students to shift from making decisions driven by their adherence to the source language to reaching creative solutions based on the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features of the target language. Moreover, due to the ever-growing importance of technology and AI in both our higher education system and the field of translation, careful consideration has been given to the relationship between translation technology and creativity when designing these activities. The discussion will also draw on students' responses to the activities, since they will be asked to keep a multimodal translation journal where they will need to reflect on the key issues they have encountered and the main strategies they have employed.

Keywords

Creativity, Constraint, Translation pedagogy

Entrepreneurship education and the literary translation classroom

Prof Susan Pickford
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Prof Susan Pickford

Susan Pickford is head of the English unit at the University of Geneva's Faculty of Translation and Interpreting. Her monograph Professional Translators in Nineteenth-Century France is due out in 2024 and she recently contributed a chapter on literary translation and publishing to the forthcoming Routledge Handbook on the Translation Industry. She began her translation career in the early 2000s, working mainly in non-fiction, museum, and academic publishing. She has also long been an advocate for translators and was on the board of the French Literary Translators' Association for a decade.

Abstract

This proposal tackles the thorny issue of how best to prepare literary translation students for a crowded, challenging, fast-changing labour market. Its starting point is the European Commission's call to expand entrepreneurship education via the EntreComp competence framework. While literary translation and entrepreneurship education may not seem natural bedfellows, EntreComp recognises the opportunity to be entrepreneurial in any situation. Literary translation students currently come onto the workplace with excellent skills in some areas defined in the PETRA-E framework, while other aspects frequently show scope for development, particularly those relating to industry knowledge. Issues such as labour time, remuneration, and chances of success in the tournament model that shapes translator careers are under-taught, yet vital to ensuring budding translators are equipped to enter the labour market on a fair footing. The EntreComp framework is designed for a professional landscape "characterised by volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity" (McCallum et al, 2020). Embedding entrepreneurship education in the literary translation classroom would therefore empower students seeking to embark on a career in the field, particularly in the light of the changes liable to impact the sector in the coming decades. The proposal aims to explore potential overlaps between EntreComp and the Petra-E framework and makes the case for training aspiring literary translators to be more business-minded to meet the challenges of the decades ahead. Reference Mccallum, E., Mcmullan, L., Weicht, R. and Kluzer, S., EntreComp at Work, Bacigalupo, M. editor(s), EUR 30228 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020

Keywords

entrepreneurship, competence model, professionalisation

Market Experience for Beginner Literary Translators Through Practical Training and Collaborative Projects

Dr Marija Zlatnar Moe, Dr Adriana Mezeg
University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Dr Marija Zlatnar Moe

Dr Marija Zlatnar Moe is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia). She works at the Department of Translation where she teaches general translation courses from English into Slovene at the BA level, and contrastive intercultural studies, business correspondence and literary translation at the MA level. She has coordinated several student projects in the field of (literary) translation, such as the Slovenian translations for the ENRIGHT project by the European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies, and, most recently a joint translation project between the university of Ljubljana and Amnesty International Slovenia, raising awareness about consent. She has lectured at different international Universities, among others at the University of Oslo, Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Budapest, and University of Tübingen. She is an active member of the Slovene Research Programme for Intercultural Literary Studies. Her research is focused mainly on literary translation (prose and drama), translation between peripheral languages and its characteristics, translation of religious texts, the position of translators in the translation and editing process, and teaching of translation. Her most recent research topics include translations of Ibsen in Slovenia, Slovenian translations of the Qur'an, and the position of literary translators within the broader translation and editing process. In addition to her teaching and research, she also translates literature and philosophy from Norwegian and English into Slovenian.

Dr Adriana Mezeg

Dr Adriana Mezeg is currently Associate Professor of Translation Studies at the Department of Translation at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. Her teaching repertoire includes French grammar and stylistics, translation from French into Slovene, French contrastive analysis and French-Slovene terminography. She has supervised several master's theses and is currently supervising a doctoral thesis on translation flows. Dr Mezeg is an active member of the Slovene Research Programme for Intercultural Literary Studies. Her primary research interests include literary translation, in particular translation flows between Slovene and other languages, power dynamics in the translation market and analysing translations and translation strategies from French into Slovene and vice versa for different text types. She also specialises in French-Slovene contrastive linguistics, corpus linguistics and language technologies. Her contributions include the development of the French-Slovene parallel corpus FraSloK and the authorship of a volume on the translation of French supplementive clauses into Slovene. She is also co-author of two textbooks for teaching French grammar and editor of two volumes on student translation. Dr Mezeg has lectured at several international universities, including the Institute of Translation Studies in Graz, Charles University in Prague, the University of Mauritius, Montenegro and Zagreb. She has also led several bilateral research projects and student translation projects, such as "Young translators and their breakthrough on the Slovene literary market" and "Sing-a-Vision", a Slovene translation and music project. Both projects have attracted a great deal of attention in the media.

Abstract

One of the greatest challenges for beginner literary translators in Slovenia is entering the translation market, which, as previous research has repeatedly shown, is extremely closed and dependent on personal networks. In our literary translation courses, we have therefore developed a number of practical exercises to prepare them not only for producing high-quality literary translations, but also for communicating and co-operating with other participants in the translation process, such as copy editors, editors, publishers, etc. Some of this special training, for example writing invoices, takes part in class, but we have also introduced so-called student translation projects, which take place outside the classroom and often involve external partners. The main goals of these projects for the students are 1) to produce a high quality literary translation; 2) to participate in the broader translation process from the very beginning to the publication and to negotiate with the other participants, namely copy editors and commissioners, thereby making their first contacts in a market that relies heavily on such contacts; and 3) to publish the translation in some form and thus begin their personal translation portfolio. So far we have published two books of prose translations and one of poetry. The students have presented their work in schools, nurseries, libraries, at book fairs and in the

media. They have taken part in national and international projects. Our partners have included a major Slovenian publishing house, the Association of Slovenian Literary Translators, the PETRA-E network, an international NGO and, most recently, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation. Our contribution deals with the various projects in which our students have participated. We focus on the design and implementation of these projects, the results and feedback we have received from students and other project participants, and the benefits for them.

Keywords

Literary translation, Student projects, Literary translation market

The Presence of Translation Theory within Literary Translator Training

Prof. Duncan Large
University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom

Prof. Duncan Large

Duncan Large is Executive Director of the British Centre for Literary Translation at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. He is Professor of European Literature and Translation at UEA, and Chair of the PETRA-E Network of European literary translation training institutions. He taught previously at the Universities of Oxford, Paris III (Sorbonne Nouvelle), Dublin (Trinity College) and Swansea. With Jacob Blakesley (Sapienza, Rome) he is Editor of the monograph series Routledge Studies in Literary Translation; with Alan D. Schrift and Adrian Del Caro he is General Editor of The Complete Works of Friedrich Nietzsche (Stanford University Press). Duncan has published translations from the French of Sarah Kofman, _Nietzsche and Metaphor_ (Athlone Press, 1993) and from the German of Friedrich Nietzsche, _Twilight of the Idols_ (OUP, 1998) and _Ecce Homo_ (OUP, 2007). His most recent book publications are _Untranslatability: Interdisciplinary Perspectives_ (co-ed. with Motoko Akashi, Wanda Józwikowska and Emily Rose, Routledge, 2019) and _Nietzsche's "Ecce Homo"_ (co-ed. with Nicholas Martin, De Gruyter, 2021).

Abstract

Many literary translators get into the profession these days by taking a Masters course in translation at university, and most courses of that kind expose the trainee translators to generous helpings of translation theory (especially if a university is concerned about making a translation course "academically respectable"), but in their later professional lives practising translators are often sceptical about the benefit of such theoretical training. Some of the most lively discussions among the PETRA-E group of European translators and academics drafting the Europe-wide _Framework of Reference for the Education and Training of Literary Translators_ concerned, precisely, the need for translation theory. The final PETRA-E document (see https://petra-educationframework.eu/) "aims to help overcome traditional boundaries between the academic and non-academic, between theory and practice", and it includes "familiarity with translation theories" among the various kinds of recommended research competence, so that an "Advanced Learner" can be expected to "know several theories of translation". In this paper I want to reconsider the necessity of translation theory as part of a literary translator training programme with reference to the PETRA-E Framework and the MA in Literary Translation programme at the University of East Anglia (Norwich, UK). I shall compare training courses in the UK and continental Europe, and ask what kind of rationale exists for the presence of translation theory in a twenty-first century translator training programme.

Keywords

translation theory, literary translation training, PETRA-E

LT.19 | Panel 25 | Interpreting and Armed Conflict (cont.)

Chairs: Lucía Ruiz Rosendo, Marija Todorova

Challenges to military interpreters' ethical action competence in future armed conflicts

Mr Pekka Snellman
Tampere University, Tampere, Finland

Mr Pekka Snellman

Pekka Snellman is a general staff officer, a Master of Arts, and a doctoral researcher in Translation Studies. His research focuses on linguistic support for military operations, military interpreters, and language policy in the military. Commander Snellman currently serves in the Finnish Navy.

Abstract

Military interpreters are soldiers, who are assigned to interpret and translate with the purpose of facilitating military operations. Military interpreters are simultaneously both military and linguist practitioners, and thus also merge the professional ethics of both professions. However, research indicates that military interpreters cannot be considered neutral mediators, as with most military interpreters the professional ethos of a soldier seems to prevail over that of an interpreter. This paper draws on a forthcoming doctoral dissertation with the same title and seeks ways to support military interpreters' ethical action competence. The doctoral dissertation maps the common ground and discrepancies in interpreters' and soldiers' professional ethics and ethe. In addition, it scrutinises the expectations of military organisations and military interpreters' clients regarding ethics. Finally, the dissertation assesses future challenges that emerging technologies and methods of warfare pose for military interpreters' ethics. Ethical action competence refers to an individual soldier's potential to act consciously and responsibly as required by his or her mission in complex and unforeseen situations. This requires self-awareness, self-confidence, and moral situational attentiveness, but also ethics training. The ethics training for military interpreters should be inclusive and strengthen their capability for independent reflection on ethical issues as well as their resilience. Military interpreters' ethical positionality is shaped by their military clients' expectations as well as the dominant values of the military organisations and cultures in which they serve. Hence, military interpreters' ethical action competence can also be supported by developing interpreter tactics and language awareness within military organisations. In future armed conflicts, emerging technologies and new methods of warfare are likely to change the ways in which language is used and translation is conducted in the field, and consequently the tasks, working environments, and ethical demands on military interpreters.

Keywords

military interpreter, linguistic support, ethical action competence

Sign Language Interpreting and Communication in Armed Conflict Communication with deaf Jewish prisoners in a Nazi concentration camp. A case study

Prof. Małgorzata Tryuk
University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

Prof. Małgorzata Tryuk

Małgorzata Tryuk is Full Professor of Translation and Interpreting Studies, head of the Department of Interpreting Studies and Audiovisual Translation at the Institute of Applied Linguistics, University of Warsaw. In the years 2005-2020, she was Course Coordinator of the European Masters in Conference Interpreting (EMCI) Program at the Institute of Applied Linguistics. She has authored numerous articles and books in Polish, French and English on conference and public service interpreting. In 2015 she published On Ethics and Interpreters (Peter Lang). She has lectured in various European and Canadian universitites. Her areas of research interest include translation and interpreting ethics, translation and interpreting history with a particular focus on interpreting during war, in conflict zones and in crisis situations.

Abstract

When one side in a conflict does not speak the language of the other, some form of language mediation is required, and it is undeniable that the need for and importance of reliable language mediators, whether professionals or ad hoc bilinguals, is paramount. In armed conflict, the challenges and opportunities for translators and interpreters, including sign language interpreters, goes beyond linguistic and cultural issues. It involves psychological implications and ethical judgements for the users of the language mediation and for the interpreter himself/herself. The gap between the principles enshrined in ethical codes and the actual performance of translators and interpreters during conflicts and in the aftermath of wars is well known and has been studied from various perspectives. One of the most recent topics related to armed conflicts is the equal access to aid and information through sign language interpreting. In conflict situations, a sign language interpreter may not be fully aware of the various factors involved in his/her mediation and the immediate consequences and dangers for him/herself. The issue of communication with deaf people in conflict situations has only recently been addressed by researchers. This applies especially to communication with the deaf Jews during the Second World War. Up to now, only o few studies have been devoted to the topic of communication of deaf Jews in Nazi concentration camps. This research is still in its infancy mainly due to a lack of awareness among scholars of the topic and the limited material. My presentation will be based on available archival materials, mostly memoirs and testimonies of the Holocaust deaf Survivors. It will focus on the situation of the Deaf inmates in the Nazi concentration camps, their limited ability to communicate with other prisoners and the means of accessing information to ensure any chance of survival.

Keywords

sign language interpreting, concentration camp, Holocaust survivors

The Complex Positionality of Interpreters working in Armed Conflict

Mr Conor Martin
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Mr Conor Martin

Conor Martin is a PhD candidate at the Interpreting Department of the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, University of Geneva, where he also works as a teaching and research assistant. Supervised by Professor Lucía Ruiz Rosendo, his research focusses on the interpreter's positionality and ethics, with a particular focus on how interpreters manage their positionality in challenging contexts. Conor also works as a trainer on the department's MAS in Interpreting Training and the FTI-ICRC course in Basic Consecutive Interpreting. In addition to his work in the academic sphere, Conor is a professional freelance conference interpreter working principally for the international institutions in Geneva. Conor completed his undergraduate degree in Modern Languages (French and Spanish) at Trinity College, University of Oxford, before completing the MA in Conference Interpreting at the University of Geneva.

Abstract

Initially a meta-reflexive research tool within qualitative research, positionality is an unavoidably complex concept which has become an increasingly significant object of study within interpreting studies. Positionality considers how an interpreter's experience, background, education and identity, among other factors, condition the way they perceive, interact with and position themselves relative to the other participants in an interpreted encounter, and the way these same factors condition how others perceive, interact with, and position themselves relative to the interpreter. Positionality becomes additionally complex in challenging interpreting contexts, such as armed conflict, which take place outside of the conference booth, usually in high-stakes situations often marked by asymmetrical power dynamics. In such situations, interpreters' positionalities are (made) visible and relevant to the encounter. In armed conflict particularly, interpreter positionalities vary widely, covering a range of ages, gender identities, and backgrounds, along with several complex and intertwined factors, including the interpreter's direct or indirect trauma arising from their lived experience of the conflict, and their motivations for taking on the role of interpreter. In this presentation, I will provide a general overview of the concept of positionality and its relevance to interpreting studies, and consider how interpreters manage challenges to their positionality, based on the results of an ongoing doctoral thesis. With a view to providing practical examples, the presentation will consider the paradigmatic positionalities of local and non-local civilian interpreters working in armed conflict. To do so, I will use a diagrammatic aid to highlight the challenges interpreters face through the lens of the Demand-Control Schema (Dean and Pollard 2001, 2011), a systematic approach to analysing factors impacting interpreting work. The schema and diagram together bring clarity to a nebulous concept, without erasing the inherent complexities of the context, and demonstrate the necessarily enmeshed nature of interpreters' positionalities in armed conflict.

Keywords

Positionality, Armed Conflict, Demand-Control Schema

The Interpreter as an Analytical Category in War Stories

Mrs. Yan Wu
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, USA

Mrs. Yan Wu

Yan Wu received her MA with Merit in Conference Interpreting and Translation Studies from University of Leeds and her MA in Applied Linguistics from Anhui University. Her research and teaching interests include translation and migration, translation and multilingualism, history of interpreting, translation theory, life writing, and eco-fiction. Her ongoing dissertation project focuses on reading the figure of the interpreter as an analytical category in Chinese diasporic literature. Her publications have appeared in Translating Home in the Global South: Migration, Belonging, and Language Justice, Transfiction: Characters in Search of Translation Studies, and a special issue on "Translation Memoir" in Life Writing. She is a certified interpreter and translator (CATTI Level II&I) and a winner of the Han Suyin Award for Literary Translators. Besides her academic pursuit, she works as a freelance interpreter in various community and conference settings.

Abstract

The figure of the interpreter is an individual being as well as a collective of individuals who travel across languages, cultures, and worlds. Interpreting, in this case, is not just a job or profession, but a crucial part of one's lived experience and memory. Carol Maier calls for examining interpreter figures within a human category and names them as "intervenient beings" who intervene (affect the outcome of the activities in which they participate) and experience the "intervenience" ("many forms of abrasion" they can and do face). Maier deems fiction as a primary source of "experiential materials" that can be used to explore "the complete spectrum" of the translators and interpreters' lives "as individuals and as members of society as a whole." Drawing on Maier's approach, I propose reading the figure of the interpreter as an analytical category that can help us rethink notions of neutrality, agency, and the very category of the witness in narratives of war. Using the "victim-observer-aggressor" model in war stories critique as my point of departure, I argue that the interpreter's positionality supplements this tripartite structure with more ambivalence and fluidity in perspective-taking. Based on two works of fiction that take the interpreter's memoir as a literary form, War Trash and A Single Swallow, I analyze the ways in which the interpreter's body can function as a site of violent conflicts and discuss how interpreters' voices can weave together a transnational and comparative narrative of diaspora, which contributes to making not only a history of interpreting but also a history of witnessing.

Keywords

the interpreter figure, positionality, war stories

Student interpreters in war conflict: immediate response and long-term impact

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Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic

Dr Olga Čadajeva

Olga Čadajeva (Chadaeva) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Slavonic Studies of the Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic. She teaches a wide range of courses in translation, interpreting, literary studies, and history of culture. She holds a degree in linguistics, translation and intercultural communication from Lomonosov State University in Moscow, Russia (2005) and a Ph.D. in Russian Literature, Palacký University Olomouc, (Czechia) (2018). Her scholarly interests include community and crisis interpreting in refugee contexts with a particular focus on students as interpreters and autoethnographic research based on her own experience in crisis interpreting in refugee centre in the spring/summer 2022. Her other research fields are East Slavic Early Modern literature, cosmological models in Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian literature of the 17th and 18th centuries, and Romantic nationalism in Eastern and Central Europe. She participated in several international conferences focused on interpreting, such as InDialog 4 / Multiplicity in Public Service Interpreting and Translation (2024) and ATISA XI Conference in New Brunswick, USA (2024). She is also a practicing conference, consecutive, and community interpreter, working in mental health and medical settings.

Dr Martina Pálušová

Martina Pálušová holds a Master's degree in Russian Philology and Theatre Studies (2007) and a PhD in Russian Language (2012) from the Faculty of Arts, Palacký University in Olomouc (Czechia). She works at the Department of Slavonic Studies at the Palacký University. Her research interests include theatrical translation, especially contemporary Russian, Belarusian, and Ukrainian drama, and translation as a form of social activism. She also focuses on crisis interpreting in connection with the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and her own experience in interpreting for war refugees. She has participated in a number of prestigious conferences in the field, such as IATIS 6th international conference in Hong-Kong (2018), 10th EST Congress in Oslo (2022), ATISA XI Conference in New Brunswick, USA (2024). She's also an author of several articles in the field, such as The translator as a social activist in the digital age: An autoethnographic study of translating Insulted. Belarus as part of the Worldwide Readings Project. (Published in Special issue of Translation in Society 3:1, 2024, pp 17-39, John Benjamins Publishing Company) or Nikolai Erdman: Czech Translations and Stage Interpretations (Published in Vestnik Tomskogo gosudarstvennogo pedagogicheskogo universiteta, 2021). She's also a court certified interpreter and translator and translates theatrical plays and children's literature from Russian to Czech.

Abstract

This case study focuses on student volunteer interpreters who assisted Ukrainian war refugees in crisis centres in the Czech Republic in 2022. Working side-by-side with our students, we became involved observers of crisis interpreting strategies applied in the centre. We witnessed stress management solutions and their efficacy in different cultural contexts, mental strain and resilience mechanisms, burnout, and vicarious traumatisation. We then conducted in-depth semi-structured interviews with students, coordinators, and crisis interventionists. We explored students' motivations, experiences, preparation, interpreting strategies, (un)intentional violations of the Code of Conduct. We also focused on stress-management strategies and the immediate impact on students' well-being, their further studies, and career choices. The thematic analysis of the interviews revealed that the crisis interpreting experience affected young people had a substantial impact on students' attitudes to further studies and career choices. Some students discovered new meaning in their studies after loss of motivation during the Covid-19 pandemic, some decided to commit to public services or teaching instead of following a corporate career, with some remaining in crisis or community interpreting. Other students lost motivation or terminated their studies. The immediate results implied the potential for a longitudinal study, therefore we have repeated the interviews with a selected group of students/young professionals in 2024 to monitor the lasting effects of crisis interpreting on young people. The results demonstrate the wide scale of the traumatic experience effects on young untrained interpreters, ranging from no tangible effect at all, long-lasting vicarious trauma, or

significant post-traumatic growth. Our study demonstrates the importance of long-term monitoring of crisis interpreting impact on students and young professionals. It highlights the need to implement stress management and resilience training in teaching practice, especially considering the current political situation and the potential enforced engagement of young interpreters during the war conflict.

Keywords

crisis interpreting, war refugees, student interpreters

War through the Ears of Interpreters

Dr Marija Todorova
Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Dr Marija Todorova

Marija Todorova is a research assistant professor at Hong Kong Baptist University. In her research, Dr Todorova is interested in the innovative integration of Translation Studies and Peacebuilding Studies by looking at the role of translation and interpreting in conflicts and post-conflict contexts. She is the author of The Translation of Violence in Children's Literature (Routledge 2021). She co-edited (with Lucia Ruiz Rosendo) Interpreter Training in Conflict and Post-Conflict Scenarios (Routledge 2023) and Interpreting Conflict (Palgrave 2021). She served as editor for New Voices in Translation Studies and guest-edited a special issue of Antverpiencia Linguistica: Translation and Inclusive Development (2022, with Kobus Marais). She has published in numerous journals and edited volumes – her most recent publication on cosmopolitan solidarity translation in crises can be found in The International Journal for Translation and Interpreting Research. She serves on the Executive Council of the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS).

Abstract

This study explores life writing by wartime interpreters, focusing on both written self-life narration and first-person documentary films. It underscores the significance of personal narratives in understanding historical contexts and societal norms, particularly the impact of war. The study explores the role of interpreters, highlighting their dual position as participants and witnesses in conflicts and how their cultural and linguistic fluency shapes their wartime experiences. By examining interpreters' memories from various conflicts, the study illustrates how these narratives contribute to the historical understanding of interpreting activities and ethical dilemmas. This will be done by using several case studies, including the novel "The Girl from Bondsteel" (2011) by Tanja Jankovic and the short film "In Flow of Words" (2021) directed by Eliane Esther Bots. The analysis also addresses the contested issues of memory and subjectivity, emphasizing the importance of these genres in capturing the complexities of memory and historical representation. Overall, the presentation advocates for a more inclusive approach to wartime narratives, recognizing the critical role of interpreters' personal accounts in understanding their role and positionality.

Keywords

interpreting, war , life writing

LT.20 | Panel 4 | Archives in Translation: Inquiring on the Past, Understanding the Present, and Informing the Future (cont.)

Chairs: Audrey Canalès, María Constanza Guzmán

Marie Franzos' (1870–1941) Diasporic Translator Archive. Epistolary Sensibility as a Data Collection Method.

MA Giada Brighi
Institute for Interpreting and Translation Studies, Stockholm, Sweden

MA Giada Brighi

Giada Brighi is a PhD student at the Institute for Interpreting and Translation Studies at Stockholm University where her main research interests include translator studies, translator biographies, translator history and archive studies. Her PhD project is on the Austrian translator Marie Franzos (1870–1941). Her most recent publication 'Interdisciplinarity in translation studies: a didactic model for research positioning' appeared in Perspectives in early 2024. As an undergraduate, she studied cultural mediation at the University of Bologna (Forlí) with English, German and Portuguese. She did her MA in conference interpreting at the University of Mainz (Germersheim) with Italian, German and English where she first came in contact with Marie Franzos. This led to the publication of a first portrait of Franzos in Germersheimer Übersetzerlexikon in 2017 (https://uelex.de/uebersetzer/franzos-marie/).

Abstract

Letters have been rediscovered as invaluable sources for socio-historical research within Translation Studies (TS) (e.g. Munday, 2014; Paloposki, 2017; Kremmel, 2021). However, correspondence-related archival practices in TS have not witnessed the rise of a systematized data collection method for what are often diasporic archives "dispersed across different locations" (Zanotti, 2018, p. 128). Thus, in this paper, I propose the application of "epistolary sensibility" (Tamboukou, 2020) from Auto/biographical Studies where research concerned with women's letters started in the 2000s (cf. Huff, 2001, p. 952). It is a set of ten practices for awareness and reflexivity e.g., "striving for understandings that are driven by the letters", "challenging and interrogating existing archival ordering", "making connections between and among letters and collections" and "keep excavating the archive for more unearthed, hidden and forgotten letters and correspondences" (Tamboukou, 2020, p. 162). This paper aims at setting an example of how to find and approach archival material to systematize the search for diasporic translator archives and further develop archival methodologies for the future of TS. I apply this method to gather Franzos' "translator archive" (Guzmán, 2013) in its operational sense of "the collection of texts and documents that pertain to the translator" (Guzmán, 2020, p. 47). Although Franzos played a pivotal role in introducing Swedish literature in Germanophone countries around 1900, she never published authorial texts or translation paratexts and her biography is yet to be written. Therefore, a significant part of my work has consisted in collecting her abundant yet to be located and deciphered correspondence to reconstruct the portrait of a female pioneer translator who opened the doors to world literature for many Swedish authors (cf. Paul, 1997). By applying "epistolary sensibility" in TS, I argue that it is a valid method for the data collection and reading phase of the translator archive.

Keywords

Diasporic Translator Archives, Epistolary Sensibility, Archival Methodology

Translating Chinese Short Stories for Victorian Readers: Insights from the Blackwood and Sons Publishing Archives

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Dr Lingjie Ji

Lingjie Ji received her PhD in Chinese Studies at the University of Edinburgh. She is now Assistant Professor in the Department of Translation at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her research interests include translation history, literary translation, and generally the literary and knowledge exchange between China and the Anglophone world during the long nineteenth century. Her current research projects focus on the British sinologists' writings and translations of Chinese literature, investigating the interplay between literary translation and Sinological knowledge. She has published articles on Monumenta Serica, Journal of Oriental Studies, Journal of Translation Studies, and Archiv orientální: Journal of African and Asian Studies. Her monograph, Chinese Literature in English Sinology: Cultural Translation of Literary Knowledge, 1807-1901, is forthcoming with Edinburgh University Press.

Abstract

This paper reviews the use of the Blackwood and Sons publishing house archives to investigate the publication of ten English translations of Chinese short stories in the late nineteenth century. These translations were produced and submitted to Blackwood by the British Sinologist Robert Kennaway Douglas (1838–1913), a key figure in British Sinology who held positions including Professor of Chinese at King's College, London, Keeper of the Oriental Department at the British Museum, and Vice-President of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Four of the ten translated stories were published in Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine between 1883 and 1890, while the remaining six were published in other important Victorian periodicals. The ten translations were later compiled into an anthology titled Chinese Stories, published also by Blackwood in 1893. The Blackwood Papers, now held at the National Library of Scotland, include correspondences from the translator Douglas to the publisher regarding his contribution of translations and articles to the Magazine and later the preparation and publication of the translation anthology Chinese Stories. Archival research of Douglas's letters provides detailed insights into his choices of source texts, translation purposes, concerns, strategies, and the publication process. This paper reflects on the value of archival research for understanding the history of literary translation. It also discusses the challenges and new approaches of conducting remote archival research.

Keywords

Robert Kennaway Douglas, Blackwood Papers, literary translation

Representation of Women as National Citizens in 1895 Persian Translation of “La Reine Margot”: A Discursive Case Study

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Dr. Hajar Mohamadnia Dizaji

Dr. Hajar Mohamadnia is a university professor of Translation Studies with a particular focus on English-Persian translation. Dr. Mohamadnia is also a certified translator and has gained immense hands-on experience in the professional translation of a wide range of legal texts. Besides, as a fiction and non-fiction translator, Dr. Mohamadnia is committed to bridging cultural divides and fostering global understanding through the power of translation. Dr. Mohamadnia ’s research delves into the evolving landscape of translation, exploring its historical context, social functions, and contemporary effects. With a keen interest in the ways translation shapes societies and identities, especially in cultures like Iran, which depend heavily on translation, Dr. Mohamadnia has made significant contributions to the field. Through their doctoral studies and subsequent research, Dr. Mohamadnia has gained invaluable insights into the intricate interplay of social, cultural, and technological factors that influence translation practices. Their work highlights the dynamic nature of translation and its crucial role in adapting to a rapidly changing world.

Abstract

The concept of nation in Iranian premodern discourse, which lasted till the first decade of the twentieth century, excluded women. However, towards the last decades of the nineteenth century the representation of women in creative translations of fictive prose into Persian, itself a newly introduced genre, integrated women as national citizens on par with men, representing them as social subjects active in political and national issues. 1895 translation of "La Reine Margot" is a case in point. La Reine Margot is a female-centered historical novel, relating the political issues of the 16th-century French royal family. In 1895, Prince Muhammad Tahir Mirza Iskandari translated it for the first time by the direct commission of Muzaffar al-Din Shah. The present case study analyzes the representation of women as national citizens and compares it with the premodern discourse to determine the translation’s creativity in introducing divergent representations of women. Fairclough’s model of discursive analysis (Fairclough, 1992) alongside thematic analysis as proposed by Braun and Clarke (Braun & Clarke, 2012) are used for the present case study. The study concludes that although the translation was embedded in the premodern discourse it showed striking contrast with it in the representation of women as national citizens. In the meantime, it shows interdiscursivity with and thus contributed to the introduction of modern discourse which became dominant around the second decade of the twentieth century with the establishment of Constitutionalism.

Keywords

Discourse, Women , Nation

'Minoritizing' strategies in TS archival research: lessons from the Cultural Crosscurrents Catalogue

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Abstract

In his Scandals of Translation (1997), Lawrence Venuti famously called for a 'minoritizing' approach to translation, aiming at making marginalized identities, voices, and literary styles gain better recognition within established systems of translated literature. While his strategies were mainly textual and editorial in kind, recent reflections on the creation, curation, and exploitation of translation archives have equally challenged TS scholars to acknowledge and counter the cultural and historical biases often silently inscribed in the bibliographical record. In this paper, I will take as a starting point the long, collaborative work involved in the creation of the Cultural Crosscurrents Catalogue of Printed Translations in Stuart and Commonwealth Britain (CCC), an analytical record of translated books printed in Britain, or abroad in the English language, during the tumultuous years of the English Civil Wars and the Interregnum (1641-1660). I will discuss how certain methods of archival research and data curation may in fact help reveal the crucial importance of translation agents and processes which traditional historiographical accounts have long tended to neglect or over-simplify. For instance, the bottom-up, 'chaos before order' (Tahir-Gürçağlar 2007) principles followed by our team in the collection of data have helped reveal the agency of women, religious minorities, or refugees in the networks underlying the production and circulation of printed translations in the period. The process of gathering and organizing data into an analytical catalogue has also led us to challenge received ideas about so-called 'minor' modes of translation (indirect translation, self-translation), or lesser-documented kinds of mediation (oral transmission, material re-mediation). I will finally address the challenges inherent in the web-based publication of such data, and the measures taken to help mitigate historical, critical, or cognitive biases, and maximize the heuristic potential of our catalogue as an exploratory tool for historians of translation in the early modern period.

Keywords

early modern archive, translation catalogue, historiography

LT.21 | Panel 27 | Literary Texts and Audiovisual Translation Practices

Chairs: Judit Mudriczki, Irene Ranzato, Luca Valleriani

Hamlet in Audiovisual Translation on the Hungarian Screen

Dr. Judit Mudriczki
Károli Gáspár University, Budapest, Hungary

Dr. Judit Mudriczki

Judit Mudriczki is Associate Professor at Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, and has considerable teaching experience in both translation and English studies. She holds a PhD in Shakespeare Philology from Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Hungary. She is a member of the European Society for Translation Studies and a research group focusing on modern Hungarian literature at Pázmány Péter Catholic University. Her academic interest covers interdisciplinary fields and includes Shakespearean drama, adaptation studies, didactics of translation, audiovisual translation, and English–Hungarian cultural relations.

Abstract

While Hungarian theaters have long demanded retranslations of literary classics, film adaptations dubbed into Hungarian are traditionally based on translations that enjoy a canonical status. Shakespearean drama epitomizes these translation practices among Hungarian people, who have regarded the English playwright as "God's second born" since the 19th century. In the case of Hamlet, it is the translation by János Arany from 1866 that audiovisual translators have used even in the 20th century for writing Hungarian dubbing scripts. This preference contradicts general expectations in the dubbing industry since audiovisual narratives in Shakespeare adaptations strongly differ both in text and in visual content, which would reasonably demand dissimilar Hungarian scripts. On the other hand, it constrains the creativity of translators, whose work, from an academic point of view, can be described as intralingual translation based on intersemiotic shifts of meaning rather than a simple retranslation of the play. This paper contrasts the Hungarian dubbed versions of the adaptations by Franco Zeffirelli (1990) and Kenneth Branagh (1996) to identify the translation strategies applied and also to see the extent to which they change or keep the wording of the 1866 translation. I assume that the degree and type of changes are determined by the audiovisual narrative of the film adaptation and/or stylistic and audiovisual constraints including segmentation of sentences with pauses, body language, signs on screen, camera angles etc. Eventually, I also address the question what role this audiovisual translation practice play in establishing and confirming the canonical position of both Hamlet and its 1866 translation today.

Keywords

AVT, lip-sync dubbing, Shakespeare

Jane Austen's "Emma" on the screen and in Italian dubbing

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Prof. Veronica Bonsignori

Veronica Bonsignori is Associate Professor of English Language and Translation at the University of Pisa, where she received a PhD in English Linguistics (2007). Her interests are in the fields of pragmatics, audiovisual translation, multimodality, and ESP. She has published several articles in national and international journals and collections, including "Using films and TV series for ESP teaching: A multimodal perspective" (System, 2018). She has also authored the monograph "English Tags: A Close-up on Film Language, Dubbing and Conversation" (2013) and co-edited with Belinda Crawford Camiciottoli and Denise Filmer the volume "Analyzing Multimodality in Specialized Discourse Settings" (2022). She is currently Review Editor of the international journal "Multimodality of Communication".

Dr Annalisa Sandrelli

Prior to joining UNINT (Rome) as a Lecturer in English, Annalisa Sandrelli taught in Trieste and Bologna/Forlì, and was Marie Curie TMR Fellow and Lector in Italian at the University of Hull. She has published widely on corpus-based interpreting studies, audiovisual translation (dubbing, subtitling, respeaking), EU English, and Computer Assisted Interpreter Training (CAIT). Her most recent publications on AVT include "¡Sub! Localization Workflows (th)at Work" (Translation and translaguaging in multilingual contexts, 2023, with Serenella Massidda), "Eventi dal vivo e accessibilità: uno studio di caso sul respeaking interlinguistico" (Lingue e Linguaggi, 2021), and "The translation of legal references in the Italian dubbing of a US TV series: a corpus-based analysis (Lingue e Linguaggi 2020).

Abstract

Jane Austen's novels paint a vivid picture of Georgian life and the social dynamics in rural England, as characters and their social standing are shaped through conversation, which at the time had to follow precise rules dictating what to say and how to say it in public encounters (Morini, 2008). This is one of the reasons for the popularity of Jane Austen's novels, and one of the reasons why they lend themselves so well to screen adaptation. Stemming from previous work on Pride and Prejudice (1813) (Sandrelli & Bonsignori, forthc.), the present paper analyses two film adaptations of Jane Austen's "Emma" (1815), namely the 1996 film directed by Douglas McGrath and the more recent 2020 film directed by Autumn de Wilde (cf. Valleriani, forthc.). Reference to the original novel (1815) will be made to identify significant language patterns and key dialogues and to check whether they were transposed in the two films, and if so, how. Then, the Italian dubbing of both versions will be analysed with a focus on the translation of terms of address and speech acts such as introductions and invitations, which played a key role at the time. A final step will be comparing these two 'canonical' film versions to the 1995 modern adaptation "Clueless" (dir. Amy Heckerling), set in California in the 1990s. The main aim of the study is to highlight any significant differences in language usage in the original English language films and to provide a diachronic perspective on the translation of such material.

Keywords

dubbing, film adaptation, Jane Austen

Linguicism in fiction: US voices for Austen's classic

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Prof Irene Ranzato

Irene Ranzato holds a PhD in Translation Studies from CenTraS (formerly at Imperial College London), and is an associate professor of English linguistics, language and translation at Sapienza University of Rome (Italy). She is Honorary Research Associate at University College London. Her research interests focus on audiovisual and intersemiotic translation, on the dialectal and social varieties of English and on the intersections between language and ideologies in the analysis of fictional dialogue. She has recently co-edited English Classics in Audiovisual Translation for Routledge and The Palgrave Handbook of Multilingualism and Language Varieties on Screen.

Abstract

The protagonists of Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen are often described as engaging in a 'battle of words'. The respective dialogue exchanges have been exploited to different ends by the various screen adapters of this literary classic, and this presentation will focus on the transpositions that shift the emphasis from the characters' personal attributes and social connections to a value judgement on their accent and culture. In the adaptations that have been considered, either Darcy or Elizabeth Bennett is not British but American. The reactions that the US-accented speakers elicit from their interlocutors respond to how they sound as well as to the culture they belong to. A discourse on social class is never absent in adaptations from Jane Austen, and in these transpositions, it is alluded to and conveyed through the use and the (negative) evaluation of a language variety. The respective dialogue interactions are interpreted through the lens of the recurrent narrative topos of the American character as the odd wo/man out in a British context (or vice versa) and through the concept of linguicism. Introduced by Phillipson and Skutnabb-Kangas (1986), this conceptual framework can be applied to discourses that display a bias against a given language variety, resulting in the stereotyping of the relative speakers on the basis of their linguistic background (Bleichenbacher 2012, 156, quoting Bauman and Briggs 2003, and Blackledge 2005). Some of the solutions found by adapters to translate relevant dialogues into various modes of AVT are also explored.

Keywords

US accents, Linguicism, Jane Austen

“Words is oh such a twitch-tickling problem to me all my life… I know exactly what words I am wanting to say, but somehow or other they is always getting squiffsquiddled around.” Gobblefunk in Roald Dahl’s The BFG and in Italian literary and audiovisual translation.

Dr Ilaria Parini
University of Oriental Piedmont, Vercelli, Italy

Dr Ilaria Parini

DR ILARIA PARINI is lecturer in English language, linguistics and translation at the University of Oriental Piedmont, Italy. She holds a PhD in English Linguistics and Translation from the University of Milan. Her research interests include audiovisual and literary translation, translation of non-standard varieties, issues of manipulation and censorship in translation, and the relationship between language and identity.

Abstract

During his life, Roald Dahl (1916-1990) wrote a total of 50 books, 22 of which specifically targeted at children. Indeed, he is most renowned for these children’s books. A distinctive feature of Dahl’s writing is his use of inventive language. Throughout his career, he created approximately 500 new words, contributing to a unique and enriching lexicon that enhances the imaginative worlds within his stories. These neologisms not only add to the whimsy and charm of his narratives but also provide readers with a rich linguistic experience, solidifying Dahl’s legacy as a master storyteller and innovator in children’s literature. He coined nearly 500 new words and revitalized many archaic terms, making them fashionable once again. His inventive use of language was so distinctive that, in 2016, Oxford University Press published the Oxford Roald Dahl Dictionary. This dictionary features 8,000 words from Dahl’s books. One of Dahl’s most beloved books, “The BFG”, published in 1982, exemplifies his linguistic creativity. The titular character, the Big Friendly Giant, speaks a unique language called “gobblefunk,” comprising entirely new words and altered versions of existing ones. “Gobblefunk” has become the term used to describe the entire lexicon of Dahl’s invented words. Dahl's talent for creating new words was complemented by his mastery of various linguistic techniques. Some of the methods he employed include: blending, onomatopoeia, spoonerism, alliteration, and rhyming. Dahl’s inventive language not only adds a unique charm to his stories but also engages readers with its playful and imaginative use of words, cementing his status as a linguistic innovator in children's literature. This presentation will focus on the strategies used to translate “gobblefunk” in both the Italian translation of the book and in the dubbed and subtitled versions of the film directed by Steven Spielberg in 2016.

Keywords

gobblefunk, dubbing, subtitling

"Emma" 's elegant language in Italian dubbing

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Dr Luca Valleriani

Luca Valleriani holds a PhD in English Studies from the Sapienza University of Rome, where he is currently working as research fellow and adjunct lecturer. His research interests are the analysis of audiovisual dialogue, sociolinguistics (especially applied to pop culture) and audiovisual translation. His research on the language of the British upper classes in natural and audiovisual dialogue was published with Peter Lang in 2021.

Abstract

The fascination of costume dramas is not only achieved thanks to an attentive choice of costumes and settings, but linguistic expedients also contribute to defining their appealing exoticism for the audience. The translator should thus recreate the same overall flavour of the source text into the target language. As for the English-Italian pair in the field of AVT, only a few scholars have concentrated on the rendition in dubbing of such aspects like diachronic and diaphasic variation (Bruti & Vignozzi 2016; Ranzato 2018; Sandrelli 2016; Valleriani 2021). Some of these contributions show that the strategy of 'compensation in kind', which consists in using a different linguistic device from that of the source text to convey a similar effect (Hervey and Higgins 1992, 34), is one of the most suitable strategies to render the register of the élite social group. The aim of this paper is that of expanding the study on the rendition in translation of some of the linguistic elements that help mark class distinction and elegance between characters, through the qualitative analysis of the recent cinema adaptation of the novel "Emma" (Autumn de Wilde, 2020), a classic and, at the same time, 'modernised' version of Jane Austen's masterpiece.

Keywords

Emma, dubbing, compensation

Subtitling neologisms in China: An audience reception study on Game of Thrones (2011-2019)

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Miss Yuehan Zhou

My name is Zhou Yuehan. I am currently graduating from the master's program at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where I majored in translation. I have now been admitted to the PhD program at the University of Leeds and my main research interests lies in the audiovisual translation, adaptation, and audience reception.

Abstract

Fictive neologisms distinguish fictional worlds from our actual lived reality (Aksoy & Söylemez 2023). This phenomenon is particularly evident in the reading of fantastic fiction, which entails constructing a secondary world infused with magical and supernatural elements (Tolkien, 1999). George. R. R. Martin's work A Song of Ice and Fire (1996-present) stands out as a successful fantasy fiction which was then adapted into a renowned HBO TV show, Game of Thrones by David Benioff and D. B. Weiss. The show has captivated audiences across the globe, including the vibrant community of viewers in China and it holds rich semiotic elements and fictive neologisms that challenge conventional translation practices and invite a thorough intermodal analysis to examine audience reception. With significant advancements in audiovisual translation (AVT) research, integrating multimodality within AVT has become essential. Communication rarely depends solely on written texts; instead, it involves a dynamic interaction among visual, auditory, and textual semiotic modes to construct meaning. Therefore, this study builds on AVT's multimodal approach by focusing on the subtitle translation and audience reception of fictive neologisms in Game of Thrones, particularly within the context of Chinese audiences. The project is composed of an eye tracking experiment and qualitative measurement including comprehension test, questionnaire and semi-structured interview, attempting to address the following questions: 1) How are neologisms translated? 2) How does the integration of subtitles with multimodal elements impact viewers' cognitive load and overall viewing experience? 3) How effective are the neologisms' translations in facilitating audience comprehension and reception? 4) What are the social impacts of neologisms in Game of Thrones? The finding is expected to provide valuable insights into how subtitles function in this multimodal context and affect audience reception when they encountering neologisms (Lombard, Huyghe, and Gygax 2024), deepening our understanding of neologisms' social and linguistic impact.

Keywords

fictive neologisms, subtitling, audience reception

LT.23 | Panel 45 | Translation and Infrastructure

Chairs: Anne O'Connor, Raluca Tanasescu, Chris Tanasescu

Spaces, paths, distances, and gaps: providing translation and interpreting to migrants in rural areas

Dr Andrea Ciribuco
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Dr Andrea Ciribuco

Andrea Ciribuco is lecturer in Italian at the University of Galway. His interests include migration, intercultural communication, translation, and multilingual creativity. He is the author of The Autobiography of a Language. Emanuel Carnevali's Italian/American Writing (SUNY Press, 2019). He was the recipient of an Irish Research Council/Marie Sklodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellowship for researching multilingualism in refugee reception centers in Italy (2017-2021); and co-investigator on a British Academy-funded project at University College London, on intercultural mediators during the COVID-19 vaccination campaign (2021). Currently, he is PI of the Irish Research Council Laureate project "Rural Villages, Migration, and Intercultural Communication" (2022-26), a sociolinguistic exploration of the experience of migrants and refugees in rural communities in Ireland. He is also one of the researchers in the North-South project "Multilingual Island: Sites of Translation and Encounter" in partnership with Queens University Belfast, investigating sites of translation in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. He is a member of the inaugural cohort of the Young Academy of Ireland 2023-27, where he sits in the executive committee.

Abstract

Translation and interpreting are matters of “life and death” in the experience of migrants (Cronin 2006). They rely on the work of translators, interpreters, and mediators in settings like hospitals (Angelelli 2004), public offices (Inghilleri 2005), and police stations. Areas with high rates of cultural and linguistic diversity are also spaces where non-professional translation (Antonini 2017) is frequently used to negotiate practices of mutual understanding (Ciribuco 2021; Flynn 2023). However, not all migrants and refugees in Europe live in highly diverse urban areas: some countries such as Sweden, Germany, Ireland, and Italy, have relatively high numbers of migrants in rural areas (JRC 2019). The rural setting allows some unique opportunities and challenges to migrants (Patuzzi et al. 2020), including the distance from translation/interpreting services and often the lack of a sizeable community of speakers of the same language. What are the infrastructures that allow migrants in rural areas to access and practice translation in their daily lives? the preliminary results of a sociolinguistic study conducted with migrants and refugees living in rural communities in Ireland. It is based on a triangulation between a corpus of interviews with 160+ migrants living in 11 counties, and ongoing ethnographic work with a small number of key participants working as translators/intercultural mediators in the same areas. The study takes a spatial approach underlining the infrastructure of local and national institutions, charities, and businesses that allow migrants to access basic services and communicate with institutions. Going through the spaces where translation takes place, it also reflects on the material challenges experienced by migrants and their translators - from lack of public transportation to unavailability of appropriate spaces. Finally, the research concentrates on the digital tools (particularly machine translation) that individuals recur to when they do not have access to translators and interpreters.

Keywords

Migration, Spatial approaches, Intercultural mediation

Understanding inequalities in minority French-language litigants' access to justice in Canada: An infrastructure approach

Professor Agnes Whitfield
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Professor Agnes Whitfield

Agnes Whitfield is Professor of English, French and Translation Studies at York University (Toronto, Canada). Her research focuses on translator agency and archives, institutional practices in intercultural literary exchange, voice in post-colonial translation contexts, and translation and minority language rights. She has published twelve books, including Le Métier du double. Portraits de traducteurs et traductrices littéraires (2005), Writing Between the Lines. Portraits of Canadian Anglophone Translators (2006), and L'écho de nos classiques (2009), authored 90 peer-reviewed articles in Canadian and international journals and given more than 100 refereed conference papers and invited lectures. A recipient of 40 research grants from Canadian and international funding agencies, she contributed as Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada/Heritage Canada Virtual Scholar (2006-2007) to new Canadian policy and funding for literary translation. As President of the Canadian Association for Translation Studies (1995-1999), she created the Canadian Vinay-Darbelnet Awards in Translation Studies and signed a Research Exchange Agreement with EST. She is the founding editor of Vita Traductiva, an international peer-reviewed and accredited publication series in Translation Studies based at York University. A visiting professor at several universities (Bologna (May 2003), McGill (2003-2004), Ottawa and Carleton (2009-2010), and Mainz (summers 2017-2022), she is an associate member of TRACT (Traduction et communication transculturelle), Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3, where she has been instrumental in initiating and co-organising five major international conferences and the 2024-2025 TRACT annual seminar series on surrealism and translation. She is also a published literary translator, poet and short story writer.

Abstract

Although their rights are guaranteed under law French-language litigants in minority linguistic contexts in Canada face numerous obstacles to equitable access to the justice system: longer wait times, additional costs and procedures, inaccurate transcriptions of trial proceedings, lack of bilingual judges and contrary rulings tainted by unconscious or conscious bias (Department of Justice, 2022). Seeking solutions, legal scholars have looked at how legislation (Cardinal & Larocque, 2017) and French-language services could be enhanced (Larocque 2021; Lévesque, 2020). Research on legal translation and court interpreting in Canada has focused on improving service providers' training, accreditation and ethics (Angelelli, 2004; Hlavac, 2013). Recent studies have assessed the impact of attitudes towards translation and interpretation within the Canadian legal and judicial communities (Annis, 2013; Larocque and Power, 2013, Morris, 2008; Whitfield, 2023). Nonetheless, determining how to make access to justice in French more equitable in minority linguistic contexts in Canada remains elusive, due to the compartmentalization of such research and the diversity of the organizational systems that support the provision of French-language services and the complexity of their relationships. Setting translation and interpretation in the broader context of linguistic minority needs (Castillo Bernal and Estévez Grossi, 2022), this paper explores how an infrastructure approach (Carse 2017) could provide a more precise guide for positive intervention by mapping out, through a jurisdictional study, the functions and interconnections among the various governmental departments, judicial institutions and professional organizations involved in providing French-language services, and identifying, from a litigant perspective, at what exact points of interaction they can be problematic to equitable access to services in French. The study will focus on access to French in civil cases in one provincial jurisdiction, Ontario, and conclude with a reflection on how this case might provide insights applicable to broader contexts in Canada or other multilingual legal systems.

Keywords

linguistic minority, legal translation, legal interpretation

Translation Infrastructures in Insular Literary Ecosystems of the South: Shifting the Paradigm of Precarity

Dr Laëtitia Saint-Loubert
Nantes Université, Nantes, France

Dr Laëtitia Saint-Loubert

Laëtitia Saint-Loubert obtained a PhD in Caribbean Studies from the University of Warwick in 2018. She is a practising literary translator and teaches Translation and Translation Studies at Nantes Université. Prior to joining Nantes Université, she completed a two-year Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship at University College Dublin, where she worked on a project entitled "Rethinking Translation Studies from Caribbean Meridians: Towards an Ecosystemic Approach". Her first monograph, The Caribbean in Translation: Remapping Thresholds of Dislocation (Oxford, Peter Lang) was published in 2020, following receipt of the 2018 Peter Lang Young Scholars Award in Comparative Literature. As a literary translator, she is actively promoting South-South and island-to-island circulation flows and has translated and co-translated works by various Caribbean and Indian Ocean writers.

Abstract

This contribution will propose an infrastructure-based approach to literary production, circulation, and reception in insular literary ecosystems of the South. It will more particularly focus on translation infrastructures – and the apparent lack thereof – across the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean. The paper will start with a brief overview of the contemporary Caribbean and Indian Ocean literary ecosystems. Often described as fragile and fragmented due, in large part, to colonial and geo/political ruptures, systemic vulnerability and the relative absence of long-term, sustainable solutions to infrastructural instability (including via robust state support), this paper will aim to shift the paradigm of precarity with which literary infrastructures of the insular Caribbean and Indian Ocean are traditionally associated. By examining individual and collective initiatives that seek to promote more sustainable, resilient and inclusive networks and pathways of literary circulation, the paper will argue that alternative, more organic types of configuration, or "infrastructure", are possible, but require rethinking the market-driven logics of the book industry. Where translation is more particularly concerned, the paper will show how state-supported and privately funded mechanisms at once enable and restrict bibliodiversity in insular literary ecosystems of the South and beyond.

Keywords

literary (and translation) infrastructures, islands, precarity

When agency news travels from South to North: Infrastructure, actants, and actor–networks

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Abstract

Most research on news flows in the news agencies focuses on stories that originated in the Global North. In news translation research in particular, scholars have investigated different regions of the world, but the literature is abundant in G20 countries whereas entire continents are understudied, such as Africa and Latin America. This study – which is part of a larger research project exploring the news flows produced by the global news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP) –, sheds light on the infrastructure, the human, and non-human actants, as well as the actor-networks that are involved in the production of news between two national bureaux and their corresponding regional hubs. We conducted semi-structured interviews and kept field notes as well as field journals during fieldwork visits of two weeks each at AFP bureaux located in Colombia and South Africa. Following an actor–network approach (Latour, 2005), we are guided by the following research questions: Which human and non-human actors (including digital and institutional infrastructures) are involved in the South–North flows of information? Which ones are obligatory passage points? What are the actor–networks in and across the newsrooms? The first set of data that we collected points to the profound infrastructural changes that are underway at AFP with the increasing importance of multimedia products and the introduction of machine translation as well as AI as non-human actors that the

human actors (i.e., journalists) have to integrate into their workflows. This change influences the journalists' conception of translation and thus their practices of selection and deselection of sources. In addition, AFP has recently introduced a new policy of regionalisation that gives more importance to national bureaux at the expense of former regional hubs, thus redesigning the actor–networks. Latour, Bruno. 2005. Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor–Network Theory. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Keywords

news agencies, Global South, actor-network approach

An actor-network approach to infrastructure in news translation

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Abstract

Translation is often invisible in news agencies despite the news being produced in highly multilingual environments. Scholars have argued that, in a journalistic setting, the translator, translation activities, and translated products often disappear, because translation is mostly embedded into the journalists' daily activities. This paper forms part of a larger project that investigates the news flows (through translation) by the news agency Agence France-Press. To uncover the less obvious instances of translation in news agencies, we argue that Bruno Latour's actor-network theory (ANT) could be a valuable conceptual thinking tool. Following ANT, the researcher should be able to stabilise the social and trace the people (e.g., journalists) and the things (e.g., infrastructure, material objects, or artificial intelligence) in the newsroom. As a result, the researcher takes a relatively slower approach to shed light on the different role-players and processes. Latour's infralanguage guides the researcher in assembling an empirical description (or written account) of the data collected. The vocabulary includes concepts such as human or nonhuman actor, mediator, intermediary, black box, and obligatory passage point, which we will shortly illustrate with examples from empirical data from fieldwork conducted in the Colombian and the South African bureaux of AFP. In essence, the Latourian researcher becomes a spokesperson for the human and nonhuman actors by

rendering the social as traceable and illuminating the connections and attachments between mediators in the actor-networks. Latour's 'travel guide' is thus a framework to observe these interactions, to make connections between the actors, and to showcase the human and nonhuman actors (especially if they are hidden) and the translation processes (whether interlingual, intralingual, or intersemiotic) in the newsroom.

Keywords

actor-network theory, news translation, infrastructure

LT.24 | Panel 40 | The Changing Faces of Relevance Theory Applied to Translation and Interpreting: Novel Insights at the Interface Between Pragmatics and Cognition

Chairs: Michaela Albl-Mikasa, Fabio Alves, Fabrizio Gallai

The state of the art of Relevance Theory-oriented research in translation and interpreting

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Prof Michaela Albl-Mikasa

Michaela Albl-Mikasa is Professor of Interpreting Studies at Zurich University of Applied Sciences. Her research and publications focus on interpreting, translation and English as a lingua franca (ITELF), the cognitive foundations of conference and community interpreting, note-taking for consecutive interpreting, interpreter competence and medical interpreting. She was a member of the Executive Council of IATIS from 2016 till 2021 and is currently a member of the Board of the European Network of Public Service Interpreting (ENPSIT). She is principal investigator of the interdisciplinary Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Sinergia project 'Cognitive Load in Interpreting and Translation' (CLINT) and editor, together with Elisabet Tiselius, of the Routledge Handbook of Conference Interpreting.

Prof Fabio Alves

Fabio Alves is Professor of Translation Studies at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) and a Senior Research Fellow of the Brazilian National Research Council (CNPq). He has a PhD in Applied Linguistics from Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany, with a focus on translation as a cognitive activity. Fabio Alves has published widely about translation process research and expertise in translation in journals such as Target, Meta, Across Languages and Cultures, and in book series by John Benjamins, Routledge and Springer. He serves on the editorial board of Target and Translation, Cognition & Behavior.

Abstract

Forty years have gone by since the publication of the Postface to Relevance: Communication and Cognition (2nd ed.), in which Sperber and Wilson (1995, 278) express their hope that novel studies "will lead to revisions, new insights, and [...] new problems to investigate." Around that time, Gutt's (1990, 1991) analysis of translation from a relevance-theoretical (RT) prospective was emerging, and has since then provoked a flood of research. This scholarly work has meanwhile seen its application to Translation and Interpreting (T&I) Studies. This paper aims to provide an introduction to the panel on RT and T&I, with a view to illustrating its "relevance" for T&I empirical research, as well as sparking a debate and further investigations. To this aim, the paper is divided into three parts, taken up by the three panel convenors. Their aim is to show how the application of the theory has so far shed light on key issues in, respectively, translation, conference and dialogue interpreting studies - areas in which the three presenters have each conducted empirical research. In particular, the paper will focus on how Gutt's notion of T&I - as an act of interlingual interpretive language use - and concept of competence-oriented research of translation (CORT) have been espoused (and challenged) over the years, and the theoretical and methodological implications of RT-informed approaches to T&I. The discussion will highlight a variety of data types and methods used in RT-oriented research, thus

providing a good cross-section of the field at present, and - by setting the scenario for the ensuing presentations - demonstrating the broad scope and vigour of this domain at this point in its evolution.

Keywords

Relevance Theory, translation, interpreting

Conceptualizing the field of relevance

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Dr. Michael Carl

Dr. Michael Carl is a Distinguished Professor at Kent State University/USA and Director of the Center for Research and Innovation in Translation and Translation Technology (CRITT). He maintains and extends CRITT's Translation Process Research-Database (TPR-DB), a publicly available resource that contains large amounts of behavioral translation data (keylogging and gaze data). His work in the past decade has mainly centered around the conceptualization, analysis, and evaluation, as well as the empirically grounded modelling of the observed relations in the CRITT TPR-DB data.

Abstract

According to Relevance Theory (RT), translation involves establishing a relation of interpretive resemblance between "bodies of thought" (Gutt 2004,2005) across source and target languages, rather than preserving their propositional truth. For instance, the two sentences: 1. "The president is giving a speech in Paris today." and 2. "The country's leader is addressing the public in the French capital right now." evoke almost the same mental representation, i.e., a major political figure speaking in Paris. But while sentence 1. makes specific claims about the person (the president), the location (Paris), and time (today), sentence 2. talks about the country's leader (who could be a prime minister, for instance) and the French capital (Paris, but phrased differently), and "right now" instead of "today". The two sentences might not both be true under strictly the exact same conditions, e.g., if the "leader" is not the president, or if "today" and "right now" slightly mismatch. However, both sentences may have a high interpretive resemblance, even if small factual differences exist. This resemblance depends on the context and the cognitive environment available to the translator and the target audience at the moment of production/reception. RT stipulates that translators aim at producing translations that occupy an optimal "place" in the communicative economy of the target language, as near as necessary to the place that the source holds within the economy of the original text, given the contextual constraints (Catford 1965). RT defines this optimization through a principle of relevance, as a balance between maximizing the cognitive effect while minimizing the processing effort. In this talk, I propose that the search for this optimal place can be conceptualized within a field of relevance, where different translation styles amount to different trajectories though this field. The field of relevance unfolds dynamically throughout the translation process, engaging multiple layers of mental activity. Carl (2024, in print) suggest a hierarchical model of the translating mind as a system of three interacting processing layers (ABC), where each layer produces specific behavioral traces: A. Affective Attitudes (Emotion-Related Processes), orientation, hesitation, translation flow, revealed through patterns of coordination in gaze-typing behaviour. B. Behavioral Routines (Action/Observation-Related Processes), characterized by fluent typing. C. Cognitive Processes (Reflective Thought), manifest in longer keystroke pauses, indicating deliberate decision-making and problem-solving. Each layer within this ABC architecture of the mind interacts with the field of relevance in different ways. The field of relevance provides a framework for deciding — under changing environmental conditions — whether, when, and how a translator updates their expectations or adjusts a developing translation. These updates and/or adjustments, each incurring different kinds of effort within the ABC architecture, reduce the divergence between the translator's actions, observations and predictions. Specifically, the updating of expectations require for the translator to modify their cognitive resources, while adjustments involve reworking the translation product to enhance its interpretive resemblance. In both cases, effort is expended to align translation outcomes more closely with relevance-based criteria. Carl M (in print) Tracing the Temporal Dynamics of Emotion and Cognition in Behavioral Translation Data. Translation Spaces Carl, M. (2024) An Active Inference Agent for Modeling Human

Translation Processes. Entropy 26 (8), 616 Catford, J.C. (1965) A Linguistic Theory of Translation: An Essay in Applied Linguistics; Oxford Press: Oxford, UK. Gutt, E. A. (2004). Applications of relevance theory to translation – a concise overview. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.33067.80162. Gutt, E. A. (2005). On the significance of the cognitive core of translation. The Translator, 11(1), 25–49.

Keywords

Relevance Theory, Field of Relevance, Translation effort

Translation as a Linguistic-Pragmatic Process: A Relevance-Theoretic Perspective

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Abstract

Starting from the assumption that translation is a communicative task, Gutt (2000) describes the translation phenomenon as the establishment of an interpretive resemblance between correlated passages in source and target texts. Relevance Theory (Sperber & Wilson, 1986) develops the concept of interpretive resemblance by distinguishing between representational uses that are grounded on the differences between description and interpretation. Thus, an utterance involves at least two levels of representation. It can represent some state of affairs by being true of that state of affairs, i.e., the representation is a description, or used descriptively. Or, it can represent something it resembles, i.e., the first representation is an interpretation of the second one, or used interpretively. When applied to cases of translation, Gutt (2000) draws on the differences between description and interpretation to suggest that the translated text is an attributed representation, which stems from an interpretation of someone else's thoughts. Drawing on RT, however, it is feasible to conclude that there is no discontinuity between these representational uses; instead, they are complementary and "belong to a continuum of cases" (Sperber & Wilson, 1986/95: 242). Therefore, the purpose of this presentation is to argue that, depending on the content expressed in the source text, the translated text is suggested to be an interpretation of the original author's thought, which itself descriptively represents some state of affairs, or interpretively represents some further representation. Drawing on the aforementioned works, this presentation will review the literature to propose a refinement of the place of translation on Relevance Theory. The proposal is that context plays an important role in establishing interpretive resemblance between reciprocal translation units, in which the translator has to interpret the original author's message using both linguistic signal (descriptive use) and a wider context in which the original author's message serves its communicative purpose (interpretive use).

Keywords

Representation, Translation Process Research, Relevance Theory

A relevance-theoretic account of code and inferences in text-based analyses of literary translation

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Abstract

The present work applies Relevance Theory to the study of translated young adult literature. Based on Sperber and Wilson's account of higher and lower-order levels of literary communication (1987) and the notion of communicative act's import (2015), the analysis aims to address how literary works enable different interpretations. A focus on three passages from David Almond's 1998/2007 young adult narrative Skellig and its Brazilian translation by Waldéa Barcellos (2001/2016) allows a demonstration of the possible interpretations prompted by the texts grounded on textuality and cognition. The analysis showcases the passages from original and translated narratives (the code), and the explicatures and implicatures which different readers may derive based on their metarepresentation of the intended import of the lower and higher-order communicative acts. Those different interpretations can be associated with readers' diverse cognitive environments and with the translator's metarepresentation (Gutt, 2004) of the communicative act. A comparative (original+translation) analysis shows that Skellig's translation sometimes prompts different inferential processes by readers. Word choice, when encoding different concepts, may evoke in the translation distinct explicatures and implicatures from the original. In addition, differences in sentence structure and the avoidance of repetitions in the translation restrict the array of implicatures available and inhibit cognitive effects associated with the reinforcement of propositions as the text unfolds. An intratextual (original/translation) analysis of Skellig foregrounds the relevance attributed by readers to the import of the higher-order communicative act to reach conclusions on the text's "external message". Thus, those who read this young adult narrative literally, looking only for the import of the lower-order communicative act, are regarded as less likely to derive weak implicatures or impressions (Sperber & Wilson, 2015), important in literary texts. The analysis emphasizes how textual analyses of translations must regard both code and inferences as contributing to interpretations.

Keywords

young adult literature translation, literary interpretation, ostensive-inferential communication

Simultaneous interpreting in a literary context

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Abstract

This presentation reports on an ongoing relevance-theoretical (RT) situated study of the simultaneous interpreting (SI) process of experienced professional interpreters performing in a literary context. It seeks to (1) identify the strategies used, (2) identify inferential processes; and (3) analyze the relationship between (1) and (2) in the construction of interpretive resemblance between source (SS) and target speeches (TS). It involves four experienced professional interpreters performing English-Brazilian Portuguese SI at the roundtables of the 22nd International Literary Festival of Paraty (Flip). The roundtables will be observed during the event in October 2024 and logged in a field diary. After the event, the SS and TS will be extracted from the videos made available by Flip itself on its YouTube channel. Participants will also answer a retrospective verbal protocol and an unstructured interview. Data will be triangulated and analyzed from the perspective of RT applied to translation/interpreting and Cognitive Translation and Interpreting Studies (Alves, 2001; Alves; da Silva, 2021; Englund Dimitrova; Tiselius, 2009; Gutt, 2014; Risku; Rogl, 2021; Setton, 1999, 2005, 2006; Shreve, 2021; Sperber; Wilson, 1995; Tiselius, 2006, 2013). The field diary records, the SS and TS of the interpreting tasks, verbal protocols, and interviews will be transcribed. Preliminary analysis of SI in previous events seem to indicate that such a literary context impose great difficulties on the inferential processes carried out by experienced professional interpreters, but their use of adequate interpreting strategies produce a maximally relevant TS for their audience for most of the time. This study is innovative for both its object (performance in literary contexts) and its approach to cognition in interpreting as situated. It may contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between interpreting strategies and inferential processes in English-Brazilian Portuguese SI in literary contexts.

Keywords

Cognitive Translation and Interpreting Studies, Relevance Theory, Situated cognition

Explicitation and implicitation in Consecutive Interpreting

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Mária Bakti graduated as a teacher of Geography and English form the University of Szeged, Hungary in 1998, and holds an MSc in Local Development from the same institution. In 2000, she obtained a licentiate diploma in English (B) - Hungarian (A) translation and interpreting. She received her PhD in Translation/Interpreting Studies from the Eötvös University, Budapest, in 2011. Currently she is an Associate Professor at the University of Szeged, where she is involved in interpreter and teacher training. Her research interests include the psycholinguistic aspects of interpreting, explicitation in interpreting, interpreting competence, and post-editing of machine translation.

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Abstract

This paper presents the findings of an empirical study of implicitation and explicitation operations applied by trainee interpreters in consecutive interpreting (CI) with note-taking. Relevance theory (RT) is one of the starting points of our investigations, following Setton's (1999) claim that interpreting aims "to achieve complete interpretive resemblance to the SL message-in-text by reproducing all its communicative clues, and thus providing access to all its cognitive effects at the same relative processing cost" (Setton 1999:10). Since the coding of explicit and implicit information varies across languages, sometimes explicitation is needed in the TL text. For CI, Albl-Mikasa (2017) has examined reduction and expansion processes in CI note-taking in the context of RT. In this study, it is examined how trainee interpreters build ostensive-inferential bridges during Consecutive interpreting. 12 EN-HU renditions of two consecutive speeches were examined: 6 renditions (of the same source speech) were recorded as homework assignments by final year trainee interpreters, while 6 other renditions (of another SL text) were interpreted by the same trainees at their final examination. A quantitative analysis (based on Klaudy 2000 and Gumul 2006) was carried out to investigate implicitation and explicitation operations between the ST and the TTs, and a qualitative analysis investigated whether either of the two operations were captured in the notes. Our preliminary quantitative investigations show that trainees used a larger number of explicitation operations in the target texts than implicitation operations. Our qualitative investigations revealed that notes would not only show a higher degree of implicitness compared to the source text, but they would also include elements that could predict some of the explicitation operations used in the target speech. Our results indicate that interpreter trainees are active text producers, who have in mind the achievement of optimal relevance during consecutive interpreting with note-taking.

Keywords

Consecutive interpreting , explicitation , implicitation

Keynote | From telephonic interpreters to talking machines: a critical review of a century of technology adoption in interpreting

Professor Sabine Braun, University of Surrey

Dr Sabine Braun is a Professor of Translation Studies, the Director of the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Surrey, UK, and a Co-Director of the Surrey Institute for People-Centred AI. She specialises in human-machine integration in translation and interpreting to improve access to information, digital content and public services. In 2019, the research centre she leads was awarded an 'Expanding Excellence in England' (2019-24) grant by Research England to expand the centre's research in this area. For over a decade, she spearheaded a European-funded research programme investigating video-mediated interpreting in legal proceedings to improve language access in the justice sector (AVIDICUS 1-3; 2008-16), while contributing her expertise in video interpreting to other justice sector projects (e.g. QUALITAS, 2012-14; Understanding Justice, 2013-16; VEJ Evaluation, 2018-20). Subsequently she advised justice sector institutions on the use and risks of video-mediated interpreting, delivered training/CPD on interpreting and technologies, developed European guidelines, and co-authored a DIN standard. She also explored the use of video and virtual reality platforms for training interpreters and users of interpreting services (IVY, 2011-3; EVIVA, 2014-15; SHIFT, 2015-18; EU-WEBPSI, 2021-24) and is currently involved in projects investigating the application of communication technologies and AI-enabled language technologies in different settings (MHealth4All, 2021-24; Interpret-X, 2021-24; EmpASR, 2024-25). Furthermore, she conducts research on audio description and other translation modalities related to accessible communication. In the Horizon 2020 project MeMAD (2018-21), she explored the potential for (semi-)automating audio description to enhance digital media inclusion. In 2024, she launched a Leverhulme Trust-funded Doctoral Training Network on AI-Enabled Digital Accessibility (ADA). Her overarching interest centres on fairness, transparency, and quality in the use of technology in language mediation.

Abstract

Technology has played a pivotal role in shaping interpreting practice, from the advent of simultaneous interpreting technology in the 1920s to the development of telephone interpreting and early experiments with video-mediated interpreting in the 1970s, through to computer-assisted interpreting and the rise of automated speech-to-text and speech-to-speech translation ('machine interpreting'). However, technology adoption in interpreting has never been straightforward. It reflects a complex interplay of social, economic, institutional and individual factors, exposing tensions between the perceived benefits of innovation and the lived experiences of those who (are required to) use it.

For instance, while distance interpreting modalities—such as telephone, video-mediated, remote simultaneous, and video relay service interpreting (Braun, 2024)—have expanded access, they were not always introduced with sufficient input from practitioners. This has led to degraded working conditions, including poor audio, cognitive overload, stress and fatigue, especially on platforms not designed with interpreting in mind (e.g., Braun, 2018; Braun et al., 2018; Buján & Collard, 2022; Licoppe et al., 2018; Mouzourakis, 2006; Singureanu et al., 2023). Thus, while quality differences between distance and onsite interpreting have been less pronounced in conference settings (Moser-Mercer, 2003; Roziner & Shlesinger, 2010) than in legal contexts (Braun, 2013; Braun & Taylor, 2012; Hale et al., 2022), many interpreters across all fields perceive distance interpreting negatively, as driven by cost-cutting and efficiency, rather than as an opportunity to expand their services (e.g., Braun, 2018, 2020; Buján & Collard, 2022; Zhang et al., 2024). What happened to the enthusiasm of Fredo Nestler, who campaigned tirelessly—including staging hunger

strikes—for the German postal service to adopt his pioneering Tel-Interpret system in the 1950s (Nestler, 1957)? And does today's reticence towards distance interpreting echo the resistance of interpreters to simultaneous interpreting nearly a century ago, when early practitioners were mocked as mere "téléphonistes" or "telephonic interpreters" (Baigorri-Jalón, 2014), or are different dynamics now at play?

Today, as AI-driven technologies introduce more radical shifts to interpreting workflows, applications that claim to compete with interpreters are gaining more traction than computer-assisted interpreting as a form of human-AI collaboration. 'Machine interpreting' is promoted for its scalability and round-the-clock access to real-time language support, bolstered by oversimplified claims of interpreter shortages that warrant scrutiny. Yet, it raises concerns about quality, nuance, bias, accountability, and the ethics of indiscriminate language processing that lacks contextual understanding and bypasses human judgement, sensitivity and agency. By contrast, AI applications that have shown promise in supporting interpreters—in terms of quality, reliability or wellbeing (e.g., Defrancq & Fantinuoli, 2021; Pisani & Fantinuoli, 2021; Prandi, 2023; Rodriguez González, 2024; Tan et al., 2025; Tang et al., 2024)—remain underused. What factors have prevented their wider adoption? Is it perceived complexity, insufficient language coverage, or the broader lack of industry support for technologies that are not seen to benefit the market directly (Nimdzi, 2023)?

This presentation critically examines how interpreting technologies have been introduced, adopted, resisted, and—to some extent—normalised over the past century. It traces key moments in the evolution of interpreting technologies, situating them within broader historical and sociotechnical contexts. Drawing on theories of technology adoption and acceptance (e.g., Pinch & Bijker, 1987; Davis, 1989; Rogers, 2003; Venkatesh et al., 2003), I identify patterns that transcend specific technologies—from tensions between access and control to resistance when technology is perceived to compromise quality or interaction. Drawing especially on social constructionist frameworks of technology (Pinch & Bijker, 1987), I show that the uptake or rejection of interpreting technologies is shaped by competing interpretations of their value and meaning, reflecting differing stakeholder priorities and shifting power dynamics. As technology continues to reshape interpreting practice, this prompts a crucial question: on whose terms, for whose benefit, and to what ends?

Given the transformative shifts brought about by language AI, I further argue that it is essential to learn from past patterns of technology adoption—even when new tools appear fundamentally different. Innovations relating to a complex communication activity such as real-time language mediation must be assessed not only on their technical merit, but also on their ethical, social, and environmental implications (Moorkens et al., 2024), as well as their potential to support meaningful human–AI collaboration, ensuring that human expertise remains central and that quality and ethical standards in real-time multilingual communication are upheld.

Session 6 | 10:30-12:30

LT.01 | Panel 28 | Literary Translation in Transition: Disruptions in Central and Eastern Europe in the 20th and 21st Century

Chairs: Joanna Rzepa, Kasia Szymanska

[Redacted] bless Us, Every One: A Christmas Carol and the Censorship of Religion in Communist Czechoslovakia

Dr Eva Spišiaková
Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra, Slovakia

Dr Eva Spišiaková

Eva Spišiaková is a Lecturer in Translation Studies at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia. Her current project is positioned at the intersection of Translation Studies and Critical Disability Studies, and she focuses on the changing depiction of disabled characters in translated literature of the former Eastern Bloc. Her interests also include translation history and the intersection of translation with LGBTQ+ issues and medical humanities, and she is the author of Queering Translation History: Shakespeare's Sonnets in Czech and Slovak Transformations (2021) and the co-editor of the Routledge Handbook of Translation and Health (2021).

Abstract

Although Charles Dickens' short novella about an elderly miser who is forced by a series of ghostly visitations to rethink his life and ultimately become a generous philanthropist has become a Christmas classic in the nearly two centuries since its publication in 1843, the story itself is curiously devoid of any overt mentions of Christianity. The author's faith is woven between the lines of the story in parables of charity, redemption and the divine innocence of children—elements that were visible to A Christmas Carol's original Victorian audiences but remain unobtrusively hidden to modern readers who approach it as a simple seasonal ghost story. These hidden elements, however, acquire a new meaning with the Carol's translation into a time and place where religious faith is seen as a threat to the established order. Although the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic ostentatiously claimed to guarantee freedom of religion, the Marxist-Leninist principles underpinning its governmental structures viewed organised religion as fundamentally opposed to its ideology. With religious orders forcefully disbanded, Church officials forced to be ordained in secret, and all openly Christian literature relegated to illegal samizdat publications, the existing literature with religious themes that were subtle enough to pass by the censor's eye fulfilled an unexpectedly crucial new role. Censorship under restrictive regimes is a well-explored area within Translation Studies; however, religion is typically investigated as an agent imposing censorship, rather than as a subject of censorship itself. Using two Slovak translations of A Christmas Carol—one published at the beginning and one at the height of communist rule in former Czechoslovakia—this paper examines the agency of translators, publishers, and censors in the dissemination of works with covert religious themes, and explores how state-imposed censorship influenced the translation and publication of this literary classic.

Keywords

censorship, communism, religion

Great Expectations, or How to Disrupt the Polish Literary Field: Translation Criticism in Poland between 1918–1971

Mr Przemysław Pożar[1,2], Mrs Joanna Sobesto[2]
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Mr Przemysław Pożar

PhD student in Literary Studies at the Doctoral School of Humanities at University of Warsaw. His doctoral thesis focuses on the translators and translations of Shakespeare canon in the Polish People's Republic. With Anna Cetera-Włodarczyk he co-authored the monograph Polish Translations of Shakespeare in the 20th and 21st Century. Resources, Strategies, Reception (due in late 2024). Currently, he works as a co-investigator in the large-scale research project „A Century of Translation. Translators and their work in Polish literature after 1918" supervised by Magda Heydel.

Mrs Joanna Sobesto

translator and Ph.D. candidate in the Polish Department at Jagiellonian University. Graduated from Cultural Studies and from Translation Studies. Recently completed her doctoral project concerning the history of translation and translators entitled Double margin. Practices and policies in literary translation in Interwar (1918-1939) Poland. Involved in the National Science Center (NCN) grant "A century of translation. Translators and their work in Polish literature after 1918" led by Magda Heydel. Coeditor (with Garda Elsherif) of the upcoming Bloomsbury's volume Positionalities of Translation Studies. On the Situatedness of Translation Research. Her areas of academic interest are mainly Translator Studies, translation history, and reception studies.

Abstract

Traditional periodization of literary history in 20th century Poland is strongly affected by the political history, i.a. two world wars, and the communist regime. WW II, usually seen as a well-nigh complete disruption in the development of 20th-century literary, cultural, and translational practices affects not only the perception of postwar decades seen mostly through the socio-political lens but also, retrospectively, projects a view of the interwar period perceived in isolation from the (post-)war reality, ignoring unobvious, yet existing continuations manifested i.a. in the perception of translation, editorial practices, and undertakings of particular individuals. The paper aims to propose a nuanced overview of the Polish literary culture by looking at the longue durée of translation criticism between 1918 and 1971. The sites for voicing views on literary translation we would like to consider are an array of periodicals published throughout different periods, shorthand notes from the sessions of the Translation Section founded within the Polish Writers' Union (1950–1956), and supplementary archival documents of the Polish P.E.N. and Polish Writers' Union repository. Although the rhetoric and media of translation criticism of post- and pre-war periods were different, their aims and needs seem to be similar. In both cases, translation appears to be a sphere of potentiality, where expectations, projections, fears, and hopes of Polish culture meet. Through the analysis of the heterogenic material, we will try to answer the following questions: where, how, and by whom was translation evaluated? What was considered a good/bad translation? Who was considered a good/bad translator? What was the the translator's role in prescribing the rules of translation criticism? Answers will be supplemented by the metareflection on the nature of archives and sources available for studying translation criticism in various periods.

Keywords

translation history, translation criticism, archives

From archives to paratext: translating children's Literature in Croatia (1945 – 1955)

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Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Zagreb University, Zagreb, Croatia

Dr. Snježana Veselica Majhut

Snježana Veselica Majhut is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. She holds an MA in British Cultural Studies from Strathclyde University, Glasgow, UK and a PhD in Translation and Intercultural Studies from Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain. Currently, she teaches translation courses at the graduate level (Translation of Specialized and Academic Texts, Translation and Intercultural Communication, Translation of Legal and Political Texts). Her main research interests lie in cross-cultural aspects of translation, translation of popular fiction and children's literature, translation history in Croatia. Selected recent publications: Veselica Majhut, Snježana ; Badić, Edin ; Ljubas, Sandra. 2023. „Classic tales fresh from the oven: New perspectives on recent retranslations of children's literature in Croatia". Parallèles, 35 (2023), 1; 68-83. doi: 10.17462/para.2023.01.01 Veselica Majhut, Snježana. 2021. "Did You Try Our Good Smoked Ham? Assessing the Quality of Translation as Cross-Cultural Mediation on Croatian Tourist Board Websites". ELOPE: English Language Overseas Perspectives and Enquiries, 18 (2021), 1; 151-167 doi:https://.org/10.4312/elope.18.1.151-167. Veselica Majhut, Snježana. 2021. Krčma, gostionica, pub: dijakronijska studija prevođenja kulturno specifičnih referenci u kriminalističkim romanima. Zagreb: Hrvatska sveučilišna naklada. Veselica Majhut, Snježana. 2020. "Challenges of translating cultural embeddedness in crime fiction: Croatia's example". Przekładaniec. A Journal of Translation Studies, 40 (2020), 130-157 doi:10.4467/16891864PC.20.007.13170 Veselica Majhut, Snježana. 2016. „A Contribution to Croatian Translation History: Translation Flows from English into Croatian (from the 1950s to the late 1970s) and their Social-cultural Context" . Studia Romanica et Anglica Zagrabiensia. vol. 61, 73-84.

Abstract

This research examines practices of translation of Anglophone children's literature in Croatia from 1945 to 1955. During this decade two, in geopolitical terms, disruptive events occurred in former Yugoslavia: the end of World War Two and the Tito-Stalin split. The end of World War Two led to the establishment of the Communist regime, with its ideological goal of transforming all spheres of social life to comply with one ideological truth, which enjoyed strong Soviet support. After the Tito–Stalin split in 1948 Yugoslavia was expelled from the Cominform group, and the relations with the Soviet Union changed. How did these two events affect translations practices in the field of children's literature? In order to provide answers to this question, several se ts of data are collected and analyzed. The publishing plans of the main publishing houses specialized in children's and young adult literature are used as a source of data on translation policies.The obtained data are compared with the bibliographical data on translations published in the pre-World War Two period in order to trace down changes related to the selection of titles and source languages. A better and more nuanced picture will be provided by an analysis of the archival data on the main publishing houses and the archives of Agitprop commisions, whose task was to supervise and control all spheres of cultural activities, including translation. The third set of data involves an analysis of the paratexts of published books with a view to uncovering editors' and translators' strategies used to „regulate the reception" (Sherry 2010) of the books selected for translation.

Keywords

children's literature, archival data, Agitprop

Transfer channels of translated children's literature. A case of Polish to English translations (1912-2022)

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UKEN University (University of the National Education Commission), Kraków, Poland

Prof. Joanna Dybiec-Gajer

Joanna Dybiec-Gajer is a translation scholar, educator and practitioner, and an Associate Professor at the UKEN University of Kraków, where she is Head of the Chair for Translator Education. Her main research interests concern translation history, children's literature translation, picturebooks and comics in translation, fan translation, translator training and Translation Studies methodology. Her recent publications include co-edited volumes Mediating Practices in Translating Children's Literature: Tackling Controversial Topics (with A. Gicala, 2021), Negotiating Translation and Transcreation of Children's Literature: From Alice to the Moomins (with R. Oittinen and M. Kodura, 2020) and a monograph on the translation history of H. Hoffmann's children's classic Der Struwwelpeter in Poland (Złota Różdżka. Od książki dla dzieci po dreszczowiec raczej dla dorosłych [Polish Struwwelpeter. From a Children's Book to an Adults' Thriller], 2017). She has also co-authored a dictionary of Polish Translation Studies terminology (Słownik polskiej terminologii przekładoznawczej, 2019).

Abstract

Borrowing on Iona Popa's concepts of translation channels (2006), the paper examines the history of Polish to English translation's of children's literature (1912-2022), focusing on the ways in which historical disruptions (WW2, the Holocaust, communism) affected the creation of a number of complementary and competing distribution channels of translated literary production. Background: the project involves investigating translations from a language of relatively low diffusion (LLD) (Polish) into the world's lingua franca (English). For a number of socio-historical, cultural and economic reasons, there is a considerable asymmetry between the import and export of children's literature in the Polish setting, with a large number of titles being translated from dominant languages and few being translated out of Polish and published abroad. Methodology: translation is considered as historically and anthropologically situated practice, where both "texts and contexts" matter (McMartin, Van Coillie 2020). Taking into consideration fundamental metahistoriographical consideration of presupposition/purpose, time and space (D'Hulst 2010), the project at hand addresses the challenges of writing a history of translated children's literature. The time framework is based on translation-related events and spans the period between English renditions of two works by Nobel prize winners: Sienkiewicz's In Desert and Wilderness and Tokarczuk's Lost Soul. Results: The research project explores the cultural logic of exporting children's literature out of a former Socialist block country as well as identifies and discusses the developments of politicized and non-politicized distribution channels of literary transfer in the historical and political context.

Keywords

translation history, children's literature, translation channels

LT.06 | Panel 49 | Video Remote Interpreting: Interaction, Professional Practice and Training

Chairs: Franz Pöchhacker, Sonja Pöllabauer

Assessing different modes of mediated communication in health care

Prof. Dr. Michaela Albl-Mikasa[1], Mr Gopal Krishnamani[2], Dr. Anne Catherine Gieshoff[1], Mr. Ozan Harman[2], Mrs. Romy Thommen[1], Mrs. Céline Adami[2]
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Prof. Dr. Michaela Albl-Mikasa

Michaela Albl-Mikasa is Professor of Interpreting Studies at Zurich University of Applied Sciences. Her research and publications focus on interpreting, translation and English as a lingua franca (ITELF), the cognitive foundations of conference and community interpreting, note-taking for consecutive interpreting, interpreter competence and medical interpreting. She was a member of the Executive Council of IATIS from 2016 till 2021 and is currently a member of the Board of the European Network of Public Service Interpreting (ENPSIT). She is principal investigator of the interdisciplinary Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Sinergia project 'Cognitive Load in Interpreting and Translation' (CLINT) and editor, together with Elisabet Tiselius, of the Routledge Handbook of Conference Interpreting.

Mr Gopal Krishnamani

Co-founder and co-head of Bhaasha, largest community interpreting platform in Switzerland.

Dr. Anne Catherine Gieshoff

Anne Catherine Gieshoff received her PhD in interpreting studies from the University of Mainz and is now a research associate at the ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences, where she conducts research relevant to interpreting studies using quantitative and psychophysiological methods. She focuses on cognitive effort and load, visual input, and extended reality technologies. She is currently a co-host of the science podcast 'Minds between Languages' with Nataša Pavlović (idea and design by Adolfo García) and a member of IATIS, EST and TREC (Translation, Research, Empiricism and Cognition).

Mr. Ozan Harman

Product manager at Bhaasha, the largest community interpreting platform in Switzerland

Mrs. Romy Thommen

Conference interpreter and research assistant

Mrs. Céline Adami

UX/UI Designer at Bhaasha, the largest community interpreting platform in Switzerland

Abstract

Language barriers in health care can negatively affect the quality of care. Among the consequences reported by doctors in Switzerland are concerns regarding patients' comprehension of medical information, the provision of sufficient care, prolonged consultations, difficulties in taking a patient's history or discussing sensitive topics, and even unnecessary hospitalisations (Jaeger et al., 2019). To cope with language barriers, health care professionals increasingly use translation apps instead of professional interpreting services which seem to provide a sufficient level of communication in many daily interactions (Grond, 2022). The decision between professional interpreting services and translation apps appears to be made on the basis of different factors, including the medical or emotional complexity of the situation, a patient's familiarity with

the situation, as well as ergonomic and organisational aspects (Lehr & Gieshoff, 2023). However, there is little awareness as to which types of medical encounter are complex and necessitate professional interpreting services, and which ones can safely be dealt with by using translation apps. In this project, we focused on the four main modes of mediated communication, namely on-site interpreting, video interpreting, telephone interpreting and translation apps, and their suitability for different types of medical encounters. With the aim of drawing up recommendations for their targeted use in health care, we conducted three surveys in Swiss hospitals to collect information on the practices, experiences and preferences of health care professionals, community interpreters, and patients, as well as the factors influencing their preferences. The surveys were rolled out in July 2024 and closed at the end of October 2024. We will present the results of the surveys regarding the matching of types of medical encounters with types of mediated communication depending on the factors and preferences as detailed by the respondents of each group.

Keywords

medical interpreting, interpreting modes, video interpreting

Video remote interpreting in post-covid healthcare: Perspectives of language service stakeholders in Australia

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Dr Xiaofang Yao

Dr Xiaofang Yao is Assistant Professor at the School of Chinese, The University of Hong Kong. Her research interests include sociolinguistics, multilingualism, migrant cultures and digital humanities. She researches both theoretically and empirically the relationships among languages, space, objects and technologies. Her publications have appeared on journals such as International Journal of Multilingualism, Applied Linguistics Review, Social Semiotics, Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development, Big Data & Society, among others.

Dr Bei Hu

Dr Bei Hu is Assistant Professor of translation and interpreting studies in the Department of Chinese Studies at the National University of Singapore. She received her doctoral degree in translation studies from the University of Melbourne, Australia. Her research area revolves around reception research on translation and interpreting, focusing on ethical issues in high-stakes health communication. Her scholarly works on translation reception have been published in prestigious academic journals, including Target, Translation Studies, Interpreting, and Across Languages and Cultures, as well as in book series by John Benjamins, Routledge, and Palgrave Macmillan.

Abstract

Effective interpreting service is crucial in health communication, as it ensures the accessibility, effectiveness and equity of care for patients from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. In light of the significant challenges posed by the global pandemic, video remote interpreting (VRI) has emerged as a critical response to facilitating communication between doctors and patients in Australian hospitals (Bachelier & Orlando, 2024). Despite recognising the substantial potential of VRI in increasing interpreter access and achieving cost-efficiency in healthcare settings (e.g., De Boe et al., 2024; Havelka, 2020), extant research has disproportionately focused on its application in conference, business and legal domains (e.g., Chmiel & Spinolo, 2022). Empirical research on the implementation of VRI in healthcare remains modest (but see Klammer & Pöchhacker 2021). This study aims to elucidate the experiences and perspectives of language service stakeholders, including interpreters, language service coordinators, and healthcare professionals, with VRI in Australia's post-COVID healthcare environment. Drawing on responses from nation-wide questionnaire surveys, follow-up focus group interviews with stakeholders, as well as a former in-house health interpreter's auto-ethnographic work journals, the study reveals the various managerial, psychological, physical, technological and ethical factors that shape stakeholders' engagement with interpreting technologies in healthcare settings. Findings suggest that health professionals often resort to telephone interpreting due to assumed technological challenges and logistics commitments for setting up VRI consultations, whereas health interpreters are more concerned with the availability of visual cues and conversational quality of VRI. With reference to the stakeholders' opinions, this study proposes a decision-making model for the adoption of VRI (and alternative modes of interpreting) based on the nature of health interpreting tasks in healthcare settings. It is hoped that this research will contribute to an improved understanding of the collaboration between patients, interpreters, and health professionals in technology-mediated interpreting.

Keywords

health communication, video remote interpreting, language service stakeholders

From Promise to Practice: Implementing and Accessing Video Remote Interpreting in Maternity Settings for Women Speaking Languages Other Than English

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Ms Li Li

Li Li is a Lecturer in Interpreting and Translation Studies at the University of Stirling, where she teaches interpreting practice, translation theory, intercultural communication, and Mandarin Chinese language. She has recently completed her doctoral research at the University of East Anglia (funded by CHASE-AHRC), investigating access barriers and service provision for spoken language interpreting in UK maternity settings. Her research incorporates perspectives from eight stakeholder groups in the UK, focusing on the effective implementation of video-mediated interpreting to improve maternal care. In addition to her academic work, Li Li is a practising Mandarin Chinese-English interpreter specialising in legal, business and conference settings. She is registered with the National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI) and is a member of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI) and the Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL).

Abstract

For over two decades, inadequate spoken language interpreting services have contributed to maternal health disparities among women who speak languages other than English (LOTE) in the UK (Lewis and Drife, 2001; Draper et al., 2023). Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) has been proposed as a potential solution to provide timely and affordable healthcare interpreting services (DG Interpretation, 2011; Lion et al., 2015). This study investigates the implementation of VRI, specifically Language Line Solutions' interpreter-on-wheels (IOWs), across maternity departments in three inner-city hospitals within an NHS trust in London. Guided by Penchansky and Thomas's (1981) concept of access, which frames access in terms of six dimensions: availability, accessibility, accommodation, affordability, acceptability, and awareness, this study employed a mixed-method approach. Data were collected through interviews with LOTE women and their families, observations, surveys of interpreting service providers and maternity care providers (MCPs), and consultations with Language Service Providers (LSPs). Findings reveal that reliance on VRI alone was largely ineffective in providing timely and quality interpreting services. Key barriers included NHS systemic constraints, poor implementation leading to low uptake of IOWs, and insufficient support and training for MCPs. The study highlights the interconnectedness of actors within the complex interpreting service provision supply chain and underscores the critical need for comprehensive training programs for interpreters and MCPs in VRI use. This research addresses a significant gap in the current literature on VRI implementation in healthcare settings, particularly in maternity care for LOTE women in the UK. It provides valuable insights into the complex realities of implementing VRI in maternity care, highlighting both obstacles and potential solutions for effective service provision. Recommendations include developing targeted VRI training modules for healthcare providers, establishing clear protocols for VRI use in maternity settings, and fostering closer collaboration between healthcare institutions and LSPs to ensure sustainable and effective VRI services.

Keywords

Access barriers, Language Line Solutions' Interpreter-on-wheels (LLS IOWs), Maternity care

Video remote interpreting: Professional profile, workload and stress

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Prof. Franz Pöchhacker

Franz Pöchhacker is Professor of Interpreting Studies in the Center for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna. Trained as a conference interpreter at the University of Vienna and the Monterey Institute of Inter¬national Studies, he worked freelance as a conference and media interpreter for some 30 years. Following his doctoral dissertation on simultaneous conference inter¬preting, published in 1994, he devoted his post-doctoral research to general issues of Interpreting Studies as a discipline and to empirical work on community interpreting in healthcare and social service settings as well as asylum hearings. He led a grant-funded research project on "Quality in Simultaneous Interpreting" and was a partner in the EU-funded project ILSA ("Interlingual Live Subtitling for Access"). In 2012 he was CETRA Chair Professor in the Translation Studies Summer School at KU Leuven, where he continues to serve as an international staff member. His current research interests include speech-to-text interpreting and video remote interpreting in community settings. He has published more than 100 articles and a number of books in German and English, including The Interpreting Studies Reader (2002), co-edited with Miriam Shlesinger, the textbook Introducing Interpreting Studies (2004), published in a third edition in 2022, and the Routledge Encyclopedia of Interpreting Studies (2015). Since 2003 he has been co-editor of Interpreting: International Journal of Research and Practice in Interpreting.

Abstract

Video remote interpreting (VRI), as a concept and a professional practice, has been used since the early 2000s, when it originated in the US sign language interpreting community as an extension of video relay services (VRS) for deaf persons to other community settings, like education and healthcare. VRI was adopted also for spoken languages two decades ago, particularly in US hospitals, and has since been introduced in many countries, including Belgium, Norway and the US, as the broadband internet connections required for it have become increasingly available. A growing number of interpreters have thus been working in remote mode for quite some time, but very little is known about their professional profile and their perceptions of VRI work. Whereas research findings regarding work arrangements and job-related challenges are available for conference interpreters (especially members of AIIC), sign language interpreters and telephone interpreters (mainly in Australia), hardly any studies have addressed the practitioners of VRI. Exceptions include a small-scale interview study with five junior professionals based in Vienna, who were found to be highly satisfied with their work and identified few challenges specific to VRI. In an effort to explore the professional profile of video remote interpreters more comprehensively and in greater depth, an online survey was conducted in 2023 among several hundred interpreters working for a Vienna-based company providing remote interpreting services (video as well as telephone) to institutional clients in German-speaking countries. The paper will report findings for the 194 individuals who responded to the 99-item questionnaire and particularly for the subset of 104 respondents whose assignments are mainly or exclusively in VRI. Aside from demographic and professional background data, the presentation features quantitative and some qualitative findings on such issues as work settings, discourse types, preparation and interaction management as well as the chief sources of job-related stress.

Keywords

video remote interpreting, professional profile, workload

“Just like being there”? Navigating the unique complexities of video interpreting in healthcare settings

Dr Wei Zhang, Prof. Sabine Braun, Dr Elena Davitti
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Dr Wei Zhang

Wei Zhang is a PhD researcher who studied healthcare interpreting at the Centre for Translation Studies, University of Surrey, UK. She holds a PhD in Translation and Interpreting Studies and an MRes in Biomedicine. She is a CATTI-certified translator who has worked as a freelance interpreter/translator for exhibition events, education, and public services including healthcare and immigration in the UK and China. Her work experience also involves teaching of translation and language tutoring of Chinese and English to non-native speakers. As a postgraduate researcher and a past medical interpreter for the NHS, she is particularly interested in investigating various modalities of healthcare interpreting and unfolding their multimodal complexities. In her PhD thesis, she conducted a mixed-methods study including an in-depth critical review and a survey of remote medical interpreting via telephone and video link. She is also interested in the training and education of interpreters in higher education in the age of human-machine integration.

Prof. Sabine Braun

Sabine Braun is Professor of Translation Studies and Director of the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Surrey, UK, a Research-England funded Centre of Excellence. She also serves as a Co-Director of Surrey’s Institute for People-Centred AI. She specialises in human-machine integration in translation and interpreting to improve access to information, digital content and public services. For over a decade, she spearheaded a European-funded research programme investigating video-mediated interpreting in legal proceedings to improve language access in the justice sector (AVIDICUS 1-3; 2008-16), while contributing her expertise in video interpreting to other justice sector projects (e.g. QUALITAS, 2012-14; Understanding Justice, 2013-16; VEJ Evaluation, 2018-20). Subsequently she advised justice sector institutions on the use and risks of video-mediated interpreting, delivered training, developed European guidelines, and co-authored a DIN standard. She has also explored the use of video and virtual reality platforms for training interpreters and users of interpreting services (IVY, 2011-3; EVIVA, 2014-15; SHIFT, 2015-18; EU-WEBPSI, 2021-24) and is currently involved in projects investigating the application of communication technologies and AI-enabled language technologies to multilingual health communication (MHealth4All, 2021-24; Interpret-X, 2021-24). Furthermore, she conducts research on audio description and other translation modalities related to accessible communication. In the Horizon 2020 project MeMAD (2018-21), she explored the potential for (semi-)automating audio description to enhance digital media inclusion. In 2024, she launched a Leverhulme Trust-funded Doctoral Training Network on AI-Enabled Digital Accessibility (ADA). Her overarching interest centres on fairness, transparency, and quality in the use of technology in language mediation.

Dr Elena Davitti

Elena Davitti is an Associate Professor in Translation Studies with expertise in interpreting, both conference and dialogue. She is also Programme Leader of the MA Interpreting (Multilingual pathway) and MA Translation and Interpreting offered by the Centre for Translation Studies (CTS) where she is based. She holds a PhD in Translation and Intercultural Studies from the University of Manchester and an MA in Conference Interpreting from the University of Bologna at Forlì. Before joining Surrey in 2013, she practised as a freelance interpreter and translator and worked as interpreter trainer at different universities both in the UK and in Italy, such as the University of Leeds, University of Birmingham, University of Macerata and UNINT, Rome. She is currently working on hybrid modalities at the crossroads of traditional disciplines such as translation, interpreting, subtitling, with a particular interest in real-time speech-to-text communication across languages.

Abstract

Remote medical interpreting (RMI) modalities (i.e., telephone interpreting (TI) and video interpreting (VI)) have expanded rapidly in healthcare in recent years, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, our understanding of the technological, logistical, communicative and interactional complexities of RMI and interpreters’ working conditions remains limited. This is evident in prevailing assumptions about the superiority of VI over TI or its equivalence to onsite interpreting, based on the availability of visual clues in VI without sufficient knowledge of the unique constraints/challenges potentially arising from its multimodal

complexity. This gap in understanding is also evident in healthcare contexts, where issues concerning visual ecology and nonverbal communication in VI have only recently received attention (De Boe, 2022; Klammer & Pöchhacker, 2021; Zhang et al., 2024). While this research identifies some of the challenges of VI as a complex multimodal form of interpreting in healthcare contexts, many remain underexplored. Specifically, there is limited knowledge about the technological environments of VI in healthcare settings, their impact on the multimodal complexity of VI, and how these factors affect the interpreter's comprehension, output production and ergonomic wellbeing. The relationship between the multimodal complexity of VI and the strategies interpreters use to adapt to it, and questions about whether the challenges of VI need to be resolved at institutional or individual level (e.g., via policy change, provider/patient training) also require further research. This presentation will explore these aspects, comparing VI in healthcare with TI and onsite interpreting where relevant. It draws on the results of a recent survey of healthcare interpreters in several countries regarding their current/emerging VI practices and follow-up interviews discussing how the multimodal complexity alongside technical, interactional, institutional, and human factors of VI affects the interpreters' perceptions, performance and adaptation. The overall aim is to inform provider/agency training to better support interpreters.

Keywords

healthcare communication, remote medical interpreting, VRI

Adapting to Video-Mediated Interpreting: Multimodal Turn-Taking and Repair

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dr Esther de Boe

Esther de Boe holds a PhD in Translation Studies and is a tenure-track professor at the Department of Applied Linguistics, Translation and Interpreting Studies. She teaches consecutive and simultaneous interpreting (French-Dutch), interpreting studies, and interpreting techniques. She has a keen interest in the application of technology in interpreting and has published and edited several works investigating remote interpreting. Her recent co-edited volume, Interactional Dynamics in Remote Interpreting: Micro-analytical Approaches (Routledge, 2024), examines how remote interpreting impacts on communication dynamics. Esther de Boe is also member of the TricS research group at the University of Antwerp, and board member and secretary of the European Network of Public Service Interpreting and Translation. Before starting her academic career, Esther de Boe worked as a sworn interpreter in the Netherlands.

Dr Mathijs Verhaegen

Mathijs Verhaegen holds a PhD in Interpreting Studies at the Department of Applied Linguistics, Translation and Interpreting Studies (University of Antwerp, Belgium) and a master's degree in interpreting (working languages: Dutch-English-Russian) from the University of Ghent (Belgium). His doctoral research primarily revolved around the ways in which participants in video-mediated interpreting manage turn-taking in a multimodal fashion. He is a member of the TricS research group at the University of Antwerp.

Abstract

During COVID-19, the use of video-mediated interpreting (VMI) surged due to social distancing and the widespread adoption of video conferencing. In this way, the epidemic contributed to establishing VMI as a more common practice in settings of dialogue interpreting (DI), alongside telephone interpreting. Empirical research on VMI in DI settings has observed an increase in interactional issues compared to face-to-face interpreting. These issues are often linked to technical limitations (such as reduced sound quality and delays in the transfer of sound and image) and participants' lack of awareness of these limitations. However, most of these studies were carried out before the pandemic. Now that interpreters and clients have grown more accustomed to VMI, we are interested in whether this influences their communicative behavior regarding turn-taking. Moreover, since the pandemic, the three-way VMI configuration, in which all participants are in separate locations and connected by video link, has become more common. Yet, we still know little about turn-taking in this configuration compared to video remote interpreting (VRI), where the primary participants are together in one location and the interpreter joins from a remote location. This paper presents the results of a multimodal interactional analysis of nine semi-simulations, comparing three configurations: (1) three-way VMI, (2) VRI, and (3) face-to-face interpreting. The simulations involved three certified interpreters, a professional school counselor, and an actress playing the role of a parent, conducting consultations on three psychological themes in a school setting. The participants wore mobile eye trackers that registered their gaze behavior. In this presentation, we focus on three similar situations of repair sequences across the three configurations to compare how participants collaboratively managed turn-taking. The results indicate a high level of multimodal collaboration in maintaining smooth turn-taking, revealing more similarities than differences across the three configurations.

Keywords

Video-mediated interpreting, Multimodality, Eyetracking

LT.07 | General panel | Translation Technology

Chair: Faruk Mardan

The preferred AI in literary translation: establishing a counter-narrative

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Dr Claire Larsonneur

Claire Larsonneur is Senior Lecturer in Translation Studies and Digital Humanities at University Paris 8, within the research unit TransCrit. Her research focuses on the economics and the sociology of translation, more specifically the impact of technology on the translator community: pricing, trust-building, multilingualism, governance issues. She has recently co-edited with Renée Desjardins and Philippe Lacour When Translation Goes Digital Palgrave-Macmillan, 2020. She has co-organised the international Tralogy conference, "Human translation and natural language processing: forging a new consensus" held in Paris in 2022. - « Quel enjeux pour les IA linguistiques ? rétribution, risques, régulations », revue De Europa, 2024. « L'algorithme sert-il les traducteurs ? », revue Parallèles 35 (2), 25 octobre 2023, pp. 90-103. https://www.paralleles.unige.ch/fr/tous-les-numeros/numero-35-2/larsonneur/

Abstract

In 2023, the French unions for literary translators, ATLF et ATLAS, published a common declaration urging professionals not to use machine translation and generative AI. They denounce a degradation of working conditions and a plundering of their work used to train AI algorithms. Generative AI of the kind developed by OpenAI or Google thrice threatens the value of their work : on an financial level, in terms of work appreciation and on an aesthetic level. Indeed some publishers have started using generative AI, driving translators to post-edit at significantly lower rates (Vulser 2024). And some publishers are making deals with AI companies to exploit the content of their catalogue (Battersby 2024) without the consent of authors. Translators find themselves disempowered in a context of corporate predation by global tech companies which view translation as a means to further their online dominance. However the economic model of generative AI is fragile and OpenAI struggles (Fitzmaurice 2024). Opensource customiseable LLMs could be tailored to fit literary translation processes and provide a common tool with value-adding features (Hansen 2022, Larousserie 2024). As the profession stands at a crossroads, it would be useful to establish a counter-narrative, to go beyond antagonistic dualism (O'Brien 2023) and examines what features of AI such as text analysis or variants (Larsonneur 2024) and what business models (collective licensing, shared revenues, regulartory fees, subscriptions) would be the first choice of professionals. This paper will present the results of a survey into the preferred AI within the profession of literary translators in France. The survey, based on a questionnaire and interviews with translators, authors and publishers, will be conducted between September 2024 and Spring 2025. It will aim at examining what would the different stakeholders' ideal AI tool and whether alternative models of valuation could be implemented.

Keywords

survey, prospective, literary translation

Capturing emotions in translation: A comparative study of Human Translation, ChatGPT, DeepL Translate, and Google Translate in a corpus of human rights-related texts, evaluated by students and professionals.

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Dr Maria Constantinou

Maria Constatinou is a Lecturer in Translation Studies at the Department of French and European Studies of the University of Cyprus. Her interdisciplinary research lies within the fields of Translation Studies, Critical Discourse Analysis, Corpus Linguistics, and Comparative Stylistics. She is interested in the relationship between translation, ideology and identity construction and focusses on the role of translation in the dissemination of information and misinformation in various text genres. Her ongoing research also includes the use of new technologies in translation pedagogy. She has published, among others, in Perspectives, Language and Communication, Social Semiotics, Intralinea, Journal of Language Aggression and Conflict, and International Journal of Communication.

Abstract

This experimental study examines a corpus of texts translated from English into French and Greek, sourced from Global Voices, and conducts a comparative analysis with translations generated by ChatGPT, DeepL Translate, and Google Translate. The translations produced by human translators at Global Voices are compared with those from the aforementioned automated tools (Muftah, 2022). Annotations and comments are currently being collected from two distinct groups: students enrolled in a translation course at the University of Cyprus, and two professional translators—one native Greek speaker and one native French speaker—specifically recruited for this task. All annotators, both students and professional translators, are in the process of evaluating the translations based on the accuracy and naturalness of the emotion lexicon and emotionally charged expressions under study. They have not been informed of the origin of the translations—whether AI, neural machine translation, or human—to prevent bias. The primary objective of the study is to assess whether emotionally charged expressions and the broader emotion lexicon are adequately translated by ChatGPT, DeepL, and Google Translate, and to determine if the translations provided by Global Voices' human translators offer superior solutions. The rationale for using two different groups is to discern whether perceptual differences are evident between them, regardless of their translation experience. An in-depth qualitative analysis, grounded in Appraisal Theory (Martin & White 2005; Munday 2018), is conducted to better understand the emotional nuances and complexities of these expressions and their translations across human and automated platforms. This analysis aims to examine the effectiveness of AI and neural machine translation tools in capturing and conveying emotional dimensions in translated texts, thus contributing to the understanding of translation technology's capabilities and limitations in handling complex emotional content while considering the added value of human translation (Loock 2023).

Keywords

Human translation vs Neural Machine Translation lationhine , Emotion lexicon, Human Evaluation

From Clicks to Connections: User Satisfaction with Machine Translation on Social Media

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Dr Khetam Al Sharou

Khetam Al Sharou is a Postdoctoral Researcher at SALIS, Dublin City University, funded by the Irish Research Council and an Honorary Research Associate at Imperial College London. In her current research work, Al Sharou is looking into the use of machine translation in social media and the associated risks of information distortion. Her research lies at the intersection of Translation Studies, Computer Science and Natural Language Processing, producing work with academic and industrial impact in tool development and user-experience. Her research interests include human-machine interaction and their wider applications, translation pedagogy, didactics in Higher Education, and intercultural communication and training in healthcare. In particular, she is enthusiastic about employing her expertise in language and translation technology to find solutions to enable multilingual communication and improve user experiences. She has contributed to several EU/UK funded cross-disciplinary projects in this area, working closely with developers and in fieldwork with users. Al Sharou holds a PhD in Translation Studies (University College, London) and an MSc in Translation and Computer Assisted Translation Tools (Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh). Previously, she has held research and teaching positions at various universities in the UK (Imperial College London, UCL, LSE, Surrey), Belgium (University of Antwerp) and Syria (University of Damascus).

Abstract

Machine Translation (MT) has become increasingly popular among users due to its availability as a free and easily accessible tool. Particularly, its integration into social media platforms (e.g. Facebook and X) has enabled users from anywhere in the world to interact and communicate in different languages in real-time. However, MT is still incapable of producing error-free translations and can sometimes generate misleading and distorted translations, prompting further inquiry into its impact on users and their experience with this technology. Thus far, studies have mostly relied on subjective assessments such as surveys, offering limited insight into user perspectives. To address this gap, an in-depth, data-driven study was carried out where a large set of data including tweets and posts was collected from X and Reddit to better understand users' perceptions and attitudes towards MT and how they have evolved over time. Findings indicate that while some users appreciate the availability of MT, others express dissatisfaction with its quality. Furthermore, despite technological advances in MT, user experiences and attitudes remain negative and do not necessarily align with these improvements. Given its low quality, MT seems to create challenges in online communication, triggering an increase in hate speech. This raises critical ethical questions regarding its use and impact, highlighting the need for more effective and responsible translation solutions and uses of AI and automation in non-professional settings. This work is part of Transitude, an ongoing project that explores the use of MT in social media and the associated risks of information distortion, specifically focusing on MT's impact on refugees and asylum seekers' beliefs about their host society. It contributes to a broader understanding of how MT can affect online communication and its impact on the users and the society as a whole.

Keywords

Machine Translation, Online Communication, User Experience

Changing faces of translator training: New activism and networking

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Dr. Martin Djovčoš

Martin Djovčoš is an associate professor at the Department of English and American Studies at the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica. His teaching and translation/interpreting research is currently focused mainly on sociological aspects of translation, asymmetries in intercultural communication and translation/interpreting training. He also works as a translator and interpreter. He is one of the organizers of the Translation, Interpretating, Culture conference series and editor of several proceedings on translation and interpreting and the author of multiple research papers. He is a member of the European Society for Translation Studies and the Slovak Association of Translators and Interpreters. He participates in several research projects at national level with international overlap. His current research project is entitled The image of translators and interpreters in society which aims to map how the Slovak society views translators and interpreters focusing on occupational prestige.

Mgr. Patrícia Hatiarová

Patrícia Hatiarová is a PhD. Candidate in Translation Studies at Matej Bel University. She studied at the Socratic Institute, a program that trains young changemakers to launch projects for the public good in Slovakia. Her project was the Winter School of Translation, an event for translation and interpreting students from all over Slovakia. With her team, they are founding a civic association called Sa zobuď (Wake up!), in which they will continue their activities for translation and interpretation students.

Abstract

Translation and interpreting today are far from neutral, with the potential to build bridges or create boundaries (Sakai 2010, Tymoczko 2014). This duality is especially vivid in the digital age, where humans and machines intertwine, spreading disinformation in multiple languages. This constant blurring of truth poses challenges for teaching translation. Traditional passive approaches, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, fail to address the shifting geopolitical landscape. The presentation rethinks the social constructivist paradigm for translation education (Kiraly 2010), advocating for a shift from traditional university settings to fraternal spaces to enhance global communication. Educators should aim not only to produce skilled professionals but also critically thinking individuals. The focus should be on promoting student activism and networking grounded in empirical evidence. The presentation combines committed and empirical approaches to create a new activist, empirical, social constructivist paradigm in translation education. It uses the example of a student-organized Winter School of Translation and student activism during Russian aggression in Ukraine to illustrate this approach. These case studies demonstrate how empowered translation students can use their knowledge to elevate the profession and gain public recognition. This approach has the potential to reduce social tensions and bridge polarized groups beyond echo chambers.

Keywords

new activism, social constructivism, empowering

The Impact of AI on Translation Quality: A Study with L2 Learners

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Dr Yi Liu

Yi Liu is an associate professor at the School of Foreign Studies, Northwestern Polytechnical University. She obtained her Ph.D. from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Her academic research primarily focuses on corpus-based translation and interpreting studies, interpreting training, and language data analysis. In addition to her academic pursuits, she is a certified translation and conference interpreting practitioner, holding China Accreditation Test for Translators and Interpreters (CATTI) certification. She has authored several papers in prestigious SSCI-indexed journals, such as Lingua, and has written chapters regarding interpreting pedagogy for books published by Routledge.

Abstract

The integration of AI technologies like ChatGPT 4.0 and Neural Machine Translation (NMT) services such as DeepL into translation practices has presented both opportunities and challenges for translator education. While these technologies have improved the quality of students' translations (Hendy et al., 2023; Jiao et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2023), their accuracy in translating complex or specialized texts remains limited, risking misinterpretation or loss of contextual nuances (Siu, 2023). Despite their growing use, there is a lack of studies on the implications of these tools for translation quality assessment. This research aims to explore the impact of AI-based translation technologies on the quality of translations produced by L2 English learners. Specifically, it investigates the practical applications, strengths, and limitations of ChatGPT and DeepL in assisting students with translation tasks. The study also aims to offer recommendations for translation learners navigating this evolving landscape. Our goal is to deepen the understanding of ChatGPT and DeepL's roles in translation training and contribute valuable insights into translation pedagogy, including updating training methods, enhancing instructors' technological teaching abilities, and developing textbooks in the AI era. The experimental design involves non-translation major students from Northwestern Polytechnical University translating three diverse Chinese passages into English: informative (e.g., museum descriptions), expressive (e.g., prose), and operative (e.g., tourism advertisements). The translations will be assessed under three conditions: using general internet resources, DeepL, and ChatGPT 4.0. Evaluations will employ both the Bilingual Evaluation Understudy metric and human raters. Additionally, the experiment will investigate the translation process through a think-aloud protocol, providing insights into students' decision-making and problem-solving strategies. A post-translation survey will further explore their experiences and perceptions of using different translation aids. This comprehensive approach examines both the product and process of translation, offering a detailed view of the impact of AI tools on translation tasks.

Keywords

AI-assisted translation, ChatGPT 4.0, DeepL

Localisation of XR – a preliminary mapping of challenges and strategies

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Tampere University, Tampere, Finland

Ms. Cláudia Mendes

Cláudia Mendes is a PhD student at the University of Tampere (Finland) and a member of the NEXR project and of the InterReality Research Group. Cláudia has a Master's in Translation and Language Services from the University of Porto (Portugal) and a Bachelor's in Applied Languages from the University of Minho (Portugal). Her PhD project focuses on LLMs and their potential uses in the localisation of XR applications.

Abstract

Extended Reality (XR) technologies have become widely adopted in the contemporary mediascape. This includes Augmented Reality (AR) applications such as Instagram/Snapchat filters or the game Pokémon GO, and immersive Virtual Reality, used to create games such as Beat Saber or to recreate heritage sites. However, when it comes to localisation, XR presents unique challenges that are still largely unresearched. XR covers applications with a wide range of purposes, target audiences, levels of immersion, and even devices. XR applications are also generally audiovisual, not limited to conveying information only via text, and sometimes extend to modalities exclusive to this technology, as in the case of use of haptic gloves to "touch" digital objects. Many of these applications have a global reach, with some made to merge with local contexts (like how Pokémon GO embeds its content in the public space around the players everywhere in the world). This means that XR applications often require localisation – but their unique affordances and modalities may fundamentally affect the localisation process, demanding tailored strategies that will effectively address any resulting issues. For instance, in a VR game with subtitled dialogue, the 360º field of vision raises the question of subtitle placement and best practices; in AR, any cultural or spatial references must adapt to the precise location, and any text that refers to the surrounding real environment must correctly adapt to it. Different solutions may be necessary depending on XR type or application purpose/interface. This study offers a preliminary analysis of a sample set of 3 applications with different localisation needs of each XR type, first examining them through the lens of pre-translation text analysis (Ayupova, 2014), and then comparing and contrasting the original and localised versions of each application. The aim is to identify specific challenges and strategies in XR localisation.

Keywords

XR, localisation

LT.11 | General panel | Subtitling Reception

Chair: Chiara Bucaria

Textual incongruities in subtitle processing: does synchronicity with the audio matter?

Dr Valentina Ragni, Prof Agnieszka Szarkowska, Ms Sonia Szkriba
University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

Dr Valentina Ragni

Valentina Ragni is currently Research Fellow at the University of Warsaw (Poland), where she works in the Audiovisual Translation Lab (AVT Lab), dealing with everything eye tracking. She holds a PhD in AVT from the University of Leeds (UK), where she investigated mnemonic retention of reverse subtitles in advanced L2 Italian learners, again using eye-tracking. Before Warsaw, she worked at the University of Bristol (UK) on a project assessing the impact of productivity-enhancing technologies – such as machine translation and behaviour-tracking tools – on professional translators. She is particularly interested in the cognitive and psycholinguistic aspects of translation, both as a learning tool and as a professional practice.

Prof Agnieszka Szarkowska

Agnieszka Szarkowska is University Professor in the Institute of Applied Linguistics at the University of Warsaw, Head of the research group Audiovisual Translation Lab (AVT Lab), and Honorary Research Associate at University College London. Agnieszka is a researcher, academic teacher, ex-translator, and translator trainer. Her research projects include eye-tracking studies on subtitling, audio description, multilingualism in subtitling for the deaf and the hard of hearing, and respeaking. Drawing on her passion for teaching, she has co-founded AVT Masterclass, an online platform for professional audiovisual translation education. Agnieszka is a member of the European Association for Studies in Screen Translation (ESIST) and a recipient of the Jan Ivarsson Award 2022.

Ms Sonia Szkriba

Sonia Szkriba is a PhD student at the Institute of Applied Linguistics, University of Warsaw, a freelance audiovisual translator and SDH subtitler. She completed her MA thesis on senior citizens as secondary users of the AudioMovie application, and as recipients of audiovisual content more generally, a topic that she plans on exploring further in the future. She is currently working on her PhD project, which is part of the WATCH-ME project in the Audiovisual Translation Lab (AVT Lab), where she is running an eye-tracking study with English as a foreign language (EFL) students learning legal terminology from subtitled video, including using multi-word expressions.

Abstract

Traditionally, subtitles have been a condensed form of translation. Bound by well-known time and space limitations, subtitlers often have to prioritize brevity whilst maintaining the core meaning of an utterance, e.g., by picking shorter synonyms. The resulting subtle dialogue-subtitle mismatches are commonplace in intra-lingual (same-language) subtitling, yet little is known about their effect on the viewers. A preliminary investigation of these mismatch effects on subtitle reading in both native (L1) and non-native (L2) viewers found that, whilst incongruities increased cognitive load and reduced enjoyment, as self-reported by the participants, they did not significantly hamper comprehension (Szarkowska et al., 2024) and had varying effects on eye movements (Ragni et al., in preparation). However, previous eye-tracking studies have shown that viewers often read text ahead of the corresponding audio, with L1 speakers reading faster than L2 speakers (Wisniewska & Mora, 2018; Conklin et al., 2020). In these cases, fixations might not necessarily reflect mismatch effects, because if the incongruent audio is not heard at the time of reading, there is no mismatch to perceive at first. Therefore, in this study we investigate eye-movement synchronicity with the audio to more precisely assess mismatch effects on subtitle processing. The key variables of interest were mismatch (congruent vs. incongruent words), language group (L1 vs. L2), and synchrony (before, during, after), i.e. whether fixations on target words were aligned (synchronous) with the audio or whether they occurred before/after the audio was heard. We analysed Mean Fixation Duration, Re-Reading Time, and Total

Fixation Duration. This presentation will provide full details of the methodology, including research questions and hypotheses, present preliminary results for all eye-tracking metrics, and finally discuss these results and their implications in the context of both the verbatim vs. edited debate in subtitling, and the common use of subtitles as an L2 learning tool.

Keywords

subtitling, eye tracking, incongruities

The impact of sound on children's gaze patterns and comprehension when watching subtitled video

Dr Sharon Black
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Dr Sharon Black

Sharon Black is Lecturer in Interpreting and Translation at the University of East Anglia (UK). Her principal research interests are in audiovisual translation and media accessibility, in particular the reception of translated audiovisual content, arts and media accessibility, and AVT for children and young people. Sharon is currently working on research projects investigating how children and adults watch subtitled video using eye tracking, and has collaborated on European projects on digital media and arts accessibility tools, services and training. Sharon is President of the European Association for Studies in Screen Translation (ESIST).

Abstract

Children, like adults, around the globe are spending more time in front of screens than ever before, and are using video content on a range of devices and platforms. Concomitantly, there is growing demand for subtitles among audiences worldwide, with younger viewers in particular preferring to use subtitles (BBC, 2021; YPulse, 2022). There is considerable evidence that watching videos with subtitles can boost children's L1 reading skills and enhance their acquisition of other languages (Black, 2021). Despite increasing awareness of the advantages of subtitles for young viewers, there is a lack of research on children's attention to and processing of subtitled video, with a particular dearth of studies using eye tracking. To contribute to filling this gap, this study sought to investigate the impact of the presence and absence of sound on children's gaze patterns and comprehension when viewing subtitled videos. Liao et al. (2022) and Szarkowska et al. (forthcoming) found that the absence of sound significantly affected adult viewers' gaze behaviour, resulting in more time on the subtitles, longer fixations and lower word skipping. However, it seems that prior to the current study no such investigation has been made of children's gaze behaviour. This talk presents findings of an eye tracking experiment performed with L1 English speakers aged 9-13 years (n = 44). Participants completed the York Assessment of Reading for Comprehension (YARC) test and watched two subtitled clips of an English-language cartoon with English subtitles, with and without sound, while their eye movements were recorded using an EyeLink Portable Duo eye tracker. Each video was followed by a comprehension test. The implications will be discussed in relation to the new insights offered in this under-researched area and the potential impact of audio on children's viewing experience and processing of subtitled video content.

Keywords

subtitles, sound, children

Using colours in subtitles to identify characters in user-generated videos - a reception study

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Mr Hao Mo

Hao Mo is a PhD candidate in Translation Studies at the University of East Anglia, specializing in news translation, subtitling, and framing analysis. With extensive experience as an English-Chinese translator, he is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL).

Mr Guoliang Li

Mr Guoliang Li is a second-year PhD student at the University of Bristol whose PhD research focuses on the reception of subtitles. He is interested in audiovisual translation, especially using eye-tracking to do subtitle experiments.

Abstract

Using colours to identify characters has been a common subtitling practice in SDH for film and TV. In the recently popular media user-generated videos (e.g. YouTube and Bilibili videos), it has been applied in subtitles for people without hearing impairment, especially in the genre of dramas given the fast pace of the video and its dense dialogue. To the best of my knowledge, only one study explored the reception of this subtitling strategy, but it focused on the SDH in Poland TV. It remains unknown whether this subtitling strategy actually improves viewers' reception of user-generated videos. Therefore, this study explores viewers' reception of subtitles with colours for identifying characters in user-generated videos using eye tracking and questionnaires. The experiment adopts a between-subjects design and takes two experimental conditions, i.e. subtitles with different colours for different characters or white subtitles for all characters. We recruited native Chinese speakers and showed them an English video from YouTube with interlingual Chinese subtitles while the eye tracker was tracking their eye movements and asked them to answer a questionnaire after the video. We measured the impact of this strategy on attention allocation, cognitive effort, comprehension, enjoyment, and viewers' perception. This study is the first to focus on subtitle reception in user-generated videos, whereas previous studies primarily focused on films and TV shows. The results will provide empirical evidence regarding the efficacy of this subtitling approach for user-generated videos. Content creators can utilize these findings to enhance their subtitles, thereby improving the viewing experience.

Keywords

Subtitle reception, character identification, user-generated videos

Comparing Viewers' Reception of One-line Subtitles and Two-line Subtitles in Vertical Videos

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Mr Guoliang Li

Mr Guoliang Li is a third-year PhD student at the University of Bristol whose PhD research focuses on the reception of subtitles. He is interested in audiovisual translation, especially using eye-tracking to do subtitle experiments.

Abstract

As mobile phones are equipped with cameras, there has been a noticeable shift towards shooting and consuming media in a vertical format. This trend has given rise to a new form of media known as vertical videos, or short-form videos (e.g. TikTok, YouTube Shorts, Instagram Reels), which have a vertical aspect ratio and a short duration. Despite the growing prevalence of vertical videos, subtitling practices in this format remain inconsistent—particularly with respect to the number of subtitle lines displayed. To date, no official guidelines have been released by short video platforms, and the impact of number of lines on viewers' reception of subtitles in vertical videos has yet to be empirically studied. This study addresses this gap by examining how subtitles' number of lines—one-line versus two-line subtitles—affects viewers' reception of vertical videos. Using a between-subjects design, native Chinese speakers watched an English-language TikTok video subtitled with either one-line or two-line Chinese interlingual subtitles. An eye tracker recorded participants' visual attention during viewing, followed by a questionnaire assessing their comprehension, cognitive load, enjoyment, engagement and perceptions. The pilot study included 37 participants: 20 in the one-line condition and 17 in the two-line condition. Results from this study provide some of the first empirical insights into subtitle processing in vertical videos. By extending the scope of subtitle reception research beyond traditional horizontal formats like film and television, this study contributes to a better understanding of media consumption in mobile contexts. It also offers practical implications for content creators and platform designers seeking to optimize subtitle presentation in short-form vertical video content.

Keywords

subtitle reception, number of lines, vertical videos

The impact of multimodal explicitation and redundancy in subtitles: An eye-tracking study

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Dr. Zhuojia Chen

Dr. Zhuojia Chen is an assistant professor in the Department of Languages and Cultures, Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University (BNBU). He obtained his PhD degree in Translation Studies from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (2024). He was a visiting PhD student in the Department of Languages in University of Helsinki (2022). His PhD project explores text-image relations in film translation and synthesizes empirical data from multimodal corpora and eye-tracking experiments. He has extensive experience in subtitling and translation project management. His research interests include corpus-based translation studies, audiovisual translation, reception studies, multimodality, eye tracking, and translation technology. His recent publications appeared in journals such as The Journal of Specialised Translation (JoSTrans) and Translation, Cognition & Behavior.

Abstract

This study attempts to (re)conceptualize audiovisual translation as multimodal ensembles by highlighting the text-image interplay and its possible cognitive impact on viewers. Specifically, it investigates how translational shifts of text-image relations in interlingual subtitling may affect target viewers' visual attention, comprehension, and perception of subtitle quality. In the eye-tracking experiment, 80 Chinese viewers were randomly assigned to the Control Group (n=39) and the Experimental Group (n=41). Both groups watched the same two-minute English film clip but with different subtitles. The Control Group watched Chinese subtitles adapted from the official translation, while the Experimental Group was exposed to subtitles with ten more cases of verbal explicitation of mise-en-scène actions (i.e., text-image redundancy). Analysis of the eye-tracking data revealed that subtitles with more text-image redundancy induced significantly shorter average fixation durations in the focal image areas and longer total gaze time in the subtitle areas. However, no significant difference was found between the two groups in the average fixation durations in the subtitle areas. The results suggested that the subtitling strategy of multimodal explicitation could reduce cognitive effort to process the visual content while eliciting similar cognitive effort in subtitle reading. These findings were further elucidated by heat map visualization, which revealed that the Control Group had more dispersed fixations within the image areas, suggesting the viewers' uncertainty in locating and understanding crucial visual information. The questionnaire data showed that the Experimental Group had significantly higher scores in both comprehension tests and self-reported ratings of subtitle quality, suggesting the role of multimodal explicitation in improving comprehension and perceived quality of target subtitles. The findings of the study have offered new insights into the mechanism of translating non-verbal elements in films, highlighting the potential power of subtitlers to direct and influence target viewers' cognitive attention towards the audiovisual content.

Keywords

subtitles, multimodal, eye tracking

LT.17 | Panel 23 | Global Visions, Local Voices: Translation as a Catalyst for Human Rights

Chairs: Aline Larroyed, Patrick Cadwell

Access to translation as a means to the materialisation of human rights in crisis settings: a comparison between the Brazilian and the Irish realities

Dr Aline Larroyed, Dr Patrick Cadwell, Prof. Sharon O'Brien
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Dr Aline Larroyed

Aline Larroyed holds a PhD in International Law from the University of Maastrich and is a postdoctoral researcher at Dublin City University. Formerly a senior researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition Law, she investigates the role of translation in realizing human rights within crisis contexts.

Dr Patrick Cadwell

Pat Cadwell is an Assistant Professor of Translation Studies at SALIS, DCU, and a member of the Centre for Translation and Textual Studies. He is especially interested in translation as a method of disaster risk reduction and translation and the language of development.

Prof. Sharon O'Brien

Sharon O'Brien is a Professor of Translation Studies at Dublin City University and currently serves as Dean of Graduate Studies for DCU. Her expertise spans crisis translation, human factors in translation technology, and language specialization.

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the critical need for translation not only for initial safety information but also for ongoing communication about rights to emergency payments, (online) education arrangements, and access to resumed health services, such as breast cancer or cervical cancer screening. Similarly, displacement caused by the climate emergency and ongoing wars and conflicts around the globe have emphasised the necessity of translation in situations of forced displacement to facilitate access to essential services and critical information to ensure personal safety in a host country. This presentation will report on the preliminary findings of a four-year project due to run from September 2024 until August 2028 that has been funded by the Irish Research Council. The project will investigate how translation impacts the materialisation of human rights of forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) in crisis settings, with a focus on Brazil and Ireland and a particular examination of the supporting role of technology. In doing so, this research bridges translation studies, human rights, and disaster/crises studies, offering a novel and interdisciplinary approach to understanding the role of translation in access to human rights and prevention of violations. To achieve its aims, the project will employ a combination of methods based on a crisis translation maturity model. Methods will include a review of academic, legal, and non-governmental literature, an evaluative survey, semi-structured interviews with relevant stakeholders, and a comparative analysis of translation technology and informational materials in Brazil and Ireland. Sex, gender, and race were a focus in the research design, and methods and will play a key role in analysis of overall findings. This presentation will report on preliminary results from the initial stages of the project and explain future plans for collaboration and dissemination.

Keywords

Translation, Crisis, Human Rights

"It is a kind of systemic institutional failure if anything happens": Machine translation use for health communication and what that tells us about human rights

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Susana Valdez is an Assistant Professor of Translation Studies at the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics and a Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Study, University of Warwick. She holds a PhD in medical translation, with research interests in machine translation, AI, health communication, and migration. Her current research focuses on how migrants overcome language barriers in healthcare settings and the role of technology as a mediation strategy employed in this process. Informed by her experience in the translation industry, she also investigates audiovisual indirect translation, with an emphasis on ethics and sustainability. She has published and edited special issues in highly-regarded peer-reviewed journals such as Target, The Translator, Translation Spaces, Perspectives and The Journal of Specialised Translation. She also serves as Reviews Editor and is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Audiovisual Translation (JAT). Before taking up her current positions, she had spent 15 years working in the translation industry, and she was an invited lecturer at NOVA University and Lisbon University. For more information, see: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5461-2078.

Dr Ana Guerberof-Arenas

Ana Guerberof Arenas is an associate professor in Translation Studies at University of Groningen. From 2020-22, she was a Marie Skłodowska Curie Research Fellow working on the CREAMT project that looked at the impact of MT on translation creativity and the reader's experience in the context of literary texts. More recently she has been awarded a ERC Consolidator grant by the European Research Council to work on the five-year project INCREC (2023-2028) that explores the translation creative process in its intersection with technology in literary and AVT translation. She has authored refereed articles and book chapters on MT post-editing; reading comprehension of MT output; translator training, ethical considerations in MT, AI and the industry, creativity and reception studies. She has more than 23 years' experience in the translation industry.

Abstract

Access to health information has been recognized as essential (Royston, Pakenham-Walsh, and Zielinski 2020; WHO/UNICEF 2018), including in meeting the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations 2020). Evidence, however, suggests that language barriers remain a significant factor contributing to disparities in the quality of care (Bernard et al. 2006; Khoong and Rodriguez 2022; Liebling et al. 2020). When health information is not available in a language that the patient can understand, most people resort to machine translation (MT). This is one of the conclusions of our previous questionnaire-based study that elicited data on whether, when, and how migrants in the Netherlands use MT in healthcare settings and their challenges (Valdez, Guerberof-Arenas, and Ligtenberg 2023). The data showed that most migrants use MT to understand health information and communicate with health professionals. Users also reported challenges when using MT, including difficulties understanding MT-generated medical language and trusting the output. Building on these findings, we conducted an in-depth, participant-oriented study using vignette-based interviews. Interviewees engaged with a narrative vignette depicting a recently arrived migrant encountering language barriers when reading a vaccination invitation letter, communicating with health professionals at a vaccination center, and answering a health questionnaire. The results show that, while migrants regard MT as essential for health communication, it is not used in isolation. Instead, MT is used alongside other mediation strategies, including seeking support from community members and using English for more direct communication. In this presentation, we will discuss these findings in relation to responsibility: who is

responsible for providing access to translated health information?; who is responsible if the information is misinterpreted?; and what does that tell us about the ethical implications of translation in healthcare contexts? Drawing from the analysis, we propose two recommendations related to MT Literacy training and community-based initiatives.

Keywords

health communication, machine translation, migration

Will this doctor really speak my language? Multilingualism and access to healthcare

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Dr Tanya Escudero

Tanya Escudero is a research fellow at Tallinn University (Estonia). Her focus is on exploring how translation practices can foster the integration of migrant communities in their host country. She has led several projects on migration narratives in the media and crisis translation.

Mrs Jekaterina Maadla

Jekaterina Maadla is a PhD candidate and teacher at Tallinn University (Estonia). Her research focuses on interpreting and multilingual communication in public service. She has been working as an interpreter for Estonian public and private institutions for more than ten years.

Abstract

Language barriers in communication between healthcare providers and patients are widely recognized as a significant challenge in the delivery of public services (Jacobs & Diamond, 2017; Escudero & Maadla, 2023). However, the amount of studies about the general demand for language services in health systems from the recipient standpoint is less studied, and in some complex linguistic contexts, like Estonia, research is lacking. Understanding the nature of this migration-driven demand along with awareness about the nature and function of translation and interpreting in multilingual healthcare settings is an important component of providing universal health coverage thus meeting the basic human right to health. Officially monolingual, but in reality trilingual (Estonian-English-Russian), Estonia features a linguistic landscape that poses significant challenges for both health care providers and users of health care services who are not fluent in the official language. In this paper, we examine the perception of the provision of multilingual information in healthcare by non-Estonian language communities through social listening in expat forums, online surveys and focus groups. The results point to barriers such as difficulties in finding family doctors who speak the patiens' lingua franca or anxiety about using health services, especially in more sensitive contexts such as mental health, among others. Consequently, users turn to friends or family members as ad hoc interpreters, opt for private services to overcome communication barriers, or eventually refrain from attending healthcare providing institutions at all. Escudero, T., & Maadla, J. (2023). Vaccination narratives in a multilingual society. On intercultural communication and trust. In K. Kerremans & C. Declercq (Eds.), The Routledge Handbook of Translation, Interpreting and Crisis. ROUTLEDGE. Jacobs, E. A., & Diamond, L. C. (Eds.). (2017). Providing health care in the context of language barriers: International perspectives. Multilingual Matters.

Keywords

language barriers, healthcare access, non-professional interpreting

Google Translate and Human Rights: Assessing MT's Role in the public and third sectors in the West Midlands (UK)

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Dr David Orrego Carmona

David Orrego-Carmona is an Associate Professor at the University of Warwick and a Research Associate at the University of the Free State (South Africa). David's research deals primarily with translation, technologies and users. Using qualitative and quantitative research methods, his work explores the societal affordances and implications of translation and technologies. He is treasurer of ESIST, the European Association for Studies in Screen Translation, associate editor of the journal Translation Spaces and deputy editor of JoSTrans, the Journal of Specialised Translation. For more information, see: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6459-1813

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Dr Priyanki Ghosh

Priyanki Ghosh (University of Warwick and University of Surrey) (Pia) holds a PhD in Linguistics (2021) and an MA in Intercultural Communication (2008) from the University of Surrey, UK. Currently, she serves as a Post-doctoral Research Fellow for the School of Modern languages at the University of Warwick and as an Associate Tutor at the University of Surrey. Since completing her PhD on international students belonging within higher education contexts, Pia has been contributing to curriculum design, teaching and assessment of postgraduate modules in intercultural communication and co-curricular modules in global citizenship to enhance student's inclusion and competencies. Currently she is also involved in several research projects exploring social justice and inclusion through digital communication in healthcare and machine translation in organisational and student-mediated settings. Pia is a member of the British Association for Applied Linguistics. Before commencing her PhD in 2016, she spent 10 years as an intercultural consultant, collaborating on international projects with organisations like the British Council and the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, UK.

Abstract

Given mounting concerns regarding the potential for MT to generate miscommunication, this study examines the use and impact of MT in public organisations in the West Midlands. Using website analysis, surveys, interviews and focus groups, we map MT reliance and assess the need for more critical and informed use. We employ Tomaševski's (2001) 4-A framework, adapted by O'Brien et al. (2018), to evaluate implementation based on Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability and Adaptability to propose interventions. Initial results indicate widespread ad hoc MT use without formal policies or training involving MT literacy. MT users in community-facing roles have developed resourceful, bottom-up mediation strategies to address the limitations and ethical challenges associated with MT. MT facilitates access to essential services, enabling multilingual communities to secure fundamental rights such as housing and healthcare. While MT supports service provision to these communities, its centrality remains underrecognised. The situation raises

concerns about the consistent, quality language access to diverse communities. MT is a crucial tool for integration and community support, aiming at non-discrimination based on language and within a framework of accessibility through language as a human right (Greco 2016). However, differences in language provision and varying implementation scenarios potentially create disparities in access to vital information and services, challenging principles of equal rights. Our study proposes training materials and good practice recommendations to support equitable language access while safeguarding linguistic diversity for migrating and minoritised communities. Following a bottom-up approach and based on the experience of MT users in community-facing roles, the study proposes practice-based solutions integrating MT-literacy principles. Our research into MT as a mediation tool helps understand public information access in multilingual societies. By highlighting MT's potential and limitations in supporting human rights and informed implementation, the study fosters more effective use of these technologies, promoting greater inclusivity and equality in diverse communities.

Keywords

machine translation, multilingual communities, language rights

Cultural mediation as a form of humanitarian aid provision

Dr. Maura Radicioni
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Dr. Maura Radicioni

Maura Radicioni holds a PhD in Interpreting Studies from the FTI, University of Geneva (Switzerland), with a research project on humanitarian interpreting. She obtained her MA in Conference Interpreting from the University of Bologna, DIT at Forlì (Italy) in 1997. Since then, she has worked as a conference interpreter with over 3,000 days worked as a simultaneous and consecutive interpreter, as well as an interpreter trainer. She was lecturer in English-Italian dialogue and conference interpreting at the Forlì-based DIT of the University of Bologna from 2003 to 2019, with teaching assignments also at the University of Macerata and Università Politecnica delle Marche. From July to October 2017 she was involved as a trainer in the first humanitarian interpreting pilot course carried out in Italy, jointly organized in blended-learning mode by the University of Bologna DIT and the University of Geneva FTI. Since 2021, she has been involved in the activities of the Human Rights and Migration Law Clinic at the University of Turin, where she gives lectures on humanitarian interpreting. Also since 2021, she has been a member of the team of trainers of the basic consecutive interpretation courses jointly organised by the University of Geneva, FTI, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and targeted to the organization's staff interpreters employed in the ICRC international missions.

Abstract

This contribution builds on a recent PhD project on the interpreting, cultural mediation and multilingual communication practices implemented by the cultural mediators of the Italian NGO Emergency ONG Onlus (hereinafter Emergency). The NGO provides humanitarian aid and free, high-quality healthcare in complex migration settings in war-torn areas worldwide and in Italy, such as the Castel Volturno outpatient clinic (near Naples, Southern Italy), implementing what is defined as "human rights-based medicine". Its cultural mediators are key in the attainment of the organization's mandate. While aware of the scholarly debate on the distinction and overlap between interpreting and (inter)cultural mediation, this contribution adopts the term 'cultural mediators' as used by Emergency to describe its language professionals and, rather than engaging in theoretical categorization, it focuses on these mediators' roles as defined by the NGO. In practice, they perform both interpreting and cultural mediation, with tasks that adapt flexibly to different contexts and are learned through peer experience. Based on semi-structured interviews and ethnographic observations, the case-study highlights the mediators' critical role in facilitating multilingual communication and supporting refugees and migrants in asserting their rights in the host country in a socially challenging setting. Their key role as aid workers was particularly evident during the COVID-19 health emergency, where their swift response ensured effective multilingual communication and upheld migrants' right to health. The study reveals that the mediators are deeply committed to ensuring Emergency's humanitarian mission, which prioritizes the attainment of migrants' right to health as a fundamental human right. In this respect, the participants' work has proven to go beyond language mediation, encompassing a broader scope of humanitarian activities and proving key in promoting human rights advocacy. Central to this contribution is the idea that interpreting and cultural mediation practices in humanitarian contexts, especially in crisis situations, should be seen as forms of aid provision and within the more general goals of NGOs and humanitarian organizations, with ensuing implications in terms of training, ethics and overall translation and interpreting capacity of the language professionals involved.

Keywords

Cultural mediation, Humanitarian interpreting, Human rights-based medicine

An Analysis of the Police Interpreting System and Human Rights Protection in Japan

Dr. Rika Yoshida
Aichi Prefectural University, Nagakute, Japan

Dr. Rika Yoshida

Associate Professor at Aichi Prefectural University, where she coordinates the Community Interpreting Course (MA). She is also a professional interpreter specializing in Spanish-Japanese conference, court, and medical interpreting. Dr. Yoshida earned her Ph.D. in Intercultural Communication Studies from Rikkyo University. Her research focuses on interpreter-mediated discourse analysis, utilizing a linguistic anthropology framework to describe and identify the communicative role of interpreters through discourse.

Abstract

This study critically examines the Japanese police interpreting system from the perspective of human rights protection. In Japan, the lack of transparency surrounding police interpreting practices has made case studies the primary method of investigation in this field. This presentation focuses on a case involving an alleged violation of the Stimulants Control Act, in which a not-guilty verdict was delivered by a district court in March 2024. The analysis draws on discourse data from interviews with the former Tagalog-speaking defendant, the Japanese-speaking defence attorney, the Tagalog–Japanese interpreter who worked with the defence, and other interpreters experienced in police interpreting in Japan. Through this analysis, we critically assess the police interpreting system, with particular emphasis on its implications for the protection of suspects' human rights. The case centres on a former female Tagalog-speaking defendant who was arrested for the alleged transfer and use of stimulants and was interrogated through an interpreter prior to prosecution. A key issue in the trial was the accuracy of the translated evidence. During the proceedings, it became apparent that the prosecution had relied on a mistranslation of a message found on the mobile phone of the male suspect arrested in the same case. Specifically, a noun referring to a male individual in Tagalog had been erroneously translated as the name of the female defendant. This mistranslation was made by the police interpreter during the investigation and was later justified by reference to the testimony of the phone's owner. Interviews with police interpreters in Japan revealed that many perceive their role as cooperating with the police. This finding raises serious concerns that such alignment may compromise interpreters' impartiality and, as a consequence, fail to ensure the adequate protection of suspects' human rights.

Keywords

police interpreting, human rights, Japan

LT.19 | Panel 30 | Quality Assessment in Multilingual, Multimodal, and Multiagent Translation and Interpreting: Exploring Human and Automatic Evaluation Approaches

Chair: Chao Han

The critical incident technique: a method for assessing more than just the performance of professional interpreters

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Mr Gabriel Cabrera Méndez

Gabriel Cabrera Méndez is a professional translator and interpreter, holds a degree in Translation and Interpreting from the University of Granada and teaches at the University of Alcalá. PhD student at the University of Alcalá. He is responsible for the Interpreting Quality Department at Dualia Teletraducciones as a professional external auditor since 2011. He has been working in telephone interpreting as his main professional activity since 2004. Founder member of the Spanish Association of Trainers, Researchers and Practitioners of Public Service Translation and Interpreting (AFIPTISP); former Vice-president of ANETI (Spanish Association of Translation and Interpreting Companies), expert on ISO standardization group for Translation and Interpreting and member of FITISPos-UAH research group.

Prof. Raquel Lázaro Gutiérrez

Raquel Lazaro-Gutierrez is an Associate Professor in the Department of Modern Philology at the University of Alcala (Madrid, Spain), and teaches in the Master's Degree in Intercultural Communication and Public Service Interpreting and Translation. She has been a member of different research groups, such as FITISPos-UAH in Spain (from 2001), and BIAL (from 2015) and BCUS (from 2018) in Belgium. She is the vice-president of the European Association for Public Service Interpreting, and Translation (ENPSIT), chair of the Spanish Cluster in Language Technology (Madrid), and member of the Stakeholder Assembly of the Interpreting SAFE-AI Task Force. She has been the PI of several projects such as "Corpus pragmatics and telephone interpreting", funded by the Spanish Government (2023-2026). She has participated in European research projects such as SOS-VICS (2011-2014), AHEH- Knowledge Alliances (2018-2021), or MHEALTH4ALL (2022-2025). She has also participated in national Spanish projects, such as Validación y adaptación transcultural de la Appraisal of Self-Care Agency Scale-Revised (ASA-R) (2017-2018), COMUNICAR (2016-2018), InterMed (2011-2014), and HUM2004-03774-C02-2 (2004-2007), regional projects, such as "Investigación-acción: Caminando juntos con lenguas y culturas" (2009-11), funded by Castilla-La Mancha or "Creando Puentes" (2008-09), funded by Madrid Autonomous Community, as well as local projects, such as "Diseño, compilación y análisis de un corpus multilingüe de interacciones mediadas sobre asistencia en carretera" (2017-18), or"Interpretación y Traducción en Centros Penitenciarios" (2013-14). She has obtained three prizes for knowledge transference, for the creation of MOOCs and for university – enterprise co-operation in projects about telephone interpreting.

Abstract

We are witnessing a revolution of unknown magnitude in the field of IT applied to the professional translation and interpreting sector, and quality is not left out of this revolution. However, while a translation can be checked before it is delivered to the client, interpreting is an activity that is carried out at the very moment it is conceived and there is no time to rectify it, although we can still implement certain quality measures (check the interpreter's first-level university training) and after the service is provided (verification of recordings or end-user satisfaction (Kurz 2003; Macías 2003 & 2004; Braun, 2013 & 2017). Traditionally, the quality of (conference) interpreting has been measured on the basis of end-user satisfaction (Collados, 2010) and by measuring general parameters such as: fluency, clarity, accuracy, terminological suitability, style, overall impact and, more recently, resistance to stress. In our contribution, we want to present a way of measuring the quality of the interpreter at the very moment the professional is interpreting, not before or after. This methodology is known as the critical incident technique (Flanagan, 1954) and is the subject of the PhD thesis that one of the authors of this contribution will soon present at the University of Alcalá. The critical incident technique has already been used to correct errors made by telephone interpreters during the psychologically and physically hardest moments of the COVID-19 pandemic, in the repatriation of refugees from Afghanistan, to verify the level of trauma caused to interpreters in the context of suicides or to demonstrate adherence to work protocols, among others. This methodology has proven very effective in

public service interpreting contexts and, with this contribution, we would like to share results of our experiments in different scenarios, how it works and explore the possibility of interaction with new automated and reality-simulating technologies.

Keywords

critical incident, quality of interpreting, over-the-phone interpreting

Annotation Framework for MT Quality Assessment: Addressing Contextual Dependencies

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PhD Student Miguel Menezes

Miguel Menezes´s expertise is in Humanities with emphasis on Translation and Computational Linguistics. Miguel graduated from the School of Arts and Humanities, University of Lisbon (FLUL), in 2019. He received a master's degree in Translation Studies at FLUL, in 2021, with his work titled: Named Entities Recognition for Machine Translation- A Case Study on the Importance of Named Entities for Customer Support; and he is now pursuing a PhD in Computational Linguistics at the FLUL, supported by a grant provided FCT with reference number: 2022.12091.BD. Currently, pursuing a PhD, Miguel is focusing on problems associated with lack of context in machine translation of spontaneous dialogs (chat) for translation quality assessment in affiliation with the University of Lisbon, Unbabel and INESC-ID. Additionally, he has been involved in several national and international projects, namely, in the ADAPT-Centre, in Dublin, where he participated in the DELA- project. Moreover, he also has several publications, the most recent, presented in the 2023 MT Summit, with the title: A Context-Aware Annotation Framework for Customer Support Live Chat Machine Translation.

Dr. Amin Farajian

M. Amin Farajian is a senior research scientist working on the development of the MT technology at Unbabel. He obtained his PhD in Information and Communication Technology in the Department of Information Engineering and Computer Science Computer Science at University of Trento, Italy, in 2018. He works on machine translation, domain adaptation and automatic post-editing. He has collaborated in several European projects: MAIA, Unbabel4EU, APE-Quest, MT4All, User-Focused Marian, MateCAT, ModernMT, QT21, and EU-BRIDGE. He has also published a US patent titled Translation system and method with the patent number US Patent 11,036,940.

Prof. Helena Moniz

Helena Moniz is the President of the European Association for Machine Translation and President of the International Association for Machine Translation. She is also affiliated with INESC-ID, working as Vice-coordinator of the Human Language Technologies Lab. Helena is the Chair of the Ethics Committee of the Center for Responsible AI, a Recovery and Resilience Plan project. She is an Assistant Professor at the School of Arts and Humanities at the University of Lisbon, where she teaches Computational Linguistics, Computer Assisted Translation, and Machine Translation Systems and Post-editing. She received a PhD in Linguistics at FLUL in cooperation with the Technical University of Lisbon (IST), in 2013. She has participated in 20 national and international projects. From 2015-2024, she was also the PI of a bilateral project with INESC-ID/Unbabel, a translation company combining AI + post-editing, working on scalable Linguistic Quality Assurance processes for crowdsourcing. She has been serving in the scientific committees in top conferences and journals of the field and she has also been Senior Program Chair, Area Chair and Meta Reviewer for several conferences. She is an Editorial Board Member of the Journal Natural Language Processing, Cambridge University Press, and part of the Advisory Board of the New Research Methods in Translation and Interpreting Studies, Routledge.

Dr. João Graça

João Graça was the CTO and co-founder of Unbabel. As a researcher, he has been contributing to several areas, namely, Information Systems, Computational and Software Engineering, participation in several conferences in the area of Natural Language Processing and Machine Translation. He was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Pennsylvania working under the supervision of Prof. Ben Taskar. He obtained his PhD in Computer Science Engineering at Instituto Superior Técnico, Technical University of Lisbon, where he was advised jointly by Luisa Coheur, Fernando Pereira and Ben Taskar. His main research interests are Machine Learning and Natural Language Processing. He has worked as Project Evaluator: Romanian National Council for Scientific Research. Journal Reviewing: Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR), ACM Transactions on Asian Language Information Processing (TALIP), Computational Linguistics (CL). He also has been invited for several conferences as reviewer: Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS), Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS), Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI), International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (IJCNLP), International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), Association for

Computational Linguistics (ACL). Moreover, João Graça has 21 peer-reviewed full conference papers, and 5 journal articles publications.

Abstract

In recent decades, technological changes have increased the demand for information in distinct languages. This demand has exceeded human translators' supply, leading to the widespread use of machine translation (MT) models and more recently Generative AI. Data-driven MT models produce high-quality translations and handle complex linguistic structures (Petrick et al., 2023), sparking claims of human parity (Xiong et al., 2017). However, recent research challenges these claims, showing that "automatic translations are perceived as much worse when evaluated on entire documents rather than just at the sentence level" (Läubli et al., 2018). MT models have focused mostly on sentence-based translations (Bawden, 2018), compromising textual parameters known as discourse mechanisms. Nowadays, MT models are harnessing contextual information within a document, with new challenges arising in gauging context-aware MT models' quality (Agrawal et al., 2024). To address this, we propose an annotation framework, built upon Menezes et al. (2023) , which captures contextual triggers responsible for MT errors in customer support chat translations. We expanded this work with an additional MT contextual errors annotation layer, highlighting source triggers aligned with target patterns. Additionally, we proposed an alternative annotation methodology using a battery of tests to aid annotators in determining contextual dependencies. We validated the framework and annotation methodology through an inter-annotator task. Our research identified the most recurrent "contextual" MT errors and their correspondent source triggers. We found that lexical ambiguities are the main culprits for MT quality drops in the dataset. In line with Agrawal et al. (2024), we are exploring automatic metrics, such as COMET and COMET-QE, and also Generative AI models, from a contextual standpoint through a comparative analysis with our human-annotated dataset, determining the impact of context on the automatic metrics' performance.

Keywords

Machine-translation, Quality Assessment, Context

The use of rubrics in rater-mediated assessment of interpreting: A systematic review

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Dr. Chao Han is Associate Professor of Translation Studies at the National University of Singapore. His research focuses on assessment, evaluation and reception of translation and interpreting, meta-research, and research methodology. He has published widely in international peer-reviewed journals, including Interpreting, Target, Language Testing, Language Assessment Quarterly, and Computer Assisted Language Learning. Additionally, he serves on the Advisory Board of Interpreting: International Journal of Research and Practice in Interpreting (John Benjamins).

Abstract

Over the years, an increasing number of assessment rubrics have been designed, developed, and deployed to evaluate the quality of interpreting for various purposes and in diverse contexts. However, there is a lack of substantive understanding of this increasing use of rubrics, which makes it necessary to take stock of current practices so as to inform future assessment approaches. To address this gap, we conducted a systematic review of relevant literature with four key objectives: a) searching for and inventorizing the rubrics that have been used to assess interpreting (i.e., rubric inventorization), b) gaining insights into the crucial design features of previous rubrics (i.e., rubric design), c) obtaining a detailed understanding of how rubrics are used in practice (i.e., rubric practice), and d) synthesizing empirical evidence related to the efficacy of rubrics (i.e., rubric efficacy). Specifically, we conducted a rigorous literature search and screening process (i.e., database searching, citation tracking, and review of core literature), which culminated in a corpus of 81 individual rubrics (with a total of 254 sub-scales) that have been described and/or applied previously for assessing interpreting. We further examined these rubrics using a conceptual-analytic framework developed specifically for rubric analysis, focusing on 37 coding items related to rubric design, practice, and efficacy. Through this comprehensive review, we expect to uncover characteristics, patterns, and trends of rubric-referenced, rater-mediated interpreting assessment, evaluate the appropriateness of current practices, and hopefully provide guidance for future assessment practice and research in interpreting.

Keywords

Rubrics, Rater-mediated assessment, Systematic review

Exploring raters' scoring processes in assessment of English-Chinese consecutive interpreting: A qualitative study based on retrospective verbalization

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Ms. Mengting Jiang

Ms. Mengting Jiang is a doctoral student majoring in Interpreting Studies at the College of Foreign Languages and Cultures, Xiamen University, China. She is co-supervised by Professor Chao Han from the National University of Singapore and Professor Jing Chen from Xiamen University. Her research focuses on interpreting assessment, scale development, and meta-research.

Abstract

In rater-mediated assessment of interpreting, raters play a pivotal role of assigning numeric scores, based on certain scoring rules. An important line of research in the previous literature has examined psychometric properties of rater-assigned scores in interpreting assessment such as reliability and validity. Equally important is the scoring process in which raters make evaluative judgments and scoring decisions, as such process is closely related to scoring validity. While extensive research has investigated how raters evaluate monolingual writing and speaking, scant scholarly attention has been devoted to raters' scoring processes in assessment of interlingual interpreting. Against this background, we conducted a qualitative study to shed insights into raters' scoring processes in the assessment of bidirectional English-Chinese consecutive interpreting. Retrospective verbal reports were collected from two rater groups, including 29 teacher raters and 30 student raters. Half of the raters in each group were randomly assigned to evaluate either English-to-Chinese or Chinese-to-English consecutive interpretations of varying performance qualities. Preliminary qualitative content analysis of 531 verbal protocols collected (totaling 800k words) helped us build a descriptive framework of raters' scoring processes. This framework comprises two overarching dimensions (i.e., meta-cognitive and cognitive processes) underpinned by six major categories and 43 sub-categories corresponding to specific scoring behaviors and actions. Briefly, the meta-cognitive processes include planning prior to assessment and self-monitoring during assessment, whereas the cognitive processes consist of information comprehension, local evaluation of interpreted rendition, global evaluation of overall quality, and formulation of inferences and suggestions. Additionally, rater experience and interpreting direction appear to have modulated raters' scoring processes. This study represents one of the first attempts to provide an empirically-based and fine-grained framework for elucidating the intricacies of rater cognition in interpreting assessment. Potential implications are discussed in relation to scoring validity, rater training, and development of automated scoring systems modeled on rater cognition.

Keywords

Interpreting assessment, scoring processes, retrospective verbalization

Effects of rater experience and reference text on raters' reading and listening behaviors in computerized assessment of interpreting: Evidence from eye-tracking and pen-recording

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Mrs Shirong Chen

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Abstract

Assessing spoken-language interpreting entails simultaneous listening and reading, as raters typically evaluate oral interpretations while consulting reference texts—such as source texts or exemplar renditions—and scoring rubrics. Prior research suggests that rater experience and the type of reference text may influence interpreting assessment and introduce potential biases, yet little is known about their effects on raters' cognitive processes. Against this backdrop, we conducted an experiment involving 62 experienced and 62 novice raters who assessed 24 consecutive interpretations using an analytic rating scale in a computerized setting. Raters were randomly assigned to use either the source text or an exemplar rendition as a reference. A digital pen was provided for audio control, allowing raters to adjust playback as needed. Raters' assessment processes were captured through eye-tracking and pen-recording. We used linear mixed-effects models to examine raters' reading patterns, focusing on attention allocation and cognitive effort, and applied k-means clustering to identify their listening styles. Key findings revealed that: 1) novice raters invested more cognitive effort in reading the reference text and paid greater attention to the delivery and expression subscales; 2) using the source text directed more visual attention to the reference text, while exemplar rendition shifted focus toward the rating scales; 3) most raters listened to the interpretation once without interruption, though six additional listening patterns—including skipping and re-listening—were identified; 4) experienced raters exhibited more skipping behaviors, while novice raters engaged more in re-listening; and 5) the source text prompted more interaction from experienced raters, while the exemplar rendition led to increased interaction from novice raters. This study contributes methodologically by demonstrating the value of integrating multimodal behavioral data, and offers practical implications for rater training and assessment practice.

Keywords

interpreting assessment, eye-tracking, pen-recording

LT.20 | Panel 4 | Archives in Translation: Inquiring on the Past, Understanding the Present, and Informing the Future (cont.)

Chairs: Audrey Canalès, María Constanza Guzmán

The Splendors and Miseries of the Archive: Three Case Studies

Prof. Brian James Baer
Kent State University, Kent, USA

Prof. Brian James Baer

Brian James Baer is Professor of Russian and Translation Studies at Kent State University. He is founding editor of the journal Translation and Interpreting Studies and co-editor of the book series Literatures, Cultures, Translation (Bloomsbury) and Translation Studies in Translation (Routledge). His publications include the monographs Other Russias, Translation and the Making of Modern Russian Literature, and Queer Theory and Translation Studies, as well as the collected volumes Beyond the Ivory Tower: Re-thinking Translation Pedagogy, with Geoffrey Koby, Contexts, Subtexts and Pretexts: Literary Translation in Eastern Europe and Russia, Researching Translation and Interpreting, with Claudia Angelelli, Translation in Russian Contexts, with Susanna Witt, Queering Translation, Translating the Queer, with Klaus Kaindl, and Teaching Literature in Translation: Pedagogical Contexts and Reading Practices, with Michelle Woods. His most recent translations include Culture, Memory and History: Essays in Cultural Semiotics, by Juri Lotman, Introduction to Translation Theory, by Andrei Fedorov, and Red Crosses by Sasha Filipenko. He is a member of the advisory board of the Mona Baker Centre for Translation Studies, in Shanghai, China, and of the Nida Center for Advanced Research on Translation, in Rimini, Italy. He is the current president of the American Translation and Interpreting Studies Association.

Abstract

Growing interest in archival research in TS is connected to a number of research trends, such as Pym's call for more attention to be paid to translators, alongside network-based approaches that situate translators within complex networks of translation agents and within broad socio-cultural assemblages. While archival research has contributed greatly to those trajectories, it is important when teaching beginning researchers how to work with archives to establish both the potential contributions as well as the limitations of archival research. Indeed, for many researchers, archival materials pose as many new questions as they provide answers to old ones. This paper proposes to address these issues through three case studies. The first relates to the Soviet translation theorist Andrei Fedorov, who was largely written off during the Cold War as a Soviet ideologue thanks to a chapter on Stalin in his seminal work Introduction to Translation Theory (1953). The second relates to the scattered archive of the translator Vladimir Shklovsky, older brother of the Russian Formalist Viktor Shklovsky. The third case study treats a more complete publisher' archive of the first English translation of the novel Paradiso by Cuban writer José Lezama Lima. Especially interesting here is the extensive correspondence between the young bilingual editor, Andrée Conrad, and the older, award-winning translator, Gregory Rabassa. Each of the case studies is meant to highlight a different aspect of archival research: the first, the so-called "smoking gun," i.e., a discrete archival finding that can alter the dominant narrative; the second, the necessary incompleteness of the archive, which is biased in favor of written over oral communication and which is strongly related to the celebrity of the figure being researched. The third case study underscores the need to balance archival findings with extra-archival material to offer a more nuanced view of the phenomenon under study.

Keywords

archives, translator studies, networks

THROUGH THE »ARCHIVE-GLASS«: UNDERSTANDING THE CREATION OF A TRANSLATIONAL CORPUS ON THE BASIS OF TRANSLATORS' EPITEXTS

Prof. Martina Ozbot
University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Prof. Martina Ozbot

Martina Ožbot is professor and head of Italian at the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia). Her research fields are translation history and translation theory as well as language contact, bilingualism and discourse studies. She has authored a number of publications, including three monographs: on Slovene translations of Machiavelli's Prince (2006), on the history of Slovene-Italian relations from a translational perspective (2012), and on translation and multilingualism (2021). She is editor-in-chief of the book series Studia Translatoria and of the journal Linguistica. She also taught for several years at the Translators and Interpreters School of the University of Trieste (Italy). When time allows, she translates from English and from Italian into Slovene, ande vice versa.

Abstract

As one of Europe's smaller literatures, Slovene literature is a strongly translation-oriented and translation-dependent literature characterized by a very active, and often intense, translational reception of foreign literary texts. Historically speaking, the volume of texts in Slovene was relatively modest until the end of the 18th century, when it began to expand through original writings and through translations. The growth of the textual corpus accelerated in particular after both World Wars, when the volume of original texts grew substantially, in parallel with an ever greater number of translations. However, the number of the translators for individual languages available on the market was often necessarily very limited and translations from a given literature could sometimes be in the hands of only a couple of translators who dominated the field by participating in the selection of the source texts and by providing a specific, authorial lens through which the literature in question was represented for the target audience. On the basis of research in the extensive personal archives of two prominent Slovene translators and poets active in the second half of the 20th century, Ciril Zlobec (1925-2018) and Janez Menart (1929-2004), this paper will try to explore the impact of individual agency in the construction of a corpus of translated poetry in Slovene. On the one hand, it will take into account Italian literature, for which only a few translators, including Zlobec, were available, and, on the other hand, English literature, which was being translated by a number of translators. The paper will present the results of a study of the two translators' epitexts, comprising their unpublished correspondence with authors and publishers, their biographical writings, their reflections on translation, and newspaper articles. What emerges is the extent to which a literary culture can be altered and shaped by a single translator.

Keywords

translation archives, individual agency, small literatures

Discovering Italy's First Translation of Anne Frank's Diary. A Journey Through Memorial Archives

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Prof. Paola Gentile

Paola Gentile is tenured Associate professor of Dutch Translation and Interpreting at SSLMIT, University of Trieste. She holds an MA in Conference Interpreting and a PhD in Translation and Interpreting Studies from the University of Trieste. Her research interests are the reception of translated literature, translation policy, imagology, and the professionalization of interpreting. She is currently PI of the project "Anne Frank's footprints. Sociology of translation and reception, digital (post)memory and memory education in a global perspective", funded by the Dutch Language Union. She has contributed to the Routledge Handbook of Conference Interpreting and of The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Globalization. She has held research positions at KU Leuven and the University of Tartu, and she is currently research fellow at the University of Stellenbosch. She is the review editor for the peer-reviewed journal Translation in Society (John Benjamins), member of the scientific committee of the journal The Interpreters' Newsletter and board member of EST.

Abstract

Anne Frank and her Diary have been, and continue to be, fascinating objects of study in many countries, including Italy, where Anne Frank is part of the country's collective memory (Bucciantini 2022). The Diary is the most translated Dutch work in the world (Barnouw 2022), but it is much more than this. It is generally defined as an icon of Holocaust literature and has given rise to numerous exhibitions, transmedia adaptations and educational initiatives (Rittner 2016). However, the origins of the first Italian translation, published in 1954, remain largely unknown (Hirschfeld, Pressler, and Prose 2015). This contribution sheds light on its origin through research conducted at the Anne Frank House Archive and the Italian State Archive in 2023, which has unveiled previously undisclosed aspects of the correspondence between Otto Frank and the key figures involved in the first translation process: the editor Giulio Einaudi and Natalia Ginzburg, a renowned Italian writer who collaborated closely with publisher Einaudi in the 1950s. However, the study of these records has also given rise to some unanswered questions, which we will try to address by formulating some hypotheses: who was Arrigo Vita, the translator of the first Italian version (Maida 2023)? Did he meet Otto Frank before translating the Diary? How was the Diary received in postwar Italy? And why did a neorealist film (Loewenthal 2019) about the life of Anne Frank, which was supposed to be directed by Vittorio De Sica, never materialize?

Keywords

Archival research, Anne Frank's Diary, First Italian translation

Translating Georges Simenon from the archives to the museum. The challenges of visibility and accessibility of literary and translation heritage in the digital age.

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University of Liège, Liège, Belgium

Dr. Elisabet Carbó-Catalan

Elisabet Carbó-Catalan is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Liège in the framework of the SITRAD project. She holds a Ph.D. in Translation Studies (KU Leuven) and in Humanities and Communication (Open University of Catalonia), that she obtained with a dissertation entitled "Language and Translation Policies in the Organization of Intellectual Cooperation (1922-1946). Promoting the Internationalization of the Intellectual Field". She was a member of the ERC Starting Grant project "Social Networks of the Past. Mapping Hispanic and Lusophone Literary Modernity (1898-1959)". Her research interests include the historical sociology of translation and digital humanities in translation studies.

Prof. Maud Gonne

Maud Gonne is an assistant professor of translation studies (Dutch-French) in the Department of Modern Languages at the University of Liège, Belgium and a member of the research unit CIRTI (Centre Interdisciplinaire de Recherches en Traduction et en Interprétation). She recently joined the CETRA staff (Centre for translation studies, KULeuven) and is co-promotor of the SITRAD research project (ULiège). Her research interests include translation history, cultural mediators and transfers, and translation sociology. She has authored numerous articles on these topics as well as the monograph Contrebande littéraire et culturelle à la Belle Époque (Leuven University Press, 2017). She co-edited Transfer Thinking in Translation Studies (Leuven University Press, 2020) and Paradoxes and Misunderstandings in Cultural transfers (Interférences littéraires, 2022).

Prof Céline Letawe

Céline Letawe has a PhD in philosophy (orientation "germanic languages and literatures") and a diplôme d'études spécialisées in translation. She has been teaching translation and translation theory at the University of Liège since 2011. As a member of the research unit CIRTI, she focuses her research on the translator's visibility, collaborative translation and the transfer of theories. She is the main promotor of the SITRAD research project (SImenon en TRADuctions), which aims to map and analyze the internationalization of the work of Georges Simenon.

Abstract

Building on Ketelaar's call for a shift in focus "from the archive as a product to the archive as a process" (2006:187), this paper will highlight the main challenges of the ULiège-based project SImenon en TRADuction (SITRAD), which aims to map and analyze Georges Simenon's translation flows and to make his translation archives visible and accessible to a broader audience, including researchers. Understanding translation archives "both as a source of research objects and as an object of research" (Cordingley & Hersant 2021:9), this paper offers three contributions. First, by presenting the SITRAD translation database, we will explore how digital tools can instrumentalize translation archives to sharpen our understanding of the international circulation of the third most translated French-speaking author of all time. Special attention will be devoted to the diversity of players involved (e.g., literary agents, publishers, authors of fore or afterwords, translators, collection directors, etc.). Second, we will elaborate on the archives as past and present mediators of Simenon's oeuvre and as a "lieu de mémoire" (Nora 1996:14). We will assess the complex transnational human network of political, academic, cultural, and private actors involved in the preservation and dissemination of Simenon's legacy, and especially, on their difficulties translating each other's interests and, as such, gathering and showcasing Simenon's archives in the form of a museum. Finally, building on the objectives and challenges of the SITRAD project, we shall reflect on the possible interventions of researchers

to facilitate the visibility and valorization of translation in society and to contribute to a finer understanding of literary internationalization and literary success. To do so, this contribution will cross insights from translation sociology (Callon 2006), the sociology of translation (Heilbron 2010, Roig Sanz & Fólica 2021), and critical approaches to digital humanities and digitized cultural heritage (Berry and Fagerjord, 2017).

Keywords

translation archives, lieu de mémoire, translation flows

Mapping the Trajectory of Literary Translation in India: Conceptualization of an Archive in the Political Context of the Global South

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University of Delhi, Delhi, India

Ms Netra Mukherjee

Netra Mukherjee is a PhD scholar in the Department of English, University of Delhi. Her research area is translation studies in India. She is also a translation practitioner. She has been shortlisted for the NIF Translation Fellowship 2024. She has worked in a literary translation project in Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts where she has translated Bengali lullabies into English. She has translated "Knotted Grief" by Naveen Kishore into Bengali and has worked on a book of translation of Kabir in English. Currently, she is also pursuing a PG Diploma in Translation and Creative Writing (Monsoon Cohort 2024) from Ahmedabad University where she has been offered a fellowship. She has worked as an Assistant Professor of English in Gargi College, University of Delhi (2021-2023). She is extremely passionate about the pedagogical aspect of translation in Indian academia and aspires to work on it.

Abstract

Translation has always been an integral part of the Indian collective consciousness. India, as a land of linguistic diversity, is fluent in translation as a regular transaction. The pluralities of language and culture make it a rich field for exercising translational practices. The concept of translation in India has been categorically different from that of the West. Before the colonial period, the concept of translation as a loyal transference from one linguistic system to another did not exist in India. The travel from one language to another was innate since the sister languages cohabit in their personal and collective space without any conflict. Indian words used for translation will further clarify the conceptual difference of translation between India and the West - anuvad (after discourse), bhashantar (transposition of language), tarzuma (interpretation), roopantar (change of form), vivartanam (adaptation), transcreation. During the colonial period, the institutionalisation of translation for instruction and proselytisation altered the language power structure and translation became a part of the administration. At the same time, during the second half of the colonial period, literary translation not only became a form of dissent but also initiated a global knowledge system through vertical cultural exchange. Whereas in Post-Independence India, translation has been a continuous practice, the publishing market has seen a significant surge in the last few decades raising a new discourse of power structure in the Global South. This research article aspires to map the trajectory of literary translation in India and proposes to conceptualise an archive against the dynamic power politics of the Global South by drawing a historiography of the translational practices in India. It will further envision and systematize the methodology of the said archive in the multilingual context of India keeping in mind the long tradition of Bhasha literature and cultural memory.

Keywords

Global South, Archive, Cultural Memory

LT.21 | Panel 7 | Changes to the Economic Value of Translation in the Face of AI

Chairs: Félix do Carmo, Joss Moorkens, Gökhan Fırat

Algorithmic Mediation and Labour Transformation: A Critical Examination of the Platform Economy in Interpreting Services

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Dr Deborah Giustini

Deborah Giustini is Assistant Professor in Intercultural Communication at HBKU and Research Fellow in Interpreting Studies at KU Leuven, where she is also a member of the CETRA (Centre for Translation Studies Research). Her research currently investigates AI, digitalization, and platform-based economic models in the language industry, with a focus on how technology impacts the knowledge, practices, and organization of interpreting work. She is Executive Council Member of the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS), Stakeholder Assembly Member of Stakeholders Advocating for Fair and Ethical AI in Interpreting (SAFE-AI), and part of the Practice Theory Consortium of Lancaster University. Her research has appeared in outlets such as Perspectives, Qualitative Research, and Work, Employment and Society. She serves on the editorial boards of Interpreting & Society, Sociology, The British Journal of Sociology, and Sociological Research Online.

Abstract

The platform economy, encompassing digital marketplaces and algorithmic technologies mediating service supply and demand, has grown exponentially in recent years, significantly impacting the language industry (see Giustini, 2024). This paper critically interrogates the landscape of interpreting vis-à-vis the platform economy, arguing that the sector is increasingly reorganized in accordance with the global trend of labour digitalization and the algorithmic restructuring of service work. Specifically, the paper raises pressing concerns about the growingly platformized nature of interpreting, asking: How does the platform economy model affect the organization of labour in interpreting? In so doing, the paper draws theoretically on the critical literature of industrial relations and technologies of work (e.g., Graham et al., 2017; Kenney and Zysman, 2019). It combines this with a labour process theory perspective (Braverman, 1974; Gandini, 2019) to interrogate the commodification and control of interpreter labour under platform regimes. The argument is grounded in multi-scalar qualitative and documentary analysis, drawing from ethnographic fieldwork, company reports, regulatory documents, and market intelligence generated through an ongoing study of the platform economy for interpreting services in Europe. The findings show that the platform economy is proliferating in the interpreting industry, redirecting market composition, large-scale labour recruitment, and workforce management. Pillared by market deregulation, digital advancements, and the globalization of communication, the interpreting industry is now marked by the typical infrastructure of platform work, enabling on-demand employment arrangements that emphasize individualized risk and responsibility, algorithmic management, and subjugation to technological intermediation over labour protections. These practices, in turn, affect interpreters' work insofar this becomes increasingly exploited, fragmented, subject to expectations of constant availability, and purchased for labour prices professionals have little control on. This research contributes to knowledge by mapping the growth of the platform economy for linguistic services, bringing the field of interpreting into close dialogue with industrial relations, technology and labour-oriented studies. By critically addressing the neoliberal, tech-driven underpinnings of this growing form of employment, the paper offers an empirically grounded and theoretically robust lens for sector stakeholders and associations to attend to pressing trends of interpreting labour transformation pivoting on platform-based work.

Keywords

platform economy, digitalization of interpreting work, algorithmic management

The ethical consequences of translation platforms: preliminary results from a survey on translators' perspectives

Ms Leandra Cukur
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Ms Leandra Cukur

Leandra Cukur holds a BA in Transcultural Communication and an MA in Translation from the University of Vienna and is currently working as a research assistant as part of the research group Transcult.com at the Centre for Translation Studies in Vienna. Her research interests include the impact of online collaborative translation on the translation profession, especially the use of translation crowdsourcing in professional settings and its ethical implications. In her PhD thesis, she aims to shed light on the design and role of translation platforms and to explore their usefulness and drawbacks for translators.

Abstract

While the first translation platforms have emerged at the start of this millennium, recent developments in AI and NMT have accelerated their advance. They act as mediators between clients and translators and are characterised by a high degree of automation as well as the use of crowdsourcing and other technology to speed up the translation workflow. This phenomenon has the potential to widely affect translators, their working conditions (Fırat 2021; Fırat, Gough & Moorkens 2024) and the status of the profession (Jiménez-Crespo 2024). However, little research has addressed the implications of such practices from a dedicated ethical perspective so far. Building on the ethical framework proposed by Cukur (2024), this talk aims to illuminate translators' opinions on possible consequences of translation platforms regarding the principles of beneficence, autonomy and justice. The framework is designed to evaluate outcomes of actions based on the values that characterise a good life. In addition, I will also explore the consequences of platforms in terms of efficiency. This talk is informed by a survey that was distributed to the members of German-speaking translator associations with the goal of finding out which ethical values are relevant to translators in their work life and which ones have the highest possibility to impact their job satisfaction. Applying consequentialist ethics to the issue of technological advancement enables us to include the bigger societal picture by taking multiple outcomes of actions into considerations. As an action can lead to several potentially good and bad outcomes, it is necessary to weigh the consequences to be able to choose the actions with the most satisfying results (Cukur 2024). Focusing specifically on the perspective of translators in this talk will allow drawing tentative conclusions on how to retain competent translators for a sustainable translation industry (see also Moorkens 2020).

Keywords

translation platforms, ethics, crowdsourcing

Between Gift and Commodity: Valuation in a Volunteer Translation Community

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Dr Regina Rogl

Regina Rogl holds a PhD in Translation Studies / Transcultural Communication and is currently a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Vienna. She also serves as an Associate Researcher on the third-party funded research project 'Rethinking Translation Expertise: A Workplace Study', led by Hanna Risku. Previously, she was involved in the research project 'Extended Translation: Socio-Cognitive Translation Processes in the Workplace' at the University of Graz and completed her PhD thesis on the interplay between the social and the technological in online amateur translation at the University of Vienna. Her research interests include digital translation practices, socio-technical conceptualisations of translation, non-professional translation and interpreting, and workplace research.

Abstract

The rise of platform industries, gig work, and prosumerism has profoundly transformed the professional translation market. Previous research indicates that precarious or unpaid translation work might affect the overall value attributed to translation. However, our understanding of how translation value is constructed, negotiated, or measured outside the traditional language industry remains limited. This study examines a self-organised volunteer translation community primarily composed of non-professional translators. Operating on principles of cooperative peer production, their platform employs a symbolic point system to balance contributions and benefits, aiming to prevent the exploitation of free translation work. Despite its non-profit ethos, this system implies economic value for translations, blurring the lines between gift and commodity exchanges and contrasting the community's principle of reciprocity with market-like transactions. This makes the community a particularly interesting case for examining translation valuation. To do so, recent concepts from economic sociology (in particular Elder-Vass's notion of 'lay theories of value', 2022) are applied. Unlike classical economic theories that regard value as intrinsic, these concepts view value as externally attributed through situated acts of valuation by actors, institutions, and regulations. Instead of quantitatively measuring economic indicators, this study adopts a qualitative approach to explore how value attributions are justified, negotiated, and sometimes integrated into the platform's technical design. The data include field notes, forum archives, and interviews collected over 18 months of virtual ethnography. The data analysis reveals an intriguing tension between valuation criteria connected with the community's non-profit nature—such as shared goals, emotional investment, and playful competition—and those more typical of industrial production, such as time, effort, supply/demand, and utility, which one might not ordinarily expect in such a context. The findings also underscore the importance of a process-oriented approach to valuation, demonstrating that value is subjective, contested, and contextual rather than uniform and predetermined.

Keywords

cooperative peer production, lay theories of value, virtual ethnography

“It’s stopped feeling challenging or meaningful”: Sustainability, job quality, and meaningfulness in narratives of work from UK freelance translators

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Dr Joseph Lambert

Dr Joseph Lambert is a Senior Lecturer in Translation Studies at Cardiff University and Director of the MA Translation programme. He teaches widely at undergraduate and post-graduate levels, including sessions on ethics, translation technology, the translation industry, translation theory, and French-English translation. His primary area of research interest is the ethics of translation, with a particular focus on the sustainability of the translation industry. He has authored and co-authored a range of articles and book chapters relating to the translation profession, questions of pay, status, and regulation in the UK, and translation codes of ethics, and published the Routledge textbook Translation Ethics in 2023.

Dr Callum Walker

Dr Callum Walker is an Associate Professor of Translation Technology at the University of Leeds, where he is currently Director of the Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies. He teaches computer-assisted translation technology, project management, translation theory, and specialised translation. His research interests relate to translation industry studies, with a specific focus on micro-, labour and information economics, project management (culminating in the recent Routledge textbook Translation Project Management), and the interaction between technology and translation workflows. Alongside his academic work, he has worked as a freelance translator since 2009 (French and Russian into English) and small translation business owner, as well as being a Chartered Linguist, Member of the CIOL, and Member of the ITI.

Dr JC Penet

Dr JC Penet is a Reader in Translation Industry Studies at Newcastle University, where he is also the Director of the MA in Translation and Localisation. His main research area is translation industry studies, and more particularly translation industry psychology. His research seeks to explore some of the social and psychological factors that may affect the sustainable wellbeing of key stakeholders in the industry (e.g. freelance translators, project managers etc.) in the age of automation. He is the author of Working as a Professional Translator (Routledge, 2024).

Abstract

Despite healthy growth in the global language services industry (Nimdzi 2023), in the UK at least there are increasing concerns about the long-term sustainability of the translation industry. Blending ideas from translation studies and labour economics, and combining conceptual explorations with empirical data, we build upon considerations of human capital sustainability (Lambert and Walker 2024), encompassing issues of pay, working conditions, satisfaction, wellbeing, and more – all exacerbated by creeping automation – and assess how translators frame their work. We bring influential models of job quality into critical conversation, combining labour economist David Spencer’s higher-level, evolving notion of ‘meaningful work’ (2015) with the European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions classification of job quality. This combined analytical framework streamlines translation studies’ engagement with complex definitions of ‘work’, ‘labour’, and ‘action’ (e.g., Zwischenberger and Alfer 2022) by drawing together a range of extrinsic and intrinsic components to reflect a representative image of overall job quality. Extrinsic elements include money, career progression, flexibility and control, and benefits and security, while intrinsic measures encompass physical and social environment, skills and autonomy, work intensity and deadlines, and variety and complexity. Using empirical survey and focus group data collected from professional translators as part

of our British Academy-funded project on the sustainability of professional translation in the UK, we explore each extrinsic and intrinsic element of job quality through the work narratives of UK freelance translators, covering data on topics including perceptions of their work, income, status and prestige, working conditions, and potential means of resisting exploitative business practices through “collective intervention” (Spencer 2014). This enables us to assess the ‘meaningfulness’ of translators’ work in the UK and reflect on the nature of ‘poverty’ in the translation industry, understood not just as a financial measure, but also in labour economics terms of psychological/cognitive fulfilment and freedom.

Keywords

translation industry, sustainability, job quality

Capitalising on Translation Workflows: The Arguable Suitability of Quantitative Linguistic Measuring Models (QLMMs) for Translation Budgets

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Prof. Dr. Yolanda Morató

Prof. Dr. Morató is an Associate Professor at the University of Seville (Spain), with full professorship awarded in November 2024 by the Spanish National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation. She specialises in Applied Linguistics (Methodology, Technologies and Translation). She has held visiting scholarships at three Ivy League universities in the United States: Harvard University (2002-2004), Cornell University (2007), and Brown University (2024). Additionally, she has also been a visiting professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2003 and the State University of New York in 2007. In the United Kingdom, she has conducted research funded by competitive grants at Warwick University (2005), King's College London (2009), and the University of Cambridge (2021). She has served as coordinator for five undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes on Language and Translation and as a chair of ACREDITA panels at the National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation in Spain. Her current research focuses on developing methodological and computer tools applied to the Humanities to enhance the quality and accessibility of teaching and research in Higher Education. In 2020, she was selected as one of the 50 women in "The Next Generation of Leading Women" (Academics and Education Division) by the Santander Foundation in collaboration with the London School of Economics (LSE), chosen from over 7,000 candidates worldwide.

Abstract

Translation has been often regarded as a precarious profession due to multifactorial hurdles: tight deadlines, technolinguistic tasks with highly specialised components, and unfair pay and tax systems in many countries. In the last years, several studies have explored the added pressure of technology (Ekbia & Nardi 2017; Fırat, Gough & Moorkens 2024; do Carmo 2024). However, the alternatives to abusive methods for calculating translation budgets based on different count approaches have not been formally challenged. In fact, too often, we have tacitly accepted that different content, text and genre types in translation workflows justify these so-called standard budgetary systems. In light of an undeniable revolution in the multimodal processes that many of us apply in our translation assignments nowadays, this paper discusses the arguable suitability of what I have termed Quantitative Linguistic Measuring Models (QLMMs) in many translation areas against other potentially fitting metrics for budget calculation in our highly specialised industry. A review of the most common units - from page, source and target word counts, matches, and lines to token and segment-based calculations - is provided with the aim of proposing other less detrimental possibilities. Global solutions for technology-based translation workflows imply focusing on project scopes and time frameworks as the only two possible metrics to guarantee an ethical approach to the economic value of translation in the face of AI.

Keywords

Quantitative Linguistic Measuring Models (QLMMs), Translation Budgets, Translation Workflows

LT.23 | Panel 48 | Translatorial Practices in Contexts of Low Institutionalization of Translation

Chairs: Kaisa Koskinen, Helle V. Dam

Interpreting and co-creative mediation processes in Greenlandic courts of law

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Head of Department Laila Hedegaard Pedersen

Laila H. Pedersen is associate professor and head of the Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies at Ilisimatusarfik, University of Greenland. Her main interest within research lies within court interpreting and the use of interpreters and translators in research.

Professor Helle V. Dam

Helle V. Dam is full professor in interpreting and translation at Aarhus University and adjunct professor at Ilisimatusarfik, University of Greenland. Her research covers a broad spectrum of topics in both interpreting and translation, with the sociology of translation as a particular area of interest. The translation profession and the agents of translation, translators, have been salient themes in her research production. Current topics of interest include paraprofessional translators in business contexts and Greenland as a translational space.

Abstract

Greenland is linguistically diverse: the official language is Greenlandic, but Danish is widely spoken. Greenlandic has several varieties that are not necessarily mutually intelligible: West-, East- and North-Greenlandic, spoken in Kitaa, Tunu and Avanersuaq. In Greenlandic courts of law, the empirical locus of this presentation, the official languages are Danish and West-Greenlandic, but more language varieties are often co-present, and interpreters are therefore widely used to mediate the proceedings. In the Greenlandic context, the professionalization of interpreting is a work in progress. In 2012, a BA in translation and interpreting was set up at the university, so today there is a cadre of professional interpreters, mainly trained in West-Greenlandic and Danish. They are still in short supply and their language competences do not always match the need, so the courts sometimes use non-trained interpreters. These interpreters may have other knowledge gaps e.g. of legal terminology, which sometimes does not even exist in Greenlandic but must be invented or agreed upon on the spur. What do the participants in a Greenlandic court case do then? According to a report on legal interpreting in Greenland (Pedersen & Lauritsen 2019), the parties to interpreter-mediated encounters engage in co-creative mediation processes to ensure a common understanding of the event. They mobilize all the participants' (prosecutor, defender, judge, lay-judges, etc.) language resources to sort out what the parties want to say and agree on how to phrase it, negotiating terminology not yet officially registered and sanctioned. Based on an ongoing research project that picks up on these observations, based entirely on reported data, our presentation analyzes how these co-creative processes manifest themselves in actual interactions and how they are perceived by the different parties to a case. The project relies on observations of criminal court proceedings in Greenland and interviews with the parties involved.

Keywords

Greenland, Court interpreting, co-creation

Exploring the low institutionalised professional translation practices in Norway

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Associate Prof. Jean Nitzke

Jean Nitzke has been associate professor for translation with a focus on translation technology at the University of Agder, Norway, since 2021. Before, she was a lecturer and researcher in Germany, mainly at the Faculty for Translation Studies, Linguistics, and Cultural Studies in Germersheim, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. Her main teaching and research interests are post-editing machine translation, translation technologies, domain-specific translation, and cognitive translation studies.

Prof. Sandra L. Halverson

Sandra L. Halverson is employed at Agder University in Norway. Her research has centered on questions related to various areas of Translation Studies and Cognitive Linguistics, and she has published both empirical and theoretical/conceptual work. An overarching concern is the integration of insights from Cognitive Linguistics into Translation Studies, and she is currently working on hypotheses linking translational choices to specifics of cognitive representation and processing. Other long-term research interests are the epistemology of Translation Studies and research methodology. She was appointed CETRA Chair Professor for 2018 and is an external associate of the MC2 Lab and a member of the TREC and INTERACT networks.

Dr. Chiara Astrid Gebbia

Chiara Astrid Gebbia received a PhD in Linguistics from the Universities of Palermo and Catania, Italy. Her main research interests cover the application of metaphor research to translation. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Agder where she is investigating translators' metaphorical self-concepts as indicators of adaptive expertise.

Abstract

Norway can clearly be described as a context of low institutionalization as regards professional translation practices. While public service interpreting has a relatively good standing with a B.A. degree programme, legal regulation via an Interpreting Act, and a national qualification registry, the same status is not visible for translation practices. In 2021, the University of Agder started phasing out a B.A. in translation as it introduced an M.A. in "Translation and Specialised Communication" (uia.no[1]). This is the only training programme for translators in the country, and government certification is the remit of the Norwegian School of Economics (nhh.no[1]). There are six main professional organizations, though several of these have few resources or institutional power. The industry is completely unregulated and there are no industry organizations such as for example ELIA in Europe. Given this low degree of institutionalization, translatorial practices are relatively opaque to stakeholders of all kinds, including educators, and authorities. There is little systematic knowledge about actual pathways into the profession, the content and development of the profession, including the impact of technology, the main characteristics of the national market or the professionals' own views of their role, prospects or development. We conducted a survey in 2024 with current students and practicing translators and interpreters which gave us insights into their minimally regulated work reality (n=168). In this presentation, we want to report and reflect on two key areas: recruitment pathways and perceptions of the developing profession. Specifically, we consider: • educational/professional background and pathway into the profession • roles in communication processes (e.g., interpreter, translator, editor) • specific competences that are perceived as important • perceived needs for further education We will also consider what opportunities the low institutionalization and heterogeneity visible in the Norwegian context might provide.

Keywords

Norwegian translation market, professional development, translators' self-perception

Navigating languages and translatorial spaces in a multinational corporation: Empirical insights into the work of paraprofessional translators

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Ms. Linyu Liu

Linyu Liu, a doctoral candidate majoring in International Business at Aalto University School of Business, Finland. Her research interests lie in the cross-border movement of people management practices within multinational corporations. She conducted her doctoral fieldwork in the R&D centers of a Finnish engineering multinational corporation in China (in-person) and in India (virtually). Her research specifically centered on the contextualized implementation of talent management and diversity & inclusion policies in this setting. She is also utilizing a discursive approach to understand gender issues in organizations.

Prof. Rebecca Piekkari

Rebecca Piekkari, PhD, MSc is Marcus Wallenberg Chair of International Business at Aalto University School of Business, Finland. She has studied multinational corporations as multilingual communities since the late 1990s. Together with Koskinen and Tietze she has developed a deep interest in translation as a theoretical, empirical and methodological perspective to better understand and study cross-border phenomena in the disciplinary field of International Business. She is currently working on topics related to social and cultural sustainability; the use of qualitative methods in knowledge production; people management and internationalization process of the firm. She is Fellow of the Academy of International Business and the European International Business Academy and will host its 50th anniversary conference at the Aalto University in 2024.

Prof. Susanne Tietze

Susanne Tietze, PhD, MA, MBA, efmd diploma (teaching) is (Emerita) Professor of Multilingual Management at Sheffield Hallam University, UK. She has a long-standing interest in sense-making and discursive approaches to understand workplace settings and these frameworks have been applied to workplace flexibility, organizational change, time and space management and leadership roles. Also, she has researched multilingual workplaces empirically, and has, more recently, addressed questions of methods and methodologies in cross-language research. She has worked and studied in many European countries including UK, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France and Finland. She has been Principal Investigator of both ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) and AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) grants about language/translation matters; and her most recent publications reflect her interest in cross-language research and translation. Currently she is working (with Aguzzoli and Chidlow) at a textbook contracted with Cambridge University Press about research methods for cross-language business & management studies.

Abstract

In this study we explore the notion of language, the nature of translation (translatorial), and the idea of a translatorial space from the perspective of multinational corporations. To do so our paper examines the work of paraprofessional translators employed by multinational corporations. Paraprofessional translators are employees who are not hired as professional translators but end up engaging in various translation tasks in connection with their everyday work. Their work constitutes a significant capability for multinational corporations because it makes cross-border business and learning possible. However, there are to date only a handful of empirical studies in both translation studies and international business studies that have elaborated on the situated and specific contexts in which paraprofessional translation is grounded. Thus, our paper aims to provide the empirical insights into the work and context of paraprofessional translators by drawing on a case study of corporate R&D centers within a Nordic engineering multinational. Specifically, we identify four translatorial spaces where linguistic, cultural, organizational, or knowledge-based boundaries were crossed within our case multinational: global-local spaces of translatoriality, external-internal spaces

of translatoriality, intra-functional spaces of translatoriality, and inter-functional spaces of translatoriality. Also, our case study sheds light on the key communicative acts of paraprofessional translator, which include translation decisions relating to mundane, everyday tasks to more complex, strategic, and synergistic activities. By doing so, we join the emerging conversation on paraprofessional translation and offer an empirically driven understanding of translatorial and translatorial spaces from the perspective of multinational corporations. These empirical insights also illuminate the fluidity and multi-directionality of paraprofessional translatorial work and highlight the conflicts and tensions paraprofessional translators need to navigate in their daily work. We conclude with implications for future research on paraprofessional translation.

Keywords

translatorial spaces, paraprofessional translators, multinational corporations

Social alignment guiding implicit translation norms in the daily life of paraprofessional translators

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Doctoral researcher Maria Annukka Jakkula

Maria Annukka Jakkula is in her third year of the Doctoral Programme in Language Studies at Tampere University, Finland. Her ethnographic doctoral study explores the translatorial daily life of a Finnish sports equipment company. She holds a master's degree in translation and interpreting (2009, University of Eastern Finland) and a formal pedagogical competence (2015, University of Lapland, Finland). Her recent work discusses translatorial competence vis-à-vis Intercultural Communicative Competence (ICC). Two further articles are currently underway: one focuses on the implicit translation policy of the sports equipment company collaborating with her research, and another one explores translation (un)awareness.

Abstract

Paraprofessional translation is necessary in international business (e.g. Jakkula 2024, Lesk et al. 2017, Muñoz Gómez 2020, Piekkari et al. 2019). This ethnographic paper takes an interpretive approach, with an aim to reflect on the implicit nature of norms (Toury 1995) in paraprofessional translation at ActiveLife (pseudonym), a sports equipment company. Focus is placed on the creation of norms against the theoretical backdrop of social alignment i.e. the phenomenon of cerebral neuroplasticity enabling one to perceive and align with a shared social reality (Shamay-Tsoory et al. 2019, 2024). At ActiveLife, the shared social reality is largely constructed through translation every day (Jakkula 2024). The paraprofessional translators interviewed and observed in this study work in e.g. sales, accounting, or communications. To be able to carry out their duties, they often translate or interpret, sometimes using machine translation (MT). The company's implicit translation norms (Toury 1995) seem to be based on experienced employees' tacit knowledge while new employees learn on-the-job. The only written document guiding translatoriality at all is the company's brand strategy which is the "overall guide in successfully communicating the ActiveLife brand in all its touchpoints" (ActiveLife's brand strategy 2023). The strategy does not explicate e.g. translation choices, even though paraprofessional translation is a daily phenomenon. As a result, it can be postulated that the employees' translation norms are largely based on social alignment (Shamay-Tsoory et al. 2019, 2024), enabling them to learn norms from the community and consequently make appropriate translation decisions that communicate the company's brand. Dynamic and flexible staff enable ActiveLife to stay up-to-date in its paraprofessional translations, as e.g. safety standard terminology of sports equipment is typically checked from the up-to-date, original standard. The employees' use of MT bears risks of data protection, however, calling for MT training; other translation competence components could also be useful.

Keywords

paraprofessional translation, social alignment, translation norms

The Multinational Corporation as Translation Ecosystems: Locating Paraprofessional Translators

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Professor Susanne Tietze

Susanne Tietze, PhD, MA, MBA, efmd diploma (teaching) is (Emerita) Professor of Multilingual Management at Sheffield Hallam University, UK. She has a long-standing interest in sense-making and discursive approaches to understand workplace settings and these frameworks have been applied to workplace flexibility, organizational change, time and space management and leadership roles. Also, she has researched multilingual workplaces empirically, and has, more recently, addressed questions of methods and methodologies in cross-language research. She has worked and studied in many European countries including UK, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France and Finland. She has been Principal Investigator of both ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) and AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) grants about language/translation matters; and her most recent publications reflect her interest in cross-language research and translation. Currently she is working (with Aguzzoli and Chidlow) at a textbook contracted with Cambridge University Press about research methods for cross-language business & management studies

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Rebecca Piekkari, PhD, MSc is Marcus Wallenberg Chair of International Business at Aalto University School of Business, Finland. She has studied multinational corporations as multilingual communities since the late 1990s. Together with Koskinen and Tietze she has developed a deep interest in translation as a theoretical, empirical and methodological perspective to better understand and study cross-border phenomena in the disciplinary field of International Business. She is currently working on topics related to social and cultural sustainability; the use of qualitative methods in knowledge production; people management and internationalization process of the firm. She is Fellow of the Academy of International Business and the European International Business Academy and will host its 50th anniversary conference at the Aalto University in 2024.

Abstract

We introduce the perspective of International Business on the role of paraprofessional translators as important language, organizational and cultural agents whose translation work is located in Multinational Corporations. They translate and interpret often as an unrecognized and undervalued part of their 'normal' work. Such lack of recognition provides them with opportunities for agency. Their specific MNC location is at its interstices where national borders/languages meet. Interstices also include boundaries, not only between languages, but also between organizations, organizational units and between different bodies of knowledge. We draw on two concepts/conceptual frameworks which have been offered to theorize such locations and the work of paraprofessional translators. First, we use the notion of the MNC as an emergent, fluid and processual translation ecology, an ecosystem consistent of ongoing and multifaceted translation work. Westney et al. (2022) propose to use this concept as a metaphor for understanding IB phenomena more holistically. It is composed of many varied translators and translation activities, which draw on (and react to) past and current translations and translating activities. Paraprofessional translators are, in other words, located within the synaptic connections within such ecosystems, which are translatorial spaces (Koskinen, forthcoming) where different structures, forms, values, groups and languages overlap. It is through paraprofessional translation work and micro-acts of translation that meanings are received, made, unmade and changed. In analyzing contemporary empirical studies from International Business, we present a detailed picture of the different translatorial spaces, the role and agency of paraprofessional translators in them, the nature of paraprofessional translation work, the organizational contexts and the influence that paraprofessional translators can wield. Taken together, these studies offer a contemporary overview of the state-of-the art knowledge of paraprofessional translators in the field of IB.

Keywords

translation ecosystems, Multinational Corporation, interstices-boundaries

LT.24 | Panel 29 | Multimethod Research in Cognitive Translation and Interpreting Studies: Constructs and Indicators

Chairs: Binghan Zheng, Ricardo Muñoz Martín, Yu Weng

Co-constructing Cognitive Artifacts in the Translation Workplace

Dr Raphael Sannholm
Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

Dr Raphael Sannholm

Raphael Sannholm currently holds a position as Senior Lecturer at the Institute for Translation and Interpreting Studies at Stockholm University in Sweden, where he teaches basic and advanced-level courses focusing on different subjects related to translation theory and practice. He holds a BA in English Linguistics, an MA in Translation Studies, and a PhD in Translation Studies. Positioned in the field of Cognitive Translation and Interpreting Studies (CTIS), Raphael's research uses cognitive ethnography and interaction analysis to study translatorial cognition as culturally and socially situated (inter)actions in professional translation workplace settings. Using an interdisciplinary approach, his research integrates methods and theoretical insights from CTIS, cognitive science, and micro-sociology. Raphael's scholarly interests include methodological aspects of investigations of cognition and communication in workplace settings, multimodal aspects of workplace interaction, workplace discourse, and the use of technology. Raphael is a co-editor of the bi-annual newsletter issued by the European Society for Translation Studies, and a member of the research group Stockholm Process Research in Translation and Interpreting (SPRINT).

Abstract

As the focus on cognition in translation and interpreting (T&I) widens from individual information processing to meaning-making interactions in sociocultural settings, appropriate empirical methods are accordingly sought. Consequently, qualitative methodologies, such as cognitive ethnography, conversation analysis (CA), multimodal interaction analysis, and microethnography, are increasingly being recognised by CTIS researchers as a means to study cognition in real-life T&I practices (Risku 2017; Risku et al. 2022). This paper reports on a study of joint decision making in a translation workplace which concerns the assessment and revision of a central textual resource in the workplace in question: a client-specific guidelines document. Using CA, recorded audio of naturally occurring interaction between two translators in the workplace is analysed. The analysis shows how decisions about how to resolve epistemic uncertainty emerge interactively, how additional cognitive artifacts in the digital workplace environment are mobilised as epistemic resources, and how authority is jointly constructed. In this process, there is also an interplay between the participants' positioning with regard to their knowledge of different domains (e.g., general workplace practices vs particular practices connected to certain clients). Theoretically informed by the distributed cognition framework (Hutchins 2006), the study observes how the decision-making process in this particular cultural setting unfolds through the participants' moment-to-moment interaction with each other, through the integration of enculturated and institutionalised material resources, and as the interaction between past and present activity. Activities in the past interlock with activities in the present, and the translators' actions result in a further accumulation of knowledge and refinement of cognitive artifacts in the workplace. In terms of methodological development, the study makes a contribution by further demonstrating the potential of close analyses of interaction (cf. Hirvonen and Tiittula 2018; Hirvonen 2024) for advancing our knowledge about cognition in cognitive-cultural ecosystems such as translators' and interpreters' workplaces.

Keywords

conversation analysis, distributed cognition, cognitive artifacts

Exploring the Emotional Impact of (In)congruence between Ideologically Charged Content and Translation Students' Ideology: A Multi-Method Approach

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Mrs Cristina Roldán Torralba

Cristina Roldán Torralba is a PhD student in the Department of Translation and Interpretating at the University of Murcia. She holds a degree in Translation and Interpretating and has also completed a Master's Degree in Editorial Translation, both at the University of Murcia. Her research focuses on analyzing the influence of ideology on translation, specifically on the cognitive and emotional impact it has on translation students. In her study, she employs innovative research tools in the field of translation, such as EEG (electroencephalography) to analyze the impact of translating an ideological text on the cognitive level. For this purpose, she collaborates with a multidisciplinary team that includes specialists in psychology and neuroscience.

Prof. Ana María Rojo López

Ana María Rojo López is Full Professor of Translation and Interpretation at the University of Murcia, in Spain. She coordinates the research group Translation, Didactics, and Cognition and is a member of the Thematic Network on Empirical and Experimental Research and the International Laboratory for Multilectal Mediated Cognition and Communication. Her research focuses on the areas of translation and cognition, with a central emphasis on research methodology and the role of emotions and personality factors in the translation process. She has published numerous books and scholarly works in prestigious national and international publishing houses and journals.

Abstract

While ideology has been extensively studied from both discursive and translatological perspectives, its cognitive influence on the translation process remains largely unexplored. This study aimed to fill this gap by employing a multimethod approach that included EEG (electroencephalography), response time (RT) and self-report measures to investigate the cognitive and emotional responses of students when translating ideologically charged sentences that were either congruent or incongruent with their ideological stance. Participants read 84 English sentences presented word-by-word on a computer using stimulus presentation software. Each sentence concluded with an adjective that aligned with a particular ideological stance (conservative or progressive) based on the sentence's content. These sentences were presented in controlled, randomized blocks. After the entire sentence was displayed, participants thought of the translation and said it aloud after pressing a button to start voice recording. Once they finished, they pressed the button again to end the recording. This procedure allowed for the collection of data from three sources: brain responses recorded by EEG, response times, and translation accuracy. Upon completing the task, participants filled out a questionnaire to express their agreement or disagreement with the ideological issues presented in the sentences and the importance they attributed to them. The study employed a within-subjects design, with each participant responding to two versions of the same sentence: one with a conservative ideology and the other with a progressive ideology, differing only in the adjective to be translated. The multimethod approach adopted provides a comprehensive understanding of how ideological content influences the cognitive and emotional processes involved in translation.

Keywords

EEG (electroencephalography), Emotional impact, Ideology

Exploring keylogged data through new lenses: innovations in data collection and in annotation procedures

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Fabio Alves holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics with a focus on translation process research from the Ruhr-Universität Bochum in Germany. He is a Full Professor of Translation Studies at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) and a Senior Research Fellow of the Brazilian National Research Council (CNPq). He has published widely about translation process research and expertise in translation in journals such as Target, Meta, Across Languages and Cultures, and in book series by John Benjamins, Routledge and Springer. He serves on the editorial board of Target and Translation, Cognition & Behavior.

Ms. Zoë Miljanović

Zoë Miljanović is a teaching and research assistant at the Institute for English and American Studies at RWTH Aachen University in Germany. Her research interests lie in the fields of descriptive translation studies, translation history, stylistics, language change, contrastive linguistics and systemic functional grammar. In her dissertation project, she is conducting a corpus-based, diachronic investigation of literary translation in the language pair English-German with a particular focus on syntactic complexity. Recent co-authorships include papers on automatization in translation behaviour and the ecological validity of different research conditions in empirical translation studies.

Ms. Celina Brost

Celina Brost is a PhD candidate at the Institute for English and American Studies at RWTH Aachen University in Germany. She has completed a Bachelor's degree in Linguistics and Literary Studies and a Master's degree in Cognitive, Digital and Empirical English Studies. In her PhD thesis, she empirically investigates transitivity in German from a systemic functional perspective. She is interested in a systemic functional approach to grammar, contrastive linguistics, translation studies and corpus linguistics. She will soon start working in a project investigating bilingual text production modes such as translation and writing in a second language.

Mr. Florian Frenken

Florian Frenken is a teaching assistant and PhD student at the Institute for English and American Studies at RWTH Aachen University in Germany. He is interested in register, computational linguistics, and social media. In his dissertation project, he analyses the text structure of online registers using a geometric multivariate approach, which involves the segmentation of Reddit threads, analysis of lexicogrammatical features and visualisation of changes. He is also a research assistant in the WEAVE project QuanTOR, applying quantitative methods to the study of the dynamic nature of text with a focus on the relationship between register and genre.

Prof. Stella Neumann

Stella Neumann is professor of English Linguistics at RWTH Aachen University. She obtained her PhD from Saarland University, Germany. Her research interests include quantitative register analysis across languages and varieties and the empirical modelling of translation in comparison with other types of language use. She currently holds research grants funded by the German Research Council (DFG) and the Swiss National Fund (SNF). She was previously the review editor of the journal Languages in Contrast and is now on the editorial board of the LangSci Press book series Translation and Multilingual Natural Language Processing.

Abstract

Translation process research has drawn on the use of keylogged data (Jakobsen 1999, Alves 2003) for nearly three decades. Throughout this time, research has evolved to encompass a multi-method approach and expand the scope of investigations on translation as a situated, distributed and extended cognitive activity (Alves and Jakobsen 2021, Neumann et al. 2022). Aiming to align empirical research using keylogged data

with these emerging trends, this paper presents an innovative design to investigate directionality in translation (German/L1 and English/L2). To elicit data from a larger cohort of participants, an experimental set-up was created using Remote Desktop to allow keylogging data collection while ensuring ecological validity and confidentiality. The software Translog-II (Carl 2012) was used in conjunction with Zoom for remote data collection from 38 participants who were all L1 German speakers with English as L2 and advanced students of translation. Four source texts, two each in English and German in the registers of reviews and popular-scientific writing, were chosen for the experiment. Sets of cohesive chains were identified as the stimuli. The research design also innovated by annotating keylogged data with INCEpTION (https://inception-project.github.io/) to identify segmentation patterns drawing on the methodology developed by Alves and Vale (2011/2017) and expanded by Alves and Gonçalves (2013). In order to mitigate issues arising from remote data collection, linear representations of keylogged data were automatically segmented by a script to calculate individual pause thresholds for each participant's task execution and their respective segmentation patterns. The resulting data was annotated by multiple annotators and curated using INCEpTION. The manual annotation of translation and editing procedures was transformed into data points with a script for further processing. The joint use of Remote Desktop and INCEpTION allows a refined treatment of remotely collected keylogging data, which can also be used to investigate other research questions.

Keywords

remote-desktop data collection,, annotation procedures with INCEpTION, automatic segmentation of keylogged data

Evidence of cognitive offloading? Indicators from translation processes

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Dr Andrea Hunziker Heeb

Andrea Hunziker Heeb (she/her) is a Researcher and Lecturer in Translation Studies at the ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences in Switzerland. Her research areas include translation and cognition, translation and ergonomics, L2 translation, translation apps and generative AI in health and education, and the creagile approach to the digital transformation. She is a member of TREC.

Ms Romina Schaub-Torsello

Romina Schaub-Torsello was a Research Associate in the Translation Studies professorship at the ZHAW Institute of Translation and Interpreting in Switzerland and is also involved in teaching in both the BA and MA programmes. Her primary research interests are translation processes, use of machine translation for professional translators and language teachers, use of translation apps in crisis communication and development of the profile and training of translators for high-tech workplaces. She has contributed to interdisciplinary projects funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, the federal government and the ZHAW Sustainable Impact Programme (e.g., Cognitive Load in Interpreting and Translation, Digital Literacy Skills in University Contexts and Machine Translation for Crisis Communication), such as by analysing and coding eye-tracking, survey and interview data. She was responsible for the technical design and implementation of the The Journal of Specialized Translation during and after its migration to SOAP2 with the support of ZHAW in early 2024.

Prof. Maureen Ehrensberger-Dow

Maureen Ehrensberger-Dow was Professor of Translation Studies at the ZHAW Institute of Translation and Interpreting in Switzerland until her retirement in 2022. Her main research interests continue to be cognitive load, ergonomics, the language industry and MT/digital literacy. Until she retired, she was co-investigator of an interdisciplinary project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (Cognitive Load in Interpreting and Translation) and of a project on MT literacy funded by swissuniversities. She was principal investigator of the SNSF-funded Capturing Translation Processes project as well as its follow-up Cognitive and Physical Ergonomics of Translation. She has co-edited several special issues and books, including most recently the Handbook of the Language Industry (De Gruyter Mouton) with Gary Massey and Erik Angelone. She has been on the EST Board since 2016 and EST Secretary General since 2019. She is an associate editor of Target and serves on the editorial boards of other journals.

Abstract

In our translation research and practice, we have noticed that some kinds of behaviours seem to be related to minor cognitive blocks and surges (see also Angelone & Marín 2022), which is consistent with assumptions about embodied cognition. While these might be triggered by various mechanisms, we are interested here in exploring a construct that has been called cognitive offloading and defined as “the use of physical action to alter the information processing requirements of a task so as to reduce cognitive demand” (Risko & Gilbert 2016: 677). Much of the research to date on cognitive offloading has been done on the use of external artefacts such as notepads or digital devices to aid memory or improve performance on demanding cognitive tasks (e.g., Boldt & Gilbert 2019; Grinschgl et al. 2023), but some has shown that higher load can also influence the production of gestures (e.g., Melinger & Kita 2007). We report on data from a recently completed large-scale study that include quantitative indicators from translation processes related to larger and more subtle movements such as shifts in position, gestures, typing, mouse activity, blink rates, and time on screen as well as qualitative responses from interviews. The translations were done by MA students and experienced professionals (n=20 per group) working alone in a simulated workplace setting with the equipment adjusted to the ergonomic needs of each participant. We found clear evidence that the complexity of the source text can have an impact on the degree of movement and that the two groups differ

in their movement patterns. Looking away from the screen and shifting posture are well-known recommendations to improve the physical ergonomics of screen-intensive activity, but our results suggest that these and other movements can also foster offloading to free up cognitive resources for the bilingual task at hand.

Keywords

Translation, Cognitive offloading, Movement behaviour

Session 7 | 13:30-15:00

LT.01 | Panel 28 | Literary Translation in Transition: Disruptions in Central and Eastern Europe in the 20th and 21st Century (cont.)

Chairs: Joanna Rzepa, Kasia Szymanska

Translations in periodicals as a means of implementing cultural policy

Prof Nike K. Pokorn
University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Prof Nike K. Pokorn

Nike K. Pokorn is Professor of Translation Studies and Chair of English in the Department of Translation Studies at the University of Ljubljana. Her research interests include translation history, directionality in translation, and community and healthcare interpreting. She is the author of Challenging the Traditional Axioms (Benjamins, 2005) and Post-Socialist Translation Practices (Benjamins, 2012), co-editor with Kaisa Koskinen of The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Ethics (2021), and the general editor of the first comprehensive Slovene history of literary translation (Zgodovina slovenskega literarnega prevoda, 2023).

Abstract

The presentation will focus on the role of translation in a peripheral linguistic community in the period of cultural consolidation, i.e., in Slovene linguistic community in the first half of the 20th century. Although the beginnings of Slovene writings could be traced to the 11th century, Slovene literature started to develop more intensively in the 19th century, and one of the most important roles in this development was played by literary journals, in particular by Ljubljanski zvon (Ljubljana Bell), published between 1881 and 1941. Previous research has shown that in the 19-th century Ljubljanski zvon did not publish translations, but provided critical apraisals and reviews of translations into and from Slovene. These reviews reveal that translations did not primarily serve as a tool of intercultural communication, but as one of the means through which linguistic borders were imposed on a community that was to a large extent bilingual (Pokorn 2021). The research reported in this presenation focuses on the role of translations in Ljubljanski zvon in the first half of the 20th century, when translations became more prominent in the journal. I will argue that translations were used 1) to establish cultural links with other Slavonic cultures in order to show that there exist filiative connections to other Slavonic literary and cultural traditions; and 2) translations from central languages were used to show affiliation between the Slovene culture and the European Western cultural tradition. The methodological approach combines bibliographic research with documentary research and critical reading. The corpus consists of all issues of Ljubljanski zvon from 1900 to 1941 (n=504 issues); the main sections of the journal and the appendix will be checked to identify the the translations and the translation reviews published on the periodical's pages.

Keywords

periodicals, translation policy, cultural policy

National Socialism and Translation Policy in the Slovak State (1939 - 1945): Microhistory Case Study of the Gardista Newspaper

Dr. Matej Laš
Matej Bel University, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia

Dr. Matej Laš

Matej Laš is a lecturer at the Department of English and American Studies at the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. In research, he focuses mainly on literary translation criticism, ethics in translation, translation history and audio-visual translation.

Abstract

This paper is a case study in translation microhistory of the Slovak State newspaper Gardista (1939–1945), focusing on how the newspaper's authors attempted to incorporate National Socialist ideas into literary translation and meta-translation discussions within Slovakia during WWII. Gardista was a daily newspaper published during the Slovak State (1939–1945) by the Hlinka Guard, the military organization of the leading party, Hlinka's Slovak People's Party. The paper utilizes the concepts of extra-textual material and translation norms as defined by Toury and compares the findings with the research of Rundle and Monticelli (2022). It aims to provide further evidence of how literary translation was/is used as a weapon and seeks to present not just a history of translation, but translation as a tool for studying history, as proposed by Rundle (2022). Based on the premise of analysing the role that translation played in the regime, the paper is divided into the following parts: 1. A brief historical context focusing on the Slovak State (1939 – 1945) and the Gardista newspaper. 2. An analysis of extra-textual material—defined by Toury (1995: 65) as including statements by translators, editors, reviewers, and general meta-translation discussions. 3. Identification of common and differentiating features between the Slovak State and other fascist and para-fascist regimes in regard to the utilization of literary translation and the disruptions within the preliminary norms. The differences may be the result of the so-called small and big literatures as defined by Even-Zohar (1990).

Keywords

translation microhistory, translation policy, literary translation

Gender issues in the Hungarian science fiction periodical, Galaktika (1972–1995)

Dr Anikó Sohár
Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest, Hungary

Dr Anikó Sohár

Anikó Sohár studied Hungarian language and literature, comparative literature, and history at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, Hungary. She obtained her double MA in Comparative Literature and History in 1986, and a doctorate in Comparative Literature in 1996. She was an assistant professor at the Department of Comparative and World Literature, ELTE (1987-1995). Later she spent seven years in Belgium where she obtained her Ph.D. in Literary Studies (Translation Studies) under the supervision of Professors José Lambert and Hendrik van Gorp at KU Leuven (1993-1997), and stayed on as a postdoctoral researcher (1997-1999). In 2000, she returned to Hungary and taught English Studies, cultural history, and translation (University of Miskolc, 2000-2001; University of West Hungary, 2002-2014). Since 2014 she has been working as an associate professor, and the head of Hieronymus Translation Studies Research Group at Pázmány Péter Catholic University (PPCU). She was the programme leader of the Master's Programme in Translation and Interpreting at PPCU (2014-2024). She was one of the prime movers behind the literary translation programme at Eötvös Loránd University (1991-2009), and the Translation Studies Division of the Hungarian Society of Literary History (2018-). She has participated in a number of translation-related projects (holding literary translation courses/workshops, the PETRA-E Network for the education and training of literary translators, the Pratchett Project, the Experiential Translation Network etc.). Her research interests include science fiction and fantasy, literary adaptations of myths and tales, literary translation, intersemiotic translation, and translator training. She is also a literary translator and editor.

Abstract

Two wide-ranging political events had an impact on the existence of the first Hungarian science fiction journal, Galaktika (1972-1995, relaunched in 2004): the need for placating the population after the 1956 Revolution and subsequent retaliations, and the regime change, the former indirectly called Galaktika into being when popular genres became permitted again after a strict ban, and the latter brought about its gradual decline and end. Galaktika's publication policy is a clear manifestation of structural censorship where the translations conveyed a carefully controlled worldview. The editor-in-chief, Péter Kuczka, a translator himself, was the sole decision-maker: he selected both the texts to be translated, and the translators, and his choices show a definite gender bias. Drawing on translation sociology, translation history, gender studies and periodical studies, the paper investigates the gender imbalance at micro, meso and macro levels of this translation flow, paying particular attention to how the equality of sexes, a constantly propagated Communist doctrine is represented in the journal, whether this representation changes after 1989, and whether with the disappearance of structural censorship, the target texts become uncensored. Preliminary findings of text and discourse analysis indicate that gender inequality lessens in time, but translations may still be "tidied up."

Keywords

Communism, gender, literary translation

‘Lest We Forget’: The Holocaust, Cultural Diplomacy, and Translation Politics in the Polish People’s Republic (1947-1989)

Dr Joanna Rzepa
University of Essex, Colchester, United Kingdom

Dr Joanna Rzepa

Dr Joanna Rzepa is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Literature, Film, and Theatre Studies at the University of Essex. Prior to joining Essex, she held the post of Thomas Brown Assistant Professor at Trinity College Dublin, and taught at the University of Warwick. Her research interests include twentieth-century literature and translation, cultural and intellectual history, Holocaust writing, and book and translation history. Her articles have appeared in 'Translation Studies', 'Comparative Critical Studies', 'Modernism/modernity', and 'Konteksty kultury', and she is the author of the monograph 'Modernism and Theology: Rainer Maria Rilke, T. S. Eliot, Czesław Miłosz' (Palgrave 2021). She is currently working on her second book: 'Holocaust Writing in Translation: Publishing Testimonies from East-Central Europe' (Cambridge University Press).

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to examine the impact of politics, ideology, and socio-historical contexts on the translations of Polish Holocaust writing into English during the period of the Polish People’s Republic (1947-1989). With the onset of the Cold War, translation channels between Western Europe and the Eastern Bloc were shaped by cultural diplomacy and regimes of state propaganda and censorship that controlled the transnational flow of texts. This paper considers the case of Holocaust writing, which became a highly contested ground immediately after the end of World War 2. It interrogates the influence of governmental and non-governmental actors on the translation of selected texts from Polish into English, situating the discussion within the political landscape of the period and the cultural politics of the Cold War. The particular focus of the paper will be on state-sponsored books and periodicals published in the Polish People’s Republic and promoted among Western readers. It examines the translations of Holocaust narratives that appeared in the English-language periodical 'Poland: Illustrated Magazine (1954-1999)', which was disseminated in the United States and the United Kingdom by the Polish embassies. The discussion of the dominant translation trends will be situated within the context of the Cold War, memory politics pursued by the Polish authorities, as well as the antisemitic campaign of 1968. The paper will highlight ways in which selected translations reflect the tension between the imperative to commemorate Holocaust victims and attempts to turn Holocaust narratives into morality tales that could be used as vehicles of propaganda.

Keywords

Holocaust writing in translation, Cold War, translation and censorship

LT.06 | Panel 2 | Affect(s) and Translation

Chairs: Sofia Monzon, Lucie Spezzatti

No one works in a vacuum: Perceiving and practising quality in an embodied workplace

Ms Jiaqi Liu
University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

Ms Jiaqi Liu

Jiaqi Liu is a PhD student in Translation and Intercultural Studies at the University of Manchester, UK. She holds an MA in Translation and Interpreting from Newcastle University, UK, and a BA in English Language and Literature from Zhejiang University, China. Her main research interests include game localisation, multimodal translation, translation workplace studies, and the mediality and materiality of translation practice. Prior to completing her PhD, she had worked as a professional interpreter and translator in both commercial and non-profit contexts.

Abstract

This paper examines the pivotal role of affect and emotion in mediating translation practices at both individual and collective levels. Drawing on Kaisa Koskinen's conceptualisation of affect as a 'body-mind complex' (Koskinen, 2020), the case study elucidates the intricate impact of affect and emotion at various stages of the translation work, from subtle decision-making to the transformation of organisational culture. The empirical basis of the study is derived from a three-week intensive ethnographic fieldwork conducted at a Chinese game localisation company as part of the author's PhD project. A robust methodological framework was employed to integrate data from participatory field observations, reflective notes, structured contextual inquiries, and semi-structured interviews. The data was then analysed through a synthesis of affect theory, activity theory, and the 4EA framework, thereby producing a comprehensive elucidation of the ways in which affect and emotion mediate the translation processes. The findings highlight the substantial yet often unanticipated impact of affect and emotion on modifying translation workflows, shaping individual and collective perceptions of quality, and constructing both workplace and broader organisational culture. Notably, the study draws attention to the intricate dynamics between the shared physical space and the affective experiences of individuals situated therein. It proposes that the everyday, embodied interactions in immediate environments have the potential to exert a more significant influence on individual and organisational practices than structural power dynamics, with affect and emotion playing a pivotal role in mediating these processes. In general, this paper contributes to the ongoing discourse on reframing translation as a material, relational, and collective practice embedded in the real world. Furthermore, it proposes the efficacy of ethnographic fieldwork as a potent methodological approach to investigate affect and emotion within workplace environments. Koskinen, Kaisa (2020). Translation and Affect: Essays on Sticky Affects and Translational Affective. John Benjamins Publishing Company.

Keywords

affect , workplace, ethnographic fieldwork

Fostering Sensory-Driven Awareness in Translation Practice: The Female Body in Literary Translation as an Illustrative Example

Prof Dr Cecilia Alvstad
Østfold University College, Halden, Norway

Prof Dr Cecilia Alvstad

Cecilia Alvstad studies literary translation from textual, translator-oriented and societal perspectives. Her research topics include Latin American literature in translation, the teaching of literary translation, translation of children's literature, voice in translation and travel writing. Alvstad joined Østfold University College in August 2021 and is Professor in Spanish Language. Alvstad holds a PhD-degree in Spanish from the University of Gothenburg, 2003, with a dissertation on translation of children's literature in Argentina. Alvstad was Associate Professor in Spanish at Linköping University in 2006. In 2007-2014 she was Associate Professor in Spanish at the University of Oslo, Norway, and in 2014-2018 full professor in Spanish at the University of Oslo. Alvstad was Full Professor in Translation Studies at Stockholm University 2018-2023.

Abstract

There has been relatively little inquiry into the sensorial aspects of translation and of how the human senses are interrelated to affect/emotions in translation practice. This presentation therefore explores the idea of sensorial translatoriality, and aims at a theoretical discussion of sensorial aspects of literary translation in relation to affect/emotions. It is argued that although the sensorial and affect/emotions differ in kind, the two are interrelated. Both senses and affects/emotions have for example an individual side to them, as well as a social, or collective one (cfr. Koskinen 2020, 24-25). Likewise emotions/affect may be caused, by sensory stimuli as well as sensorily felt in the body (Koskinen 2020, 179). Work done within TS —such as Robinson's "Somatics of Translation" (1991, 2022), Koskinen's (2020) work on affect, Hubscher-Davidson's (2018) work on emotions and Katz and Hubscher-Davidson (2022) chapter on emotions and the sensorial— will be integrated with scholarly approaches to the senses developed within Anthropology of the Senses (Howes 2004, 2022, Wulff 2018), and Studies of Sensing in Social Interaction (Mondada 2021). The theoretical argument is illustrated with text-examples of female characters experiencing of their own bodies, such as orgasms, birth-giving and breastfeeding. The examples are mainly taken from Swedish and Norwegian translations of literary texts by Ann Patchett and María Luisa Bombal. Passages in which the translational rendering of the sensory may be considered problematic are included, with the intention of raising awareness of how more attention to the human senses in translation practice and translator training may contribute to more optimal translation practices (cfr. Koskinen's 2020, 166 reasoning about affect).

Keywords

Senses, Affect, Literary Translation

A Philosophy of Translational Emotions

Prof. Salah Basalamah
University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada

Prof. Salah Basalamah

Salah Basalamah is now Chair and Full Professor at the School of Translation and Interpretation, University of Ottawa. His fields of research include the Philosophy of Translation, Translation Rights, Social and Political Philosophy, Postcolonial, Cultural and Religious Studies, as well as Western Islam and Muslims. He's the author of Le droit de traduire. Une politique culturelle pour la mondialisation [The Right to Translate. A Cultural Policy for Globalization] (2009) at the University of Ottawa Press. Since 2014, he teaches a multidisciplinary PhD seminar on the diversity of Canadian Muslims at the Institute of Canadian and Aboriginal Studies (ICAS) at the University of Ottawa. He is also a member of the Eco-Translation Network (Edinburgh, Scotland) and of the Nida Center for Advanced Research on Translation (Rimini, Italy). And he has two forthcoming books: the first is A Bergsonian Approach to Translation and Time: Toward Spiritual Translation Studies (Routledge Oct 1, 20024) and the second is an edited book entitled Translating Modernity (Palgrave Macmillan 2025). For more details, please visit http://www.basalamah.org

Abstract

In the context of my proposed philosophy of translation research program, and drawing upon my 2024 work A Bergsonian Approach to Translation and Time, I propose to explore the translational unfolding of the notion of emotion from a philosophical perspective. While previous scholarship on this topic in translation studies has primarily focused on the denotative interlinguistic understanding of translation (Robinson 1991, 2011 & 2013; Hubscher-Davidson 2018; Koskinen 2020), I aim to extend this concept, as developed in my own research (2018, 2022, 2023 & 2024), to encompass emotions as a vehicle for social change and transformation. To achieve this, I will draw upon the work of French philosopher Henri Bergson (1859-1941), who conceived of emotions as a "supra-intellectual" faculty enabling individuals and social groups to transform from a "closed" to an "open" posture toward each other and the world. This conceptual extension of translation, emphasizing the transformative function of emotions, serves as a foundation for delineating what I have termed "spiritual translation studies" (2024), an alternative epistemological a priori in translation-studies research.

Keywords

Philosophy, Translation, Emotion

Beyond Relational Thinking: The Place of the Archive and Affect Theory in Translation Studies

Dr Sofia Monzon
Utah State University, Logan, USA

Dr Sofia Monzon

Sofía Monzón is Assistant Professor of Translation and Co-director of the Translation and Interpretation Program at Utah State University. Her fields of study cover sociological approaches to translation studies, translation history, transfer studies, and translation and interpreting pedagogy. She is co-editing a forthcoming volume on Affect in Translation (Leuven University Press). Her academic works have been published in journals such as Babel, Mutatis Mutandis, Entreculturas, Translation Matters, Transcultural, and the publishers John Benjamins, Palgrave, and Comares. Sofía is an active literary translator and creative writer, with poetry books including Los afectos multilingües (Valparaíso, 2024) and Alas (Editorial Club Universitario, 2019). She is currently curating the first Spanish translation of Jane Austen's Complete Poems, forthcoming with Valparaíso in 2026.

Abstract

Building on Kaisa Koskinen's approach to translation in Affect and Translation: Essays on Sticky Affects and Translational Affective Labour (2020) and Douglas Robinson's shift towards phenomenology, feelings, and the body in The Translator's Turn (1991), this paper seeks to demonstrate how "affect" is a key factor that operates and conditions translation processes and literary exchanges between systems, translation norms, actors, and their networks. Taking "affect" as a starting point to not only consider the materiality of a translation in regard to its construction and reception, but also the role and positioning of the translators and other actors involved, this paper explores the links between the individual and the social by paying attention to emotional and physiological aspects involved in translation as process and product. Adopting a relational and processual perspective that privileges actors-networks involved in translation activities that occurred in 1960-1975 Franco's Spain and utilizing archival research, I trace actors' "affective reactions and responses" to a corpus of literary translations to assess the impact of "affect" and emotions during the production, censorship, transfer, and reception of the selected novels in translation. Actor-networks include translators, censors, publishers, and readers in mid- and late-20th-century Spain. By tracing the actor-networks involved in translating specific works into Spanish and Catalan and exploring the role of "affect" at various stages (i.e., correspondence, source texts, drafts, negotiations, final texts, and reception), this paper shows how affect played a significant role in shaping the production and reception of translated literature in the context of Francoism and offers a framework to study complex translation phenomena that can be replicated in different periods and sociocultural contexts.

Keywords

affect, actor-network, archives

LT.07 | General panel | Public Service Interpreting

Chair: Cyril Joyce

Unveiling insights: exploring judicial biases of judges in interpreted court hearings in Antwerp involving Arab migrant defendants

dr Katalin Balogh, Mrs Vibeke De Beer
KULeuven, Antwerpen, Belgium

dr Katalin Balogh

Dr. Katalin Balogh is the coordinator of the Legal Translators and Interpreters (Gerechtsvertalen en -tolken, GVT) course at KU Leuven (Faculty of Arts, Antwerp Campus) where she also teaches interpreting techniques and deontology. She is since 2022 head of the Master of Interpreting, where she teaches German and German-Dutch interpreting. Her main research areas are the different aspects of legal interpreting (a.o. ethical code, lawful interception, videoconference interpreting). She works closely with the Ministry of Justice in Belgium and in the Netherlands. She is vice-president of the special body of the Ministry of Justice and Security in the Netherlands, where they judge about the admission of interpreters to the register.

Mrs Vibeke De Beer

Vibeke de Beer graduated at the Faculty of Arts, KU Leuven (Belgium), earning a Master's degree in Interpreting in July 2024 . Her academic qualifications enable her to practise as a court interpreter, court translator, and community interpreter, specializing in Dutch-German language pair. Additionally, she followed a training in interpreting for minors in audio-visual interrogations. For her Master's thesis at the Antwerp campus, she conducted research within the realm of court interpreting, intersecting with research fields including legal psychology and translation studies. In pursuit of comprehensive understanding, she engaged in discussions at CUTA, Brussels, with leading experts concerning the terrorist threat in Belgium. Furthermore, she has a particular interest in deontological principles and the interpreter's role and influence within an interaction.

Abstract

Everyone appearing in court in Belgium is entitled to a fair trial, as prescribed by the European Convention on Human Rights. This requires judges to adhere to a deontological code emphasising objectivity and impartiality. While it is assumed that judges act impartially, our presentation questions whether this is truly the case, exploring the potential biases of judges towards Arabic-speaking defendants, potentially influenced by the terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels (2012-2017). Such biases could compromise trial fairness for these defendants. While existing research addresses courtroom discrimination (Arnold, Dobbie, & Hull, 2022; Jobard & Névanen, 2009; Lang & Spitzer, 2020; Verbeke, 2018; Vrebos, 2016), it lacks integration with translation studies on interpreters' roles (Fowler, 1997; Licoppe & Veyrier, 2020; Xiang, Zheng & Feng, 2020; Bartlomiejczyk, 2020; Martens, 2023). This research fills that gap providing insights into courtroom realities, using a multidisciplinary literature review, interviews with CUTA and a desk research. We discuss the impact of defendants' Arab migration backgrounds on judges' psychological decision-making (Kahneman, 2011) and possible biases, influenced by media coverage of terrorist attacks. Our research addresses two key questions: 1. How does a defendant's Arab migration background affect judicial impartiality of judges in interpreted hearings at the Antwerp court of first instance? 2. How objective is the judicial decision-making towards Arabic-speaking defendants, and to what extent is this objectiveness influenced by media and terrorist attacks? By comparing pre- and post-terrorist attack sentencing and analysing 745 archived cases to ascertain whether similar offences received consistent punishment, we concluded that impartiality was not always maintained, with arbitrariness. This presentation aims to highlight the role of bias in legal proceedings, and raise awareness among interpreters, students, professors, judges, and other magistrates about the critical influence of bias.

Keywords

legal interpreting, Biases, interculturality

Use of mobile apps in public service interpreting in Finland: Changing interpreter profile, workflow and coping tactics

Dr. Anu Viljanmaa
Tampere University, Tampere, Finland

Dr. Anu Viljanmaa

Anu Viljanmaa works as a university instructor at the Languages Unit in the Faculty of Information Technology and Communication Sciences at Tampere University, Finland. She has been teaching German and English interpreting since 2009, and is an active, certified interpreter (EMCI). Her research interests focus on interpreting as interaction and the professional listening competence of interpreters. Her doctoral dissertation "Professionelle Zuhörkompetenz und Zuhörfilter beim Dialogdolmetschen" (2020) provides a listening-oriented perspective on dialogue interpreting; it received the International Listening Association Research Award in 2021. The dissertation describes and explains the elements that constitute the professional listening competence of dialogue interpreters working face-to-face with their clients. The author's current research project studies the increased use of mobile apps in public service interpreting in Finland. It focuses on the consequences of the use of mobile apps on the interpreters' working environment, on interpreter workflows, coping tactics and strategies when (on-demand) interpreting services are provided through mobile apps. Furthermore, the research project studies public service providers' experiences on working with interpreters and using mobile apps for on-demand and prebooked interpreting. In this latter part of the study, elements like trust and rapport come to the forefront.

Abstract

This presentation focuses on an emerging group of freelance interpreters working remotely through mobile apps and carrying out on-demand assignments for the public service sector. In addition to their professional profile the presentation will illustrate their workflow, work environment and coping tactics. Mobile interpreting apps are technological solutions that enable clients to access the services of a human interpreter almost instantly via smart phone. In Finland, the use of mobile apps in public service interpreting has skyrocketed since the Covid-19 pandemic. Originally designed for emergency interpreting needs, on-demand mobile app interpreting is nowadays used widely also in non-acute situations. Agencies offering mobile app interpreting mainly use freelance interpreters. They are paid per minute. In the app, interpreters can either accept or reject an assignment as it comes in. There usually is no information about the topic, yet interpreters need to quickly make their decision. Some apps forward offers to all interpreters and the fastest interpreter to click on the accept button receives the assignment. Interpreters thus need to remain alert continuously. Once having received an assignment, they need to cope with the lack of visual cues and contextualization that are characteristic for over-the-phone interpreting in general (cf. Fernández Pérez & Toledano Buendía 2018; Wang 2018). What demands does this place on interpreters and how do they do negotiate them? This presentation will report findings on interpreters' professional profiles, work habits, working environments and coping tactics from a study using content-based analysis on transcriptions of 23 in-depth interpreter interviews carried out in 2022 and 2024.

Keywords

mobile interpreting apps, on-demand public service interpreting, interpreter professional profile

Parent Communication in Austrian Schools: Translating a Monolingual Institution?

Mrs Marie Tschurtschenthaler
University of Graz, Graz, Austria

Mrs Marie Tschurtschenthaler

Marie Tschurtschenthaler is a research assistant and second-year PhD candidate at the Department of Translation Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. She obtained her MA in Conference Interpreting (German-English-Italian) from the Centre for Translation Studies in Vienna and a degree in Teacher Education (History/Political Education & Psychology/Philosophy) from the University of Vienna. Before joining the University of Graz, she worked as a student assistant at the Centre for Translation Studies in Vienna. At the University of Graz, she collaborates in the cluster "Spatial Dimensions" of the core research area "Multilingualism, Migration, and Cultural Transformation" at the Faculty of Humanities. She is a member of the working group "Community Interpreting" and the Doctoral Program "Migration – Diversity – Global Societies." Her PhD project investigates the communication between Austrian compulsory schools and parents whose first language is not German, focusing on translation and interpreting and its' role in parental communication and participation. Her main research interests lie in community interpreting, multilingualism, translation policy, as well as in translation and migration.

Abstract

Migration societies are characterized by multilingualism. Nevertheless, educational institutions are generally organized monolingually (Gogolin 2021). In Austrian schools, German is the only "legitimate language" (Bourdieu 1990), not only as the sole language of instruction (LoI) but also for any form of communication, for example with parents. Especially in the compulsory school sector, cooperation between schools and parents is essential for school development and thus legally mandated. In the context of migration, language becomes an instrument of distinction, differentiating between parents whose first language is/is not German. Moreover, language as an ideological category discursively links to other categories such as origin, culture, belonging, ethnicity, and class, providing others and oneself with information about who one (supposedly) is (Busch 2015). This study investigates and thereby makes visible how Austrian compulsory schools communicate with parents whose first language is not German, shedding light on associated challenges, inequalities, and institutional discrimination. What significance do translation and interpreting have for parental communication in schools? How does the school as an institution impact parental participation, and to what extent does its language policy play a role in this? As a consequence of decisions taken on language policy, are there (implicit) translation policies apparent? To address these questions, this contribution draws on existing concepts of translation policy (see e.g. González Núñez 2016; Schögler 2023) to explore translation practices in schools and their underlying policies. The notion of capital (Bourdieu 1983) is used to analyze (unequal) participation, communication, and belonging of parents in the school system based on their available resources. Initial empirical results from an ongoing doctoral project (document analysis, observations, and interviews) in Austrian compulsory schools regarding parent communication and participation support these theoretical arguments. Bourdieu, Pierre (1983) „Ökonomisches Kapital, kulturelles Kapital, soziales Kapital", in: Kreckel, Reinhard (ed.) Soziale Ungleichheit. Göttingen: Schwartz (Soziale Welt 2), 183–198. Bourdieu, Pierre (1990) Was heißt sprechen? Zur Ökonomie des sprachlichen Tausches. Wien: Braumüller. Busch, Brigitta (2015) „Über das Kategorisieren von Sprachen und Sprecher_innen: Zur Dekonstruktion von Sprachstatistiken", in: Knappik, Magdalena/Thoma, Nadja (eds.) Sprache und Bildung in Migrationsgesellschaften – machtkritische Perspektiven auf ein prekarisiertes Verhältnis. Bielefeld: transcript, 45–68. Gogolin, Ingrid (2021) "Multilingualism: A threat to public education or a resource in public education? – European histories and realities", in: European Educational Research Journal 20:2, 297–310. González Núñez, Gabriel (2016) „On Translation Policy", in: Target 28:1, 87–109.

Schögler, Rafael (2023) Die Politik der Buchübersetzung: Entwicklungslinien in den Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften nach 1945. Frankfurt am Main: Campus.

Keywords

parent communication, translation and migration, translation policy

Towards an Institutional Perspective on PSI: The Australian Story

Ms Hang Cui
University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Ms Hang Cui

Hang Cui is a PhD candidate at the School of Humanities and Languages at the University of New South Wales. She received a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics from China, and a Master's degree in Interpreting and Translation from UNSW as a Dean's List Recipient. Her doctoral research examines the working experiences of court interpreters and the development of the interpreting profession from a sociological perspective. In addition to her research, Hang also serves as a casual academic in the School of Humanities and Languages at UNSW since 2018. She teaches lectures, multilingual seminars, and language-specific tutorials at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She is also certified by the Australian National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters, and a Level II interpreter accredited by the China Accreditation Test for Translators and Interpreters (CATTI).

Abstract

Public Service Interpreting (PSI) has been undergoing professionalization over the past few decades. Like in many countries, Australian PSI originates from the communication needs of its culturally and linguistically diverse population, and its development has always been situated within a complex web of socio-political factors(Gentile, 2017). This context has not only shaped the evolution of PSI but continues to influence what professionalization looks like and means for interpreters in Australia today. Drawing on recent studies from the sociology of professions, this study views professionalization and institutionalization as closely related processes (Muzio et al., 2013). Institutionalization here refers to the process where "social processes, obligations or actualities come to take a rule-like status in social thought and action" (Meyer & Rowan, 1977). This relationship means that the institutional processes in the broader social environment, where the professionalization process is embedded, can influence how professionals pursue professionalization and the likely outcomes of their efforts (Muzio et al., 2013; Suddaby & Muzio, 2015). Using the concept of institutional logic (Friedland & Alford, 1991), this presentation will analyze the professionalization of PSI in Australia through the development of three logics in the field: a dominating state logic, a growing professional logic, and a quasi-market logic (Dong, 2016). I will argue that the success of Australia's PSI during the 1950s-1980s can be partially attributed to a strong state logic, representing professionalization 'from above.' As professionalization continues, a professional logic grounded in interpreters' code of ethics has emerged, coexisting with the state logic, alongside a quasi-market logic driven by New Public Management principles. This presentation will consider how the coexistence of these three logics influences PSI in Australia. Insights from this study are relevant to PSI in other countries where professionalization and institutionalization is in progress, offering insights into how different institutional environments can impact the professional landscape.

Keywords

Professionalization, Institutional Logic, Public Service Interpreting

LT.11 | Panel 6 | Behind the Protective Shield of Neutrality: Interpreter Positionality in Mental Health Care in Spaces of Crisis

Chairs: Şebnem Bahadır-Berzig, Raquel Pacheco Aguilar, Ines Buchegger

Interpreter positionality and Mental Health Act Assessments

Dr Rebecca Tipton[1], Professor Jemina Napier[2], Professor Alys Young[1], Professor Sarah Vicary[3], Dr Natalia Rodriguez Vicente[4]
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Dr Rebecca Tipton

Dr Rebecca Tipton is Senior Lecturer in Interpreting and Translation Studies at the University of Manchester. Her research focuses on spoken language interpreting in state and voluntary sector services, from both contemporary and historical perspectives, with specific reference to social work, asylum procedure, police interviews, and mental health. Her work is shaped by an interest in the political and ideological factors that impact the organisation of interpreting services, as well as in the complexities of micro-level interaction in service encounters. Her research has drawn extensively on sociological approaches and qualitative research methods, including oral histories, focus groups and archival research. She is author and co-author of articles in leading academic journals and several books with Routledge, including the 2024 publication The Routledge Guide to Teaching Ethics in Translation and Interpreting Education.

Professor Jemina Napier

Professor Jemina Napier is the Chair of Intercultural Communication in the SIGNS@HWU group at the Centre for Translation & Interpreting Studies in Scotland in the Department of Languages & Intercultural Studies, School of Social Sciences at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, UK. Her research focuses primarily on sign language intercultural communication. She conducts linguistic, social and ethnographic explorations of direct and interpreter-mediated communication to inform intercultural communication, interpreting studies, applied linguistics, and deaf studies theories. As well as a world-leading researcher in her field, Jemina is still an interpreter practitioner. She has practiced as a signed language interpreter since 1989, and works between English and British Sign Language (BSL), Australian Sign Language (Auslan) or International Sign.

Professor Alys Young

Professor Alys Young is a social scientist who has worked in sign language and deafness for the past 30 years. She has a special interest in applied health and social studies and many of her projects have focussed on quality of life and better services for deaf children and adults. She is the Principal Investigator on the INforMHAA study. She convenes the Social Research with Deaf people group (SORD) at the University of Manchester where she is also Professor of Social Work. She is also distinguished visiting professor at the Centre for Deaf Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.

Professor Sarah Vicary

Professor Sarah Vicary is a qualified, registered social worker with over 30 years experience including as a frontline social worker, an Approved Social Worker (the forerunner of an Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP)) and a manager of an inner-city mental health crisis service. She lectures at The Open University where she holds strategic and operational responsibility for all nations staff teaching in Health and Social Care including qualifications in social work, nursing, advanced clinical practice. She has a special interest in understanding statutory roles in mental health social work, especially those undertaken in challenging environments, and this is where much of her research activity lies.

Dr Natalia Rodriguez Vicente

Dr Natalia Rodriguez Vicente is a Lecturer at the University of Essex, where she teaches conference interpreting, public service interpreting (PSI) and advanced Spanish courses. Her research interests lie at the intersection of interactional pragmatics, clinical communication, and interpreting studies, with a particular focus on the communication of distress across languages and the effect of the interpreting process on service provider-user dynamics. Prior to joining academia, she worked for the Evidence and Evaluation for Improvement Team (EEvIT) at Healthcare Improvement Scotland (NHS Scotland) where she led a multiple case-study research project on person-centred care conducted in a selection of acute and residential settings in Scotland.

Abstract

Our presentation draws on the NIHR SSCR-funded Interpreter-mediated Mental Health Act Assessments (INForMHAA) study (2021-2024), which investigated the interprofessional working relationships between Approved Mental Health Professionals and both signed and spoken language interpreters. Assessments conducted under the Mental Health Act 1983 (which applies to England and Wales) take place in hospital and community settings in both planned and unplanned-emergency modes, thereby varying in the degree, extent and urgency of crisis involved, with mental distress manifesting in heterogenous verbal and non-verbal ways. These statutory assessments can be highly consequential for individuals who may be deprived of their liberty (for theirs and others' safety) in order to undergo further assessment and/or treatment where necessary. We contribute to panel 6 by focusing on the positionality of the interpreter and the ways in which it is shaped by the statutory nature of assessments under the Mental Health Act, which place actions by the state as ones that supersede and individual's rights but which uphold human rights from the perspective of civil society when an individual is no longer able to act in their own best interests. This stance can be at odds with, the concept of 'neutrality' — when viewed as a deliberative form of non-intervention by interpreters— and could be seen as collusion with structural power. Our arguments will be supported by two short video excerpts of evidence-based simulated encounters in situations involving two different stages of the MHA assessment process and two varied expressions of mental illness. These clips illustrate the importance of interpreter meta comments, which involve reporting salient observations about a person's use of language or signing space in the interpreting process. We will also discuss the challenges of encouraging interpreters to reconsider such comments as an ethical imperative within the statutory process and not a breach of interpreter neutrality.

Keywords

interprofessional working, Mental Health Act assessments, positionality

Two Facets of Communication in Crisis: Mental Health Services with Interpreters / Mental Health of the Interpreters in Crisis Settings

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Dr. Rana Kahraman Duru

Rana Kahraman Duru, an Assistant Professor at Marmara University, Translation and Interpreting Department. She completed her undergraduate degree in American Culture and Literature at İstanbul University in 1999. She continued her academic journey with an M.A. and PhD in Translation Studies from the same faculty in 2003 and 2010. Dr. Duru's commitment to academia is evident in her early years as an assistant at İstanbul University's Department of Translation and Interpreting from 2000 to 2011 and her international experience conducting pre-doctoral research at Bonn University, Germany, as part of the Erasmus program in 2008. As an Assistant Professor, she has shared her passion for conference interpreting and community interpreting through lectures at various institutions, including İstanbul University, Yeni Yüzyıl University, Yeditepe University, and Marmara University Translation and Interpreting Departments. Between April 2021-2025, Dr. Duru has led the Translation and Interpreting Department at Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf University. Additionally, she has been working as a conference interpreter since 2000. Dr Duru is a member and President of the Emergency and Disaster Interpreters Association. She conducts studies and academic research on interpreting studies, community interpreting, ARÇ- Emergency and Disaster Interpreting, mental health interpreting, translation and interpreting for/with refugees, translation theories, and translation history. Her research has significantly contributed to the understanding and development of these areas in translation and interpreting.

Dr. Filiz Şan

Born in Bergheim, Germany, Filiz ŞAN completed her primary, secondary and high school education in Germany. After graduating from the Department of German Language and Literature, she received her MA and PhD degrees in Translation Studies. She was a scholarship student at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz University of Cologne and SDI in Munich to conduct scientific research in translation studies. After working as a research assistant at Istanbul University and Sakarya University, she was appointed a lecturer in the Department of Translation and Interpreting at Sakarya University in 2015. She is currently working in the same department. In addition to being a lecturer, she has also assumed influential roles in social, cultural and professional non-governmental organisations and carried out various studies. She is a respected member of the Translation Association, Germanists Association, and Disaster Counselling Translation Association, and General Secretary of the Emergency and Disaster Interpreters Association, actively contributing to their missions and goals. Dr. Şan's work and research interests are primarily focused on crisis interpreting in Disasters and Emergencies and Community Interpreting, with a special emphasis on refugee health and mental health services. Her academic work in these areas has been complemented by recent consulting, research, training, and supervisory roles with governmental and non-governmental organisations, where she has been instrumental in improving mental health interpretation services.

Abstract

Two Facets of Communication in Crisis: Mental Health Services with Interpreters / Mental Health of the Interpreters in Crisis Settings This paper investigates two interrelated dimensions of multilingual crisis communication in mental health contexts: (1) the role of interpreters in enabling access to psychosocial services, and (2) the psychological impact of crisis work on interpreters themselves. The study focuses on interpreters actively deployed in the immediate aftermath of the 2023 Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes in Türkiye, offering a unique, context-specific perspective drawn from real-time post-disaster response efforts. These interpreters, serving on the frontlines of multilingual psychosocial care, form the core research group and inform both the analytical and ethical direction of the study. Adopting a qualitative approach, the research is based on semi-structured interviews with these interpreters, alongside interviews with clinicians involved in emergency mental health response. Thematic analysis was conducted using a trauma-informed framework (Figley, 1995; Pearlman & Saakvitne, 1995), guided by role theory in interpreting studies and

informed by crisis translation scholarship (Federici, 2016; Federici & O'Brien, 2019). A key innovation of the study lies in its interdisciplinary collaboration with field experts—psychologists, psychiatrists, crisis coordinators, and interpreter trainers—which shaped both the research design and the interpretation of findings. This partnership enabled a situated understanding of interpreter experiences during field deployment and fostered a practitioner-informed analysis of institutional dynamics. It also ensured that the study's dual focus—interpreters as communicative bridges and as psychologically vulnerable actors—was grounded in operational realities rather than abstract theorization. Findings reveal that interpreters often face conflicting expectations: to be emotionally neutral yet culturally empathetic, professionally detached yet therapeutically engaged. These contradictions are intensified by the absence of interprofessional protocols, exposing interpreters to role confusion, ethical dissonance, and emotional fatigue. These dynamics echo recent findings in interpreter-mediated psychotherapy, where unclear collaboration between interpreters and clinicians may hinder both therapeutic efficacy and interpreter well-being (Gryesten et al., 2023). Moreover, while clinicians value interpreters' linguistic contributions, they often overlook the need for psychological safety and structured debriefings (Declercq & Kerremans, 2023). This study contributes an empirically grounded and context-sensitive model for integrating interpreters into crisis mental health frameworks. By emphasizing trauma-informed training, co-designed support systems, and interprofessional collaboration (Federici & Declercq, 2021), the research advances Translation Studies. It addresses the urgent need for sustainable interpreter engagement in disaster response.

Keywords

Mental Health Interpreting, Crisis Settings, Kahramanmaraş Earthquake

“Been there, done that”: The double bind of queer peer interpreters in LGBTIQ+ refugee mental healthcare

Ms Anna Sourdille
University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Ms Anna Sourdille

Anna Sourdille is a university assistant (predoc) at the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna. She studied philosophy, transcultural communication, and conference interpreting in Vienna, Paris, and Barcelona. Previously, she was involved in the research project “Rethinking Translation Expertise: A Workplace Study (RETREX)", led by Hanna Risku. Her doctoral thesis, supervised by Prof. Sonja Pöllabauer, focuses on interpreting practices at Queer Base, a Vienna-based NGO supporting LGBTIQ+ refugees. Her research interests include critical, queer, so-called “non-professional” and didactic aspects of translation and interpreting, as well as workplace and ethnographic field research. In addition to her academic position, she also works as a freelance translator and interpreter for German, French, Spanish, and English, and delivers workshops on interpreting für LGBTIQ+ refugees.

Abstract

Peer counselling, based on principles of personal affectedness, holism, partiality, and emancipation, has been a cornerstone of emancipatory support since its origins in 1930s self-help groups like Alcoholics Anonymous and 1960s disability rights movements (Hermes/Rösch 2019). More recently, the peer-to-peer approach has been extended to interpreting. One example is the Vienna-based NGO Queer Base: the LGBTIQ+ refugee aid organisation founded by queer individuals with and without refugee backgrounds during the 2015 refugee crisis, employs a “queer peer policy” to recruit interpreters. Interestingly, despite its growing relevance in practice, the peer-to-peer approach remains underexplored in translation and interpreting studies. This lack of scholarly attention is particularly striking given the unique challenges faced by peer interpreters. Indeed, they often find themselves in a double bind: while their position as partial peers fosters trust and encourages openness, it simultaneously conflicts with the entrenched normative expectations of “neutrality”, “impartiality” and “professional distance”. This tension is particularly pronounced in post-crisis mental healthcare settings, where the positionality of interpreters is already constantly negotiated. Moreover, (re)visiting dark places can be especially draining when interpreters carry heavy emotional baggage themselves. In my presentation, I explore these dynamics through a study of queer interpreters working in psychosocial counselling and therapy sessions for LGBTIQ+ refugees. Applying the theoretical framework of the peer-to-peer approach, this study conducts a qualitative content analysis of interviews and focus groups with Queer Base counsellors and interpreters. Exploring interpreters’ narratives and experiences, their coping strategies and ambivalences, the findings reveal that the peer-to-peer policy both empowers and constrains them by shaping their organisational roles and intensifying emotional labour. These preliminary results highlight the need to reassess expectations of interpreter neutrality, advocating for a more nuanced understanding of their complex positionality—one that recognizes both the benefits and challenges of partiality.

Keywords

peer-to-peer approach, LGBTIQ+ interpreters, positionality

Behind the Voice, Beyond the Words: Non-verbal Communication in Interpreter Mediated Psychotherapeutic Encounters with Children

Ms Rabia Odabaşi
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Ms Rabia Odabaşi

Rabia Odabaşı was born in Istanbul. She completed her undergraduate studies at Marmara University, graduating with high honors from the Atatürk Faculty of Education, Department of English Language Teaching in 2020. In 2021, she attained a second undergraduate degree with high honors in English Translation and Interpreting through a double major program at the same institution. Odabaşı was awarded a scholarship to the University of Graz under the Go Styria Research Program and subsequently earned her Master of Arts in Translation Studies from Sakarya University in 2024, specializing in child mental health interpreting. Odabaşı began her academic career as a Research Assistant at Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf University in 2021. Furthermore, she maintains an active role as a professional conference interpreter. Her contributions to the field extend to her involvement on the board of the Translation and Interpreting Association Turkey, where she serves as bookkeeper. She is also a member of the Emergency and Disaster Interpreters Turkey task force. Her research and professional interests include community interpreting, emergency and disaster interpreting, and mental health interpreting.

Abstract

Non-verbal communication elements—such as tone of voice, eye contact, gestures, facial expressions, and paralinguistic features—play a crucial role in shaping the interactions and outcomes of therapy sessions in mental health care. They significantly affect the development of trust, the management of emotional states, and the overall effectiveness of communication, particularly when the beneficiaries are children. In the context of multilingual therapy sessions conducted with refugee children mediated through interpreters, these non-verbal cues may acquire distinct functions and form a structured pattern to be carefully monitored by both interpreter and therapist. This study investigates the perspectives of interpreters involved in therapeutic sessions with refugee children, focusing on their experiences with tracking and interpreting non-verbal communication. Through interviews conducted with interpreters, the research examines how non-verbal communication elements manifest within triadic interactions in therapy sessions, particularly as part of post-crisis response and recovery interventions. The findings indicate that these non-verbal cues serve multiple functions, including seeking assistance, expressing emotions and messages, maintaining neutrality, and fostering rapport. This study underscores the critical role that non-verbal communication plays in the therapeutic process, highlighting its potential to enhance or hinder the effectiveness of therapeutic interventions. Furthermore, it contributes to the broader understanding of the intersection between language, non-verbal communication, and mental health in a multilingual and multicultural crisis context.

Keywords

non-verbal communication, psychotherapy for children, mental health interpreting

Interpreting for people in acute crises: an autoethnographic approach

Dr. Mascha Dabić
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Dr. Mascha Dabić

Mascha Dabić was born in 1981 in Sarajevo (Yugoslavia). She studied translation and interpreting Studies (English and Russian), in Innsbruck, Vienna, Edinburgh and St. Petersburg. She did her PhD on the topic of interpreting in psychotherapy for asylum-seekers at the University of Vienna in 2017 (published in 2021: Dolmetschen in der Psychotherapie. Prekäres Gleichgewicht. Tübingen: Narr, Francke, Attempto). She works as an interpreter in psychotherapy at Hemayat, a Vienna-based center for interpreter-mediated psychotherapy for survivors of war and torture (with Russian and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian). She is a senior lecturer at the Center for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna, teaching interpreting and translation from Russian into German and vice versa, and professional ethics. In addition to that, she is translating literature and poetry from Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian into German.

Abstract

The Crisis Intervention Center Vienna (Krisenintervensionszentrum) offers support and counselling for people in acute crises, including high suicidal risk. The Center offers support in presence, on the phone or via E-mail. Clients can also receive medical treatment. The service is free of charge for the clients. Sessions with interpreters can be arranged, which means that interpreters are usually contacted at short-notice and work in settings that are emotionally charged and unpredictable. Situations that are dealt with include acute family conflicts, death of someone close to the client, serious illness, experiencing acts or threats of violence, traumatic or overwhelming experiences. The interpreters might be confronted with clients who are in the state of anxiety and panic during the counselling session, who talk about their suicidal attempts and deal with desperation and hopelessness. For interpreters it can be challenging to stick to the requirements of their professional role when dealing with clients in distress. In order to describe the working environment for interpreters at the Crisis Intervention Center I will largely draw on the approach of autoethnographic research (Jones et al. 2022). My aim is to emphasise the specific nature of this setting, including the emotional challenges for interpreters, to work out the differences between the setting of crisis intervention and the long-term setting of interpreter-mediated psychotherapy (building on my research Dabić 2021), comparing the working conditions and the measures taken by the institution in order to support the interpreters, such as briefing, de-briefing and supervision. In addition to reflecting on my own working experiences I will collect data related to the aspect of interpreting within the Crisis Intervention Center. Literature: https://kriseninterventionszentrum.at/ (29.8.2024) Dabić, M. (2021) Dolmetschen in der Psychotherapie. Prekäres Gleichgewicht. Tübingen: Narr Franck Attempto Holman Jones, S. L., Adams, T. E., & Ellis, C. (2022). Handbook of autoethnography. New York: Routledge

Keywords

crises, intervention, interpreting

LT.17 | Panel 23 | Global Visions, Local Voices: Translation as a Catalyst for Human Rights (cont.)

Chairs: Aline Larroyed, Patrick Cadwell

Challenges and opportunities of machine translation in conflict and peacekeeping settings

Mrs Claudia Plieseis
University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Mrs Claudia Plieseis

Claudia Plieseis is a Senior Lecturer and Post Doc for machine translation at the University of Vienna Centre for Translation Studies, where she is also a member of the Human and Artificial Intelligence in Translation (HAITrans) research group. Claudia holds a doctorate in Transcultural Communication from the University of Vienna and an MA in Applied Translation Studies from the University of Leeds. Her research interests include crisis communication and the role of translation, the effects of speech technologies on translation, revision and machine translation post-editing tasks, and computer-assisted translation and revision practices.

Abstract

The role of translation and interpreting (T&I) in conflict and peacekeeping settings has been studied extensively in translation studies and in the field of crisis translation in particular (e.g. Bernardi, 2023; Valero Garcés, 2022; Footitt and Kelly, 2012). While conflict and peacekeeping settings often differ from other crisis translation contexts in terms of their urgency, risk and danger, they pose similar challenges such as the need for relevant, timely and accurate information, the involvement of untrained local translators and interpreters, and the existence of inconsistent policies for operational linguistic support (Askew and Jones, 2014). A combination of these factors frequently leads to the denial of the fundamental human right to (accessible) information (Greenwood et al., 2017) and creates conditions that favour the adoption of machine translation (MT). Owing to recent advances in artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, there is growing interest in the use of MT and AI for military intelligence and targeting (King, 2024). However, little is known about the use of MT for T&I tasks in the field. Similar to discussions surrounding untrained translators and interpreters (O'Brien, 2022), discussions on the use of MT in this context centre on several ethical questions: (1) is the use of MT preferable to no translation; (2) who bears the consequences of incorrect translations; (3) what are the implications of using MT in high-risk settings; and, most importantly, (4) what is the role of MT in promoting the human right to seek, receive and impart information in any language? This contribution will use interviews with military and human rights experts, as well as a case study tracing MT use in the United States Army as a starting point to discuss the challenges and opportunities of machine translation as a catalyst for the human right to information.

Keywords

conflict, peacekeeping, machine translation

TRANSLATION AS A RIGHT: THE CASE OF LEGAL PROCEDURES IN CHILE

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Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Santiago, Chile

Prof. Marcela Contreras Torregrosa

Marcela Contreras Torregrosa is an English-Spanish-English Translator (Universidad de Concepción, Chile), Master in Higher Education Teaching (Universidad Andrés Bello, Chile) and PhD in Philosophy, Art and Social Thought (The European Graduate School, EGS, Malta). She is currently a professor at the Translation program of the Department of Linguistics and Literature at Universidad de Santiago de Chile. She has published several papers on Translation Education, Specialized Translation, and Translation and Gender. More recently her research interests have focused on Translation as a Social Activity. She has also worked as a freelance translator in the fields of education, forestry and logging industry, engineering for the mining industry, manufacturing, medicine (clinical trials) and others.

Prof. Angela Morales Santibañez

Angela Morales Santibáñez is an English-Spanish-English Translator (Universidad de Concepción, Chile), Master in American Spanish Sociolinguistics (Universidad de Santiago, Chile) and PhD in Philology (UNED, Spain). She is currently a professor at the Translation program of the Department of Linguistics and Literature at Universidad de Santiago de Chile. Her research approaches translation as a social activity and focuses on the development of specialized translation competences using active learning strategies, mainly service projects. She has also worked as a freelance translator in the fields of education, forestry industry, pulp and paper manufacturing, and others.

Abstract

Current migration movements have brought to Chile a significant number of non-Spanish speaking migrants. The question is raised as to how the Chilean legal system is coping with translation and interpreting needs with the purpose of ensuring language rights (Mowbray, 2022), a fair trial, due process and the proper administration of justice. This study relates the fields of Translation, Migration and Rights by inquiring into the role of translation and interpreting in legal procedures in Chile and how it has been implemented to protect the rights of migrants involved in these processes. It aims at demonstrating the role of translation in the enforcement of human and civil rights and as a right to access other rights. To respond to the research questions and objectives, a qualitative descriptive study was conducted based on the analysis of a set of regulatory documents that conform the human and civil rights protection framework in Chile and the interpretive analysis of 16 interviews with relevant actors, such as lawyers, public defenders, NGO representatives, court appointed expert translators and interpreters, among others. Court hearings were the most common legal procedure reported in the interviews and legal disputes were mostly related to children's custody, divorce and abusive behaviour. The discussion derived from both analyses reinforces the importance of translators and interpreters to facilitate the communicative acts involved in legal procedures. It also shows the need for translation and interpreting aids to facilitate the integration of migrants into the host society. The results of this study provide a diagnosis of the situation in Chile for further research and may constitute a valuable source of information for those who work as translators, interpreters or linguistic facilitators in this area, to make recommendations to the justice system in terms of profiles and institutionalization of translation as a mechanism to facilitate communication, and to guide the training processes of professionals aware of their role in the promotion of human rights.

Keywords

Translation, Legal procedures, Rights

Access to Justice through Sustainable Translation Practices: Addressing the Unsustainable Workload Challenges Faced by Court Interpreters in Japan

Dr Jihyeon Kim
Rikkyo University, Tokyo, Japan

Dr Jihyeon Kim

Jihyeon Kim is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Intercultural Communication at Rikkyo University, where she teaches translation and interpreting studies at undergraduate level. Since arriving in Japan as a MEXT scholar in 2015, she has developed a keen interest in topics regarding the practice of court interpreting, along with relevant interpreting theories and their practical applications. She completed a master's program in international law with a specific focus on human rights in the Japanese legal system before joining a doctoral program in interpretation studies at Waseda University, where she received her PhD degree in International Culture and Communication Studies in 2022. Her doctoral thesis, "Revisiting the Interpreter's Role in the Bilingual Courtroom: Normative Roles, Users' Expectations, and the Status Quo of Court Interpreters in Japan," was awarded the Shinzaki Research Encouragement Award by the Japan Association for Interpreting and Translation Studies. Her research has been presented in peer-reviewed journals and conferences, including Critical Link International, Language and Law, and the International Association for Forensic and Legal Linguistics. She previously worked as a Research Associate and Assistant Professor from 2020 to 2022 at Waseda University before assuming her current position at Rikkyo University.

Abstract

Since 1948, Chapter XIII of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Articles 14 and 37 of the Japanese Constitution have mandated equal access to the justice system for individuals, including those with limited Japanese proficiency, as well as the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. The provision of interpreting and translation services through interpreters has been integral to ensuring that these communities can fully participate in court proceedings without being linguistically disadvantaged. Japan's criminal justice system marked a significant turning point in 2009 with the introduction of lay-judge trials, which significantly expanded the scope and complexity of work for court interpreters. Given the tight and intensive timelines of lay-judge trials, court interpreters are pressured to translate large volumes of evidence materials (e.g. indictments, witness statements, reference letters) for their reference to provide accurate interpreting, leading to arduous and unsustainable working conditions. Through surveys with active professionals, this study focuses on the underexplored area of court interpreters' translation workflows from initiation to completion during trials, focusing on the processes and tools they employ to translate evidence materials under tight deadlines. The results reveal that a substantial number of court interpreters rely on translation software due to their time constraints. Many of them use online translation tools with minimal data security, raising serious concerns about the handling of confidential and sensitive evidence materials. These findings suggest that courts may be unaware that confidential information is being compromised, highlighting the necessity for them to provide interpreters with access to translation software that ensures enterprise-grade security and privacy. More fundamentally, legal practitioners need to raise their awareness and understanding of the time and effort required to ensure quality translation and interpreting, which is crucial for its sustainable provision. This forms the basis of solutions, including relaxed timelines for lay-judge trials that require interpreting.

Keywords

court interpreter, translation workload, lay-judge trial

LT.19 | Panel 30 | Quality Assessment in Multilingual, Multimodal, and Multiagent Translation and Interpreting: Exploring Human and Automatic Evaluation Approaches (cont.)

Chair: Chao Han

Quality assessment in triadic speech-to-text interpreted communication: moving forward through integration of users' perspective

Dr. Judith Platter, Dr. Ursula Stachl-Peier, MA Maria Bernadette Zwischenberger
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Dr. Judith Platter

Judith Platter is senior lecturer at the Centre for Translation Studies of the University of Vienna where she teaches speech-to-text interpreting (STTI), plain and easy language, audiodescription and specialized translation at BA and MA level. She also teaches STTI at the University of Graz and at the Postgraduate Centre of the University of Vienna. She holds an MA in Interpreting Studies (German, Italian, English and French) and a PhD in Transcultural Communication from the University of Vienna and specializes in accessibility and speech-to-text interpreting. In her PhD thesis she examined the professionalization of STTI in Austria. She is part of the Vienna Interpreting Research Group. Her main research interests include interpreting/translation didactics, accessibility and translation, intermodality/intermediality in translation as well as professionalization. Judith Platter is a trained and certified speech-to-text interpreter herself and founding member as well as current chair of the Austrian Speech-to-Text Interpreters' Association OESDV, representing professional interests at national and international level, amongst others within FIT. In 2022, she was head of the organization committee of the 6th European Conference of Speech-to-text interpreters, ECOSVienna 2022.

Dr. Ursula Stachl-Peier

Ursula Stachl-Peier holds a PhD in Translation Studies from the University of Graz. She also completed an Mphil in Linguistics at Trinity College, Dublin, and an MA in Ethnology at Uppsala University. She has taught translation and interpreting at the School of Translation Studies at Graz University and at Stockholm University and supervised research in Translation Studies at MA level. Her research interests include translation and interpreting education and curriculum design, Public Service Interpreting, genre and discourse analysis and ethnology. In recent years, she has also investigated speech-to-text interpreting co-authoring, amongst others, a report on the research and practice of STTI in Sweden.

MA Maria Bernadette Zwischenberger

Maria Bernadette Zwischenberger holds an MA in Translation from the University of Vienna. She is currently completing her PhD which applies feminist approaches, especially intersectional thinking, to investigate interpreting in women-run social movement organizations in Austria. She also completed a certificate training programme in speech-to-text interpreting for DHH people. As part of an EU-funded project team (ReTrans – Working with Interpreters in Refugee Transit Zone: Capacity Building and Awareness-Raising for Higher Education Contexts) she developed open access training materials for interpreters and stakeholders in refugee transit zones. In cooperation with scholars from Applied Game Studies, she coordinated an interdisciplinary elective course module to draft interactive stories on interpreted events for people affected by forced migration.

Abstract

Originally developed as a service to allow Deaf and Heard-of-Hearing (DHH) people access to live television broadcasts, intralingual speech-to-text (STT) conversion is today employed in a broad array of settings and by increasingly diverse audiences. Speech-to-text interpreting (STTI) uses stenotyping, speech-recognition (for respeaking) and velotyping which typically suggests the investigation of human-machine interaction. Yet, its strong roots in dialogic settings also calls for the inclusion of human-focused assessment parameters in its analysis. The triadic interaction format of STT practices in dialogic encounters in, for example, healthcare, legal, business and education settings, facilitates immediate feedback from users as regards the coherence, suitability, and reliability of the text product. Drawing on various evaluation grids and analytical frameworks developed within audio-visual translation and public service interpreting research, we seek to expand current evaluation practices by specifically addressing and incorporating DHH users' views. This allows us to investigate STT quality as a result of a shared endeavor with practitioners, providers and users, equally

engaged in ensuring successful communication. Based on findings from interviews with DHH users, STT practitioners, and service providers as well as observations of video-recorded (simulated) STT-interpreted encounters, this paper suggests parameters and criteria for the evaluation of STT-mediated triadic encounters, focusing on semiotic and pragmatic elements of multimodal interaction (Norberg & Stachl-Peier, 2018). The integration of DHH users as quality evaluators of STT-interpreted conversations increases our understanding of specific challenges (e.g. cognitive processing capacities and input load) and concerns, and it ensures that service providers and practitioners can continuously improve the quality of their services. Literature Norberg, U. & U. Stachl-Peier. 2018. “Quality in speech-to-text interpreting. A study of condensation strategies”. In Interpreting Studies at the Crossroads of Disciplines edited by Zupan, S. & A. Nuč, 129–155. Berlin: Frank & Timme.

Keywords

intralingual speech-to-text interpreting, multi-agent perspectives, evaluation in dialogic intertion

Harnessing the Power of Crowd Assessment in Translation Studies: A Novel Approach to Quality Evaluation

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Prof. Sanjun Sun

Sanjun Sun is a Professor of Translation Studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University. He received his Ph.D. in Translation Studies from Kent State University in 2012. He serves as the editor of the Chinese journal Fan Yi Jie (Translation Horizons) and is affiliated with the MC2 Lab at the University of Bologna. Dr. Sun is also a member of TREC and serves on the advisory board of Across Languages and Cultures. His research focuses on Cognitive Translation and Interpreting Studies, empirical research methods, and translation technology.

Abstract

This study introduces crowd assessment, a method leveraging collective intelligence for evaluation, as an innovative approach to translation quality assessment. Crowd assessment involves a large group of individuals, often non-experts, in the evaluation process, offering diverse perspectives and scalability. While widely used in computer science and psychology, its potential in translation studies remains largely unexplored. We argue that crowd assessment can provide rich, multifaceted insights into translation quality across various text types, language pairs, and translation agents (human, machine, or hybrid), bridging the gap between traditional human assessment and emerging automatic metrics. To demonstrate the viability of crowd assessment in translation studies, we present a case study involving 138 translation students from Beijing Foreign Studies University. Participants evaluated translations produced by human translators and machine translation systems (Google Translate, DeepL, and ChatGPT) across different text types (literary and non-literary) and translation directions (English-Chinese and Chinese-English). The study employed a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative scoring with qualitative feedback. Our findings reveal that crowd assessment can capture nuanced aspects of translation quality often overlooked by individual expert evaluators or automatic metrics. The method proved particularly effective in identifying quality discrepancies across text types and translation directions. The qualitative data provided valuable insights into novice translators' decision-making processes and perceptions of machine translation quality. This research contributes to the ongoing discourse on translation quality assessment methodologies and offers implications for translation pedagogy and practice. We argue that crowd assessment, when properly implemented, can complement existing evaluation methods, providing a more comprehensive and inclusive approach. Future research should explore its scalability and potential applications in professional settings and low-resource language pairs.

Keywords

Crowd assessment, Translation quality evaluation, Mixed-methods research

From manual to machine: evaluating automated ear–voice span measurement in simultaneous interpreting

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Dr. Meng Guo

Dr. Meng GUO is a lecturer at the University of International Business and Economics in China. Her research lies at the intersection of simultaneous interpreting and technology, with a particular emphasis on Computer-Assisted Interpreting and Cognitive Translation and Interpreting Studies. Her work has been published in Interpreting (SSCI) and contributed to The Routledge Handbook of Chinese Interpreting, among other academic publications. Dr. Guo completed her Ph.D. at Macao Polytechnic University on a full scholarship. Beyond academia, Dr. Guo is an experienced conference and diplomatic interpreter, proficient in Chinese (native), Portuguese, and English. She has provided interpretation services for numerous bilateral and multilateral diplomatic events.

Dr. Lili Han

Dr. Lili HAN is Associate Professor of the Faculty of Applied Sciences of Macao Polytechnic University, Macao. Her research interests include interpreting studies, intercultural studies, language and translation policy studies, interpreting testing & assessment, and computer-aided interpreting.

Abstract

This study introduces a groundbreaking automated methodology for measuring ear–voice span (EVS) in simultaneous interpreting (SI). Traditionally, assessing EVS – a critical temporal metric in SI – has been hampered by labour-intensive and time-consuming manual methods that are prone to inconsistency. To overcome these challenges, our research harnesses state-of-the-art natural language processing (NLP) technologies, including automatic speech recognition (ASR), sentence boundary detection (SBD) and cross-lingual alignment, to automate EVS measurement. We deployed a comprehensive array of NLP models and evaluated the automated pipelines on a 20-hour English-to-Portuguese SI corpus which featured 57 varied audio pairings. The findings are encouraging: the most effective model combination achieved a median EVS error of less than 0.1 seconds across the corpus. Moreover, the automated pipelines exhibited a high level of accuracy, strong correlation and substantial agreement with manual measurements when assessing median EVS for individual audio pairs. Despite these satisfactory results, certain challenges persist with some NLP models, indicating clear avenues for future research. This study not only introduces a ground-breaking approach to large-scale EVS measurement but also propels the automation of process analysis in Interpreting Studies.

Keywords

simultaneous interpreting, automatic speech recognition, ear–voice span

Can sentiment analysis help to assess accuracy in interpreting? A computational linguistic approach

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Abstract

The present study sets out to explore whether sentiment analysis, a natural language processing technique, can be used to assess accuracy in interpreting. The data was obtained from a corpus consisting of 22 interpreting learners' performance over a training period of 11 weeks and comparable professional interpreters' performance. The sentiment scores of learners' output were calculated using two lexicon-based sentiment tools and compared to those of professional interpreters. The results showed that learners were less competent than professional interpreters in conveying the speaker's sentiment, which largely resulted from their omission and distortion of key sentiment words and their intensity. In addition, statistically significant correlations were found between the pro-learner sentiment gap of a given rendition and its accuracy level as perceived by the human raters. However, the predictive power of sentiment as a standalone indicator of accuracy is only limited. Moreover, the study revealed a notable increase in the learners' ability to convey the speaker's sentiment and achieve accuracy during the training period. Overall, the findings of this study have practical implications for the design of automated quality assessment tools and interpreting training.

Keywords

accuracy, sentiment analysis, quality assessment

Examining the theoretical and methodological basis of automated evaluations of interpreting

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Dr Jonathan Downie

Jonathan Downie is a consultant church and conference interpreter and independent researcher. He has published two books with Routledge, "Being a Successful Interpreter" and "Interpreters vs Machines can Interpreters Survive in an AI-Dominated World?" and one book with William Carey Publishing "Multilingual Church". His research interests include multilingual church, interpreting theory, and client expectations of interpreters.

Dr Joss Moorkens

Joss Moorkens is an Associate Professor at the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies at Dublin City University, Science Lead at the ADAPT Centre, and member of DCU's Institute of Ethics and Centre for Translation and Textual Studies. He has authored or co-authored over 60 journal articles, book chapters, and conference papers on translation technology, human factors in translation technology and machine translation, translator precarity, and translation ethics.

Abstract

The continued growth in both human interpreting and automated speech translation, alongside the advent of the "technological turn" in Interpreting Studies has provided the impetus for the development and testing of automated evaluations. Ranging from adoption of existing Machine Translation (MT) evaluation techniques to the creation of new approaches based on neural networks and large language models, all attempts at automating the evaluation of interpreting share similar theoretical assumptions and methodological features. These similarities include the assumption that interpreting can be evaluated outside of any particular social context, that turning spoken text into writing is theoretically unproblematic and that the aim of interpreting is semantic similarity. Methodologically, such approaches tend not to engage with critical appraisals of the existing automated metrics used to evaluate MT. We will argue that examinations of MT evaluation and established Interpreting Studies theory and research both suggest that automated metrics cannot reliably measure the quality of interpreting on their own or even in combination with decontextualised human evaluation. The limit of such metrics is precisely that they do not take account of the social context in which interpreting take place. Instead, it is necessary to take a holistic approach, founded on the idea that the ultimate measure of interpreting quality is whether it was fit for the purpose for which it was intended. Thus, evaluations of interpreting quality must be socially and contextually aware and must include attention to the role of all of the players in the communicative triad.

Keywords

automated evaluation of interpreting, interpreting quality, automated quality metrics

LT.20 | Panel 50 | What Are Corpora Good For? The New Faces of Corpus and Digital Humanities Research in Translation and Interpreting Studies

Chairs: Haidee Kotze, Jan Buts

Conceptualizing Tourist Behaviour Across Languages: A Corpus-Based Approach to Translation and Ideology in Official Tourism Texts

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University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Dr Sofia Malamatidou

Sofia Malamatidou is an Associate Professor in Translation Studies at the University of Birmingham, UK. She has published on the topic of translation-induced linguistic change in the target language, with reference to the genre of popular science, and on a new methodological framework in corpus-based translation studies, called corpus triangulation. Her research reflects her strong interest in the interdisciplinary study of cross-cultural communication, which can generate new insights, and challenge the ways in which we have understood how languages, people, and ideas interact through translation.

Abstract

This paper examines official tourism texts and their translations using a novel approach to corpus-based translation studies, namely corpus data and methods triangulation, to understand how tourist behaviour is conceptualised across different languages, and how cross-linguistic differences are negotiated during translation. The main assumption is that tourism texts encourage readers to visit the destination through key verbs referring to how tourists engage with a destination. Texts in different languages are expected to encode tourist behaviour as conceptualised in their society, leading to cross-linguistic differences. Successful translations need to present the worldview of the target culture while accommodating the reader's worldview, representing a certain ideology. The notion of the tourism phase is used as an analytical tool for interpreting corpus findings. Tourism phases refer to stages of tourist activity, such as the sightseeing phase, manifested through verbs like 'visit' and 'see', and the post-sightseeing phase, manifested through verbs like 'explore' and 'experience'. The corpus examined is a 2-million-word corpus of texts from official tourism websites in English, French, Greek, and Russian and, where available, their translations. Data triangulation is achieved by comparing different types of sub-corpora (i.e., reference, comparable, parallel), languages, and both translated and non-translated texts. Methods triangulation is achieved by using both descriptive (i.e., raw and normalised frequencies of key verbs) and inferential statistics (i.e., log-likelihood test and Bayes Factor). Results suggest that while societies experience different phases of tourism, translated texts remain anchored in the tourism phase of the source rather than the target society. This indicates that translations may not fully adapt to the target culture's conceptualisation of tourist behaviour. Finally, corpus-based methods, especially corpus triangulation, provide a reliable way to examine ideology and how it is encoded through specific lexical features, key to the type of text under investigation.

Keywords

corpus triangulation, tourism translation, ideology

Building corpora to study translators on social media: a case study of Chinese translators' paratexts on Bilibili

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Mr Jincai Jiang

Jincai Jiang is a PhD candidate in Translation Studies at the School of Modern Languages, University of Bristol, U.K. He holds a BA in Applied Translation Studies from Hong Kong Baptist University and an MA in Culture and Translation from University College London. His PhD research explores Chinese amateur subtitlers' social media uses. In addition to researching translation and translators on social media, Jincai has been posting subtitled overseas UGC on Bilibili.

Abstract

Social media has thrived as a popular medium of translation and post-translation activities over the last decade. However, translators' perceptions of social media in relation to translation-relevant activities remain largely unknown. What do translators typically experience when posting translated content on social media? How do they perceive (what do they enjoy and dislike about) using social media for translation (or content distribution)? The presentation addresses these questions by utilising corpora to study what Chinese translators post on Bilibili, China's most popular video-sharing platform. My research experiments with incorporating corpora into translator studies in digital contexts. With the search engine on Bilibili, I retrieved 298 social media posts and 45 videos made by Chinese translators, in addition to 25 auto-reply messages (which are automatically sent to new followers) that translators set up on the platform. The three types of content comprise the corpus for my research on Chinese translators' perception of translation on social media. With word-frequency analysis, quantitative analysis on translators' metadata (such as their follower numbers) on social media, and grounded-theory coding, my research reveals that the Bilibili users' responses to translated content and the platform's copyright policy in relation to translating overseas content exert significant influence on Chinese translators on the social media. The presentation reveals three 'new faces' of corpora under the lens of digital humanities: 1) new object: corpora can contribute to translator studies in digital environments in addition to the conventional pathway of study translation texts; 2) new content: corpora may study digitally-created materials, including translators' blog posts and multimodal content (e.g., translators' vlogs about translating), in addition to digitised texts; 3) new findings: Corpora may reveal digital social-cultural relationships among the translator, the translations, and the audiences. For example, by systematically analysing hashtags and @s, corpora can reveal what translated content is trending (the most frequently used #) and what networks (who translators @) translators may belong to. Translating is changing its face to become digitised and platformised. Establishing corpora of human translators' online paratexts is promising, if not inevitable, for understanding their identities, thoughts, and activities in digital media. The presentation calls for more discussion on the implications of corpora in translator studies.

Keywords

Translator studies, Social media, Digital humanities

The world in Norwegian: investigating translation reviews

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Dr Siri Fürst Skogmo

Siri Fürst Skogmo is an associate professor at the Faculty of Education at Innland Norway University of Applied Sciences. She completed her PhD on marked language in literary translation in 2017. Her teaching experience includes courses in translation from Norwegian to English for general language students and for teacher education students, and her research interests are Translation Studies as well as learner language, and more recently also Digital Humanities.

Dr Marcus Axelsson

Marcus Axelsson is an associate professor of Scandinavian languages at Østfold University College since 2017. His research interests lie within the field of Translation Studies, more specifically within the sociology of translations, children's literature, Digital Humanities, Translation History and bibliomigration.

Dr Inger Hesjevoll Schmidt-Melbye

Inger Hesjevoll Schmidt-Melbye holds a doctoral degree in Translation of Francophone Literature from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim. She currently works as a Senior Research Librarian at the NTNU University Library. Her research interests and publications comprise Translation Studies, Digital Humanities, Big Translation History, Editorial History and Revision, Modern French and Francophone (African) Literature, and Multilingual Literature.

Abstract

The present study is positioned in the intersection of Translation Studies and Digital Humanities (DH) and has translation critique, more specifically translation reviews, as its unit of analysis. According to Tanasescu (2021) and Wakabayashi (2019), translation scholars have been slow to explore methods and approaches developed and put forward by DH scholars, and with the present study, we aim to bridge this gap. Previous comments on (mainly Anglo-American) translation reviews indicate that "fluency" is considered an ideal (normally not specified further), that the translator should remain invisible, and that failure to meet this ideal is condemned by the reviewer (e.g. Batchelor 2009, Chesterman 1997, Venuti 2008 [1995]). Inspired by theories and empirical research on hegemonic and peripheral languages by among others Heilbron (1999) and Lindqvist (2014), we want to investigate whether this "fluency ideal", or other ideals, can be found in translation reviews and reception in the Norwegian context. With help from the Norwegian National Library's DH-lab, we have created a metadata overview for all works of fiction translated into Norwegian during the last 200 years, allowing us to select representative cases to create a corpus of reviews from Norwegian newspapers. Using this corpus, we apply DH methods such as topic modelling and sentiment analysis to uncover which characteristics of the translated book are important for the reviewers, and whether this differs depending on the source nationality of the translated text. The study has its roots in a larger project funded by the National Library focusing on library development. We see the potential use of the resources developed in the current project not only for researchers, but also for the general public, i.e. schools, public libraries, and the Norwegian Association of Translators.

Keywords

translation review, corpus, sentiment analysis

LT.21 | Panel 7 | Changes to the Economic Value of Translation in the Face of AI (cont.)

Chairs: Félix do Carmo, Joss Moorkens, Gökhan Fırat

Understanding the labour market demands for translation and interpreting services: Results from text-mining a large sample of job advertisements

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Dr. Ke Hu

Ke Hu is a Lecturer in Translation Studies at the Asia Institute, University of Melbourne, specialising in the interplay of technology and language. He obtained both his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Melbourne and is a certified professional translator accredited by the Australian National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI). His academic pursuits span a diverse range of fields including language and translation technologies, corpus linguistics, computational linguistics, and digital humanities.

Ms. Yue Guo

Yue Guo is a doctoral candidate of Translation Studies at The University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China. She received her M.A. in Translation Studies from the University of Melbourne. Yue's research interests include translator training and the use of translation for second language teaching. Her doctoral research focuses on EFL students' adoption of machine translation and the measurement of EFL students' machine translation literacy.

Mr. Kaixiang Fan

Kaixiang Fan is a postgraduate student at University College London

Abstract

Recent advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine translation (MT) have significantly reshaped the labour market demand for translation and interpreting (T&I) services. This study explores the skills and qualifications that are needed in the current T&I labour market by analysing a large sample of job advertisements for T&I professionals from four major recruitment websites in mainland China. Using word frequency analysis and Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) topic modelling on job titles and job requirements, this ongoing study seeks to address the following research questions: 1. What skills and qualifications are required for T&I-related jobs in mainland China? 2. To what extent are T&I competences needed outside the language services industry? 3. What qualifications are necessary for high-income T&I-related jobs? Our analysis identifies two types of qualifications and ten types of skills required by T&I-related jobs, revealing that the current labour market demands a diverse skillset that transcends traditional linguistic and translation competence. Furthermore, this study discovers a diverse array of jobs that fall outside the traditional language services industry but still require T&I skills, underscoring the value of translation and interpreting as trans-industry skills. These findings provide empirical evidence of the current labour market's evolving demands of T&I professionals and emphasise the need for updated T&I training curricula to meet the challenges posed by today's technology-driven language services practices.

Keywords

job advertisements analysis, translator and interpreter training, translation and interpreting competence

Translators' perceptions about the economic value of translation in the face of AI: A data-based analysis from the T-WRQoL survey

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Prof. Akiko Sakamoto

Akiko Sakamoto is a Professor in Translation Studies at Kansai University, Japan. Before moving to Kansai in 2022, she taught and researched translation at the University of Portsmouth, UK. Situated in Translation Studies and drawing from Science and Technology Studies, she investigates what impacts technologies have on translators' workflow, job satisfaction, career motivation and social status. Her recent work includes an article (with Sarah Bawa Mason) 'In search of a fair MTPE pricing model: LSPs' reflections and the implications for translators' in Perspectives (2024), an article (with Darren Van Laar, Joss Moorkens and Félix do Carmo) 'Measuring translators' quality of working life and their career motivation' in Translation Spaces (2024) and a handbook chapter 'Changing practices in the translation industry' in The Routledge Handbook of the Translation Industry (forthcoming), Routledge.

Dr Darren Van Laar

Darren Van Laar is an Associate Professor in Applied Psychology in the Department of Psychology, University of Portsmouth. Darren has conducted research and analysis into stress and wellbeing in various settings including education, health, industry and the law for over 20 years. Darren's team at Portsmouth are creators of the widely used Work-Related Quality of Life scale. Darren is a lecturer in psychological statistics and research methods in the Department of Psychology. Darren has been the Director of the University of Portsmouth Graduate School since its inception in 2011.

Dr Joss Moorkens

Joss Moorkens is an Associate Professor at the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies at Dublin City University, a Funded Investigator and Science Lead at the ADAPT Centre, a member of DCU's Institute of Ethics and Centre for Translation and Textual Studies, and sits on the board of the European Masters in Translation Network. He has authored or co-authored over 60 journal articles, book chapters, and conference papers on translation technology, human factors in translation technology and machine translation, translator precarity, and translation ethics.

Dr Félix do Carmo

Félix do Carmo is a Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Translation Studies of the University of Surrey, where he teaches and researches the application of technologies to translation work processes, with a focus on their ethical and professional implications. He is a Fellow of the Surrey Institute for People-Centred Artificial Intelligence, and an Expert member of the Surrey Future of Work Research Centre. He worked for more than 20 years in Porto, Portugal, as a translator, translation company owner and university lecturer, and he was awarded a post-doctoral research fellowship to work at Dublin City University.

Abstract

In order for the translation industry to maintain a sustainable workforce of skilled translators, it is natural to assume that the work of translation needs to be given a fair economic value. And value is always determined by human perceptions. These can be perceptions of translation companies (the commissioners of work) or translation workers (the translators). It is the latter who this presentation concerns, examining how translators perceive the economic value attached to their translation when machine translation (MT) is used in the production process. In this presentation we will report a section of the results of our Translator Work-Related Quality of Life (T-WRQoL) project. In this interdisciplinary project (at the intersection of translation studies and organisational psychology), we conducted a questionnaire survey in the UK in 2024 to measure

translators' perceptions about the quality of their working lives, their work motivations, and other related matters such as their attitude to MT and their ratio of post-editing to from-scratch translation work. The questionnaire also asked respondents how they feel about the level of compensation they receive for their work (i.e., whether they are paid fairly for the work they do). These measurements allowed us to examine the correlations between the results of those different factors by calculating the Pearson's correlation coefficient (r), as well as the cause-effect relationships using SEM (Structural Equation Modeling). In presenting the results, we will discuss how the current stage of technological developments (in this study, mainly MT) and related work practices (such as post-editing) influence translators' perceptions of the economic value of their work. The discussion will then consider what translation companies should know and do about their translators' remuneration if they want to maintain a sustainable workforce of skilled translators in their business operations.

Keywords

Work-Related Quality of Life (WRQoL), Translators, Questionnaire

Resisting Precarity: An Innovative Business and Governance Model for Language Workers

Mr Alexander Minshall
Guerrilla Media Collective, Seville, Spain

Mr Alexander Minshall

Alexander Minshall is a worker-owner and active member of Guerrilla Media Collective, a Spain-based communications and translation cooperative that operates within the social and solidarity economy. With over 10 years of experience, the cooperative focuses on integrating pro-bono and care work into economic and administrative governance models to combat precarity in the translation industry.

Abstract

Members of Guerrilla Media Collective propose to present our innovative cooperative economic and administrative governance model and discuss the broader implications of distributed cooperative business models in the translation industry. Our 10-year trajectory demonstrates that worker-owners of translation cooperatives can resist the precarity of the translation industry by developing models that place livelihood, pro-bono work and care work at the core of governance. While our model is unique, it aims to provide an example, inspiration and roadmap for like-minded groups, promoting human resilience in a profession that can be extremely isolating, fragmented and exploitative. Our praxis is reflected in our daily operations: we financially compensate the often invisible, unpaid work that goes into translation – what feminist economists term "care work." Members are remunerated for time spent on traditionally unpaid tasks such as test translations, emailing, coordinating, attending meetings, networking, accounting and invoicing, in addition to income-generating translation work. We maintain ongoing accountability mechanisms to assess our adherence to our cooperative principles and identify imbalances in work distribution. In addition to our "livelihood" and "care work", members are paid internally for pro-bono work, referred to as "lovework." These translations are provided free of charge and published under a Creative Commons license on our platforms, selected via open calls for individuals or groups who cannot otherwise afford high-quality translation. We eschew machine translation and AI wherever possible, focusing instead on conscientious translation practices. All in-house work is conducted in translator-editor pairs, with close cooperation and access to wider collective assistance if needed. Our presentation will detail our business and governance model, and provide a brief overview of our day-to-day operations in a translation cooperative, including a chronological look at the processes involved in handling a piece of translation work from start to finish – highlighting the care work involved at every stage.

Keywords

Fair and alternative business models, Translation cooperatives, Open and feminist governance model

Towards reconceptualising and re-evaluating productivity in the translation industry

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Dr Silvia Terribile

Silvia Terribile holds a PhD in Translation and Intercultural Studies from the University of Manchester, an MSc in Specialised Translation (Audiovisual) from University College London, and a BA in Linguistic and Cultural Mediation from the University of Turin (Italy). Silvia's primary research interests are in the fields of translation technologies and localisation. In her PhD fully funded by UK Research and Innovation, she investigated productivity in the post-editing of neural machine translation in partnership with a world-leading language service provider, Toppan Digital Language. Some of the main contributions of her research include: (1) the first large-scale investigation of translation and revision speed in human translation and post-editing, based on real-world data for 90 million translated words; (2) the development of RECAP (Repetition, Error, Change, Action, Post-editing), a multi-layered typology to classify different types of edits to the machine translation output; (3) the application of RECAP to analyse edits in a small corpus of real-world English-to-Italian post-editing tasks that required different levels of post-editing effort; and (4) the development of AREA (Automating Repetitive Editing Actions), an algorithm that could automate up to 46% of repetitive edits in post-editing. Silvia currently works as a Research & Community Specialist at Slator. She has been teaching translation, focusing on translation technologies, for four years at the University of Sheffield, University of Manchester, and University of Roehampton. She has previously managed localisation services at Hogarth Worldwide and Turner Broadcasting System (now part of Warner Bros. Discovery).

Abstract

Due to globalisation, productivity has become paramount for the translation industry (Moorkens 2020). However, the industry standards have not provided any guidelines for productivity evaluation, no translation productivity metrics have been validated empirically, and scholars have largely overlooked this issue (do Carmo 2020). Language service providers (LSPs) rely on oversimplified productivity measures that only consider easily quantifiable aspects of translation (Moorkens 2023). These metrics are frequently used to determine freelance translators' remuneration and may negatively affect their working conditions. Moreover, LSPs typically request discounted rates for post-editing a priori, assuming that using AI will enhance translators' speed, although this is not always the case (Terribile 2023). The pressure to work faster also undermines translators' wellbeing and autonomy (Sakamoto and Mason 2024). Against this backdrop, this paper critically evaluates current conceptualisations and measures of productivity used in the translation industry. It highlights that the use of common productivity proxies – e.g. source wordcount, word per hour ratio, and edit distance (ELIA et al. 2023) – is frequently reductive. It then discusses why numerous attempts to develop comprehensive measures of translation productivity – such as the Localization Metrics Initiative, the 'GMX-C' standard, and the 'TAUS efficiency score' (Dunne 2011; Görög 2015) – were abandoned. Additionally, it considers the advantages and limitations of theorisations and methods from related research areas, such as knowledge workers' productivity (e.g. Howe and Menges 2022). As a first step towards reconceptualising and re-evaluating productivity in the translation industry, I draw on Risku, Dickinson and Pircher's (2010) as well as on Olohan's (2017) theorisations of knowledge in the translation practice, to propose an approach to evaluating translation productivity that involves integrating analyses of tangible and intangible aspects of translation. This proposal aims to enhance our understanding of translation productivity and to contribute to a fairer recognition for the profession.

Keywords

translation productivity, translators' remuneration, translation industry

The translation industry and the destruction of economic value: A consequentialist critique

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Dr. Michael Tieber

Michael Tieber holds a PhD in translation studies and is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Graz, Austria. His research interests are focused on translation in the context of globalization and digitization. In his doctoral thesis, he investigated the concept of translation in computational linguistics. His current project is dedicated to examining divergent perceptions and framings of machine translation across different fields and groups.

Prof. Stefan Baumgarten

Stefan Baumgarten is currently head of the Department of Translation Studies at the University of Graz. He is also heading the research area 'Translation, Ethics and Digital Transformation'. His research centres on the social impact of translation technologies, (critical) translation theories, and the role of translation as an ideological practice. He is co-editor (with Michael Tieber) of the forthcoming Routledge Handbook of Translation Technology and Society.

Abstract

The rise of MT and AI is reshaping the public discourse around translation, with significant economic and societal implications for human translators. Translation has become a constantly available commodity, seamlessly integrated into our lives through social media, websites and smartphone apps. Media and translation think tanks like TAUS tend to depict MT as a technological marvel, advocating for the benefits of translation automation while downplaying its limitations (Vieira 2020; Baumgarten 2024). This kind of "techno-triumphalism" (Baumgarten 2024) fosters unrealistic expectations about MT's capabilities and risks diminishing the symbolic capital (Bourdieu 1983) and cultural recognition (Honneth 2008) of professional human translation. Public discourse on the perceived value of translation is significantly shaped by the translation industry, which prioritizes technology over human translators. In advanced capitalism, given its predilection to regard technologies as socially neutral artefacts, human translators' roles are minimized while linguistic data achieve the highest economic exchange value. The industry promotes the view that translation is a social, almost natural good, freely accessible and not owned by anyone (do Carmo forthcoming). Consequently, human translators face economic pressures and diminished professional recognition, exacerbating disparities and challenging the sustainability of their livelihoods in the digital age. This paper pursues two objectives. First, it aims to trace how translation think tanks and technology corporations portray MT and shape public discourse by framing translation as a primarily data-driven technological process while downplaying the vital role of human translators. Secondly, snapshots from these discourses serve as the basis for a conceptual outline of a 'consequentialist ethics for translation technology', an ethics that considers networked and long-term social consequences rather than the individual and short-term effects as postulated in Kantian deontological ethics (Baumgarten forthcoming).

Keywords

public discourse on MT, advanced capitalism, consequentialism

LT.23 | Panel 48 | Translatorial Practices in Contexts of Low Institutionalization of Translation (cont.)

Chairs: Kaisa Koskinen, Helle V. Dam

Translating and Writing from Below: Transnational Collaboration in Community-Led Literary Initiatives

Prof. Núria Codina
KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

Prof. Núria Codina

Núria Codina is assistant professor at the Translation Studies Department at KU Leuven. She is also the Principal Investigator of the ERC Starting Grant project "COLLAB: Collaborative Practices of Making Literature in Contexts of Migration and Displacement" (2023-2028), which looks at a wide array of collaborative practices across Europe that create spaces for literary participation of migrants. Her previous research, funded by the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), studied the role of refugee writing as well as multilingualism and minor languages in contemporary world literature. She received a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Tübingen and is the author of Verflochtene Welten. Transkulturalität in den Werken von Najat El Hachmi, Pius Alibek, Emine Sevgi Özdamar und Feridun Zaimoglu (2018). She has also published in journals such as Interventions, Contemporary Women's Writing, Research in African Literatures, MELUS and Textual Practice.

Abstract

This paper analyzes the political and literary role of small-scale civil society organizations that use literary creation and translation as a tool for community-building and intercultural dialogue in today's context of displacement and migration. Focusing on The Poetry Project, a non-profit based in Berlin that runs literary workshops for migrant and refugee authors and brings them in touch with professional writers, editors and translators who guide them through the writing process, the paper shows how production and circulation are mutually implicated processes of co-creation through which the migrant experience is entextualized and relocalized. By highlighting notions of migrant agency and addressing cultural and linguistic asymmetries that are intrinsically embedded in collaborative practices, the paper reframes translation as a bottom-up process that blurs the boundaries between professional and amateur writing and translation. The less institutionalized context in which these transnational and collaborative translational practices take place transform the cultural field in radical ways, not only by pluralizing the voices and stories we read and providing new spaces for literary participation of migrants, but also by expanding the range and function of institutions typically involved in the making of a text. In order to demonstrate the relevance of such activities, the paper will locate The Poetry Project within a broader network of similar initiatives on a European context.

Keywords

Collaboration, Migration, Bottom-up translation and creation

Crafting translation in times of pandemics. Sex workers, Swiss bureaucrats & translators

Mr Alejandro Santano Suárez, Mrs Emeline Beckmann
University of Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland

Mr Alejandro Santano Suárez

Alejandro Santano Suárez obtained a bachelor's degree in translation and interpreting at the University of Geneva (Switzerland), including exchanges with the University of Granada (Spain) and the University of Heriot-Watt (Scotland). Afterwards, he worked in Switzerland and then in Italy as a translator and interpreter, but a few years later he returned to Switzerland to start a master's degree in research on multilingualism at the University of Fribourg, where he learned to combine his translation studies approach with a critical sociolinguistic vision of the challenges of the world of translation. During his master's degree, he worked for several years as a research assistant on the project "Multilingualism in a public health crisis", carried out by the Institute for Multilingualism. As part of this research project, he studied the conception, production, distribution, and reception of translations mobilised by the Swiss government as part of its communication strategy to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. During this time, he specialised in translation and interpreting practices in the tracing centres set up by the cantonal authorities. He wrote a master's thesis on this subject with which he was awarded a "summa cum laude" degree. Today, he works as a scientific librarian and deputy head of the Library for Foreign Languages and Multilingualism at the University of Fribourg. He is also working on a PhD thesis on the translation market in Switzerland. Specifically, he aims to explain the characteristics of the translation industry and its consequences for translators in terms of flexibilization, competition and precariousness.

Mrs Emeline Beckmann

Emeline Beckmann, after obtaining a master's degree in education and in theatre (France, Germany), is currently writing her PhD in sociolinguistics at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). Her thesis is describing the linguistic ideologies within the International Workingmen Association and the First Anti-Authoritarian International from 1864 to 1877 and is written under the direction of Alexandre Duchêne. By focussing on the analysis of the minutes of all the ten international congresses that took place during this period, she is trying to reconstruct the way these congresses were organized from a linguistic point of view (interactions, translations etc.), which debates took place around the function of language in social movements and finally the broader geopolitical issues in which these ideologies were anchored. Besides, she is teaching for three years now immersive bilingual courses around social and educational inequalities at the Haute Ecole Pédagogique of Fribourg (teacher training institute) in Switzerland. In addition to this, she worked with Alexandre Duchêne, Renata Coray and Alejandro Santano Suarez on the project "Multilingualism in a public health crisis" (2020-2024) carried out by the Institute of Multilingualism of the University of Fribourg, where she specifically focussed on the translation work that was done by NGO's and other grassroot-organizations to inform people who didn't have access to the official campaign of the Swiss government. In this frame, she worked mainly on the relationship between diasporic medias and the state but also on other initiatives, like organizations who materially supported sex-workers during the pandemic in Switzerland.

Abstract

This contribution looks at translation practices during the COVID-19 crisis in Switzerland. The pandemic led to a ban on sex work from 16 March to 6 June 2020. Deprived of their income, sex workers turned to the loss of earnings allowance (APG, for its French acronym), a form to apply for government financial support. However, the APG form was only available in three national languages (French, German, Italian) and English, which made it too difficult for some people to fill it in by themselves (REISO, 2021). Therefore, some grassroots actors translated the form into other languages. Although not legally valid, these translations served as a support to facilitate access to the APG. Thus, our presentation will shed light on the following question: What role does translation play in managing the language challenges faced by sex workers? Our object of analysis is an organisation for sex workers that translated the APG form into Bulgarian, Portuguese, Thai, Hungarian and Romanian. The translations and their conditions of production are the focus of our contribution and enable us to discuss the idea of low institutionalization of translation from three angles: in terms of practices, with the informal use of digital translation tools, and complementary oral translations; in terms of organisations, since associations show a low degree of translation practices institutionalisation; in

terms of translation fields, because at the national administration level, documents are translated into a large number of languages in the public health domain, but not in the economic one. Finally, we will show, firstly, that the low institutionalization of translation is a response to the State's failure to translate financial support for vulnerable people and, secondly, that the lack of translations into the languages of precarious migrant populations plays a key role in the reproduction of inequalities (Codó, 2008).

Keywords

Sex workers, covid19, non-professionnal translators

When low institutionalization leads to reinvention: T&I and Indigenous languages in Canada

Prof. María Sierra Córdoba Serrano
McGill University, Montreal, Canada

Prof. María Sierra Córdoba Serrano

María Sierra Córdoba Serrano is an Associate Professor and the Graduate Program Director of the new M.Sc. (Applied) in Multilingual Digital Communication at McGill University. Before joining McGill in 2017, she was an Associate Professor at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (California). She is interested in sociological approaches to the study of translation, and within this prism, she has studied the relation between translation and public diplomacy, the relation between translation policies and minority languages, and, more recently, the role of translation in multilingual crisis communication as part of her SSHRC-funded project, "No one is safe until everyone is safe: Multilingual crisis communication during the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada". Her published works include Le Québec traduit en Espagne : analyse sociologique de l'exportation d'une culture périphérique (University of Ottawa Press, 2013) and a co-edited special issue on translation policies and minority languages for the International Journal of the Sociology of Language (2018), as well as numerous book chapters and articles in international peer-reviewed journals. She has also translated two award-winning novels by Quebec author Nicolas Dicker into Spanish.

Abstract

The translation industry in Canada is largely the product of language policy—centered around Canada's official bilingualism—rather than market demand. As a consequence, translation practices are highly institutionalized, with a well-established professional ecosystem that includes associations, certification systems, and specialized university education. While this framework has created favourable working conditions for translators and other language professionals, particularly those working with Canada's official languages, it has also created a conservative ecosystem in which language professionals tend to be reluctant to reinvent or enlarge their occupational mandates and professional identities (Fayard et al., 2017) at a time when AI is blurring professional and occupational boundaries. Translation practices concerning non-official languages in Canada are comparatively much less institutionalized. For Indigenous languages in particular, translation is largely practiced by a limited pool of untrained individuals in hybrid roles that involve more than language transfer (e.g., community influencers, multicultural communication trainers, and language use and revitalization advocates). In this presentation, I will examine these hybrid roles by zooming in on a case study of multilingual communication practices (including but not limited to translation) in Indigenous languages during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on practices coordinated by Indigenous Services Canada. The analysis brings to light the emergence of bottom-up multilingual communication practices—which sometimes intentionally exclude translation—carried out by Indigenous individuals in order to more effectively build trust and effect change among their linguistically and culturally diverse communities. I will argue that the study of these practices can help us rethink translators' professional mandates, which are being renegotiated or enlarged in the age of AI. Fayard, A.-L., Stigliani, I., & Bechky, B. A. (2016). How Nascent Occupations Construct a Mandate: The Case of Service Designers' Ethos. Administrative Science Quarterly, 62(2), 270-303. (Some references omitted for space constraints.)

Keywords

translation in Indigenous languages, Canada, low institionalization

Translating for Revitalisation: The translation of Language Documentation texts is a Social Justice Issue.

Ms Holly Drayton
Portsmouth University, Portsmouth, United Kingdom. Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom

Ms Holly Drayton

I am a PhD student working on Language Documentation, Description and Revitalisation. My current doctoral project involves collecting a documentary corpus of texts with speakers of the Lower Baram languages of northern Borneo. This documentation process involves recording, transcribing, glossing and translating a range of texts. The Lower Baram languages are critically endangered and previously undocumented. Previously I was awarded an MA in Translation Studies, where I focussed on the translation of endangered languages in the context of language documentation and revitalisation. I am interested in building and fostering collaboration between researchers in the fields of Translation Studies and Language Documentation who aim to better understand the processes involved in translating endangered and minoritised languages.

Abstract

A central aim of Language Documentation is the creation and storage of lasting, multi-purpose collections of endangered-language texts, with accompanying annotation (Himmelmann 2006). In this paper I argue that translation practices in Language Documentation can be linked to the field's social justice goals, and decisions to translate (or not) determine whether a collection can be used for revitalization initiatives. End-users wishing to use documentary corpora for revitalisation and language learning purposes often do not speak or understand the endangered source language (Czaykowska-Higgins 2009; Schwartz & Dobrin 2016). Therefore, translation is vital to allow access to the texts. Users typically encounter two key barriers: lack of appropriate translated texts (Austin 2019; Babinski et al. 2022) and low quality of translation (Evans & Sasse 2007; Austin 2017). I present a study of macro-level translation methods based on a corpus of 1088 texts from 10 deposits in the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR). I survey the decisions made by researchers of which texts to translate, which genres to translate, which languages to translate into and choice of translator. I find that only 14% of documentary texts surveyed could be usefully employed in revitalization/language learning initiatives. More widely, translator training rarely include minority or endangered languages due to financial unviability, low demand and lack of qualified teachers (Taibi & Ozolins 2016). The resulting implications are that translations involving minority or endangered languages have been reported to be "poor, inappropriate or less effective" in a wide range of contexts extending beyond Language Documentation (Taibi & Ozolins 2016: 22). I argue that interdisciplinary collaboration between Translation scholars working to broaden the field of Translation Studies beyond its Eurocentric tradition and Language Documentation researchers could strengthen both fields of research.

Keywords

Language Revitalisation, Language Documentation, Endangered Languages

Interpreting in feminist movement organizations: An empirical enquiry into organizational learning, knowledge acquisition and literacy development

Ms Maria Bernadette Zwischenberger
Centre for Translation Studies, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Ms Maria Bernadette Zwischenberger

Maria Bernadette Zwischenberger is a research assistant and doctoral candidate at the University of Vienna's Centre for Translation Studies. She holds a BA in Transcultural Communication and an MA in Translation (German, English, French) from the University of Vienna and specializes in Dialogue Interpreting. She also completed further training on speech-to-text interpreting for DHH people. Her PhD research is concerned with feminist approaches, especially intersectional thinking, in interpreting studies and interpreting in women-run social movement organizations.

Abstract

During a two-year project starting in 2020, feminist organizations across Austria conducted in-house training for non-professional interpreters to strengthen cross-linguistic support in their work of psychosocial counselling for women and girls. This initiative represented the start of a larger investigation into spoken-language interpreting in feminist organizations' work. In this presentation, I partly report on this research, focusing on organizations' learning when adopting cross-linguistic practices in interpreter-mediated counselling. The organizations' recollections of exploring and adapting translatorial resources and abilities to align with their political commitments, and fostering an inclusive and empowering environment for women, are discussed as a form of translation knowledge acquisition (see D'hulst & Gambier 2018) and literacy development (e.g., Massey 2021). Grounded in institutional ethnographic principles and applying a qualitative methodological approach, this research analyses expert interviews with the coordinators of 15 feminist organizations across Austria and an affiliated country-wide network. The sample's geographical spread includes organizations with little experience of formalized translation practices and others which have been working with established interpreter pools for years. Findings from the analysis are discussed with respect to the broader literature on interpreting, especially for social justice, and more particularly research into interpreting to advance feminist agendas (e.g., Bartłomiejczyk et al. 2025). Literature: Bartłomiejczyk, Magdalena; Pöllabauer, Sonja & Straczek-Helios, Viktoria. 2025. "The heart will stop beating". Ethical issues in activist interpreting – the case of Ciocia Wienia. Interpreting 27 (1), 124–150. D'hulst, Lieven & Gambier, Yves. 2018. A general introduction. In A history of modern translation knowledge: Sources, concepts, effects edited by D'hulst, L. & Gambier, Y, 1–14. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. Massey, Gary. 2021. Translation literacy in additional language learning: Closing the conceptual divide between translation and language education. Bulletin Suisse de linguistique appliquée 114, 31–45.

Keywords

translation literacy, organizational knowledge acquisition, feminist movement organizations

LT.24 | Panel 29 | Multimethod Research in Cognitive Translation and Interpreting Studies: Constructs and Indicators (cont.)

Chairs: Binghan Zheng, Ricardo Muñoz Martín, Yu Weng

Disentangling attention during simultaneous interpreting

Prof. Kilian Seeber, Mr. Dongpeng Pan
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Prof. Kilian Seeber

Kilian G. Seeber is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting of the University of Geneva in Switzerland where he serves as vice dean and as program director of the Master of Advanced Studies in Interpreter Training (MAS-IT). His research interests include cognitive load and integration during multilingual and multimodal language processing.

Mr. Dongpeng Pan

Dongpeng Pan is a research assistant and a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting of the University of Geneva. His area of research includes cognitive load and prediction in multimodal processing.

Abstract

Simultaneous interpreting is a complex activity combining a comprehension and a production task in real time (Seeber, 2017) and a quintessential example of multitasking. Given the resource limitations of the human processor (Cowan, 2001), this can only be achieved by rapidly switching attention between these tasks and their component tasks (Miyake et al. 2000). The temporal mechanics underlying this switching are poorly understood and difficult to measure. In this experimental study we asked 42 professional conference interpreters to perform a comprehension, a production and an interpreting task based on a visual array of three pictures of objects, following the structure “The {object 1} is next to the {object 2}”. Names and images of objects were normed and matched for frequency. Visual shifts of attention (Just & Carpenter, 1993) among objects over time are contrasted among the three tasks. Additionally, pupil diameter is used as an indicator of real-time variations in cognitive load during sentence comprehension (ibid) and simultaneous interpreting (Seeber, 2013). Results provide a first insight into the dynamics of attentional shifts in simultaneous interrpreting and its component tasks (Seeber, 2011).

Keywords

simultaneous interpreting, multitasking, attention

The impact of computer-assisted interpreting tools on recall in remote simultaneous interpreting

Dr Zhiqiang Du
University of Bologna, Forli, Italy

Dr Zhiqiang Du

Du Zhiqiang was recently awarded a PhD at the University of Bologna, under the supervision of Profs. Ricardo Muñoz and Victoria LEI Lai Cheng. He now holds a post-doc position at that university where he joined the team of the research project Big Sistah, developing a data collection package for CTIS.

Abstract

Drawing from Cowan's (1999, 2000) Working Memory model and Fantinuoli et al.'s (2022) research on Computer-Assisted Interpreting (CAI) tools, this study explored term recall in CAI-tool supported remote simultaneous interpreting (RSI)—namely (1) how 22 L1 interpreting trainees handled source text (ST) term repetitions while performing three RSI tasks from L2→L1 with a CAI tool, and (2) what the potential impact of CAI-tool use might be onto their cognitive efforts. The research design adopted repeated measures, with data collection of interpreting performance spanning across three cycles (I as pretest, and cycles II–III as post-test). After cycle I, the informants were split into two groups: the experimental group used a CAI tool while the control group used a spreadsheet. The source speeches were adapted from popular science podcasts, with ST complexity and speech delivery features controlled to foster consistency. Each ST was doctored with 39 potential problem triggers, including three terms repeated twice. The informants' renditions were registered, and computer activity was monitored to capture CAI tool use. The results of naturalistic remote data collection in the informants' own environments were assessed for several output indicators—such as term accuracy and fluency in delivery—and dynamic behavioral indicators of efficiency of CAI tool use. Both groups improved in handling repeated terms across cycles. Aspects of terms appearing for the first time were contrasted with first and second-time repetitions. CAI tool support yielded high success rates but its contribution in term repetitions was limited. Some informants scarcely searched for repeated terms, suggesting a tendency to rely on memory, and others continued to depend on the CAI tool for repetitions. Data suggests that a dynamic approach to recall might shed light on results, with high cognitive efforts averted through reducing their memory traces to free cognitive resources, leading to systematic behavior and over-reliance on the CAI tool.

Keywords

CAI tools, term repetitions, recall

Dependency distance as indicator for cognitive load in inverse interpreting: a corpus-based study of disfluencies in Chinese-English consecutive interpreting

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Dr Xinlei Jiang

Xinlei Jiang is assistant professor in School of Foreign Studies, and post-doctoral fellow in Institute of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics at Xi'an Jiaotong University. Obtaining PhD in interdiscipline of linguistics and computer sciences, she does research combining cognitive interpreting studies, quantitative linguistics and corpus-based translation studies. She has published several peer-reviewed SSCI indexed academic papers featuring interdisciplinarity, including recent publications in International Review of Applied Linguistics in Language Teaching, Journal of Quantitative Linguistics and Lingua. She is now presiding over a national social science program, focusing on the quantitative enquiry to translation/interpreting process research.

Abstract

Assessing cognitive load in interpreting is crucial for pedagogy, research and accreditation. While cognitive load cannot be observed or measured directly, consistently quantifiable indicators are necessary for gauging or predicting it. Dependency distance, the linear position difference between two syntactically-related words, have shown promise in measuring syntactic complexity and processing load in interlanguage, psycholinguistics and direct interpreting tasks. The present study examined the relationship between interpreters' disfluencies and dependency distances of both source and target texts, aiming to validate dependency distance as an effective indicator of cognitive load in inverse interpreting. The 50,000-word parallel corpus comprises randomly selected interpretations from Chinese-English consecutive interpreting tasks in nationally recognized certification tests for Chinese fourth-year university English major students. In our regression analysis, two dependency-based indices (mean dependency distances of source and target texts) and four traditional complexity indices (mean clause lengths of source and target texts, and lexical density and percentage of numerals of source texts) were set as the predictor variables. Logarithmic occurrence of disfluencies (including filled pauses, silent pauses, revisions and repetitions), a widely-used performance metric closely associated with underlying cognitive states or processes, served as the response variable. Our findings reveal that in inverse interpreting: 1) both mean dependency distances of source and target texts significantly induce more disfluencies; 2) neither mean clause length of source nor target texts significantly influences the occurrence of disfluencies; 3) higher lexical density and numeral percentage in source texts lead to significantly more disfluencies. These results corroborate the significant impact of mean dependency distances of source and target texts on learner interpreters' disfluencies, and reaffirm the important role of traditional lexical complexity indices. This study provides preliminary support for mean dependency distance as an effective indicator for cognitive load in inverse interpreting, offering insights into a quantitative approach to cognitive interpreting studies.

Keywords

cognitive load, dependency distance, inverse interpreting

How do interpreters process information focus within Chinese relative clauses with varied dependency distances in simultaneous interpreting with synchronous captioning? An eye-tracking study

Miss Meng Du
University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom

Miss Meng Du

I am a PhD student in Interpreting Studies at the University of Leeds under the supervision of Professor Binhua Wang and Dr Callum Walker. My PhD research applies eye-tracking methods to investigate interpreters' cognitive processing in simultaneous interpreting. My project is funded by Leeds-CSC scholarship. Prior to joining the University of Leeds, I studied at Sichuan International Studies University (BA) and Beijing Foreign Studies University (MA). I completed my MSc in International Social and Public Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where I graduated with distinction. As a 'practisearcher', I have been working as a freelance translator and interpreter in my spare time, providing translation and interpreting services for many organizations and companies from and out of China, covering social policy, international relations, economics, and many other fields. Research interests interpreting/translation process as complex bilingual and cognitive processing multimodal corpus-based study of interpreting/translation products.

Abstract

Technological advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) have introduced high-accuracy automatic speech recognition (ASR) tools into interpreting, transforming traditional practices and challenging assumptions about cognitive processes and workload distribution. While these technologies hold the potential for improving interpreting quality and efficiency, empirical evidence of their effectiveness remains limited. This research examines the role of ASR technology in coordinating cognitive resources and aiding problem-solving during the 'in-progress' phase of remote simultaneous interpreting. It specifically explores how trainee interpreters use synchronous captioning to handle complex Chinese relative clauses with varying dependency distances between the head noun and its dependents. The study addresses three key questions: (1) How does ASR-generated synchronous captioning affect cognitive processing when interpreters handle Chinese de-structures with varying dependency distances? (2) What impact does the presence or absence of highlighting have on cognitive allocation, and what mechanisms drive these differences? (3) How does the interaction between highlighting features and dependency distances influence the ability of trainees to capture information focus during simultaneous interpreting? To explore these questions, an eye-tracking experiment and post-experiment interviews were conducted with twenty-eight Chinese trainee interpreters. They interpreted a Chinese speech into English, which included sixteen experimental sentences with highlighted head nouns and sixteen control sentences without highlighting. The interpreting output and eye movements were recorded using the Eyelink 1000 Plus eye-tracking system. Findings reveal that highlighting increases regression path duration and text revisits, indicating deeper cognitive engagement, particularly with complex sentences. Highlighting improves accuracy in simpler structures but is less effective with complex syntax, while its absence with longer dependency distances leads to faster but less accurate processing. The study advocates for a balanced use of technological aids in interpreter training to enhance accuracy and fluency.

Keywords

Automatic speech recognition, dependency distance, simultaneous interpreting

Session 8 | 15:30-17:30

LT.01 | Panel 28 | Literary Translation in Transition: Disruptions in Central and Eastern Europe in the 20th and 21st Century (cont.)

Chairs: Joanna Rzepa, Kasia Szymanska

Towards Socioeconomy of Literary Translation - Polish Literary Translation Market and Literary Translators 1989-2025

Prof. Krzysztof Fordonski
University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

Prof. Krzysztof Fordonski

Krzysztof Fordoński studied at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. MA in English studies in 1994, PhD in 2002, and D.Litt. in Literary Studies in 2013. Associate Professor at the Faculty of Applied Linguistics, University of Warsaw. Main fields of academic interest: English literature at the turn of 20th century (especially E. M. Forster), history and sociology of literary translation, and the history of England and Scotland. The author of monographs of William Wharton and E. M. Forster, and numerous scholarly articles, the editor of the English language translations of the poetry of Maciej Kazimierz Sarbiewski, as well as several collected volumes in literary studies and linguistics. Chairman of the International E. M. Forster Society, editor-in-chief of the Polish Journal of English Studies. Active literary, academic, and audiovisual translator. Full CV: https://uw.academia.edu/KrzysztofFordonski/CurriculumVitae

Abstract

The paper attempts to refocus translation studies towards their socioeconomic dimension. Sociology of translation has been a part of these studies for some time and yet it still tends to concentrate on the figure of the translator (in Polish context e.g. Trzy tłumaczki by Krzysztof Umiński). Little if any attention is paid to the broader socioeconomic context which is crucial for literary translation when it transcends "Niepróżnujące próżnowanie" (which can be translated with the title of another famous collection of poems Hours of Idleness), and ceases to be a pastime of people wealthy enough to indulge in unprofitable though aesthetically pleasing activities. Literary translation cannot exist on a commercially meaningful scale without publishers who profit from its publication, and translators who can make a living by translating literature. Neither can it exist without readers interested and wealthy enough to pay for the translated books. And yet translation studies typically omit these considerations. The paper deals with the economic situation of literary translation and translators in Poland between 1989 and the beginning of 2025. The author concentrates on issues connected with practical, pecuniary aspects, discusses the changes which occurred to Polish publishing houses and the book market which influenced the everyday reality of literary translation. The data upon which the analyses are based comes from research carried out by literary translators' associations such as STL and CEATL, the reports of the National Library of Poland, and interviews with active literary translators The paper deals also with crucial characteristics of Polish book market related to translation – the position of translated literature and literary translators, reception, criticism, assistance they may count on, printings of translated books, the income of translators, activities of translators' associations etc. These aspects will be presented within a broader context of the position of literary translation in various countries.

Keywords

socioeconomy of translation, sociology of translation, literary translation

The changing economy of multiple translation: from the communist to the post-communist literary order

Dr Kasia Szymanska
University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

Dr Kasia Szymanska

Dr Kasia Szymanska is Lecturer in Translation Studies at the Centre of Translation & Intercultural Studies at the University of Manchester. Her first book Translation Multiples: From Global Culture to Post-Communist Democracy is forthcoming in 2025 with Princeton University Press. She is currently working on two edited volumes: The Bloomsbury Handbook to Modernism and Translation (with Rebecca Beasley, under contract with Bloomsbury) and The Tender Translator: Olga Tokarczuk Across Languages (with Joanna T. Huss, under contract with Legenda, MHRA). Her work has also been published in journals such as PMLA, Contemporary Literature, Slavic and East European Journal, among others.

Abstract

In this paper, I will look at the role of multiple translation (or: retranslations) in understanding the transition between the communist to post-communist publishing cultures in Central-Eastern Europe. This tension between the singular and the multiple across the two political frameworks (the state-driven publishing monopoly before 1989 and a more decentralized system from the 1990s onwards) will be discussed with regard to different trends and political factors which have either restricted or facilitated the proliferation of different translations of the same work in a given period. These factors include: the publishing infrastructure, inclination towards canonization, the publishing pace, the general volume of translation production, the question of copyrights, official and unofficial channels of translation production and distribution, and potential frictions between them. By combining exisiting case studies on Czechoslovakia (Spišiaková 2021), Slovenia (Pokorn 2012), Romania (Nicolaescu 2012), Poland (Borodo 2017) and other countries (Rundle, Lange, Monticelli 2022) with my own research, I will consider a quantitative tension between two successive literary orders. While introducing a few caveats, I will argue that the authoritative communist system generally favored canonisation through single officially anointed translations while the post-1989 system (in principle) allowed for the simulatenous presence of multiple translations of the same work. Finally, I will explain how transitioning towards a more pluralist system also brought about a move from one authoritative interpretation to multiple renderings treated as potential alternatives.

Keywords

multiple translation, publishing history, communism

Émigré-translators in Russia Abroad (1919-1939): the case of A. F. Damanskaya as “an insatiable mediator between Western European literature and the Russian reader”.

Mrs. Anna Namestnikov
Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

Mrs. Anna Namestnikov

Anna Namestnikov is an FWO Fundamental Research Fellow at the Russian section of the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication (Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Ghent University), where she is a member of the TRACE research group. Anna obtained her Master of Arts in Eastern European Languages and Cultures, specialising in Russian and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, at Ghent University in 2019-2020. Since November 2023, Anna has been working on her PhD project under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Piet Van Poucke, integrating her scholarly interests in the Russian diaspora, literary translation and periodicals into her PhD research on the translation systems used in Russian émigré periodicals (1919-1939). The research aims to explore the different approaches of various émigré communities to foreign literature and translation. Through comparative analysis, this research sheds light on the cultural identity of Russian émigré communities, paying particular attention to local and cultural stratification.

Abstract

In research on the history of Russia Abroad (1919-1939), the postrevolutionary society-in-exile with communities around the world, one key figure has been hitherto neglected: the émigré-translator. The exilic condition in which these translators found themselves after 1917 was deeply political, whether in the form of an outright rejection of the Bolshevik revolution or, more symbolically, as Edward Said suggests, as an embodied consciousness of liberation through the pursuit of physical sovereignty and intellectual freedom (Said 1993: 332-333, In: Sepp, A., et al. 2018: 11). The place these émigré-translators inhabited was distinctly hybrid, an in-between culture (Asscher 2021) and discursive space where the national meets the global and where language and writing are constant renegotiations with homeland – host – diaspora (Rubins 2021). This paper aims to examine translation work in this context, focusing on the translator, writer, critic and émigré A. F. Damanskaya. One of the few visible and most prolific literary translators in Russia Abroad, Damanskaya was described in the émigré press as "an insatiable mediator between Western European literature and the Russian reader" (Vozrozhdenie 2/683 1927). She not only crossed the Russian border when she emigrated in 1920, but lived and worked in Prague, Berlin and Paris, translating from Polish, German, English, French and Italian. She was also published in all the well-read émigré journals, which were of very different political persuasions. Damanskaya's own ideological and sociological positioning remains understudied, a gap that this article aims to fill. By maintaining a microhistorical approach (Ginzburg 1976/1980) and examining primary sources (Munday 2014), this paper aims to be a starting point for a more nuanced history of Russia Abroad and the role émigré translators played in it.

Keywords

Russian emigration, Translation history, Literary translator

From Faulkner to Genre Fiction: Zofia Kierszys' Translation Career and the (Literary) Transformation in Poland

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Ms Zuzanna Jaskuła

Zuzanna Jaskuła is a translator and a PhD student at the Institute of Applied Linguistics of the University of Warsaw. Her research interests include literary translation, particularly of modernist writers, such as Katherine Mansfield, Virginia Woolf and William Faulkner, eco-translation, adaptation studies and discourse analysis. Her PhD thesis explores the depiction of race in selected translations of US and African novels by Zofia Kierszys, a prolific 20th-century Polish translator. Her most recent papers are "'We like to read' Katherine Mansfield, or online reviews as a starting point for translation criticism" (2022) and "Is this translation vegetarian? Translating vegetarianism in the Polish rendition of Jonathan Safran Foer's 'Eating Animals'" (in publication).

Abstract

The political and economic transformation that took place after the Polish People's Republic once again became the Republic of Poland in 1989 reshaped literature and the book market. The communist regime had controlled and censored publications, while promoting high literature; after its abolition, the censorship was lifted and genre fiction proliferated. This change is reflected in Zofia Kierszys' (1921–2000) translation career, which started in the 1950s with the works of Robert Burns and William Faulkner and ended in the 1990s, when she focused on romances. This paper will compare the wider context of the publication of two of her translations and certain choices within them. Faulkner's "Absalom, Absalom!" (published in 1959 as "Absalomie, Absalomie...") and Barbara Wood's "Green City in the Sun" (published in 1995 as "Zielone miasto w słońcu") are representative of the opening and the closing period of Kierszys' activity respectively. Whereas the former is a complex modernist masterpiece and the latter a fairly ordinary historical novel, with a straightforward critique of colonialism, both are family sagas depicting the rise and the fall of a patriarch, with the issues of race and interracial relations at the forefront. Exploring these translations allows us to tell the story of the Polish transformation(s), as well as to discuss historical issues that remain relevant today: the classist attitude towards peasants on the one hand and Poland's opening to globalisation and neoliberalism on the other.

Keywords

Censorship in translation, Polish transformation, Zofia Kierszys

Where do books burn better? Ray Bradbury's dystopian "Fahrenheit 451" in Russian translation

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Prof. Piet Van Poucke

Piet Van Poucke is Associate Professor in Russian Language and Culture and head of the Russian section of the department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication (Faculty of Arts and Philosophy) at Ghent University. He holds a Master's degree in East European Languages and Cultures and obtained his PhD in 1999 with a dissertation on the early literary work of the Russian-Jewish writer Ilya Ehrenburg. His current research activities deal with the following topics: retranslation and retranslation theory, literary and journalistic translation (from and into Russian), translation of metaphor in journalistic texts, and translation policy of Russian literature into Western languages and vice versa. He was co-guest editor (with Guillermo Sanz Gallego) of the special volume of Cadernos de Tradução with a selection of papers from the "Retranslation in Context III" conference in Ghent (2017), and a special volume of Parallèles (with Kris Peeters) on "Retranslation, thirty years later", published in 2023.

Abstract

Traditionally, autocratic regimes are not particularly fond of critical literature. It is no surprise, then, that the famous dystopian works by Orwell ("1984") and Huxley ("Brave New World") could not be translated and published in the USSR until the Glasnost period, and in some cases, had to wait until the fall of the regime in 1991 before reaching Russian readers. Against this backdrop of ideological gatekeeping, it is striking that another major, critical, dystopian novel — Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" — was translated and published in the USSR as early as the 1950s. As was typical with "sensitive" Western literary works in Russian editions, the translation was censored at various levels. Once a literary work was officially accepted for translation, the book underwent two "waves" of manipulation, both of which are evident in the Russian "Fahrenheit 451". The translation not only shows signs of ideological manipulation at the textual level, but it was also framed in the paratext as a critique of American society of the time. While this perspective is valid, it overlooks the fact that the same criticism could (and perhaps more effectively) be applied to the Soviet reality of the post-Stalin years as well. In this paper, I will uncover traces of ideological manipulation in the Russian paratext and the translation of Bradbury's dystopia, linking them to the specific cultural context in which the translation was published and to the distinctive role that science fiction held in the Soviet Union at that time. I will also compare this version with the 1999 retranslation into Russian, a time when censorship had been formally abolished.

Keywords

dystopian literature, censorship, retranslation

LT.06 | Panel 2 | Affect(s) and Translation (cont.)

Chairs: Sofia Monzon, Lucie Spezzatti

Transnational Feminist Solidarity as Affective Space: Translating Kurdish Women's Prison-Writing

Dr. Emek Ergun
University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, USA

Dr. Emek Ergun

Emek Ergun is Associate Professor of Global Studies and Women's and Gender Studies at UNC Charlotte. Her first single-authored book, Virgin Crossing Borders: Feminist Resistance and Solidarity in Translation was published by the University of Illinois Press in 2023 and received the Middle East Studies Association's (MESA) 2024 Fatema Mernissi Book Award. Ergun is also the co-editor of Feminist Translation Studies: Local and Transnational Perspectives (Routledge, 2017) and the 5th and 6th editions of Feminist Theory Reader (Routledge, 2020 and forthcoming in 2025). Additionally, Ergun is a feminist translator and her most recent published translations include the Turkish translation of Octavia E. Butler's classic speculative novel Kindred (Ithaki Press, 2019), the English co-translation titled The Purple Color of Kurdish Politics (Pluto Press, 2022), and the Turkish translation of Canadian trans writer and artist of color Vivek Shraya's award-winning book, I'm Afraid of Men (Güldünya Feminist Press, 2024).

Abstract

Written from within prison in Turkey, The Purple Color of Kurdish Politics: Women Politicians Write from Prison (Dipnot Press, 2018; Pluto Press, 2022) brings together a diverse range of experiential political reflections by twenty-three Kurdish women politicians on their personal and collective struggles against patriarchal domination and anti-Kurdish colonial repression as well as their radically creative political pursuit of equality, peace, and justice. In addition to their intersectionally transgressive experiences in official politics as party members, co-chairs, co-mayors, and members of the parliament, these women tell their experiential stories of world-making, best encapsulated in the renown Kurdish slogan, "Jin Jiyan Azadî" (Woman, Life, Freedom) and explain how they eventually got arrested based on bogus accusations of terrorism. In doing so, the book reveals the rich political history of Kurdish women's emergence as political subjects, despite the silencing conditions of incarceration. The book, written collectively in the colonial language of Turkish, was then similarly translated into English, another colonial language, by an ethnically and geopolitically diverse group of twenty-six volunteer translators and an editor, whose solidarity revealed important lessons about transnational solidarity as an affective space of political action. Hence, very much like the original text, the translation itself was a product of feminist solidarity. This paper will discuss the affective conditions of this collective feminist translation project focusing particularly on the precarities that threaten such transnational space of solidarity in the rewriting of a feminist text crossing multiple colonial borders. By drawing on the critical insights of affect theory, transnational feminist studies, and feminist translation studies, the paper will explore how to navigate the affective politics of transnational rewriting, repackaging, promotion, and reception in a colonial and orientalist interpretive context that actively cultivates fear, animosity, mistrust, and misinformation about the border-crossing Other, particularly the one traveling from the Middle East.

Keywords

feminist translation, transnational affective solidarity, Kurdish women

Translation and affect in Italian transfeminist activism.

Dr Michela Baldo
University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Dr Michela Baldo

Michela Baldo is a Lecturer in Translation Studies at the University of Birmingham. Her research revolves around two strands. One is the translation into Italian of Italian-Canadian writing. On the topic she has authored a book, Italian-Canadian Narratives of Return: Analysing Cultural Translation in Diasporic Writing (2019) and she is now collaborating on a research project on "Italian-Canadian Queer Artists" based at the University of Toronto. Her second strand of research concerns the role of translation in Italian queer transfeminist activism. On the topic of transfeminist translation she has published a few articles and chapters on translation, affect and performativity, co-edited a special issue of TIS (2021) on translation and LGBTQ+ activism, and co-edited a special issue of Perspectives (2023) on translating queer popular culture. She has also co-translated into English with Elena Basile the book Queer Theories (2020), by Italian scholar Lorenzo Bernini, and co-translated into Italian with feminoska an anthology of writing by Sara Ahmed entitled Un'altra cena rovinata (Fandango 2023) and The Feminist Killjoy Handbook with the title Il manuale della femminista guastafeste (Fandango 2024).

Abstract

My contribution will highlight the relevance of affect theory for translation studies in the context of Italian transfeminist activism by looking at affect from a relational and processual standpoint. According to Gregg and Seigworth (2010, 1-2), affect can be conceived as unconscious energy born in the betweenness of encounters, that drives us towards action. Following Koskinen (2020), I use the term 'affect,' as it is more specific than the more general term 'emotion,' which has also been conceived in various studies as separate from the term 'affect' (Cvetkovich 2007). However, feminist scholar Sara Ahmed, who mainly uses the term 'emotion' instead of 'affect' (Ahmed 2004), stresses, like Gregg and Seigworth, the fact that emotions, like affect, are relational and circulate outside the subject, creating bodies and subjects as the effect of said circulation. My presentation will focus on the productivity or performativity (Robinson 2003, Bigliazzi et al 2013) of affect in translational scenarios. Drawing on some of my own translations (Baldo and feminoska 2023, Baldo and feminoska 2024) and my previous and current studies of affect and translation (Baldo 2017, 2019a, 2019b, 2023), I will showcase the affective and performative importance of translation, as affect might give birth to translation collectives, to other translations, performances, new practices, and alliances. In doing so, I will discuss the translation into Italian of the literary production by lesbian writer Monique Wittig, works such as Brouillon pour un dictionnaire des amantes (Wittig and Zeig 1975, 2020), and L'Opoponax (Wittig 1964, 1969, forthcoming) among others. Through the analysis of textual and paratextual material, I will discuss the affective investment and negotiations in place among translators, transfeminist collectives, and publishers in relation to their translation choices, and at how translation practices have played a role in the formation of affective networks and collectives.

Keywords

translation and affect, transfeminist translation, translation and performativity

The Impact of Empathy in the Translations of 1937 Nanking Massacre Narratives

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Mr Zhenglin Lu

Zhenglin Lu (he/him) is a PhD student in Feminist and Gender Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa, Canada. His research centers on feminist translation and trauma translation, particularly the translation of narratives tied to the Nanking Massacre.

Miss Yin Zhang

Yin Zhang (she/her) is a PhD candidate in Translation Studies at Faculté de traduction et d'interprétation at Université de Genève, Switzerland. Primarily focusing on Chinese Internet literature translation, her research delves into fields of literary translation, queer translation, as well as Natural Language Processing in literary translation.

Abstract

This study investigates the relationship between empathy and translation in the context of cultural trauma, focusing on the Chinese translations of three seminal English works about the 1937 Nanking Massacre. We employ three dimensions of Mark H. Davis's multidimensional Individual Differences Measure of Empathy—Perspective Taking, Fantasy, and Empathic Concern—as criteria for evaluating the manifestation of translators' empathy in the translations. For each dimension, we conducted a comparative analysis of the Chinese and English texts using ParaConc, focusing on word frequency, collocations, paratextual elements, and specific translation examples that illustrate empathetic choices. The findings reveal that empathy inevitably influences translators' linguistic choices and discursive strategies, despite their attempts to maintain neutrality. This influence is evident across all four dimensions of Davis's model: 1. Perspective Taking: Translators adapt narrative voice, often shifting between active and passive constructions to guide readers' viewpoints. 2. Fantasy: The inclusion of paratextual elements like images helps readers visualize and engage deeply with the historical context. 3. Empathic Concern: In handling specific textual expressions related to atrocities, translators navigate between literal translation and euphemism, reflecting their own emotional processing of the traumatic content. These strategies preserve the integrity of the source text while enhancing emotional resonance and comprehension of the traumatic narrative, transforming victims from distant objects of pity into powerful symbols of broader injustice. This study offers a practical method for identifying and evaluating the empathetic elements in trauma narrative translations, suggesting that empathy, when properly managed, can enhance both the accuracy and affective power of translations. The study emphasizes the role of empathy in shaping collective memory and facilitating cross-cultural understanding, ultimately promoting international dialogue and peace. While the findings highlight empathy's potential in this regard, they also underscore that the interplay between empathy, translation, and international understanding is mediated by complex political, historical, and institutional dynamics—a relationship that warrants further critical examination.

Keywords

Nanking Massacre, empathy translation, Trauma Narratives

Intimacy, presence, and the many bodies of translation: Katrina Dodson translating Clarice Lispector

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Ms. Emily Duffy

Emily Marie Passos Duffy is a third-year PhD student in Translation Studies at the Catholic University of Portugal in Lisbon and NOVA University. She holds a BA in English Literature from Ursinus College (2015) and received her MFA Creative Writing and Poetics from Naropa University (2018). She has received fellowships and residencies from FCT, Boulder Creative Collective, and FLAD/ Disquiet International. Her first book of poetry, Hemorrhaging Want and Water, was published by Perennial Press in 2023. Her ongoing research examines the intersections of literary translation, intimacy, and translator testimony.

Abstract

In a 2021 essay titled "How to Read Like a Translator," Joshua Sperling writes, "Translation is an act and a desire before it is an outcome. To translate a poem or essay or novel is to get to know that text—as well as the language itself—in a peculiarly intense and intimate way." Echoing Sperling and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's 1993 assertion that "translation is the most intimate form of reading," this paper considers an embodied relationality between source author, translator, and reader. Through a reading of Katrina Dodson's paratexts and epitexts on translating Clarice Lispector, this study considers translator perspectives on intimacy, translation, and the body, as well as where traces of intimacy and the body can be identified in translated literary texts. This study will include a) a diachronic look at intimate, erotic, and relational metaphors for translation in contemporary reflections on translation; b) an analysis of translator testimonies and paratexts; and c) a reading of Clarice Lispector's A Via Crucis do Corpo and Katrina Dodson's translations of these stories into English. This project incorporates methodological approaches from literary translator studies and affect theory—to the extent that affect is "bodily grounded" (Koskinen 2020, 179)—in order to advance considerations of translator voice and body and build towards a deeper understanding of intimacy in the context of Translation Studies.

Keywords

intimacy , affect, literary translator studies

Translating Emotion in Silvina Ocampo's Short Stories

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Dr Silvina Katz

Silvina Katz is a translator, interpreter, and academic who has recently completed a PhD in Translation Studies from the Open University (UK). Her thesis, titled "A Sensory Study for the Translation of Atmosphere in Silvina Ocampo's Short Stories", explores the relationship between translation, sensory linguistics, and literary atmosphere. Her innovative approach combines close reading with computer-assisted methodologies to analyse how literary atmospheres are conveyed across languages. Silvina's research interests include Argentinian short stories, literary atmospheres, and the role of sensory perception in translation. Before commencing her PhD, Silvina obtained an MA in Translation Studies (Open). She also obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Management (Health and Social Care Management Programme), a Certificate in Adult Education Teaching (DMU), a Diploma in Public Service Interpreting (Law), and a BA and BSc (Hons) with the Open University majoring in Mathematics and Science. Silvina has worked as an associate lecturer at the University of Northampton, with a focus on the Health and Law modules for the DPSI qualification in Spanish/English.

Abstract

Existing scholarship highlights the need for translators of literary texts to develop a nuanced sensitivity to the emotional undertones of a text before its translation. However, the precise mechanisms by which these emotional sensations are encoded within the text remain poorly understood. This paper addresses this gap by investigating the sensory cues in the uncanny short story "La casa de azúcar" by Argentinian writer Silvina Ocampo. Employing a phenomenological approach, this research examines how perceptual sensory cues are encoded as sensory imagery and their impact on the reader. Adopting a combination of close reading and computer-aided qualitative data analysis, the study tracks sensory markers to identify and visualise the textual components that elicit emotional responses through auditory, visual, olfactory, tactile and gustatory features. The findings reveal a significant presence of sensory markers intricately woven into the narrative structure, enhancing the story's emotional resonance. This research contributes to the broader field of Translation Studies by demonstrating how these sensory markers can be effectively recreated in translation, thereby preserving the affective impact of the original text. It also underscores the importance of affect as a key factor in literary translation, highlighting the emotional and physiological dimensions of the translation process, product, and the translator's response to the text. Additionally, it provides insights into how translation and reading in translation enrich the understanding of affective dynamics in literature, contributing to scholarship by broadening the scope of literary analysis and interpretation.

Keywords

Translating the senses, Silvina Ocampo's short story, Phenomenology of reading

Sergio Solmi and his English 'personal canon in miniature'

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Mrs. Letizia Imola

Letizia Imola studied modern literature in Siena and Paris. Her research interests include French literature, stylistics and translation. She perfected her skills in literary translation from French with a specialised master's degree (MATRA, Unisi). She has translated F.M. Crawford's tragedy Francesca da Rimini (Vallecchi 2021) and Marguerite Duras's first novel, Gli impudenti (Feltrinelli 2024). Her articles have appeared in journals such as Ticontre, TTR, Kilig and Sinestesieonline. She is currently an Aspirante-FNRS (Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique) doctoral student at the Universities of Mons and Liège (Belgium). Her research project, under the supervision of Thea Rimini, focuses on the English translation practice of the poet-translators Paul Claudel, Valery Larbaud, Cesare Pavese and Sergio Solmi.

Abstract

In my presentation, I will analyze from a stylistic perspective Sergio Solmi's translations of ten poems by Auden, Spender, and Yeats, included in Einaudi's two Quaderni di traduzione (1969, 1977). I will examine how affect theory elucidates the translator's agency in Solmi's work, which Blakesley describes as a 'personal canon in miniature' in Modern Italian Poets Translators of the Impossible (2014). Koskinen's research (2020) provides a framework to understand the emotional and affective dimensions of translation, which are crucial in capturing the translator's subjective engagement with the source text. By applying Koskinen's insights, I will highlight how Solmi's affective responses to the original works shape his translational choices, emphasizing his emotional involvement and interpretive reactivity. Blakesley's notion of a 'personal canon in miniature' will be central to my analysis. Solmi's selection of these poems reflect his personal literary taste and intellectual pursuits, constructing a curated collection that serves as both a reflection and an extension of his poetic identity. Solmi himself articulated a compensatory and vicarious function of translation, driven by a sense of 'envy' and 'regret' for the lyrical moments he did not create but wished to reclaim through translation. This perspective is vividly expressed in the Chiarimento of the first Quaderno, where he compares translation to a writer's impulse towards plagiarism. By focusing on the concept of translators' agency through the lens of affect theory, I will demonstrate how Solmi's translations are not mere linguistic transpositions but emotionally charged acts that assert his creative presence. This presentation aims to illuminate the intricate dynamics of translation as an interplay of loss and creative restitution, where affect serves as a driving force behind the translator's agency. Solmi's translations thus emerge as a testament to the emotional and intellectual labor of translation, constituting a unique and personal poetic canon.

Keywords

Sergio Solmi, Poetry Translation, Einaudi's Quaderni di traduzione

LT.07 | General panel | Asylum and Crisis Interpreting

Chair: Binhua Wang

“But who will take care of us?” Investigating Vicarious Trauma among Belgian Interpreters in Asylum and Migration Contexts: Impact, Consequences, and Protective Mechanisms

Mrs Charlotte Costers, Prof. dr. Heidi Salaets
KU Leuven, Antwerp, Belgium

Mrs Charlotte Costers

Charlotte Costers is a graduating Master's student in interpreting (Dutch-French-English) at KU Leuven. Her interest in the topic of vicarious trauma among interpreters in asylum and migration contexts emerged after attending a guest lecture by Professor Miranda Lai (Australia), whose research domain specialises in vicarious trauma among interpreters. Charlotte's academic background and interpreting training (with a focus on legal interpreting) encompasses a deep understanding of interpreting and translation, coupled with a strong commitment to interdisciplinary research that underscores the societal impact of language services. Under the guidance of Professor dr. Heidi Salaets, interpreting studies scholar at KU Leuven, Charlotte conducted her research project. Her research aims to explore the impact of vicarious trauma on interpreters in asylum and migration contexts, with specific attention to health effects, interpreter performance, and preventive measures to safeguard the interpreter’s well-being. Their work contributes to a better understanding of the challenges faced by interpreters in emotionally taxing situations, seeking practical solutions to enhance their well-being and improve the quality of interpreting services.

Prof. dr. Heidi Salaets

Heidi Salaets is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Arts at KU Leuven (Belgium) and, since 2023, has served as the Head of the Translation Studies Research Unit. Since 2013, she has also led the Interpreting Studies Research Group at the same university. She teaches in the Master of Interpreting program at the Antwerp campus, covering subjects such as interpreting studies and methodology, community interpreting and deontology/ethics, note-taking techniques, and interpreting between Italian and Dutch. Heidi Salaets' primary research areas include legal interpreting and community interpreting, with a particular focus on healthcare interpreting. Her research is inherently inter- and transdisciplinary, addressing issues that have a tangible impact on society through participatory action research across various fields, including Communication Sciences, Psychology, Sociology, Law, Criminology, General Medicine, and Emergency Medicine, just to name a few. She explores concepts of vulnerability and Foreign Language Vulnerability (FLV), considering all participants in the encounter: legal actors/service providers, clients (patients, suspects, victims, minors, prisoners, etc.), and the interpreters themselves. Consequently, interpreter training didactics and the assessment of interpreting quality are of paramount importance in both her research and teaching. Interprofessional education (IPE) is one of the cornerstones of her approach.

Abstract

This study investigates the occurrence of vicarious trauma among Belgian interpreters working with refugees in asylum and migration settings. Vicarious trauma refers to the emotional and psychological distress experienced by individuals exposed to the traumatic stories of others. Despite its recognition in various professions, there is not as much awareness about its impact on interpreters’ health, nor about prevention or protective measures (Crezee et al., 2013; Lai & Costello, 2021). The objective of this research is twofold: firstly, to raise awareness about vicarious trauma among Belgian interpreters in asylum and migration settings, and secondly, to explore measures to safeguard their well-being in emotionally demanding environments. Hence, this study investigates the health impacts and consequences of vicarious trauma on interpreters, the influence of vicarious trauma on the interpreter’s performance, and possible strategies to prevent vicarious trauma and protect the mental well-being of interpreters. To this end, semi-structured interviews were conducted (following ethical approval) to investigate the personal perspectives and coping mechanisms of Belgian interpreters. With an in-depth analysis of the interpreters’ experiences, based on the theoretical framework established by Braun and Clarke (2006), this study aims to provide insights into the prevalence and effects of vicarious trauma within this specific professional group. The interviews revealed

key themes that were then linked to the existing literature on vicarious trauma among interpreters. The findings of this study showed the urgency of the situation: the interviewed interpreters all called for support (e.g. psychological supervision) to safeguard their health as well as their performance. Multiple among them reported signs of nightmares and sleeping problems, anxiety, and even depression and burnout. The results also shed light on the interpreters' personal selfcare and protective measures, adopted to mitigate the impact of vicarious trauma. Consequently, this view supports the growing demand for a change in perception towards interpreters' well-being.

Keywords

dialogue interpreter's selfcare , asylum setting , vicarious trauma

The humanitarian interpreter's role as shaped by institutional documents on asylum hearings: a discourse analysis of ideologies on interpreting in a multilanguage corpus (EN-FR-IT)

Dr Nora Gattiglia, Prof. Ilaria Rizzato, Mr Jean K. Sossou
University of Genoa, Genoa, Italy

Dr Nora Gattiglia

Nora Gattiglia is a post-doc researcher in French Language and Translation at the University of Genoa. She has a PhD in Digital Humanities, her thesis discussing pedagogy of telephone medical interpreting. She works within a French Discourse Analysis framework on discourses touching on human rights and social politics, such as medical (mediated) discourse and radical feminist discourse. She is currently collaborating to three EU-funded projects: the Horizon project ARENAS – Analysis of and Responses to Extremist Narratives; the AMIF project MentalHealth4all, on improving access to mental health services for low-language proficient migrant and refugee users; and the DIALOGOS project on interpreting and translation in languages of lesser diffusion. She has authored two books: Comunicazione multilinguistica in ambito sanitario, with Mara Morelli (GUP, 2022); and Dialogo e interpretazione dialogica. Una didattica per l'autoefficacia nell'interpretazione telefonica in ambito medico (Aracne, 2023).

Prof. Ilaria Rizzato

Ilaria Rizzato is Associate Professor of English Language and Translation at the University of Genoa. Her research explores the intersections among Translation and Interpreting Studies, Stylistics and Metaphor Studies, with a special focus on the translation of figurative language, the expression of point of view and ideology in different text types and the applications of Pragmatics and Stylistics to English to Italian translation. Her publications are mainly concerned with point-of-view analysis in text and in translation, and with the discourse-shaping function of metaphors and figurative language. She is associate editor of the Journal of Translation, Interpretation and Applied Linguistics, and an editorial board member for the Psychology of Language section of Frontiers in Psychology. She was a research fellow at the Metaphor Lab Amsterdam in 2018 and 2019 and is part of the steering committee of the Inter-University Centre for Metaphor Research (CIRM).

Mr Jean K. Sossou

Jean K. Sossou completed his master's degree in Translation and Interpreting at the University of Genoa. His final dissertation scrutinized various textual genres found through a desktop search for stakeholders involved in asylum hearings, including asylum officers, asylum seekers, and interpreters, from a linguistic perspective. Jean's research also focused on the challenges of communication and trust in interpreters, particularly when they share a similar background with the individuals they are assisting, and how this can impact perceptions and efficacy. Jean has considerable interpreting experience, including his role at the National Commission for the Right of Asylum and the Recognition of International Protection in Genoa. Moreover, during a period of internship in the UK, he worked as an Italian language assistant at the University of Liverpool and as an administrative assistant at the Honorary Consulate of Italy in Liverpool.

Abstract

The high stakes linked to the recognition of the refugee status and the need to prove a justified fear of persecution in one's country of origin make asylum hearings a highly sensitive setting. Ethical behaviour and ethical decision-making skills are demanded of the interpreter, as well as accurate knowledge of how interpreting works by both Court Commissioners and asylum seekers. While not requiring the interpreters to be qualified, national and supranational institutions (such as UNHCR) have produced several educational and administrative materials to instruct all three categories of stakeholders about the mechanics of interpreting in asylum hearings. These documents contribute to a process of "institutional socialization" based on the acquisition of a "know-how and a know-how-to-be" as well as on the acquisition of "an ideology" (Fillieule, 2020) about interpreting, that is, a "system (with its own logic and rigour) of representations (images, myths, ideas or concepts, depending on the case) endowed with a historical

existence and role within a given society" (Althusser, 1969: 158). This contribution aims to investigate the interpreter's role as it is depicted (and mandated) in institutional documents such as guidelines, handbooks, and codes of conduct targeting interpreters, commissioners, and asylum seekers. Our corpus is made of 27 documents issued by UNHCR and national agencies from four European countries (Belgium, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom) and will be analysed within the framework of discourse analysis. The contribution will highlight how ideologies about interpreting are built and circulated among the stakeholders involved in the asylum-seeking process; in particular, it will be underlined how such ideologies shape expectations about the interpreter's mandate on the one hand, and communicative behaviours on the other, that are often at odds with interpreting research and recommendations.

Keywords

interpreter's role, humanitarian interpreting, discourse analysis

From crisis response to long-term impact: Professionalising Public Service Interpreting in Emergency Contexts - The Slovak Experience Post-2022

doc. Marketa Štefková, Mgr. Michaela Krajčovič
Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia

doc. Marketa Štefková

Doc. Marketa Štefková is an Associate Professor at the Department of German, Dutch and Scandinavian Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava. Her teaching focuses on interpreting, legal and specialised translation, terminology and lexicography, as well as core translation studies courses such as Introduction to Translation Studies and Praxeology of Translation. Her research, based on extensive practice in legal translation and interpreting, initially focused on the translation of legal texts. Her post-doctoral research focused on legal translation into LLD´s. She has contributed to international research teams and developed training for Slovak translators and legal linguists for European institutions. Her work with NGOs and institutions dealing with migrant integration has led to the definition of Public Service Interpreting and Translation (PSIT) in Slovakia, with the aim of professionalising the sector based on best practices from countries with significant migration experience. Since the war in Ukraine, she has been training volunteer interpreters for the Ukrainian language in cooperation with UNHCR and other organisations.

Mgr. Michaela Krajčovič

Mgr. Michaela Zárecká is a PhD student at the Department of German, Dutch and Scandinavian Studies, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava. Her dissertation research focuses on the crisis management of the PSTI. During the last two years of her doctoral studies she focused on analysing the management of translation and interpretation services for Ukrainian refugees after the crisis in Ukraine in Slovakia. She also co-organised PSTI's first courses for volunteer interpreters and translators in cooperation with UNHCR and the League for Human Rights. The aim of her research is to design a sustainable and functional PSIT management system in the Slovak Republic.

Abstract

The presentation focuses on the long-term impact of professionalization on the status of interpreters who underwent short-term crisis intervention training at PSIT at Comenius University in Slovakia after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. In the wake of this invasion, Slovakia faced an unprecedented influx of displaced people, challenging an infrastructure that had historically denied migration. This sudden demand for PSIT required rapid crisis management, especially in the absence of an established training framework for PSI. Our research builds on previous publications (Štefková, Tužinská 2021, Štefková, Šveda 2022, 2023) and provides an analysis of Slovakia's response of this crisis, detailing the improvised measures taken to meet the urgent need for language mediation services. It also examines the evolution of this response into a structured training for Ukrainian community interpreters and suggests that this model can be adapted for other LLD´s in similar contexts. In the second part, it maps the interpreting activities of non-professional interpreters with the improvised training in practice, self-assessment of interpreting skills and need for further training, as well as the current state of institutionalisation based on research conducted in 2024. Through qualitative interviews with stakeholders on the side of human rights NGOs active in the field of integration of displaced persons, as well as on the side of state institutions, we identify the changing needs in the field of PSIT two years after the crisis. The presentation concludes by outlining steps to establish a community of practice in PSIT. This would facilitate lifelong learning by linking academia, students in translation and interpreting programmes, PSIT and sworn interpreters within Slovakia's largest professional organisation for translators and interpreters, as well as relevant state institutions. This initiative aims to meet international standards for PSIT service provision and training (Díaz, 2016; Valero-Garcés, 2023; Federici, O'Brien, & O'Shea, 2023).

Keywords

Crisis Management of PSIT, Community of practice for PSIT, Professionalisation of PSIT

Training non-professional interpreters for cyclone-affected population in Malawi

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Dr Marija Todorova

Marija Todorova is a Research Assistant Professor iat the Hong Kong Baptist University. She co-edited (with Lucia Ruiz Rosendo) Interpreter Training in Conflict and Post-Conflict Scenarios (Routledge 2023) and Interpreting Conflict (Palgrave 2021). She served as co-editor for New Voices in Translation Studies and guest-edited a special issue of Antverpiencia Linguistica: Translation and Inclusive Development (2022, with Kobus Marais). She has published in numerous journals and edited volumes – her most recent publications can be found in Translation and Interpreting Studies. She serves on the Executive Council of the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS).

Prof Lucia Ruiz Rosendo

Lucía Ruiz Rosendo is an Associate Professor at the University of Geneva's Faculty of Translation and Interpreting (FTI), where she is the Director of the Interpreting Department. Her main line of research is interpreting in conflict zones and the history of interpreting, with a particular focus on armed conflicts. She has recently co-edited Interpreting Conflict. A Comparative Framework (Palgrave 2021), Interpreter Training in Conflict and Post-conflict Situations (Routledge 2022) and Towards an Atlas of the History of Interpreting. Voices from around the Word (John Benjamins, 2023). Her research has appeared in a range of volumes and journals in the fields of Translation, Peace and Conflict Studies and Social Military History. She is the coordinator of various courses for training interpreters in the field, such as the course run jointly between the FTI and the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross). She participates in a training project for interpreters who work in the context of the Centre of Competence for Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN). Lucía is also a conference interpreter working for the international organisations based in Switzerland and an active AIIC member.

Abstract

Malawi and Mozambique are often affected by cyclones, which cause death and destruction. In this context, it is essential that the affected populations have access to the information provided by the authorities and to the aid delivered by humanitarian and development organisations. The crisis language maps of these countries (Translators without Borders 2022) show that more than 15 languages are spoken in the affected areas. Previous work (Crack 2023) has produced the first comprehensive glossary of development terminology translated from English to Chewa, as one of the official languages of Malawi. However, the population in risk-affected areas in the northern parts of the country are speakers of Lomwe and Yao who do not necessarily have access to the information. Additionally, literacy rates among the most vulnerable are low, especially women who cannot access written messages (TWB 2019). Consequently, there is a need for further language and cultural translation to reach this population. This presentation will provide insight into the design of a comprehensive training program designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of local humanitarian staff and volunteers. These non-professional interpreters serve as crucial language mediators in humanitarian aid distribution. The training will cover linguistic skills, cultural competence, ethical considerations, and the specific challenges of interpreting in high-stress humanitarian contexts. By improving the capabilities of these front-line language mediators, we anticipate a significant improvement in the quality and effectiveness of communication between aid providers and recipients. This, in turn, will lead to more efficient aid distribution, better understanding of beneficiaries' needs, and, ultimately, more impactful and sustainable humanitarian interventions.

Keywords

training , interpreting, Malawi

Collaborative Courtroom Observations: Citizen Scientists' Perspective on Asylum Appeal Hearings

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Simone Uran is a university assistant at the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna. She studied Transcultural Communication and Translation at the University of Vienna and the University of Bologna, graduating with an MA in Conference Interpreting. She is a member of both the Vienna Interpreting Research Group (VIRG) as well as the Translaw Research Group. Her main research interests include legal interpreting and public service interpreting as well as interpreting in prison settings, and translation and migration. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD in Interpreting Studies at the University of Vienna under the supervision of Mira Kadrić-Scheiber. She is also a member of the "Translation Studies" section of the Doctoral School of Philological and Cultural Studies at the University of Vienna. Her PhD project investigates communication and translation in asylum appeal hearings at the Austrian Federal Administrative Court (Bundesverwaltungsgericht) in Vienna.

Abstract

The presentation will introduce a case study of asylum appeal hearings at the Austrian Federal Administrative Court in Vienna. Through non-participatory observations, the following aspects are examined: 1) the communication setting within the social and procedural language context, focusing on norms, conventions, and rituals; 2) the communication framework established by presiding judges, including conversation management, coordination, and rapport-building; and 3) how interpreters operate within this predetermined communication framework. The observations are part of a research cooperation with the Austrian NGO Asylkoordination Österreich, which initiated the "Courtroom Observations at the Federal Administrative Court" project. Fifty-seven volunteers from civil society observed asylum appeal hearings using a standardised observation protocol. This protocol consists of a general section covering aspects such as logistics, the course of the hearing, and the dynamics of the conversation, as well as a specific section focused on interpreting. The intentional involvement of citizen scientists in this project reflects the crucial role that civil society plays in the context of refugee movements. Volunteer work in asylum and migration is critical, with NGOs and individual volunteers engaged in areas such as asylum reception, education and training, healthcare, and legal assistance. By bringing their diverse perspectives to courtroom observations, citizen scientists have the potential to significantly enrich the dataset and provide new insights on (interpreted) communication in asylum appeal hearings. The presentation will elaborate on: 1) the stages of collaboration with citizen scientists in a project of societal relevance (e.g., recruitment of citizen scientists, fieldwork preparation, conducting observations, debriefings); 2) the added value of collaborative courtroom observations for Interpreting Studies; and 3) potential challenges related to this collaboration. Additionally, findings from a questionnaire administered to the citizen scientists, along with preliminary results from the courtroom observations, will be presented to support these insights.

Keywords

Citizen Scientists, Courtroom Observation, Asylum Appeal Hearing

ELF and cultural mediation for vulnerable migrant patients at an Italian NGO

Dr. Maura Radicioni
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Dr. Maura Radicioni

Maura Radicioni holds a PhD in Interpreting Studies from the FTI, University of Geneva (Switzerland), with a research project on humanitarian interpreting. She obtained her MA in Conference Interpreting from the University of Bologna, DIT at Forlì (Italy) in 1997. Since then, she has worked as a conference interpreter with over 3,000 days worked as a simultaneous and consecutive interpreter, as well as an interpreter trainer. She was lecturer in English-Italian dialogue and conference interpreting at the Forlì-based DIT of the University of Bologna from 2003 to 2019, with teaching assignments also at the University of Macerata and Università Politecnica delle Marche. From July to October 2017 she was involved as a trainer in the first humanitarian interpreting pilot course carried out in Italy, jointly organized in blended-learning mode by the University of Bologna DIT and the University of Geneva FTI. Since 2021, she has been involved in the activities of the Human Rights and Migration Law Clinic at the University of Turin, where she gives lectures on humanitarian interpreting. Also since 2021, she has been a member of the team of trainers of the basic consecutive interpretation courses jointly organised by the University of Geneva, FTI, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and targeted to the organization's staff interpreters employed in the ICRC international missions.

Abstract

The term "vulnerability" stems from the Latin word vulnus (wound) or vulnerare (to be wounded) and describes the potential for someone to be harmed physically and/or psychologically. This potential exposure to harm may depend on several factors, including language, which contribute to multiply vulnerability. In the context of the provision of healthcare to migrants in a socially challenging scenario, the use of English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) in interaction between healthcare providers and migrant patients with other cultural and linguistic background, and the resort to interpreting and mediation, may add another layer of vulnerability both for interpreters/mediators and for their clients. This emerged from a recently completed PhD project on the interpreting and cultural mediation practices implemented by the cultural mediators of the Italian NGO Emergency, which provides humanitarian aid and free healthcare to migrant patients in a complex social setting in Southern Italy. Cultural mediation is key to overcome the diverse vulnerabilities migrants are exposed to, arising from displacement, changed living circumstances, health condition, and additional factors related to their social and cultural background. The study showed that it is paramount to address the linguistic and cultural vulnerability generated by the cultural differences between health professionals and migrant patients to ensure effective multilingual communication and upheld migrants' right to health. Based on semi-structured interviews and ethnographic observations, the case-study highlighted the challenges mediators face when interpreting for migrants, including linguistic vulnerabilities and the need to resort to ELF. It showed that participants' (self-)perceived role is more of aid workers than of language brokers. In an attempt to investigate if and to what extent ELF increases complexity and vulnerability for participants in the encounter, the research highlights that in sensitive and fragile environments linguistic vulnerabilities are best addressed with a shared language and culture.

Keywords

ELF, Linguistic vulnerabilities, Cultural mediation

LT.11 | Panel 36 | The Changing Face of Literary Translation (Studies)

Chairs: Claudine Borg, Waltraud Kolb

Disappearing cats and emerging texts: Exploring a multi-session literary translation process from a keystroke logging perspective

Prof. Iris Schrijver, Prof. Luuk Van Waes
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Prof. Iris Schrijver

Iris Schrijver is Associate Professor at the Department of Applied Linguistics/Translation & Interpreting Studies at the University of Antwerp, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on Spanish-Dutch translation and Translation Studies. She is specialized in cognitive translation and writing process research, translation and revision competence acquisition, and interlingual (live) subtitling. ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6091-024X

Prof. Luuk Van Waes

Luuk Van Waes is Professor emeritus of Professional Communication at the University of Antwerp. His research has spanned various aspects of writing, with a particular focus on digital media and professional writing processes. To analyze these processes, he co-developed a logging program called Inputlog. ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3642-9533

Abstract

To date, insights into literary translation processes have been gained primarily "after the fact" by offline research methods, such as the analysis of first, intermediate and final versions of translation products, translators' forewords, afterwords, reflections and correspondence, but also through interviews and retrospective verbal reports (e.g., Borg, 2016; Dimitriu, 2009; Haroon, 2017; Munday, 2012; Norberg, 2012; Rabassa, 2005). Although think-aloud, computer keystroke logging and eyetracking have gained momentum in the past decades to explore cognitive translation processes, online research into the intricacies of the translator's decision-making process has been relatively scarce (Kolb, 2011, 2013, 2017). In recent years, several studies have compared literary translation from scratch and by post-editing, but most – except for Kolb (2023) – focus on product features (e.g., Moorkens et al., 2018; Toral et al., 2018; Guerberof-Arenas & Toral, 2022). Although keystroke logging has become an established method in translation and writing studies (Leijten & Van Waes, 2013), most of the research focuses on single session processes. In the current study we present a multi-session keystroke logging observation of the literary translation process of Flemish translator Luk Van Haute, who translated the Japanese novel If Cats Disappeared from the World (Sekai Kara Neko Ga Kieta Nara) by Genki Kawamura into Dutch. This resulted in 52 translation sessions of on average 2:48 hours (SD=0:29) observed in an ecological setting. We adopted three perspectives in the multi-session data analysis (Bekius, 2023; Buschenhenke et al., 2024): 1. Macro perspective: What does the translator's session management look like? How can we characterize the focus on and variation of specific subprocesses from start to end? (sessions/intervals/phases) 2. Meso perspective: How does the translator interact with external resources during the translation process? 3. Micro/nano perspective: To what extent do sessions differ with respect to non-linearity and/or process fluency?

Keywords

keystroke logging, multi-session, literary translation process

The Translator's Voice, Embodied and Embedded: Translating and Audio-Performing Northeast Chinese Literature through body, text, and audio

Miss Yaqi Xi
University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom

Miss Yaqi Xi

Yaqi Xi (she/her) is a PhD candidate at the University of Warwick, where her research explores multimodal translation, literary sound studies, audio storytelling, eco-translation, and the material turn in both translation studies and the wider humanities. Her writings have appeared in Eunoia Review and Territorial Bodies (Warwick series in the humanities).

Abstract

This practice-based, process-oriented translation project blends the art of literary translation with audio storytelling. Focusing on my translations of four short stories by two contemporary Northeastern Chinese writers, it explores innovative ways to reveal the translator's working process and creative agency through a multisensory and multimodal approach that entwines embodied reading, ecocritical listening, and creative-critical audio storytelling. The project unfolds in two stages. In the first, the stories are translated using an aurally-attuned, eco-phenomenological approach (Scott; Cronin), involving aloud reading and multimodal mark-making. I use diacritics, marginalia, and chromatic annotations to trace my bodily responses to the source texts and their environments. These responses inscribe the translator's subjectivity and readerly vocality onto the page while engaging with the text's embedded locality, opening a path toward performative, ecocritical translation. The process is documented using a multi-method approach, including preserved drafts and an audio 'translation diary' consisting of think-aloud and retrospective verbal reflections that capture my decision-making process. In the second stage, the translations are transmediated into audio narratives. My recorded readings are interwoven with clips from the diary and field recordings made in the stories' original settings in Northeastern China. Listeners encounter three facets of the translator's voice: as a narrative presence; as a reflective voice sifting through translation choices; and as a playful, digitally edited voice engaging with the translator's subjectivity and the stories' soundscapes. Framed by multimodal discourse analysis (Kress & van Leeuwen) and scholarship on digital voice performativity, these sonic interventions render the translator's labour audibly tangible. The project shows how a vocal and multimodal approach to translation can rupture illusions of neutrality and invisibility in translated narratives and generate situated encounters for transnational audiences. Moreover, it introduces a poetics/praxis of 'translator audibility' that invites deeper reader engagement and promotes an embodied understanding of the translator's role in shaping contemporary literary experience.

Keywords

translator's voice, multimodal translation practices, audio storytelling

Embodied autoethnography as a feminist translation practice

Miss Laura Woolley-Núñez
University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom

Miss Laura Woolley-Núñez

Laura Woolley-Núñez (she/her) is an AHRC-funded PhD candidate in Translation and Transcultural Studies and a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Warwick. Her practice-based thesis focuses on the use of feminist translation approaches and context-specific strategies in her ongoing translation of Memoria de la melancolía by María Teresa León. She is supervised by Dr Olga Castro and Professor Maureen Freely.

Abstract

While it could be argued that all forms of writing are in some form autobiographical as they reflect the preferences and perspectives of the authors, autoethnographic methods make explicit the researchers' intention of exploring the self as a subject of analysis (Chang 2008, 35). In my practice-based literary translation research, my perspective is informed by Feminist Translation Studies and my choices and translation processes are made visible to the reader. Embodied autoethnography as a method is particularly appropriate for feminist research practices (Ettorre 2016, 4) as it disrupts traditional power dynamics and exposes how the self is always political. Central to this project is my ongoing translation of Memoria de la melancolía (1970) by María Teresa León. This memoir remains inaccessible in English translation despite being described as a key testimony from the Spanish Civil War. This translation practice is accompanied by a coexisting critical commentary in which I adopt a process of self-disclosure and intellectual honesty to analyse my translation choices and decisions (Borg 2022, 10). Critical practices are increasingly common in Translation Studies (Grass 2023). However, my research offers an innovative approach to establish which feminist translation strategies are best suited for translating Spanish Republican and antifascist women's testimonies of the Spanish Civil War and exile post-1939, an area that has not received much attention until recent years. Approaching this research question from an autoethnographic and embodied perspective ensures that both theory and practice are continuously feeding into each other, avoiding any disconnect between the two practices, without ignoring the material, physical and social circumstances that influence my work. This paper will shed light on the strengths, limitations and opportunities of embodied autoethnographic approaches in literary translation research using my ongoing practice as a case study, ultimately contributing to transforming the face of translation studies.

Keywords

autoethnography, embodied translation , literary translation

Faster, but at what cost? Comparing literary translators' effort and perceptions of word processors, CAT tools and postediting

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Dr Paola Ruffo

Paola Ruffo is a researcher in the field of Computer-Aided Literary Translation. From 2022 to 2024 she worked as a Marie Skłodowska–Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at Ghent University on the project 'Developing User-centred Approaches to Technological Innovation in Literary Translation (DUAL-T)'. She co-organised the First Workshop on Creative-text Translation and Technology (CTT 2024), co-located with EAMT 2024. She has previously worked as an English>Italian freelance translator and as a Lecturer in Translation Technology at the University of Bristol. She is currently teaching Italian at the University of St Andrews.

Prof. Joke Daems

Joke Daems is assistant professor human-computer interaction in empirical translation & interpreting studies at Ghent University. They are a member of the EQTIS research team (Empirical and Quantitative Translation and Interpreting Studies) and the LT3 Language and Translation Technology team. Their research focuses on the impact of translation technology (such as machine translation) on translation (process and product), translators (attitudes), and society (e.g., gender bias). They obtained a PhD in Translation Studies in 2016, based on a comparative study of manual translation and the post-editing of machine translations by students and professional translators. In 2017, the thesis was awarded the CIUTI PhD Award. Later work focused on interactive, adaptive MT and the potential of MT for literary translation. Although mainly involved in research, they have taught numerous classes on translation technology and machine translation post-editing on a master's and postgraduate level.

Prof. Lieve Macken

Lieve Macken is Associate Professor of Translation Technology at the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication of Ghent University (Belgium), where she also teaches Machine Translation. At Ghent University, she coordinates the Computer-Assisted Language Mediation postgraduate programme. In her research she often combines product- and process-based approaches to compare different methods of translation (human, machine translation, post-editing, computer-aided translation). She was guest editor of the Special Issue "Advances in Computer-Aided Translation Technology", of the peer-reviewed journal Informatics (2019). Together with CrossLang, she organized the EAMT Annual Conference in 2022 and she was part of the organizing committee of the first Workshop on Creative-text Translation and Technology (CTT 2024) which was co-located with EAMT 2024.

Abstract

Research has shown that literary translation postediting can enhance productivity and reduce cognitive and technical effort (Toral et al., 2018). However, literary translators tend to favour translation from scratch, irrespective of potential gains in temporal, cognitive, and technical effort (Moorkens et al., 2018). Furthermore, Guerberof Arenas and Toral (2020) found lower levels of creativity, narrative engagement, and reception in post-edited texts, while Kenny and Winters (2020) found the practice influences translator style. Surveys of literary translators reveal a general lack of awareness of the latest technological developments (Slessor, 2020; Daems, 2022), as well as negative attitudes towards Machine Translation (MT), with reliance primarily on word processors and online dictionaries (Ruffo, 2022). Some have put forward Computer-Aided Translation tools as an alternative to post-editing-centric workflows (Youdale, 2019; Horenberg, 2019; Vieira et al., 2023), however evidence on their use remains scarce, and a comparison of literary translators' use of word processors, CAT tools and Machine Translation Post-Editing (MTPE) is lacking. This presentation will address these gaps by presenting the findings of the Horizon Europe project "Developing User-Centred Approaches to Technological Innovation in Literary Translation" (DUAL-T). Twenty-four professional literary translators translated three short stories from English into Dutch using (a) MS Word, (b) Trados Studio 2022, and (c) a proprietary postediting platform. Data was collected using keystroke logging, screen capturing, pre-

and post-task questionnaires, and post-task interviews. Results on participants' temporal, cognitive, and technical effort across the three workflows will be presented, together with a comparison between measured and perceived effort, and insights on literary translators' perceptions of technology gathered via the post-task interviews. Overall, results highlight a discrepancy between actual and perceived effort, while literary translators question the notion that saving time is an ideal to be pursued in literary translation.

Keywords

literary translation, machine translation postediting, human-computer interaction

Exploring semi-interactive post-editing for literary translation

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University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

MA Julia Rieser

Julia Rieser is a doctoral candidate in the field of literary machine translation. She studied translation (German, French and Spanish) at the University of Vienna, where she also began her doctoral programme in transcultural communication in 2022. In her dissertation project, she aims to find out whether machine translation engines, which are becoming increasingly popular, are helpful for professional literary translators.

Abstract

In my presentation, I will discuss results from an ongoing study of literary post-editing. To the best of my knowledge, it is the first study in which semi-interactive post-editing of literary texts is investigated as a specific type of human-computer interaction and compared to traditional post-editing. My case study uses two short stories from the 19th-century American author Willa Carther, “A Singer´s Romance” and “The Affair At Grover Station”, originally written in English, which I translated into German using the neural machine translation engine DeepL. Excerpts from both stories (870 words from “A Singer's Romance” and 892 words from “The Affair At Grover Station”) are currently being post-edited by four professional literary translators, working in two modes: 1) semi-interactive post-editing directly in the DeepL mask and 2) traditional post-editing in Word. The participants have been asked to think aloud while working on their target texts; they use a screen recording tool to capture both their concurrent verbalizations and their activities on the computer. Based on these data, I will analyze their post-editing effort across its three commonly studied dimensions: temporal, technical and cognitive effort. My study draws on a cognitive translation studies framework, viewing translatorial action as situated and distributed. It adopts a process-oriented research design to compare the two modes of post-editing, using quantitative data obtained from screen recording and qualitative data from the participants’ think-alouds as well as post-task interviews.

Keywords

Semi-interactive post-editing, Post-editing, Literary machine translation

LT.17 | Panel 18 | Evolving Approaches to Cognitive Interpreting Studies: From Psychological to Socio-cognitive Perspectives

Chairs: Christopher D. Mellinger, Elisabet Tiselius

Multimodal processing in simultaneous interpreting with automatic speech recognition

Ms. Paulina Rozkrut, Prof. Agnieszka Chmiel
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland

Ms. Paulina Rozkrut

Paulina Rozkrut is a PhD student in the Department of Translation Studies at the Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. She finished her Master's studies in Polish-English conference interpreting and is currently working on her PhD project, which investigates the impact of automatic speech recognition on the process and product of simultaneous interpreting. Her research interests revolve around computer-assisted interpreting tools, cognitive load, and eye-tracking in translation and conference interpreting research. She was part of the research team in the AIIC-funded project on the impact of remote interpreting settings on interpreter experience and performance.

Prof. Agnieszka Chmiel

Agnieszka Chmiel is Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Translation Studies at the Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. Her research interests include: interpreting studies, lexical processing and memory in interpreting, reading in sight translation, audiovisual translation and audio description. She currently leads an interdisciplinary research team that examines bilingual control mechanisms in conference interpreting and develops PINC, the Polish Interpreting Corpus. She was also a co-investigator in the AIIC-funded project on the impact of remote interpreting settings on interpreter experience and performance.

Abstract

Simultaneous interpreting is a complex cognitive activity that involves managing multimodal (auditory and visual) information channels (Seeber, 2017; Chmiel et al., 2020). The multimodality of SI is becoming increasingly significant due to the emergence of computer-assisted interpreting (CAI) tools that provide interpreters with a real-time transcription of certain elements or even the entire source speech. Research shows that such technologies have a facilitating role for the accuracy of "problem triggers" such as numbers (e.g., Pisani & Fantinuoli, 2021). Still, little is known about their impact on the remaining parts of interpretation or interpreters' processing of complex multimodal input. This study examines the impact of a real-life CAI tool with automatic speech recognition (ASR) on multimodal processing in SI. A group of professional interpreters was asked to interpret in three conditions: without technological support, with partial ASR support (offering the transcription of numbers and the transcription and translation of proper names), and with full ASR support (offering the transcription of the entire speech, the transcription of numbers, and the transcription and translation of proper names). The analysis involved eye tracking data, interpreting accuracy, and self-reporting questionnaires. Preliminary results show that while fixation count was the lowest for interpretation without ASR, interpretation with full technological support triggered more fixations than interpretation with partial support, which may be indicative of cognitive load increasing with visual complexity. The number of crossovers (attention shifts between areas of interest) was the highest during interpretation with full ASR support, which was the most visually demanding, followed by interpretation with partial ASR support and interpretation without ASR. Although more visually and cognitively challenging, the availability of ASR improved the participants' accuracy, highlighting the facilitating role of visual aids. The study enhances our understanding of multimodal processing in ASR-supported interpreting and demonstrates the interpreters' skillful coordination of information provided through different sensory channels.

Keywords

simultaneous interpreting, multimodal processing, cognitive load

Remote simultaneous interpreters' interaction with multimodal workplace: An observational study

Mr Qiliang Xu
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Mr Qiliang Xu

Qiliang XU is currently a PhD candidate at the Department of Translation, Interpreting, and Intercultural Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University, where he is a recipient of the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPFS). His current PhD project explores the convergence of remote simultaneous interpreting, multimodality, and interpreter cognition. He is also interested in discourse analysis in interpreting and interpreter education.

Abstract

As interpreting goes increasingly technologized (Pöchhacker & Liu, 2024), remote simultaneous interpreting (RSI) has been gaining momentum in the interpreting industry and academia. Research on RSI has flourished regarding interpreters' subjective experience in their professional undertakings (e.g., Buján & Collard, 2022; Chmiel & Spinolo, 2022), yet the question of how they handle multimodal information in a technologized workplace environment remains largely indeterminate. As simultaneous interpreting (SI) has been considered a complex cognitive activity, the cognitive process of SI has been a central line of inquiry. The technologized workplace environment calls for a renewed reflection on interpreter cognition (Mellinger, 2023). This is particularly pertinent to RSI when it is considered a form of "multilectal mediated communication" (Halverson & Muñoz, 2021, p. 3) rather than mere language processing. Taking situated cognition as an epistemological base, I contend that this framework may capture the complex nature of interpreter cognition in RSI: cognitive process is a result of interaction among the interpreter's mind, bodily actions, and technologized multimodal workplace environment. In this paper, I will report on a qualitative observational study of three professional interpreters' real-life RSI assignments. Data was collected in two phases using field observations, screen recording, and semi-structured interviews. All data was analyzed through qualitative coding, and selected video excerpts were subject to multimodal micro-analysis to provide richer interpretations. Results showed that interpreters interact with two cognitive spaces in the RSI workplace – 'communicative space' and 'augmented space'. The communicative space is a workspace offering multimodal input for cognitive processing, while the augmented space features interpreters' self-driven creation of a multimodal workspace to support cognitive processing. The study also found that interpreters encounter multimodal challenges (i.e., insufficient view of the speaker and multimodal misalignment) in the communicative space and tend to rise to the challenges using multimodal resources in the augmented space. Moreover, in-depth interviews suggested that automatic speech recognition (ASR) on RSI platforms could be a potentially useful augmented multimodal resource, but to a limited degree. This observational study theorizes interpreters' interaction with the RSI workplace through a multimodal, cognitive lens. As part of a larger-scale project, this study may also provide new angles for examining cognitive effort and studying multimodal processing in (R)SI.

Keywords

remote simultaneous interpreting (RSI), multimodality, situated cognition

How simultaneous interpreters activate translation equivalents across two languages: the effect of interpreting expertise on cross-language co-activation

Ms Xueni Zhang, Prof. Binghan Zheng
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Ms Xueni Zhang

Xueni Zhang is a PhD candidate at the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, Durham University, supported by a CSC scholarship. She earned her MPhil in Second Language Education from the University of Cambridge in 2020 and her BA in Translation and Interpreting from the Central University of Finance and Economics in 2019. Her current research focuses on cognitive translation and interpreting studies.

Prof. Binghan Zheng

Binghan Zheng is Full Professor of Chinese and Translation Studies at Durham University, UK. His research interests encompass cognitive translation/interpreting studies, neuroscience of translation/interpreting, and the conceptualisation of translation/interpreting. He serves as an Associate Editor of the Routlege journal Translation Studies, and his recent publications have appeared in journals such as Target, Translation Studies, The Interpreter & Translator Trainer, Journal of Pragmatics, Brain & Cognition, Across Languages & Cultures, Translation & Interpreting Studies, Perspectives, and LANS-TTS.

Abstract

It is of interest to scholars of translation/interpreting whether the target language (TL) is processed in parallel with the source language (SL) or in a separate, serial manner. This question, however, is often approached by examining performances in single-word translation tasks, with limited ecological validity and generalizability to real-world practices. The present study, adopting a visual world paradigm from the neighboring field of cognitive psychology, examines the time course of the co-activations of TL form and meaning during continuous delivery of simultaneous interpreting (SI), and whether there is an effect of interpreting expertise on the temporal emergence of the co-activations. Chinese-English bilinguals, including 31 professional interpreters and 39 student interpreters, were recruited to perform a SI task. Participants were visually presented four Chinese printed words, while listening to context-embedded English words. One of the printed words was a competitor that resembled the translation equivalent of the English spoken word in either form (e.g., 服务 - 服装, service - clothes) or meaning (e.g., 经济 - 金融, economy – finance), and the other three were unrelated distractors. It is found that professional interpreters, but not student interpreters, directed more visual attention on word-form competitors immediately after spoken word offset. Activation of semantic information showed up simultaneously with word-form activation but was more durable. No effect of group was found for the semantic condition. Our results suggest that parallel processing exists in professional delivery of SI, while the activation of translation equivalents in student interpreters is initially semantically mediated followed by word-form mapping. The study sheds light on the mechanism of language-cognition interactions in the context of authentic interpreting practice, with implications for leveraging experiment-based, cognitive approaches to socially situated multilingual tasks.

Keywords

parallel versus serial processing, cross-language interaction, visual world eye-tracking paradigm

Same, same but different: the cognitive-functional view of disfluency in dialogue interpreting

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Dr Aleksandra Adler

Aleksandra Adler holds a PhD in interpreting studies from Stockholm University. Her research deals primarily with cognitive processes in dialogue interpreting with emphasis on cognitive load and its physiological and linguistic representation. She is also interested in language control in dialogue interpreters from both neurolinguistic and behavioral perspectives.

Abstract

Disfluencies provide a link between observable behavior and underlying cognitive processes. Consequently, during interpreting, disfluencies may reflect the interpreter's cognitive processing associated with certain aspects of language production. In dialogue interpreting, disfluencies reflect the cognitive load associated with different processes inherent to interpreting dialogues while simultaneously serving various functions demanded by the context. This paper presents a cognitive-functional view of disfluency, summarized as follows: 1) disfluencies are indirect markers of cognitive load, 2) the cognitive load indicated by disfluencies has multiple origins, and 3) disfluencies serve multiple concurrent functions in interpreting. I propose that disfluency in dialogue interpreting usually occurs in three cognitive-functional context categories: cognitive-pragmatic, cognitive-monitoring, and cognitive-processing. Each category reflects aspects of the cognitive load experienced by the interpreter. Adopting the assumptions of the cognitive-functional view of disfluency, this study reports on a qualitative investigation of disfluencies in the utterances of four (n=4) dialogue interpreters. The results indicate that disfluency is an idiosyncratic measure and possibly reflects how different interpreters cope with their cognitive load. The investigation reveals substantial variability in disfluencies in terms of distribution, types, and categories. Additionally, the qualitative results provide a better understanding of cognitive load on both local and global levels, shedding light on the multiple origins of cognitive load in dialogue interpreting. The evidence supporting the assumption that disfluencies serve multiple concurrent functions in dialogue interpreting highlights that disfluencies cannot be ascribed a single role in speech. They are informative regarding multiple processes underlying speech production in L2, dialogue interpreting, and cognitive load. Overall, this study contributes to the emerging cognitive profile of dialogue interpreters.

Keywords

dialogue interpreting, cognitive load, disfluency

How Gesturing Impacts the Fluency of Renditions in Dialogue Interpreting

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Dr Monika Chwalczuk

Monika Chwalczuk is an assistant professor of Translation and Interpreting at the School of Media, Languages and Communication Studies at the University of East Anglia. Previously she lectured at Université de Paris (France) and University of Warwick (UK) where she was affiliated respectively with the Department of Intercultural Studies and Applied Languages, and the School of Modern Languages and Cultures. In 2022-2024 Dr Chwalczuk worked as the principal investigator of the CoGCIn project (Cognitive Processes behind the use of Gestures in Consecutive Dialogue Interpreting) funded from a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions individual post-doctoral grant. The fellowship was part of the PASIFIC program for research and innovation, supported jointly by the Institute of Psychology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the European Commission. Monika Chwalczuk received a PhD in Translation Studies from Université Paris Cité (France), where in 2021 she defended a dissertation on the role of co-speech gestures in public service interpreting analysed through the lens of multimodal corpora. She also holds a Master's Degree in Specialised Translation and Language Teaching, completed at the Institute of Applied Linguistics of the University of Warsaw (Poland). Her interdisciplinary research combines the fields of public service interpreting, gestures studies and cognitive linguistics. The range of methods implemented in her studies spans the use of multimodal corpora, behavioural data and self-reported measures obtained in experimental settings, as well as psychophysiological data such as EEG and HRV.

Mrs Alicja Jancelewicz

Alicja Jancelewicz graduated in Iberian Philology from the Institute of Iberian and Ibero-American Studies at the University of Warsaw, specializing in the Portuguese language. In 2022, she defended her MA dissertation on the Polish Question in the Luso-Brazilian World in the nineteenth century. She also holds a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics from the Institute of Applied Linguistics at the University of Warsaw, with a specialisation in translation studies (Polish-English-Spanish). In 2023, she defended her second MA dissertation, which investigated South Africa's language policy and its implications for multilingualism. In 2020, Alicja participated in the Sensitive Language Project, a collaboration between the Institute of Applied Linguistics UW and the Polish Translation Unit of the European Parliament. The project focused on researching and translating the Glossary of LGBTI+ Terminology from English into Polish. From 2022 to 2024, she worked as a Research Assistant on the CoGCIn project (Cognitive Processes behind the use of Gestures in Consecutive Dialogue Interpreting), co-funded by the Polish Academy of Sciences and the European Commission within a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions grant. Her role in the project involved multimodal analysis of a corpus of video recordings from dialogue interpreting experiments in English-Spanish and English-Polish language pairs. Since 2022, Alicja has been teaching Spanish and English as a Second Language at Kozminski University and SWPS University in Warsaw. Her research focuses on the social and multimodal aspects of interpreting, with an additional interest in Portuguese literature. She also translates literature (PT>PL) and interprets (PL<>EN, PL>ES,PT).

Prof Robert Balas

Robert Balas is an Associate Professor of psychology currently holding the position of the Director of the Institute of Psychology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw. His research interests include attitude acquisition and change, implicit and explicit evaluations, working memory, and cognitive and affective components of intuitive information processing. He authored and co-authored multiple research papers in top-ranked journals based on several research grants. Also, prof. Robert Balas is currently a member of several scientific societies: European Society for Cognitive Psychology, the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, and The Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, among others.

Abstract

Corpus-based and experimental studies show that interpreters use spontaneous hand gestures across interpreting modes (Vranjes & Brône, 2021; Martín de León & Fernández Santana, 2021). As gesture rates increase in disfluent renditions, gestures are considered to aid cognition by alleviating processing difficulties

(Cienki & Iriskhanova, 2020). However, interpreter trainees are often discouraged from vivid gestures, which may be perceived as signs of struggling with the source text (Cienki, 2024; Zagar Galvão, 2013). Previous findings from the NN project (2024) suggested that inhibiting gestures increased cognitive load in dialogue interpreting, as measured by the NASA Task Load Index. Building on these results, the present study investigates how limiting interpreters' gesture production impacts the fluency of target renditions. In a simulated task, 57 trainee interpreters worked in English-Spanish (N=13), English-French (N=10), and English-Polish (N=34) language pairs. Video stimuli depicting a doctor-patient interaction were presented using PsychoPy. Two conditions were tested: 1) uninhibited gestures and 2) enforced no-gesture, with participants instructed to keep their hands still. Reaction times and target rendition durations were measured in PsychoPy, while speech and gesture production were annotated in ELAN, providing metrics such as filled and silent pauses, and number of words per minute. Preliminary results indicate that limiting gestures led to a longer ear-voice span and extended target renditions. Further analyses of the ELAN data are ongoing. Early findings form this study suggest that restricting spontaneous gestures decreases fluency in dialogue interpreting performed by novice interpreters. Gesture inhibition appears to disrupt natural embodied cognition mechanisms, impeding memory and the recreation of multimodal messages, thus affecting flow. These insights have significant implications for interpreter training and practice, as they support recent findings from a sociolinguistic study demonstrating that interpreters who gesture and align gesturally with speakers are perceived as more professional and proficient (Chwalczuk, Garcia-Beyaert, Balas, forthcoming).

Keywords

dialogue interpreting, fluency, hand gestures

Exploring automatic speech recognition in healthcare interpreting: A socio-cognitive approach

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Constantin Orăsan is Professor of Language and Translation Technologies at the Centre of Translation Studies, University of Surrey, UK and a Fellow of the Surrey Institute for People-Centred Artificial Intelligence. Before starting this role, he was Reader in Computational Linguistics at the University of Wolverhampton, UK, and the deputy head of the Research Group in Computational Linguistics at the same university. He has over 25 years of experience in the fields of Natural Language Processing (NLP), Translation Technologies, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for language processing. His recent research focuses on the use of Generative AI as a support tool for translators and the use of Automatic Speech Recognition for interpreters. His research is well known in these fields as a result of over 130 peer-reviewed articles in journals, books and international conferences. More information about him can be found at https://dinel.org.uk/

Prof. Sabine Braun

Dr Sabine Braun is Professor of Translation Studies and Director of the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Surrey, UK, a Research-England funded Centre of Excellence. She serves as a Co-Director of Surrey's Institute for People-Centred AI. She specialises in human-machine integration in translation and interpreting to improve access to information, digital content and public services. For over a decade, she spearheaded a European-funded research programme investigating video-mediated interpreting in legal proceedings to improve language access in the justice sector (AVIDICUS 1-3; 2008-16), while contributing her expertise in video interpreting to other justice sector projects (e.g. QUALITAS, 2012-14; Understanding Justice, 2013-16; VEJ Evaluation, 2018-20). Subsequently she advised justice sector institutions on the use and risks of video-mediated interpreting, delivered training, developed European guidelines, and co-authored a DIN standard. She has also explored the use of video and virtual reality platforms for training interpreters and users of interpreting services (IVY, 2011-3; EVIVA, 2014-15; SHIFT, 2015-18; EU-WEBPSI, 2021-24) and is currently involved in projects investigating the application of communication technologies and AI-enabled language technologies to multilingual health communication (MHealth4All, 2021-24; Interpret-X, 2021-24). Furthermore, she conducts research on audio description and other translation modalities related to accessible communication. In the Horizon 2020 project MeMAD (2018-21), she explored the potential for (semi-)automating audio description to enhance digital media inclusion. In 2024, she launched a Leverhulme Trust-funded Doctoral Training Network on AI-Enabled Digital Accessibility (ADA). Her overarching interest centres on fairness, transparency, and quality in the use of technology in language mediation.

Abstract

Automatic speech recognition (ASR), an AI-driven speech-to-text technology, has demonstrated increasingly robust performance. Given that interpreting is widely acknowledged as a cognitively demanding task, ASR has the potential to support interpreters by alleviating working memory burden and mitigating linguistic challenges through real-time transcription of source speeches. However, ASR transcription, as an additional source of visual input, may lead interpreters to expend more cognitive effort to incorporate it into their workflows. The way of presenting ASR output could also affect their cognitive resources consumption. Despite these potential impacts, research on the effect of ASR on interpreters' cognitive effort remains limited (e.g. Cheng & Li, 2022; Yuan & Wang, 2024). Moreover, while research suggests that ASR can enhance interpreting accuracy for "problem triggers" such as numbers, terms, fast speeches and speeches with dense information (e.g. Defrancq & Fantinuoli, 2021; Rodriguez González et al. 2023), its impact on overall interpreting quality remains ambiguous due to the lack of research, especially studies regarding

consecutive/dialogue interpreting, and inconsistent assessment methods. This study addresses the current research gaps by investigating how the provision of ASR and its various presentations affect professional interpreters' cognitive effort and overall interpreting quality in dialogue-based healthcare settings. Using simulations of different interpreting conditions, it integrates cognitive and sociological research methods: it combines eye-tracking and psychometric scales to quantify cognitive effort with quantitative and qualitative analyses to assess interpreting quality, and gathers interpreters' perceptions of ASR through retrospective reports and semi-structured interviews. In the presentation, we will first give an overview of the study's methodological approach and then report initial findings in relation to cognitive effort, interpreting quality and interpreters' perceptions of ASR. This research hopes to provide empirical evidence on the impact of ASR on cognitive effort and quality in dialogue interpreting and identify best practices for integrating ASR output into interpreting workflows.

Keywords

automatic speech recognition, cognitive effort, dialogue interpreting quality

LT.19 | Panel 30 | Quality Assessment in Multilingual, Multimodal, and Multiagent Translation and Interpreting: Exploring Human and Automatic Evaluation Approaches (cont.)

Chair: Chao Han

Refining Chinese–English bidirectional interpreting assessment: Automated assessment based on fidelity and target language quality

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Ms. Zheng Wu

Zheng Wu is a PhD candidate in interpreting at the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University. She holds an MA in Language Studies from the City University of Hong Kong. Her current research focuses on assessment and testing in interpreting. She is also interested in exploring the intersection of interpreting pedagogy, computational linguistics, and natural language processing.

Prof. Min-hua Liu

Min-hua Liu is an adjunct professor at the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies and an honorary research fellow at the Centre for Translation of Hong Kong Baptist University. Drawing from her background in language education, her experience as a conference interpreter and interpreter educator, and her interest in human cognition, her primary research interest is on how the human mind, particularly the bilingual mind, processes information. Additionally, she explores assessment in translation and interpreting, with a special emphasis on quantifying human judgements of quality. She serves co-editor of the journal Interpreting and is a member of the advisory boards of several academic journals and book series.

Abstract

This study proposed an automated interpreting quality assessment (IQA) approach for bidirectional Chinese–English interpreting as an alternative to the conventional human-mediated IQA, which is often scrutinized due to concerns over its reliability and consistency. Different from previous research on automated IQA, which typically focuses on a single quality criterion (e.g., Lu & Han, 2025; Wu, 2021) or relies on resource-intensive reference translations (e.g., Wang et al., 2022), this study evaluated both fidelity and target language (TL) quality. Specifically, this study prioritized fidelity as the dominant criterion, with TL quality serving as a supporting one, in alignment with prevalent human-mediated IQA criteria. The study analyzed 400 bidirectional student interpretations sourced from the Parallel Corpus of Chinese EFL Learners (PACCEL; Wen & Wang, 2008). Each interpretation was accompanied by a human rating result, and the goal of this study was to predict these human ratings. Fidelity was evaluated using the Language-Agnostic BERT Sentence Embedding (LaBSE; Feng et al., 2021) model to obtain the cross-language semantic similarity score. TL quality was assessed using the Tool for the Automatic Analysis of Lexical Sophistication (TAALES 2.2; Kyle et al., 2018) and Coh-Metrix 3.0 (Graesser et al., 2004). Two predicative models were developed: Model 1, based solely on fidelity indicated by cross-language semantic similarity scores, and Model 2, incorporating both fidelity and TL quality. Prediction performance was evaluated using t-tests, random forests, correlation analyses, and regression models. Results indicated that both models showed fair prediction results, with Model 2 showing improved prediction performance over Model 1 (i.e., Chinese-to-English: 0.776 vs. 0.711; English-to-Chinese: 0.781 vs. 0.762). The improvement was particularly notable for intermediate-level interpretations, with the correlation coefficient (r) increasing by 0.120 in Chinese-to-English interpreting (from 0.519 to 0.639) and by 0.130 in English-to-Chinese interpreting (from 0.531 to 0.661). Furthermore, differences in prediction performance were observed between interpreting directions, with generally better results in English-to-Chinese interpreting. These encouraging, albeit preliminary, findings suggest the potential for developing a comprehensive and more reliable automated assessment for interpreting.

Keywords

fidelity, target language quality, automated assessment

Applying Machine Learning Models to Automate Assessment of Interpreting Quality: An Analysis of Feature Importance within Quality Criteria

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Dr Xiaoman Wang

Xiaoman Wang is an assistant professor working at Heriot Watt University, UK. Her research interests are Interpreting Studies, Language and Technology and Digital Humanities, specifically automatic assessment for Chinese/English Interpreting. Her articles have been published in Perspectives, Frontiers in Communication, Across Languages and Cultures, Humanities and Social Sciences Communications and Chinese Translators Journal (中国翻译). Additionally, she has presented her research at various conferences, including the European Association of Machine Translation.

Prof. Binhua Wang

Binhua Wang is Chair/Professor of interpreting and translation studies at University of Leeds in the UK, where he served as Director of the Centre for Translation Studies and Programme Manager of the MA programmes in interpreting. He is an elected Member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Linguists. His research interests include interpreting and translation studies, Chinese studies and digital humanities, in which he has published many articles in refereed SSCI/A&HCI/CSSCI journals and in edited volumes published by Routledge, John Benjamins, Springer, Brill and Palgrave. He is co-editor of Interpreting and Society, chief editor of Int'l Journal of Chinese and English Translation & Interpreting and on the editorial boards of Babel, ITT, Forum, Foreign Language Teaching & Research (外语教学与研究), Chinese Translators Journal (中国翻译) and Translation Quarterly (翻译季刊).

Abstract

Interpreting studies have consistently engaged with the definition and measurement of interpreting quality, aiming to identify key criteria for high-quality interpreting performances and benchmarks. Prominent studies have highlighted several criteria, including sense consistency, delivery, and target-language quality, as central considerations in assessment, especially for conference interpreting (Bühler, 1986; Kurz, 1993, 2002; Zwischenberger, 2010). Despite extensive theoretical exploration, the application of machine learning (ML) to automate the assessment has not been fully developed, particularly in quantifying the impact of various criteria with machine-readable parameters. This study introduces a machine learning approach, utilizing a random forest classifier, to automate the assessment of consecutive interpreting. It integrates 28 empirically derived parameters (Wang & Wang, 2022, 2024) covering three primary aspects of interpreting quality: information fidelity, target-language quality, and delivery. These parameters, representing three key aspects, were weighted differently across four scenarios (60:20:20, 50:25:25, 40:30:30, and 34:33:33) to evaluate their impact on the prediction accuracy of human judgment and to understand the significance of each parameter. The results demonstrated consistent prediction accuracy at approximately 65%, which increased to 92% after oversampling. Notably, information fidelity, assessed through metrics like SiameseTransQuest-da and cosine similarity calculations using GPT-Ada embeddings, emerged as the most significant feature across all scenarios, with 11% feature importance for the individual parameter. Target-language quality, assessed by features such as the edit ratio between transcriptions produced by interpreters and their revised versions enhanced by LLM, showed approximately 9% feature importance. In contrast, delivery aspects such as filled and unfilled pauses exhibited minimal impact on the quality assessment, with the feature importance ranging from 1% to 5% for each aspect-related parameter. The results confirm a significant alignment between theoretical interpreting studies and ML-driven assessments, enhancing the potential for

the automated system to guide the selection of quality assessment parameters in future human-machine collaborations.

Keywords

automatic assessment of interpreting quality, machine learning, feature importance

Going multimodal: Leveraging Multimodal Large Language Models to evaluate students' handwritten translations in educational settings

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Abstract

Despite the growing popularity of computerized translation testing wherein test takers interact with computer to produce/type translated texts, handwritten translation is still a common practice for language testing in educational settings in China. Assessing handwritten translation has long represented a challenge, especially considering the difficulty for raters to process illegible handwriting and maintain high scoring efficiency. This study therefore aims to automate assessment of handwritten translation by conducting multimodal translation quality assessment. We leveraged four state-of-the-art Multimodal Large Language Models (MLLMs) i.e., GPT-4o, Gemini-1.5-Pro, Qwen-VL-Max, GLM-4v, to assess 252 English-Chinese students' translations in four assessment scenarios. Scenario A used handwritten image as input; Scenario B utilized transcribed text as input; Scenario C combined both handwritten and transcribed input; and Scenario D involved the MLLMs first transcribing the handwritten text before scoring the translation (Chain-of-Thought approach). Expert human ratings on a ten-point analytic rubric served as the gold standard, considering "Accuracy of transfer", "Quality of expression", and "Degree of task completion". Additionally, experts rated the legibility of the handwritten translations using a five-point Likert scale. Our preliminary data analysis reveals that: (a) generally, English-developed MLLMs demonstrated moderate-to-strong reliability and validity across the assessment scenarios for both directions; (b) performance was generally higher for Chinese-to-English direction than the other direction, even for Chinese-developed MLLMs; (c) MLLMs exhibited higher correlation with expert judgments of "Accuracy of transfer" compared to other criteria; (d) the Chain-of-Thought approach in Scenario D outperformed direct prompting in Scenario A, but was less effective than using transcribed text in Scenario B, especially for Chinese-to-English direction; (e) higher performance of MLLMs was observed in Scenario D with increased handwriting legibility. Our study provides insights into the performance and limitations of MLLMs for automated evaluation of handwritten translations, contributing to the nascent field of multimodal translation quality assessment.

Keywords

handwritten translation, Multimodal Translation Quality Assessment, Multimodal Large Language Models

Assessing Interpreting Quality Using Large Language Models: An Exploration of Zero-shot, Few-shot, and Chain-of-Thought Prompts

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Masaru Yamada is a professor in the College and in the Graduate School of Intercultural Communication at Rikkyo University. He received his PhD in intercultural communication (specializing in Translation and Interpreting) from Rikkyo University Graduate School of Intercultural Communication. Drawing on his extensive experience as a linguist and project manager in the translation industry, his current research focuses on translation processes, translation technologies (including CAT, MTPE, and LLMs), and Translation in Language Teaching (TILT). He co-edited Metalanguages for Dissecting Translation Processes: Theoretical Development and Practical Applications (Routledge, 2022) and the special Ampersand issue Empirical Translation Process Research (2024). Other recent publications include "Optimizing Machine Translation through Prompt Engineering: An Investigation into ChatGPT's Customizability" (MT Summit XIX, 2023). He has served as a board member of the Japan Association of Interpreting and Translation Studies (JAITS) and the Asia-Pacific Association for Machine Translation (AAMT). He is also a member of the editorial board of The Interpreter and Translator Trainer.

Prof. Kayo Matsushita

Kayo Matsushita is a professor in the College and in the Graduate School of Intercultural Communication at Rikkyo University. She received her master's degree in print journalism from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and her PhD in intercultural communication (specializing in translation and interpreting) from Rikkyo University Graduate School of Intercultural Communication. She is a journalist-turned-interpreter, an interpreter trainer, and a Translation and Interpreting Studies (TIS) scholar, mainly interested in interpreting and translation practices in the media. Her areas of study include news translation, media interpreting, and the relationship between interpreting and technology. She is the author of When News Travels East: Translation Practices by Japanese Newspapers (Leuven University Press, 2019) and has contributed to edited volumes such as Corpora in Interpreting Studies: East Asian Perspectives (Routledge, 2023), Translating Crises (Bloomsbury, 2022), and Routledge Handbook of Conference Interpreting (Routledge, 2021). She is a member and former director of The Japan Association for Interpreting and Translation Studies, and a member of European Society for Translation Studies, Japan Association for Media, Journalism and Communication Studies, and The Japan Association for Media English Studies.

Abstract

This study explores the application of Large Language Models (LLMs), in particular ChatGPT and other relevant services, in assessing simultaneous interpreting quality through zero-shot, few-shot, and chain-of-thought (COT) prompts. The research aims to develop a novel evaluation method that combines AI's computational capabilities with established quality standards, providing insights into LLMs' effectiveness in assessing interpreting quality. Utilizing the Japan National Press Club (JNPC) Interpreting Corpus (Matsushita et al.), the study examines LLMs' ability to evaluate interpreting quality through various prompting strategies. The zero-shot prompt results demonstrated the models' capacity to provide reasonably accurate assessments without prior examples. Few-shot prompts showed improved precision in distinguishing between good and bad interpreting examples. The COT prompt enabled a detailed proposition-based analysis, offering a potential framework for semi-automated quality assessment. These findings suggest that LLMs can provide multifaceted, consistent, and scalable feedback for interpreter training and research. However, the study also highlights the need for further research to enhance LLMs' ability to detect subtle differences and integrate more effectively into interpreting evaluation frameworks. The basic prompts have been improved to establish a more stable and scalable assessment. The proposed method offers practical applications in educational settings, potentially facilitating assessments without instructors and providing

alternatives to subjective evaluations. It is hoped that this research marks an initial step towards automating interpreting quality assessment. The paper concludes by discussing the implications of these findings for interpreter training, assessment practices, and future research in Interpreting Studies. Hendy, A., Abdelrehim, M., Sharaf, A., Raunak, V., Gabr, M., Matsushita, H., Kim, Y., Afify, M., & Awadalla, H. H. (2023). How good are GPT models at machine translation? A comprehensive evaluation. [Preprint]. arXiv:2302.09210
Matsushita, K., Yamada, M., & Ishizuka, H. (2020). An Overview of the Japan National Press Club (JNPC) Interpreting Corpus. Invitation to Interpreting and Translation Studies, 22, 87-94.

Keywords

Large Language Models (LLMs), Interpreting Quality Assessment, Prompt Engineering

LT.20 | Panel 50 | What Are Corpora Good For? The New Faces of Corpus and Digital Humanities Research in Translation and Interpreting Studies (cont.)

Chairs: Haidee Kotze, Jan Buts

Bit by Bit: Challenging retranslation universals with corpus studies

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Ms Sophie Thorkildsen

A PhD fellow at the Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies at the University of Copenhagen, I hold a master's degree in English with a specialisation in translation studies. In 2022, I was honoured with the university's gold medal for outstanding student paper, recognising my thesis on the three Danish translations of Oscar Wilde's novel The Picture of Dorian Gray. My current project continues my work within the field of retranslation studies, focusing on how current developments in computational linguistics can expand traditional translation studies methodologies. These efforts include mapping translation tendencies within the Danish literary system and examining how these correlate with the canonisation of Anglophone literary works, tracing both the textual outcomes of the retranslation process and the surrounding paratextual discourses.

Abstract

This paper reports on ongoing efforts to digitise a large corpus of Danish retranslations and define operationalizable parameters indicative of translation shifts. As such, the paper constitutes an investigation into digital corpus studies' efficacy in advancing retranslation studies beyond small-scale and labour-intensive case studies. Whether considering Berman's retranslation hypothesis (1990) or Venuti's competing model (2004), retranslation 'universals' have predominantly been explored through qualitative case studies with no generalisable conclusions (Koskinen and Paloposki 2019; van Poucke 2017). The issue of such small scale testing of global hypotheses, as Pym puts it, is that they "often come up behind, building castles stone by stone and mistrusting large-scale conceptual conclusions" (1998, 8). Building on the principle of Leuven-Zwart's comparative model for classifying microstructural shifts in translations and their effects on the macrostructural level (1989; 1990), this paper reports on possible programmable textual indicators of translation shifts. By compiling and digitizing an approximately 4-million-word corpus of Danish first- and retranslations of ten Anglophone literary works published over the past 200 years and analysing them through this model, this paper presents early results of calculating large-scale diachronic patterns in translation shifts in the Danish literary system and evaluates how these patterns compare to prevailing theories within the field. This novel method is argued to be beneficial to other retranslation studies. Achieving adequate generalisation of diachronic translation norms within a literary system facilitates the possibility of more precise comparisons between languages and systems. Similarly, while broad-stroke depictions of translation trends inevitably sacrifice some linguistic nuance and accuracy, a scalable, data-driven model can provide a robust framework for qualitative studies to delve into the unique aspects of individual cases within a mapped system. By discussing the benefits and limitations of digital retranslation studies, this paper evaluates the possibilities of new, descriptive models within the field being constructed digitally – not stone by stone, but bit by bit.

Keywords

Digital humanities, Retranslation, Translation universals

A value-sensitive metadata schema for interpreting corpora: Implementation on the Unified Interpreting Corpus (UNIC) platform

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Dr Nannan Liu

Nannan Liu is the European Commission's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow and an adjunct professor in the Department of Interpreting and Translation at the University of Bologna. She studies the intersection of interpreting, computational and corpus linguistics, and cognitive linguistics. She is the author of the Python library muldichinese and leads the creation of the Unified Interpreting Corpus (UNIC) platform.

Prof Mariachiara Russo

Mariachiara Russo is Professor of Spanish Language and Interpretation in the Department of Interpreting and Translation at the University of Bologna, Rector's Delegate for Multilingualism and freelance conference interpreter. In 2004, she coordinated the European Parliament Interpreting Corpus (EPIC) project. She has published extensively on aptitude testing for interpreting, corpus-based interpreting studies, remote interpreting, contrastive linguistics, and simultaneous film interpreting.

Abstract

Interpreting corpora serve as the descriptive foundation of research and the 'ground truth' against which machine interpreting technologies are evaluated. However, access to corpora remains "a critical bottleneck" in interpreting studies (Pöchhacker, 2022: 225) due to data collection and processing challenges and the absence of translation- and interpreting-specific corpus publication venues. In this presentation, we will showcase two technical infrastructures facilitating corpus access: a metadata schema standardising corpus description and the Unified Interpreting Corpus (UNIC; https://unic.dipintra.it/) platform for data and metadata search and publication. Guided by the internationally established FAIR (findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability; Wilkinson et al., 2016) and CARE (collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility, and ethics; Carroll et al., 2020) principles for scientific data management, we designed the infrastructures based on a review of 125 spoken and signed language interpreting corpora, relevant international standards, community knowledge, and using open-source technologies. Feedback from interpreting students, researchers, and interpreters demonstrates greater perceived usefulness and satisfaction with UNIC than general-purpose search portals. Overall, we will illustrate a value- and consensus-driven path towards optimising the use of interpreting corpora and careful curation of new ones, which avoids the duplication of efforts, helps chart research directions, and fosters co-design with communities.

Keywords

interpreting corpora, metadata, research infrastructure

Digital Corpora for Medical Translations in the Hungarian Health System

Dr. Agnes Horvath
Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary

Dr. Agnes Horvath

Agnes Horvath is an assistant professor at Semmelweis University, a medical university in Hungary. Her primary research focus is patient safety communication for patients not speaking the local language. She concentrates on language assistance via translations for non-native-speaking patients and conducts research to identify vital documents in the Hungarian health care. Her work centers on corpus-based analysis and translating informed consent forms.

Abstract

Corpus-based translation is crucial for ensuring accuracy and consistency in specialized fields like medical translations. By utilising large, structured text collections, translators can access context- and genre-specific expressions, improving their work. The LAHTEC group's project, "Language Assistance in Hungarian Health Care: Translations for Effective Communication," exemplifies the growing importance of corpora in translation studies. Launched in 2023, this collaboration between Hungary's medical universities and language professionals focuses on developing a medical corpus to support effective communication between healthcare providers and non-Hungarian patients. This presentation introduces a pilot study analyzing informed consent forms (ICFs) required for invasive and imaging tests. Our methodology includes: 1. Building a multilingual corpus with authentic Hungarian and English ICFs, and a parallel corpus of Hungarian texts and their English translations. 2. Conducting genre analyses on monolingual corpora to understand ICF construction in Hungarian and English-speaking cultures. 3. Detecting translation strategies within parallel corpora (Hungarian–English). 4. Preparing sample translations, guides, and bilingual glossaries. We use advanced corpus tools like Sketch Engine and a genre-oriented translation analysis model to ensure translations align with genre expectations and target audiences. We compiled a monolingual corpus of 1,125 authentic Hungarian ICFs. Using Sketch Engine, we identified the most frequently used context-specific nouns, verbs, adjectives, and multiword terms, and conducted a concordance analysis. We also assembled a parallel corpus of 14 Hungarian ICFs and their English translations. Through qualitative research, we identified genre-specific terminology and phraseology in the Hungarian ICFs and their English counterparts. This analysis highlights the role of digital corpora in improving medical translation accuracy and communication between healthcare providers and non-Hungarian patients. Although the pilot study is ongoing, its methodology can be applied to other medical genres, demonstrating the potential of corpus-linguistic methods in addressing translation challenges and ensuring equal access to care in Hungary.

Keywords

corpus linguistics, medical translation , effective communication

Exploring the Evolving Role and Shape of Corpora in Translation Studies: From Traditional Tools to Generative AI

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Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

Dr Patricia Rodríguez-Inés

Patricia Rodríguez-Inés, PhD, is a senior lecturer in the Department of Translation, Interpreting and East Asian Studies of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Her research interests include translator training; corpus linguistics applied to translation; and translation competence, its acquisition and the identification of its levels. Her doctoral thesis on developing competence in the use of electronic corpora for translator training earned a number of accolades. She has been a member of the PACTE research group and chair of the TREC researcher network. She has participated in 20 regional, national and international funded projects, the most recently completed being the European project EFFORT (Towards a European Framework of Reference for Translation), which she coordinated. She is the author of over 50 publications about translator training, corpora and translation competence. She is the principal investigator of the FORTI (Translator and Interpreter Training) research group and currently coordinates a project aimed at raising awareness of the environmental impact of translators' professional activities among teachers, students and practitioners.

Abstract

Corpora have significantly influenced various areas of language research, including lexicography, phraseology, discourse analysis, and translation studies (Rodríguez-Inés 2008). Traditionally, a corpus was defined as a large, structured set of texts, usually designed to be representative, balanced, and accurate, providing a reliable basis for linguistic analysis. However, later approaches, such as the Web as Corpus, shifted focus from strict representativeness to broader, more flexible applications, embracing the vast, less curated data available online. Initially, corpus analysis was carried out using standalone, specialized tools like WordSmith Tools, which were specifically designed for detailed linguistic analysis. These tools offered functionalities such as keyword analysis, concordancing, and frequency analysis. However, the landscape of corpus work has evolved considerably. Nowadays, corpus analysis functionalities are increasingly integrated into other types of software, including Computer-Assisted Translation (CAT) tools, broadening the accessibility and utility of corpora in professional contexts. Moreover, the rise of online corpus analysis tools has made corpus-based research more accessible to a wider audience, encouraging the proliferation of this method in various fields of study. As the field continues to evolve, new questions arise regarding the potential of generative AI (GAI) technologies in corpus-based research. Could applications like ChatGPT eventually rival specialized tools like SketchEngine or AntConc for corpus analysis? Furthermore, could GAI technologies help popularize corpus-based analyses in translation studies by making these methods more user-friendly and integrated into broader research workflows? This presentation will explore these questions through the results of comparative tests, examining the capabilities and limitations of different tools and technologies in the context of Translation Studies. The results obtained with SketchEngine/AntConc and a GAI application will be contrasted (e.g. number of hits of a word or expression in a corpus; alphabetical and frequency lists of words, including the search for hapax legomena; extraction of concordances, collocations and some statistical calculations; and the interpretation of results).The findings aim to provide insights into the future direction of corpus research and the potential role of GAI in this domain.

Keywords

definition of corpus, AI technologies, awareness raising

Adverbs in Human and Machine Translation: a Bidirectional Corpus-Based Analysis

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Université Paris 8, St Denis, France

Dr Daniel Henkel

Daniel Henkel is Associate Professor of Linguistics and Translation at Université Paris 8 where he teaches Computer Assisted Translation, Terminology, Corpus Linguistics and Comparative Syntax. His research interests revolve around comparable and parallel corpora in English, French and Italian, using natural language processing and quantitative methods to detect differences between corpora of original and translated texts, including both human and machine translation, and develop new resources and methods of analysis. His recent work in Corpus-Based Translation Studies has shown that human and machine translations differ from one another, and diverge from target-language norms, with respect to both syntactic parameters (passive constructions, progressive aspect) and lexical parameters (verbs of perception, verbs of cognition). His current research focuses on polysemy as revealed in translation and detecting translationese at sentence level. In addition to his own scientific research on translation, he is a professional translator of scientific articles, primarily in the field of medicine.

Abstract

The “bidirectional” corpus model, first described by Johansson (2007), combines comparable and parallel corpora, allowing for comparisons on multiple levels: • between original English (En0) and original French (Fr0) • between subcorpora of target-texts and original texts in the same language, to determine whether target-texts follow target-language norms, • between pairs of source- and target-texts, to assess the amount of interlinguistic influence (a.k.a. “shining-through”). The present analysis expands on the bidirectional approach in several ways: • the corpus of 70 authors + 70 translators + DeepL (6 subcorpora of 35 texts each × 3.5m = 20 million words) is currently the largest and most diversified bidirectional, linguistically annotated and aligned corpus for English/French. • calculating data for each text individually is more informative than totals or averages as it reveals the amount of variation within each subcorpus. • the integration of neural machine translation alongside human translators adds a new level of comparison • sentence-level alignment provides a means to overcome the limitations of macroscopic quantitative analysis This study focuses on adverbs derived by suffixation (e.g. En. “soft-ly”, Fr. “douce-ment”). The aim is to determine to what extent target-texts deviate from target-language norms, how much influence source-texts exert, and whether human and machine translations can be distinguished as separate “subspecies” in their use of adverbs. In source-texts, such adverbs are 2× more common in English (median 126.7 occurrences/10k words) than in French (median 61.5/10k), while target-texts in both languages fall in between (median frequencies 84-108/10k). The Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test demonstrates that both human and machine translations differ significantly with respect to reference corpora for the same language ($p<0.01$), while Spearman’s coefficient shows a strong and significant ($rho=0.90$, $p<0.001$) influence of source-texts on corresponding target-texts. These tendencies are stronger for machine-translated texts than human-translated texts. Manual analysis of segment pairs reveals greater diversity in human-translated texts than in machine-translated texts.

Keywords

corpus linguistics, translation, adverbs

Form, function, and other factors: what determines what a pattern is?

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Dr Jan Buts

Jan Buts is associate professor at the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare Education (SHE), University of Oslo, Norway, where he is involved in the development of the Sustainability & Health Corpus, a language resource that supports research and teaching in healthcare and related domains. He co-coordinates the Genealogies of Knowledge Research Network and is a member of the executive council of IATIS, the International Association for Translation & Intercultural Studies.

Prof. Haidee Kotze

Haidee Kotze is Professor and Chair of Translation Studies in the Department of Languages, Literature and Communication at Utrecht University, and editor-in-chief of the journal Target: International Journal of Translation Studies, as well as co-editor of the book series Translation, Interpreting and Transfer at KU Leuven University Press. She is an international staff member of the Centre for Translation Studies (CETRA) at KU Leuven, and a member of the international Thematic Network on Empirical and Experimental Research in Translation (TREC).

Abstract

A core problem of corpus research in translation studies and adjacent fields is that we lack a clear concept of patterning. To explain the scope of this issue, this talk starts by outlining three tendencies in recent corpus research, and the core assumptions that sustain them. Firstly, text corpora are increasingly used in a wide range of disciplinary environments, as it is assumed that the analysis of discourse can tell us something about the social world at large. Secondly, corpus researchers are encouraged to combine the analysis of corpora with other methods in order to strengthen the validity of research findings. The premise here is that language is best approached empirically. Thirdly, and in close connection to the previous two points: corpus research has gradually become less dependent on linguistic description, and more reliant on statistics. Quantification plays a key role in these trends. As research designs become more complex and multifaceted, a shared metalanguage between disciplines, environments, and observations is required, and mathematics tends to provide the necessary tools of commensuration. Yet, as the field expands and measurement becomes a primary mode of observation, the methodological foundations of corpus research become increasingly foggy, as can be readily illustrated with reference to the concept of patterning. “Patterns” often fulfil a multiplicity of functions within even a single research design; the term can refer to everything ranging from lexical co-occurrence or thematic coherence to cognitive habits and socio-cultural processes, and in these various roles a particular pattern can seem to simultaneously serve as explanans and explanandum. This talk argues that corpus work’s widening depth and scope of application in the digital humanities requires a more thorough theory of patterning, and provides the basic building blocks for its development.

Keywords

corpus methodology , patterns , empirical translation studies

LT.21 | Panel 7 | Changes to the Economic Value of Translation in the Face of AI (cont.)

Chairs: Félix do Carmo, Joss Moorkens, Gökhan Fırat

‘MT will kill us all’: Findings from a survey on rates, pricing methods and income satisfaction among freelance translators based in Belgium and Switzerland

Dr Sabrina Girletti[1], Prof. Marie-Aude Lefer[2]
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Dr Sabrina Girletti

Sabrina Girletti is a post-doctoral researcher at the Translation Technology Department of the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting at the University of Geneva, where she contributes to postgraduate courses in machine translation and localisation. She completed her PhD in December 2023 with a thesis titled “Working with Pre-translated Texts: Investigating Machine Translation Post-editing and Human Translation Revision at Swiss Corporate In-house Language Services”. Her current research interests include machine translation post-editing training, translators’ job satisfaction, and human factors in machine translation. Sabrina is also one of the coordinators of SuisseTra, the Swiss Association for the Promotion of Translation Technology, and has been providing translators with continuous professional development training in post-editing since 2018.

Prof. Marie-Aude Lefer

Marie-Aude Lefer is Associate Professor of Translation Studies and English-French translation at UCLouvain, Belgium, where she acts as Head of the Louvain School of Translation and Interpreting. Her current research interests include technology in translator education, machine translation post-editing (MTPE) training, translation and MTPE quality assessment, corpus approaches to student translation and post-editing, MTPE pricing methods, and fair compensation in the language services industry. She has co-edited nine volumes and special issues, such as Empirical Translation Studies: New methodological and theoretical traditions (De Gruyter, 2017), Extending the Scope of Corpus-based Translation Studies (Bloomsbury, 2022) and Learner Translation Corpus Research (Benjamins, 2023). Her most recent journal publications include The Machine Translation Post-Editing Annotation System (MTPEAS): A standardized and user-friendly taxonomy for student post-editing quality assessment (Translation Spaces) and Introducing MTPE Pricing in Translator Training: A Concrete Proposal for MT Instructors (The Interpreter and Translator Trainer).

Abstract

Research indicates that lack of fair compensation is one of the primary sources of dissatisfaction among freelance translators (Ruokonen and Mäkisalo 2018, Moorkens 2020, Ruokonen and Svahn 2024) and that rate-setting practices in the language services industry need to be improved collectively (Lambert and Walker 2022), especially since the advent of machine translation (Vieira 2020). It further appears from the 2024 edition of the ELIS survey that, for the first time in the history of the survey, most freelancer translators report price drops, despite current inflation. Within this context, however, actual rates and pricing methods have received relatively little attention in translation research. Recent exceptions include Sakamoto and Mason (2024), who examine LSPs’ reflections on MTPE pricing models and their implications for translators, and Girletti and Lefer (2024), who report on a teaching unit dedicated to MTPE pricing. We contribute to this growing body of research by presenting the findings of a fully anonymous online survey on translation, revision, and post-editing rates, pricing methods, and income satisfaction among freelancers based in Belgium and Switzerland. The study of these two markets is particularly interesting due to their inherently multilingual nature. The survey was distributed in Belgium between June and July 2024, with the support of the Belgian Chamber of Translators and Interpreters (CBTI/BKVT), and in Switzerland between November 2024 and January 2025, also in collaboration with the national association of translators, terminologists and interpreters (ASTTI). In total, we gathered 370 answers. In the talk, we present key trends from the survey results, focusing on the similarities and differences between the two markets.

Keywords

rate-setting, pricing methods, income satisfaction

The impact of agile management methods on job satisfaction in localization

Dr Madiha Kassawat
Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France

Dr Madiha Kassawat

Madiha Kassawat holds a PhD in Translation Studies from and is an associate researcher at the Sorbonne Nouvelle University. Her research has focused on website localization, translation quality, transcreation, and management aspects of translation. She is a member of the editorial team of the journal Critic: Pour une traductologie africaine. She is herself a practicing professional translator and reviewer in the field of localization, working from English/French into Arabic.

Abstract

Localization has advanced in content, workflows, and technology (Kassawat 2022) along with the productivity strategies and tools used to accelerate translation in general (do Carmo 2020). The Agile Manifesto in 2001 shifted work management to iterative and collaborative methods which enhance fast delivery of localized content and adaptation to change more than linear methods. As flexibility draws the traits of the labor market today, casual and contract labor emerges (Connell 2010). This trend makes it necessary to investigate job satisfaction under such circumstances. This survey-based study draws on previous ones (Dam and Zethsen 2016; Moorkens 2020), but focuses on translators' job satisfaction in the agile working framework. More specifically, it looks into work conditions for language agents in localization which have often been viewed as poor since the start of the industry (Pym 2005). The survey received 106 respondents working in different languages and locations. It adopts a job characteristics model often used in the agile working context (Tripp, Riemenschneider, and Thatcher 2016). This paper focuses on specific results (Kassawat, forthcoming) concerning: how the participants perceive their work value and remuneration, including the interrelationships between these aspects and the size and nature of projects, recognition, and autonomy. The results highlight the factors which help satisfy the respondents, such as high autonomy and freedom in choosing their translation approach and working days/holidays, and the factors which dissatisfy them, such as chunking, lack of context, and invisibility. Based on the results, I will highlight the need for human skills and expertise in dealing with process-related challenges that AI technologies do not seem to resolve yet.

Keywords

agile translation, capitalism, job satisfaction

Translation Work in the Digital Economy: Working Conditions of Translators on Platforms and in Cooperatives

Mx Gökhan Fırat
University of Surrey, Guildford, United Kingdom

Mx Gökhan Fırat

I am a PhD Student and Postgraduate Researcher at the University of Surrey, Centre for Translation Studies and my current research is on the working conditions of translation workers. I specifically focus on digital labour platforms and translation cooperatives. Before joining the University of Surrey, I worked in the publishing and translation industries for more than ten years as a book translator, editor, copy-editor, project coordinator, operations manager, business development manager, technology consultant and trainer. I hold a BA in Translation and Interpreting and completed my MA in Translation Studies by focusing on the impacts of the current techno-political transformation of the language industry on translation and its workers.

Abstract

The digital economy has reshaped the field of translation work, introducing digital labour platforms that connect freelance translators with global opportunities, and translation cooperatives that propose an alternative to the privately owned, profit-driven business models. Despite the expected benefits of progress, sustainability, flexibility and democratisation, the actual socio-economic impact of these business models on translators' working conditions and well-being remains underexplored. Drawing from my PhD study, this proposed paper will present the working conditions of translators engaged with digital platforms and translation cooperatives by using the decent and fair work indicators set by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Fairwork Project. By analysing the data from a global survey of 450 translation workers from 85 countries, the presentation will cover essential aspects of labour conditions in two business models such as adequate earnings, decent working hours, work-life balance, safe and healthy work environment, social security and stability, and aspects of social dialogue including fair management, representation and workplace democracy. By doing so, it is aimed to contribute to translation and labour studies as well as the broader discourse on the future of work in the digital economy.

Keywords

translation and digital labour, working conditions of translators, translation cooperatives

The great awakening? Professional translators finding their voice

Mr. John O'Shea
FIT Europe, Brussels, Belgium

Mr. John O'Shea

John O'Shea LL.B (Hons.), LL.M has 30 years of experience in translating legal documents from Greek to English. As a highly experienced legal translation practitioner he assists international investors and multinationals with interests in Greece and Cyprus, as well as some of the top law firms in those countries, with major court cases and key deals through the medium of translation. As an independent researcher, his areas of interest are risk and legal translation, the liability of legal translators, the use and misuse of neural machine translation for legal purposes, and the translation of legal texts from Greek to English. His research on these topics has been presented at conferences and appeared in journals internationally and in various book chapters. He has also translated and edited academic law treatises, a work on legilinguistic translatology, and a series on political science. In recent years he has also been involved in a long-term project to translate Greece's Codes into English which has so far seen the codes of criminal and civil procedure and the code of private maritime law translated and published. John O'Shea has also taught various legal translation courses and provided continuing professional development both internationally and remotely, and dedicated much of his time in recent years to furthering the translation profession through national and supranational professional bodies. He is currently the Chairperson of FIT Europe.

Abstract

In recent years the ELIS surveys conducted in partnership between translation associations and translation agency associations have revealed growing anxiety among translation professionals about technological developments, their earning potential, work conditions, as well as the sustainability of their careers; all heightened by the recent emergence of GenAI. Similar surveys at national level, conducted by professional translation associations, reveal similar worries and similar patterns of disappointment with and unease about the economics of translation. While previous major technological developments (CAT tools, MT) were accepted by the profession with relatively little push-back at the time, there now appears to be a growing trend among translators to speak out more easily about pay, rates, compensation, fairness, sustainability, professional practices, and resistance to exploitative models of work, ethical practices, and such like. This contribution to the panel discussion seeks to explore this emergent "finding of a voice" by professionals in the face of the challenges posed by AI to the future of professional, paid (well-paid) translation work, to sketch how it is manifesting , and to outline the key themes being discussed. It also seeks to explore what constraints professionals (combined under the umbrella of professional associations) face in voicing their concerns, and in getting others to adopt and share the position papers/manifestos/etc. which are issued. The author posits a shift is occurring in the wider landscape of awareness, judging by responses to recent examples of failing LSPs and discussions of fair pay/collective bargaining/the need for unionisation, and so on. This contribution closes by indicating the additional studies that are needed on this topic and articulating why academia needs to (and how it can) work more in partnership with professionals and professional associations to measure these developments and shifts in views and how it can measure the loudness of the roar.

Keywords

Fairness, Professional perspective, Rates

A Critical Appraisal of AI Exposure and Complementarity in Language Work

Mrs. Laura Ramirez Polo
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, USA

Mrs. Laura Ramirez Polo

Laura Ramírez Polo is Assistant Teaching Professor at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, where she coordinates and teaches in the certificate and MA of Translation and Interpreting. She also coordinates translation and interpreting initiatives within the Humanities as part of her assignment in the Language Center. In this role she has managed the Language Bank project to create a database of volunteers for translation and interpreting services. Dr. Ramírez has over 15 years of experience as a freelance translator and language processes professional. She is ATA-certified English-Spanish and recently passed the CoreCHI certification as healthcare interpreter. Laura holds a degree in Translation and Interpreting from the University Jaume I in Castellón, a degree in Library Science by the Polytechnic University of Valencia, an MA in Computational Linguistics by the Ludwig-Maximlians-Universität in Munich and an MA in Medical Translation by the Universitat Jaume I. She is a PhD on Controlled Languages and Machine Translation from the University of Valencia. Her research interests focus on terminology and translation technology for professionals and translation training. More recently she is focusing on the role of interpreters in the encounter doctor/social workers and patients, as well as on medical communication.

Abstract

Technological advancement, despite criticism, drives economic growth by creating opportunities for further development (Carlaw & Lipsey, 2003). However, it disrupts labor markets through job replacement, social instability, and widening gaps between elites and other groups (Frey, 2019). This "technology trap" is a persistent issue in language-related work, intensified by advancements in natural language processing and machine learning, including neural machine translation and Large Language Models (LLMs). Recent publications have devised exposure indexes to measure AI's impact on the job market (Felten et al., 2021; Pizzinelli et al., 2023). Many reports, including those from consultancy firms, identify translation and interpreting as highly exposed professions, with tasks "where machines do better" (Deloitte, 2024). This exposure leads to notions of "complementarity" (Pizzinelli et al., 2023) and "augmentation" (Ellingrud et al., 2023; Agraval et al., 2023; Jiménez-Crespo, 2023), describing transferable skills, new skills for higher-paying jobs, and enhancement beyond human capacities. This paper critically appraises exposure index methodologies concerning language professions, highlighting their superficiality. These analyses often rely on general job database descriptions lacking the granularity needed for various language worker profiles. I also analyze complementarity concerning critical skills and distribution gaps, following Briva-Iglesias & O'Brien (2022) and their "language engineer" role, expanding this to other language worker roles and proposing new approaches to measure technology's real impact. As automation increases, the visibility of language-related work is questioned, making the human factor essential to avoid redundancy (Frey & Osborne, 2024; Herranz, 2025). Finally, I show how these insights offer a glimpse into transforming education and training to prepare students for an ever-changing future.

Keywords

AI exposure, complementarity, agumentation

The elephant in the room: who cares if translators are winners or losers?

Dr Félix do Carmo
CTS - University of Surrey, Guildford, United Kingdom

Dr Félix do Carmo

Félix do Carmo is a Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Translation Studies of the University of Surrey, where he teaches and researches the application of technologies to translation work processes, with a focus on their ethical and professional implications. He is a Fellow of the Surrey Institute for People-Centred Artificial Intelligence, and an Expert member of the Surrey Future of Work Research Centre. He worked for more than 20 years in Porto, Portugal, as a translator, translation company owner and university lecturer, and he was awarded a post-doctoral research fellowship to work at Dublin City University. He can be contacted at: f.docarmo@surrey.ac.uk.

Abstract

Despite regular publications, both academic and from the industry, debating economic factors of professional translation, there is a dearth of data in what concerns the economic stability of the majority of the professional translation workforce. We may look at the model translators in the premium market, we may observe disillusioned translators complaining about working conditions, but attempts to understand the economic situation of the whole population of professional translators are rare (an exception is the 2012 report by Pym et al for the European Commission/DGT). Themes like reduction of rates, disintermediation, rebranding and diversification of professional roles, market segmentation and others have been discussed, and yet it is hard to tell if translation students have opportunities for successful careers, or if they will become low-paid producers at the bottom of long supply chains. A forthcoming publication by the author of this presentation discusses in detail how different economic theories and studies of economic value should be applied in Translation Studies to better understand the complexity of factors that determine the prospects that the translation profession offers. One of these theories, heteromation (Ekbia and Nardi 2017), describes the components that market forces explore, including the power of modern technologies and AI, to reduce the value of human work. This theory explains, with empirical data, the gradual impoverishment of communities of workers, observable in charts that map the widening gap in wealth distribution, a trend which has accelerated with the relentless application of AI to all production processes. The translation market shows many signs of the practices that condemn highly-skilled workers to fall among the losers of the new digital economy. This presentation will discuss these theories and question the Translation Studies community on whether, or how we can help avoid a gloomy future for the professionals that we are training.

Keywords

Professional translation, Economic factors in translation, Economic value of translation

LT.23 | Panel 48 | Translatorial Practices in Contexts of Low Institutionalization of Translation (cont.)

Chairs: Kaisa Koskinen, Helle V. Dam

Translation and Creativity in Low Institutionalized Contexts: The Use of Inclusive Language in Multilingual Papal Communications

Mrs. Yasmine Magdy
University of Galway, Galway, Ireland

Mrs. Yasmine Magdy

Yasmine Magdy is a PhD researcher at the University of Galway working within the Pietra project on the topic of inclusive language in papal communication. She holds 2 bachelor's degrees in translation studies from Université française d'Égypte (UFE) and Université Sorbonne Nouvelle and an MA from the École supérieure d'Interprètes et de Traducteurs in Paris. She has worked as assistant lecturer and professional translator in various fields including legal and humanitarian translation. She is also a researcher at the Women and Memory forum where she is conducting research on topics including Islamic feminism and women representation within the Islamic legal system. Her research interests include but are not limited to religious translation, feminist translation, and Islamic feminism.

Abstract

This study explores the translational practices within the Vatican's multilingual environment, a context characterized by a highly institutionalised editorial practice and a low institutionalised translational practice. More specifically, it investigates how inclusive language is approached across three languages (Arabic, English, and French) in official documents. By examining papal communications, this research aims to highlight how the non-codified translation process within the Vatican could allow for greater linguistic creativity and flexibility stemming from the potential presented in each language but possibly leading to variations in how messages are conveyed across different languages, thus creating shifts in the intended normative messages of the Vatican. Accordingly, it raises questions about the potential benefits and risks associated with low levels of institutionalization in translation practices especially in terms of inclusive language which is not necessarily nor consistently codified or prioritised. This stands in contrast to more standardized translation practices in other institutions, such as the United Nations, which employs universal guidelines for inclusive language which risk overlooking certain language-specific features. The study aims to contribute to a broader understanding of how lower degrees of institutionalization can impact translational creativity and the delivery of messages. Using feminist post-structuralist discourse analysis to deconstruct translated texts, the study seeks to look at instances of inclusion of women as active actors and participants through the study of certain linguistic elements such as key terms, action verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in English, Arabic, and French. By comparing individual approaches to gender-inclusive and women empowering language, the research shows how the less-institutionalised context in which translators operate in the Vatican can allow for divergent creative and adaptive translation strategies using the full linguistic and creative potential of the respective language.

Keywords

Institutional Translation, Inclusive Language, Religious Translation

Textu(r)ality and borderness: Paraprofessional translatorial practices in a cross-border company

Dr. Andrea Wurm
Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany

Dr. Andrea Wurm

Andrea Wurm is a faculty member at the Department of Language Science and Technology at Saarland University and a member of the Center for Border Studies of the University of the Greater Region (UniGR-CBS). She graduated in 1998 as a translator (French and Spanish) and holds a PhD in Applied linguistics and translation earned with a book on the effects translators could have on target culture and language in Early Modern cookbook translations (Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2008). After finishing the doctoral dissertation, she compiled an electronic corpus of her students' learner translations which are partly error annotated (KOPTE project) and allow insights into translation evaluation as well as the development of translation competence. Since 2016, she is part of the MUST Learner Translator Corpus project. Her current research interests additionally cover Cultural Border Studies with a particular focus on language and culture contacts in the industrial history of the Greater Region on the France–Germany–Luxembourg borders. The methodology used is a combination of historical-ethnographic and translation sociologic approaches with a situated, micro-historic view on cultural phenomena.

Abstract

One of the first truly transnational companies, Saarlor Coal Union founded in 1958 in a Franco-German treaty, had to establish bilingual and translation practices to make internal communication and functioning work. The paper is based on archival research and uses microhistoric document analysis and translatorial linguistic ethnography (Koskinen, 2020) as a method. It presents the context of the company and highlights paraprofessional translatorial practices (Koskela et al., 2017), namely the process of bilingual reporting to the board meetings as well as the establishment of its minutes, during several decades from 1958 to 1983. Saarlor is an example of a space of co-creative innovation and of utilizing the linguistic resources offered by the commercial and administrative staff. Monolingual persons participated in the process alongside bilinguals and professional interpreters with a high degree of integration. Bilingualism as well as translation project management and translation practice became institutionalized very early on. The paper trail of translation management and bilingual writing processes clearly hints at established procedures and thus the institutionalization of translation over a certain time (Koskinen, 2014). It is performed by administrative and commercial staff without translation training. Archival evidence is presented and sheds light on different roles adopted by employees in various positions. A central figure is one of the two directors acting as project manager while preparing the reports to the board. In collaboration with the other director, he is also responsible for producing the minutes of bilingual board meetings, in two language versions. This writing process in particular, but also other communicative practices within Saarlor show an interweaving of the two languages on one hand and of technical and linguistic competencies of the staff on the other hand. Drawing on recent developments in cultural border studies (e.g., Wille et al., 2024), these practices are presented as examples of textu(r)ality and, at the same time, the texts produced according to these processes can be considered boundary objects (Star & Griesemer, 1989) allowing cooperation across borders. Koskela, M., Koskinen, K., & Pilke, N. (2017). Bilingual formal meeting as a context of translatoriality. Target. International Journal of Translation Studies, 464–485. https://doi.org/10.1075/target.16017.kos Koskinen, K. (2014). Institutional translation: The art of government by translation. Perspectives, 22(4), 479–492. https://doi.org/10.1080/0907676X.2014.948887 Koskinen, K. (2020). Translatorial Linguistic Ethnography in Organizations. In S. Horn, P. Lecomte, & S. Tietze (Eds.), Managing Multilingual Workplaces. Methodological, Empirical and Pedagogic Perspectives. Routledge. Star, S. L., & Griesemer, J. R. (1989). Institutional Ecology, 'Translations' and Boundary Objects: Amateurs and Professionals in Berkeley's Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, 1907-39. Social Studies of Science, 19(3), Article 3. Wille, C., Leutloff-Grandits, C., Bretschneider,

F., Grimm-Hamen, S., & Wagner, H. (Eds.). (2024). Border Complexities and Logics of Dis/Order. Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG. https://doi.org/10.5771/9783748922292

Keywords

paraprofessional translation, cross-border cooperation, translator studies

Spaces of translatoriality in the dissemination of non-English medical knowledge within one anglophone country.

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Mrs Elisabetta Geromel-Lister

Elisabetta Geromel-Lister is a final year Doctoral Student at the Faculty of WELS, The Open University, UK. She holds a BA(Hons) in Philosophy, and a Master in Translation Studies. With over 25 years of translation experience, she has worked both as a freelance and in-house translator, and as a bilingual business mediator across various industries. Her broad research interests include translation visibility, non-professional translation activities, and the role of technological advancements in reshaping productivity demands in multilingual environments.

Abstract

Over the last century, English has established itself as the global lingua franca in scientific disciplines. However, English is not the exclusive global language of production in medical evidence, and literature continues to be published in national languages all over the world. Existing research in scientific disciplines shows how publications in non-English languages are not decreasing, and that a language bias affects the inclusion of non-English medical evidence in Systematic Reviews. Notwithstanding the emergent implementation of translation policies at the governmental level in the UK, multilingual communication among scientific and medical communities often relies on bilingualism or informal translation practices. In England, these practices remain unregulated and indicate a limited institutionalisation of translation within medical knowledge dissemination. They frequently depend on untrained and uncoordinated volunteers and the uncritical use of free machine translation tools. The role of multilingualism in scientific dissemination remains largely overlooked by research in Translation Studies. This paper addresses this gap by exploring current translation practices in the dissemination of medical knowledge within Hospital Libraries in England. Eighteen Clinical Librarians from different National Healthcare Service Trusts were interviewed. The data collected was analysed using a socio-material approach, incorporating Actor-Network Theory and Situational Analysis. This study aims to provide a deeper understanding of the paradoxical imbalance between the acknowledged need for constant and reliable access to global medical knowledge, and the limitations of current professional and para-professional translation strategies. This research contributes to bridging linguistic translation and medical knowledge dissemination, highlighting the importance of language diversity in an environment dominated by English.

Keywords

Multilingualism, Scientific dissemination, Para-professional translation practices

The benefits of the low institutionalization of translation in global news agency AFP

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Lucile Davier is an Assistant Professor at the University of Geneva (Switzerland). Together with Dr Marlie van Rooyen, she is the PI of the SNSF-NRF project "South–North flows of information through translation in the global news agency AFP." In 2013, she earned a joint doctoral degree in translation studies and communication studies (University of Geneva and University of Paris 3). Her research interests include news translation, news agencies, translation ethnography, and para-professional translation.

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Natalia Rodriguez Blanco is a postdoctoral fellow engaged in the SNSF-NRF project entitled "South–North Flows of Information Through Translation in the Global News Agency AFP," hosted by the University of Geneva (Switzerland). In 2024, she was awarded a PhD in Interpreting, Translation, and Intercultural Studies from the University of Bologna (Italy). Her research explores global news agencies, multilingual news production, socio-cultural representations, and discourse analysis, integrating the methodologies of corpus studies with ethnographic work.

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Dr Nadia Lahdili

Nadia Lahdili is a postdoctoral fellow on the SNSF-NRF project "South-North Flows of Information Through Translation in the Global News Agency AFP," hosted at the University of the Free State (South Africa). In 2023, she earned a PhD degree in Social Sciences from Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University (Turkey). Her research interests include global news agencies, power dynamics in information flows, postcolonial studies, cultural studies, and critical discourse analysis.

Abstract

Translation studies scholars have had the tendency to criticize non-professional and para-professional practices for their apparent lower quality and the way they endanger the professionalization of an unstable occupation. However, research in the sub-field of para-professional translation has shown that translational practices that are developed in contexts of low institutionalization could be beneficial for these contexts, research, and even translator training. Positive aspects have already been acknowledged in the context of news translation. This presentation will assess whether such benefits can also be reaped in the local bureaux of the global news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP), which gather information in the Global South to make it available to media customers in both the Global North and Global South. We conducted field trips of two weeks each on the African and Latin American continents: in the local bureaux located in South Africa and Colombia, where journalists are not trained in translation. As discussed in the literature, their non-standard practices make their translations creative, adaptive (Ciuk et al. 2017), and available quickly (Davier 2017). In addition, journalists are not likely to be suspicious of translation technologies (Nurminen 2020), they mobilize various language resources to solve problems (Koskinen and Kuusi 2017), and their experience in newswriting as well as their vast knowledge of the socio-political context can compensate for the absence

of translation training. However, such a positive presentation would be unfair if it did not mention the risks that journalists may encounter.

Keywords

para-professional translation, news translation, news agencies

Journalists as Paraprofessional Machine Translation Users

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Dr Mary Nurminen

Mary Nurminen is a University Instructor and researcher at Tampere University in Finland. Her research focuses on the various ways in which non-translators use machine translation. Recently Mary has been working in the DECA consortium (www.decatutkimus.fi), in which she and her colleagues are investigating both how linguistic minorities access information in different languages and how that information is produced. She teaches translation (Finnish to English), machine translation, interpreting, and technical writing.

Dr Nina Havumetsä

Nina Havumetsä is a University Lecturer of translation (Russian to Finnish) at the University of Eastern Finland. Her research interests include translation in journalism, translation of nonfiction, and the norms of translation. Recently Nina has been working in the DECA consortium (www.decatutkimus.fi), in which she and her colleagues are investigating both how linguistic minorities access information in different languages and how that information is produced.

Abstract

News processes have long been multilingual, with journalists needing to seemlessly work between the languages of the source material they rely on and the language of the news they are creating. The growing body of research on the phenomenon reveals that journalists regularly engage in translatorial activity (Havumetsä 2020) although it is not their main work. They might therefore be referred to as paraprofessional translators (Koskinen forthcoming: 2). However, besides small mentions in a few studies, we noticed that very little is known about if and how journalists use machine translation (MT) in these multilingual context, and if they might be considered paraprofessional MT users. Catalyzed by this, we conducted an exploratory project focused on the use of machine translation (MT) by Finnish journalists, which we will cover in our presentation. We examined two different groups: journalists who produce news for speakers of minority languages and those who produce news in mainstream languages. Our data consisted of 19 interviews, a survey with 69 responses, and 1 in situ observation of a journalist at work, all of which was collected February 2023 – June 2024. The study revealed that journalists are indeed employing MT to cope with their multilingual work. It is used in a variety of processes; for assimilation, dissemination and communication purposes; and with various MT tools. We also found a lack of institutionalization in the MT processes used by individual journalists, which was nevertheless counterbalanced by a shared understanding that aspects of journalistic institutionalization (principles and ethics) should govern the use of MT as well.

Keywords

paraprofessional machine translation, machine translation, journalistic translation

Why poor translations work? Exploring translation for riddle-guessing in a Chinese TV reality show

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Abstract

While extensive research has been conducted on lay translators and laymen's translation, the use of translation as a gameplay approach for players has received little attention in existing literature. Presenting such a case, this study examines an adapted version of Charades in the popular Chinese TV reality show Ace vs. Ace (Season 7) as a translational event, where two Chinese celebrities, Zheng Kai (an actor) and Shen Teng (a comedian), describe given Chinese poetry lines or idioms as riddles in English, while other participants are tasked with guessing the correct answers. Although all their descriptions deviate from the originals, the guessers successfully identified all the keys. This situation raises a question: why can an inaccurate translation lead to a correct understanding of the source text? To explore the underlying mechanism, I extrapolate the framework of translation as encoding/decoding, viewing the entire riddle-guessing process as a two-phase intersemiotic translation composed of resemiotization and retrosemiotization. Through this newly proposed lens, I first analyze and compare the strategies adopted by the two riddle-performers as translators to represent the sources, and then elucidate how the guessers could decipher these translations. The findings suggest that Zheng Kai, who speaks proficient English, primarily produced semantically based yet insufficiently accurate translations using simple lexical resources to convey rough meanings, whereas Shen Teng, a learner of Russian rather than English, relied largely on discursive verbal techniques (such as transliteration or word-for-word translation) plus body gestures to express meaning potential rather than meaning. Despite divergence in strategy, all translations underwent resemiotization, requiring the guessers to engage in retrosemiotization—essentially a back intersemiotic translation of the multimodal performances into possible Chinese expressions—to solve the riddles. A subsequent discussion indicates that the success of this translational gameplay hinges on three factors: first, the recipients' shared cultural background with the source texts; second, the use of Chinglish—an English variety comprehensible primarily to Chinese speakers—rather than standard English as a target language; and third, the indispensable role of body gestures, particularly for Shen Teng, who faced difficulties in generating effective verbal translations.

Keywords

translation for riddle-guessing, intersemiotic translation, resemiotization and retrosemiotization

LT.24 | Panel 29 | Multimethod Research in Cognitive Translation and Interpreting Studies: Constructs and Indicators (cont.)

Chairs: Binghan Zheng, Ricardo Muñoz Martín, Yu Weng

Subtitles, mind-wandering, and cognitive load in university educational videos: evidence from experience sampling, learning and psychometric indicators

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Ms. Mariana Yonamine

Mariana Yonamine is a PhD candidate at the University of New South Wales and a NAATI-certified translator, audiovisual translator, member of AUSIT. She holds a Master by Research in Linguistics/Audiovisual Translation at UNSW, and tutors the courses Multimedia Translation, Specialised Translation, NAATI Translation Certification Preparation, and Personalised Language Learning. Her research interests include audiovisual translation, language and cognitive processing, experimental and mixed methods research, and eye-tracking studies.

Dr Xiaoyu Zhao

Xiaoyu Zhao is a research fellow at Monash Suzhou Research Institute, an adjunct lecturer at the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, Monash University, and a NAATI Certified Interpreter. She holds a PhD in Interpreting Studies and a Master of Interpreting and Translation (Research Stream) from the University of New South Wales (UNSW). Xiaoyu specialises in interdisciplinary mixed-method interpreting research with a focus on quantitative experimental methodologies. Her research interests encompass various areas, including translation and interpreting studies, psycholinguistics, and corpus linguistics.

Mr Jia Zhang

Jia Zhang is a Senior Research Officer and a PhD candidate at the University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney). His research interests include translation technology, translator training, and audiovisual translation, with his current research centred on integrating machine translation into translator training. His research has been published in Across Languages and Cultures, edited volumes by Routledge, Peter Lang and Springer, and the Proceedings of Machine Translation Summit.

Prof. Stephen Doherty

Stephen Doherty is Professor of Linguistics, Interpreting and Translation at the University of New South Wales, where he also leads the HAL Language Processing Research Lab. With a focus on the psychology of language and technology, his research investigates human language processing and usage by employing natural language processing techniques and combinations of online and offline methods.

Abstract

Online videos have become vital tools for promoting educational equity and access in universities. However, online learning can lead to mind-wandering (MW), characterised by task-unrelated thoughts (Smallwood & Schooler, 2015), which are linked to poorer learning outcomes (Fiorella, 2022). This experimental study examines the impact of subtitles on MW, learning outcomes and cognitive load (CL, Sweller, 1994), and builds upon a growing body of evidence as to the benefits of intentionally designed subtitles (Gernsbacher, 2015; Doherty & Kruger, 2018). Participants (n=102), non-native L2 English speakers, were divided into three groups: (1) watching with no captions, (2) English captions (L2), or (3) Chinese (L1) subtitles. MW rates and cognitive load were measured through self-reported data, while learning outcomes were assessed through a post-task comprehension test. The results indicate that the no captions group experienced higher MW rates and had poorer comprehension than watching with Chinese subtitles, while English captions reduced CL. This result supports the subtitle principle (Mayer et al., 2020), as the use of English captions imposes less CL on comprehending congruent audio and textual input than audio-only input (Wickens, 2002). In addition,

using Chinese (L1) subtitles may facilitate the priming process during which L1 knowledge is more readily accessible and easier to activate than L2, thereby imposing less CL on language processing and freeing up cognitive resources for content comprehension (Kruger et al., 2014; Kruger et al., 2018; Doherty, 2020). Our findings also revealed dynamic interactions between MW, comprehension and CL (measured by self-reported CL levels), which differed across the three groups. This understanding is crucial for pinpointing clear watching conditions to enable the use of subtitles in supporting multimedia learning and fostering equitable, inclusive, and accessible education.

Keywords

Subtitles, Educational videos, Mind-wandering

Predictive processes as a construct in cognitive translation and interpreting studies: evidence from an English-Dutch sight translation task

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Ena Hodzik is Research Fellow at the University of Mons. She previously worked as Assistant Professor of Translation and Interpreting Studies at Boğaziçi University. She completed her PhD in English and Applied Linguistics at the University of Cambridge. Her areas of research are interpreting process studies and corpus-based translation and interpreting studies. She is currently a visiting scholar at Ghent university conducting a research project on predictive processes in English-Dutch sight translation.

Dr Bart Defrancq

Bart Defrancq is an Associate professor at Ghent University. Originally a linguist, he turned to translation and interpreting. He works on corpus-based approaches to interpreting and has compiled important corpora of simultaneous interpreting and police interpreting. He advocated technological support in the booth and has taught seminars and given presentations on it at EU institutions.

Dr Evy Woumans

Evy Woumans is assistant professor at the Department of translation interpreting and communication at Ghent university, where she completed her PhD in Psychology and her postdoctoral fellowship in Experimental Psychology. Her research interests include bilingualism and all its (psycholonguistic) aspects, translation and interpreting processes, second language acquisition, and instruction languages in education (e.g. EMI, CLIL).

Mr Michiel Kusé

Michiel Kusé was a PhD student at the EQTIS research group (Empirical and Quantitative Translation and Interpreting Studies), a part of Ghent University's Department of translation, interpreting, and communication. His research on 'default translation patterns' during translation and interpreting was supervised by Evy Woumans and Bart Defrancq.

Abstract

This study investigated predictive processes in English-Dutch sight translation (SiT), which constitutes the oral translation of text at a close latency. First, we asked whether transitional probability (TP; the statistical likelihood of words appearing together in language) affects predictive processes during SiT, and if so, whether TP effects are dependent on the similarity in sentence structure between the source and target languages. Second, we aimed to find out whether there is a relationship between interpreting experience and predictive processes, i.e., whether professional interpreters would show a stronger prediction effect than students. Predictive processes were examined both in source language comprehension, based on eight reading measures (Frisson et al. 2017; Rayner et al. 1989), and in target language production by analysing the eye-voice latency between first fixations on a target word in the visual source language input and the onset of its interpretation in the spoken target language output (an adaptation of the method used by Chmiel and Lijewska 2023). Speech disfluencies were also analysed in the target language output to examine the effect of prediction on performance (Plevoets and Defrancq 2018). Mixed-effects linear regression analyses of the gaze data revealed higher skipping probability and shorter fixation duration in high than low TP items across target regions and in reading measures of both earlier (single fixation duration, first fixation duration and gaze

duration) and later (regression path duration, re-reading duration and total duration) comprehension processes. Moreover, the effect of TP was found to be stronger when similar (verb-medial) structures were used in the source English and target Dutch sentences than in the case of different (verb-medial English and verb-final Dutch) sentence structures. Finally, results did not reveal significant differences in the use of TP as a cue to prediction between professional and students interpreters. Analyses of the production, i.e., latency and disfluency, data are currently being conducted to corroborate findings on reading during SiT. We aim to discuss predictive processes as a construct in CTIS and TP effects, as revealed by a set of on comprehension and production measures, as indicators of default sight translation patterns (Halverson 2015). Findings can also have important implications for interpreter training by revealing possible experience related advantages for prediction in language production (as indicated by measures of eye-voice latency and speech disfluencies) during SiT.

Keywords

predictive processes, sight translation, reading behaviour

Developing and validating a scale to assess students' expertise in online strategies for consecutive interpreting

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Prof. Yanping Dong

Dr. Yanping Dong is professor of psycholinguistics at the School of International Studies, Zhejiang University (https://person.zju.edu.cn/en/ypdong). She serves as president of the Chinese Association of Psycholinguistics, and on the editorial /advisory board of a few journals or book series. She has published widely in psycholinguistic studies of bilingualism, in particular (1) bilingual processing and acquisition; (2) neurocognitive studies of interpreting.

Dr. Fang Tang

Dr. Fang Tang is professor at the School of Interpreting and Translation Studies, and a research fellow of the Center for Translation Studies, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. Specializing in corpus-based interpreting studies, she has authored Explicitation in Consecutive Interpreting (John Benjamins, 2018), and published articles widely in SSCI/A&HCI and CSSCI/Core journals.

Abstract

Apart from traditional approaches such as retrospective interviews on interpreting outputs to assess students' mastery of online strategies (i.e., strategies adopted during interpreting), a validated tool that can efficiently assess such expertise is at least a helpful supplement. Following psychometric assessment principles and informed by a focus group, an expert panel, and data from more than 200 interpreting students in pilot and formal tests, the present study developed and validated a self-rating expertise scale for typical online strategies commonly used during consecutive interpreting (CI). The final scale comprises 20 items that evaluate such expertise respectively for the CI comprehension and production phases. For the comprehension phase, exploratory factor analysis resulted in two dimensions: utilising global context and utilising local context. For the production phase, three dimensions emerged: (1) utilising what is available so as to reformulate efficiently, (2) prioritising, and sacrificing what is less important, and (3) elaborating when necessary. The scale has sufficient internal consistency (ordinal $\alpha = .89$), test-retest reliability ($r = 0.80$), content validity (rated by experts), and criterion-related validity (with scale scores significantly correlating with interpreting performance, Spearman's $\rho = .52$). The dimensions that emerged have important implications for understanding expertise in CI online strategies.

Keywords

interpreting strategy, expertise, scale

Pupil Dilation and Perceived Stress in Post-Editing: An Eye-Tracking Study

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Ms. María Inmaculada Vicente López

María Inmaculada Vicente López is a junior lecturer in the Department of Translation and Interpreting at the University of Murcia, where she specializes in teaching translation technologies and machine translation post-editing. She is also a freelance translator, with over 24 years of experience in the localization industry, where she has worked extensively as a translator, editor, and linguistic coordinator. She is a member of the EMOTRA2 research project, where her work explores cognitive and emotional factors in multilectal mediated communication and human-computer interaction within professional translation practice, employing empirical methods including eye tracking.

Prof. Ana María Rojo López

Ana María Rojo López is Professor of Translation at the University of Murcia (Spain). Her research interests focus on the role of emotions, creativity and other individual differences in the translation and interpreting process. An external associate of the MC2 Lab and member of the TREC network, she currently coordinates the EMOTRA2 and the ADance research projects on emotion and translation.

Abstract

Pupil dilation is a physiological indicator of emotional arousal rather unexplored in Cognitive Translation and Interpreting Studies, compared to heart rate, skin conductance or cortisol. Weng et al. (2022) found that time pressure had a strong effect on pupil dilation in an English-Chinese translation task with students but found no correlation between pupil dilation and subjective stress assessments via the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI). This study explores pupil dilation as an indicator of stress during machine translation post-editing with Neural Machine Translation (NMT) and Statistical Machine Translation (SMT) systems. It aims to: 1) compare stress levels between student and professional translators using both MT systems during post-editing; 2) examine the relationship between pupil dilation and perceived stress via STAI; and 3) analyse how stress affects visual attention on screen during post-editing, covering source text, MT output, and external references. Data were collected on pupil dilation, eye fixations, and perceived stress from 25 professional translators and 27 students in an English-Spanish post-editing task using NMT and SMT in Trados Studio. Linear mixed-effect regression analyses found no significant differences in pupil dilation or perceived stress levels between students and professional translators during post-editing with NMT or SMT, contrary to initial expectations. Students showed a moderate correlation between pupil dilation and anxiety levels. In contrast, professionals displayed only a weak correlation between pupil dilation and state anxiety, but a moderate negative correlation with trait anxiety, suggesting that trait anxiety may modulate stress among professional translators. Professional translators working with SMT and experiencing higher levels of stress focused their attention on the source text and MT output, whereas students under higher stress focused their attention more on the Internet browser. Weng, Y., Zheng, B., & Dong, Y. (2022). Time pressure in translation. Target. International Journal of Translation Studies, 34(4), 601–626. https://doi.org/10.1075/target.20148.wen

Keywords

pupil dilation, perceived stress, post-editing

Interlingual vs. Intralingual translation: An Eye-tracking Study of Cognitive Processing Patterns of Translation Trainees and Professionals

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Abstract

Interlingual translation is a cognitively demanding task involving cross-language processing. Although previous research has compared it with monolingual reading and writing tasks (Dam-Jensen et al., 2019; Macizo & Bajo, 2004), studies investigating the distinctions between interlingual and intralingual translation, i.e. paraphrasing, are limited, particularly focusing on Chinese-English language pairs (Whyatt et al., 2017; Whyatt et al., 2016). This study aims to address this gap by comparing cognitive processes of interlingual translation and paraphrasing among translators with different expertise levels (trainee vs. professional) under different text types (news vs. tourism). Forty participants, including 20 translation trainees and 20 professional translators, were recruited to perform two translation (C-E and E-C) and two paraphrasing (in Chinese and English) tasks. We assessed the cognitive processing of both groups using four-dimensional eye-movement measures, including fixation duration, fixation count, saccades, and scan paths. Results showed that interlingual translation involved higher cognitive load during both source text (ST) reading and target text (TT) production, compared to intralingual translation. However, such cognitive load increase in TT was only observed among professional translators, suggesting a heightened awareness of active revision and quality evaluation processes that develop with increased translation expertise. Furthermore, the effect of text types was only found in interlingual translation and resulted in different processing patterns among trainees and professionals. Specifically, the cognitive load was significantly increased in news among trainees, while professionals demonstrated no effect of text genre on cognitive processing. Informed by cued retrospective interview, this finding suggests professionals' ability to efficiently adapt to genre-specific translation requirements, which helps to alleviate high cognitive demands and employ more global processing strategies. This study provides empirical evidence regarding the cognitive processing of interlingual and intralingual translation. Besides, our findings on the interactive effect among task types, translation

expertise, and text types can provide valuable insights for tailored pedagogical approaches in translator training.

Keywords

interlingual translation, intralingual translation, translation expertise

Roundtable 1 | Reshaping Interpreter Education in the Age of AI

Binhua Wang (Chair)
Claudia Angelelli, Anne Cathrine Gieshoff, Rebecca Tipton, Elisabet Tiselius

Chair

Binhua Wang

Binhua Wang is Chair/Professor of interpreting and translation studies at University of Leeds in the UK, where he served as Director of the Centre for Translation Studies and Programme Manager of the MA programmes in interpreting. He is an elected Member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Linguists. His research interests include interpreting and translation studies, Chinese studies and digital humanities, in which he has published many articles in refereed SSCI/A&HCI/CSSCI journals and in edited volumes published by Routledge, John Benjamins, Springer, Brill and Palgrave. He is co-editor of Interpreting and Society, chief editor of Int'l Journal of Chinese and English Translation & Interpreting and on the editorial boards of Babel, ITT, Forum, Foreign Language Teaching & Research (外语教学与研究), Chinese Translators Journal (中国翻译) and Translation Quarterly (翻译季刊).

Participants

Claudia Angelelli

Professor Claudia V. Angelelli is Chair in Multilingualism and Communication at Heriot-Watt University, UK; Emeritus Professor of Spanish Linguistics at San Diego State University, US; and Visiting Professor at Beijing University of Foreign Studies, China. Her research sits at the intersection of Sociolinguistics, Applied Linguistics and Translation and Interpreting Studies.. She authored Medical Interpreting and Cross-cultural Communication (Cambridge University Press), Revisiting the Role of the Interpreter (John Benjamins) and Medical Interpreting Explained (Routledge). She is Guest Editor of The International Journal of the Sociology of Language (2011), Translation and Interpreting Studies (2012 and (2014 w/Colina) and Cuadernos de ALDEEU (2013). She is co-editor of Researching Translation and Interpreting Studies (2015 w/Baer), Testing and Assessment in Translation and Interpreting Studies (2009 w/Jacobson). Her articles appear in The Annual Review of Applied Linguistics, The Critical Link, COMET, Cuadernos de ALDEEU; European Journal of Applied Linguistics, Interpreting, Journal of Applied Linguistics and Professional Practice, META, MONTI (Monografias de Traducción e Interpretación), The Translator, TIS, The International Journal of the Sociology of Language and in numerous edited volumes. Prof. Angelelli designed the first empirically-driven language proficiency and interpreter readiness tests for The California Endowment and Hablamos Juntos(Robert Wood Johnson Foundation). She has conducted funded research projects in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, the European Union (Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain and UK) and the United States. She was World Leader for ISO 13611: Standards on Community Interpreting and co-authored The California Standards for Health Care Interpreters.

Anne Cathrine Gieshoff

Anne Catherine Gieshoff received her PhD in interpreting studies from the University of Mainz and is now a research associate at the ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences, where she conducts research relevant to interpreting studies using quantitative and psychophysiological methods. She focuses on cognitive effort and load, visual input, and extended realities. She is a co-host of the science podcast 'Minds between Languages' with Nataša Pavlović (idea and design by Adolfo García) and a member of IATIS, EST and TREC.

Rebecca Tipton

Dr Rebecca Tipton is Senior Lecturer in Interpreting and Translation Studies at the University of Manchester. Her research focuses on spoken language interpreting in state and voluntary sector services, from both contemporary and historical perspectives, with specific reference to social work, asylum procedure, police interviews, and mental health. Her work is shaped by an interest in the political and ideological factors that impact the organisation of interpreting services, as well as in the complexities of micro-level interaction in service encounters. Her research has drawn extensively on sociological approaches and qualitative research methods, including oral histories, focus groups and archival research. She is author and co-author of articles in leading academic journals and several books with Routledge, including the 2024 publication The Routledge Guide to Teaching Ethics in Translation and Interpreting Education.

Elisabet Tiselius

Elisabet Tiselius, PhD, associate professor at Stockholm University and also EU-accredited and Swedish state authorized interpreter. She is the current president of the European Society for Translation Studies, and serves both on the TREC and on the EMCI management committees. Tiselius heads the SPRINT research group, and is affiliated to the MC2lab, and the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, where she is leader of a DEPICT WP funded by Norwegian research council).

Abstract

The advent of generative AI technologies is changing the faces of the interpreting profession. How shall interpreter education adapt to the changes? This roundtable brings together experts from interpreting studies and interpreter education to discuss critical issues about reshaping interpreter education in the age of AI. The discussion will be about but not limited to the following topics:

1. What changes are happening in the interpreting profession? Which AI technologies are relevant to the changes?

2. What needs to be trained in the age of AI in terms of skills and competencies? What needs to be changed in interpreter education?

3. How can interpreting programmes be reshaped, e.g., in terms of curriculum, teaching content, teaching activities? How can we address the tension between the necessity to change and the constraints of time and resources?

Roundtable 2 | The Sustainability of Investments in Translation (Studies)

Félix do Carmo (Chair), Joss Moorkens (Chair)
John O'Shea, Laura Ramirez Polo, Hanna Risku, Silvia Terribile, Callum Walker

Chairs

Félix do Carmo

Félix do Carmo is a Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Translation Studies of the University of Surrey, where he teaches and researches the application of technologies to translation work processes, with a focus on their ethical and professional implications. He is a Fellow of the Surrey Institute for People-Centred Artificial Intelligence, and an Expert member of the Surrey Future of Work Research Centre. He worked for more than 20 years in Porto, Portugal, as a translator, translation company owner and university lecturer, and he was awarded a post-doctoral research fellowship to work at Dublin City University.

Joss Moorkens

Joss Moorkens is an Associate Professor at the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies in Dublin City University (DCU), Science Lead at the ADAPT Centre, and member of DCU's Institute of Ethics and Centre for Translation and Textual Studies. He has published over 60 articles and papers on the topics of translation technology interaction and evaluation, translator precarity, and translation ethics. He is General Coeditor of the journal Translation Spaces, coeditor of a number of books and journal special issues, and coauthor of the textbooks Translation Tools and Technologies (Routledge 2023) and Automating Translation (Routledge 2025). He sits on the board of the European Masters in Translation Network.

Participants

John O'Shea

John O'Shea LL.B (Hons.), LL.M has 30 years of experience in translating legal documents from Greek to English. As a highly experienced legal translation practitioner he assists international investors and multinationals with interests in Greece and Cyprus, as well as some of the top law firms in those countries, with major court cases and key deals through the medium of translation. As an independent researcher, his areas of interest are risk and legal translation, the liability of legal translators, the use and misuse of neural machine translation for legal purposes, and the translation of legal texts from Greek to English. His research on these topics has been presented at conferences and appeared in journals internationally and in various book chapters. He has also translated and edited academic law treatises, a work on legilinguistic translatology, and a series on political science. In recent years he has also been involved in a long-term project to translate Greece's Codes into English which has so far seen the codes of criminal and civil procedure and the code of private maritime law translated and published. John O'Shea has also taught various legal translation courses and provided continuing professional development both internationally and remotely, and dedicated much of his time in recent years to furthering the translation profession through national and supranational professional bodies. He is currently the Chairperson of FIT Europe.

Laura Ramirez Polo

Laura Ramírez Polo is Assistant Teaching Professor at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, where she coordinates and teaches in the certificate and MA of Translation and Interpreting. She also coordinates translation and interpreting initiatives within the Humanities as part of her assignment in the Language Center. In this role she has managed the Language Bank project to create a database of volunteers for translation and interpreting services. Dr. Ramírez has over 15 years of experience as a freelance translator and language processes professional. She is ATA-certified English-Spanish and recently passed the CoreCHI certification as healthcare interpreter. Laura holds a degree in Translation and Interpreting from the University Jaume I in Castellón, a degree in Library Science by the Polytechnic University of Valencia, an MA in Computational Linguistics by the Ludwig-Maximlians-Universität in Munich and an

MA in Medical Translation by the Universitat Jaume I. She is a PhD on Controlled Languages and Machine Translation from the University of Valencia. Her research interests focus on terminology and translation technology for professionals and translation training. More recently she is focusing on the role of interpreters in the encounter doctor/social workers and patients, as well as on medical communication.

Hanna Risku

Hanna Risku is professor for translation studies and head of the research group 'Socio-Cognitive Translation Studies' (socotrans) at the University of Vienna, Austria. Her research areas include translation and situated cognition, translation workplace and network research, and translation expertise. She has published on sociological and cognitive approaches in translation studies and the ethnographic study of translation processes. Prior to her work in Vienna, she was professor for translation studies at the University of Graz, professor for applied cognitive science and technical communication, head of the Department for Knowledge and Communication Management and vice rector at the Danube University Krems, guest professor at the University of Aarhus, Denmark, and lecturer at different universities in Austria, Finland and Sweden. Professor Risku served as co-editor of Fachsprache – International Journal of Specialized Communication and as president of TCeurope – the European umbrella organisation for technical communication. In 2010, she was awarded the TCeurope Award for Services to Technical Communication in Europe. In 2023, she was CETRA Chair Professor at KU Leuven and DOTTSS Guest Professor at Tampere University. She is a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters.

Silvia Terribile

Silvia Terribile holds a PhD in Translation and Intercultural Studies from the University of Manchester, an MSc in Specialised Translation (Audiovisual) from University College London, and a BA in Linguistic and Cultural Mediation from the University of Turin (Italy). Silvia's primary research interests are in the fields of translation technologies and localisation. In her PhD fully funded by UK Research and Innovation, she investigated productivity in the post-editing of neural machine translation in partnership with a world-leading language service provider, Toppan Digital Language. Some of the main contributions of her research include: (1) the first large-scale investigation of translation and revision speed in human translation and post-editing, based on real-world data for 90 million translated words; (2) the development of RECAP (Repetition, Error, Change, Action, Post-editing), a multi-layered typology to classify different types of edits to the machine translation output; (3) the application of RECAP to analyse edits in a small corpus of real-world English-to-Italian post-editing tasks that required different levels of post-editing effort; and (4) the development of AREA (Automating Repetitive Editing Actions), an algorithm that could automate up to 46% of repetitive edits in post-editing. Silvia currently works as a Research & Community Specialist at Slator. She has been teaching translation, focusing on translation technologies, for four years at the University of Sheffield, University of Manchester, and University of Roehampton. She has previously managed localisation services at Hogarth Worldwide and Turner Broadcasting System (now part of Warner Bros. Discovery).

Callum Walker

Callum Walker is an Associate Professor of Translation Technology at the University of Leeds, where he is currently Director of the Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies. He teaches computer-assisted translation technology, project management, translation theory, and specialised translation. His research interests relate to translation industry studies, with a specific focus on micro-, labour and information economics, project management (culminating in the recent Routledge textbook Translation Project Management), and the interaction between technology and translation workflows. Alongside his academic work, he has worked as a freelance translator since 2009 (French and Russian into English) and small translation business owner, as well as being a Chartered Linguist, Member of the CIOL, and Member of the ITI.

Abstract

Elon Musk believes that human language may become obsolete. Not only will AI seemingly produce all the language we will need, but we will also be able to communicate without words. Currently, we can prompt a large language model to translate, write books, answer questions, create reports and do many other types of work, maybe even teach our children. All and any product of language that we paid specialists to do can now be produced for free or for a low cost, with no human effort required: no translators, no journalists, no lawyers, no authors, no teachers… In such a future, words have virtually no economic value. This perception hides many paradoxes; one of them is the fact that the most powerful companies in the world are making money based on gigantic pools of language data, billions of words that they did not produce.

This roundtable proposes to discuss the current value of Translation Studies, from its contribution to the global economy to the impact it has on the professional prospects of students. This includes discussing practices of incentivising students to offer free voluntary work, but also the work that is given away for free when academics invest endless hours to only gain prestige producing and supporting academic publications. Words are valueless, but time is money. What can we do with our time to demonstrate the value of translated words and words written about translation? Is the future value of translation determined by the speed at which we incorporate AI into our classrooms? Is that what will incentivise students to study translation? Who can speak for translators, and who do we speak for in our discipline? Why has the Translation Studies community accepted that publishers sell their words for profit to train AI models that are said to be able to replicate their intellectual production?

Keynote | A shock to the system: the automation of literary translation

Professor Dorothy Kenny, Dublin City University

Dorothy Kenny is full professor of translation studies at Dublin City University (DCU), Ireland. She holds a BA in French and German (translation with interpreting) from DCU and an MSc in machine translation and a PhD in language engineering, both from the University of Manchester. Her current research interests revolve around corpus-based studies of translation and translator style, the relationship between artificial intelligence and literary translation, and approaches to the teaching of translation technology. Her publications include the edited volumes *Machine translation for everyone: empowering users in the age of artificial intelligence* (Language Science Press, 2022; also available in Chinese translation by Xinyi Zhong and Hong Wenjie, 2025), *Fair MT: towards ethical, sustainable machine translation* (a special issue of *Translation Spaces,* coedited with Joss Moorkens and Félix do Carmo in 2020) and *Human Issues in Translation Technology* (Routledge, 2017), as well as numerous book chapters and articles in journals such as *Meta*, *Perspectives*, *Tradumàtica*, and *Translation Spaces*. She is co-editor with Joss Moorkens of the journal *Translation Spaces* and an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Linguists (UK).

Abstract

Since the 1940s, scientists have sought ways to automate translation, but for most of this time literature remained largely untouched by their efforts. Generally accepted features of literary texts—including their instrinsic creativity and formal complexity—complicated their computational processing, and their cultural importance and long shelf life made them a less obvious target for automation than other highly perishable texts. Literary translators, for their part, held a special status among translators, even if their cultural capital was not always matched by economic reward, and literary studies provided one of the richest veins of theorizing about translation, often championing hermeneutic approaches.

Over the last decade, however, things have changed. Advances in machine learning and evolving business practices have led to increased automation in literary translation. We are now witnessing: widespread instrumentalization of literary texts as training data for machine translation and generative AI, rapid expansion of computationally oriented investigations of literary texts, and unprecedented mobilization of literary translators' organizations as they scramble to protect translators' intellectual property, to defend the practices of human translation, and to stay abreast of technological change. Meanwhile, translation theorists are now engaging more actively with technology and technologists are beginning to draw more on translation theory. In this presentation I address these changes, asking how translation studies might continue to respond to the shock of automation.

Session 9 | 10:30-12:30

LT.01 | Panel 17 | Ethics and Multilingual Communication Using Generative AI

Chairs: Joss Moorkens, Ana Guerberof Arenas, Monja Jannet

Translators and Artificial Intelligence: Ethical Reflections on Machine Translation

Mrs. Clara Niza[1,2,3], Prof. Helena Moniz[1,2], Dr. Mary Nurminen[3]
[1]Center of Linguistics of the University of Lisbon (CLUL), Lisbon, Portugal. [2]INESC-ID, Lisbon, Portugal.
[3]Tampere University, Tampere, Finland

Mrs. Clara Niza

Clara Niza is a PhD student of Linguistics Applied to Translation at the School of Arts and Humanities, University of Lisbon, after the successful completion of her master's degree in Translation in September 2024. She is also engaged in a BridgeAI project focused on AI literacy for translators. Additionally, she is serving as a reviewer for the 12th edition of the Disfluency in Spontaneous Speech Workshop (DiSS 2025), set to take place in Lisbon next September. Prior to her doctoral studies, she was invited to deliver guest lectures to students enrolled in the Master's in Translation at the School of Arts and Humanities at the University of Lisbon and she has also actively participated in conferences and events focused on the intersection of Machine Translation, Artificial Intelligence, and Ethics. Prior to her current academic pursuits, she obtained two postgraduate diplomas: one in Legal and Economic Translation from ISLA – Instituto Superior de Línguas e Administração in 2009, and another in Pharmaceutical Marketing from IPAM, the Marketing Business School, in 2004. She also holds a bachelor's degree in Languages and Modern Literature from the NOVA University of Lisbon – School of Social Sciences and Humanities, awarded in 1992. Throughout her career since 1992, she has held various roles within multinational companies, primarily within finance departments, where translation was a core responsibility. For the last six years, she has been working as a full-time professional freelance translator, specialising in legal and economic translation.

Prof. Helena Moniz

Helena Moniz is the President of the European Association for Machine Translation (2021-) and President of the International Association for Machine Translation (2023-). She is a Visiting Research Fellow at the UNESCO Chair in Translating Cultures (2025-). Helena is an Assistant Professor at the School of Arts and Humanities at the University of Lisbon, where she teaches Computational Linguistics, Computer Assisted Translation, and Machine Translation Systems and Post-editing. She is the Chair of the Ethics Committee of the Center for Responsible AI (2023-) (https://centerforresponsible.ai), and the coordinator of the project Bridge AI (https://bridge-ai.eu). She is an integrated researcher at the Center of Linguistics of the University of Lisbon (CLUL) and a collaborator at INESC-ID. She is an Editorial Board Member of the Journal of Natural Language Processing, Cambridge University Press, and Advisory Board of the New Research Methods in Translation and Interpreting Studies, Routledge. Helena is also Senior Program Committee member of several conferences, such as IJCAI, ECAI, Interspeech for Area 12 (Spoken Language Processing).

Dr. Mary Nurminen

Mary Nurminen is a University Instructor and researcher at Tampere University in Finland. Her research focuses on the various ways in which non-translators use machine translation. Recently Mary has been working in the DECA consortium (www.decatutkimus.fi), in which she and her colleagues are investigating both how linguistic minorities access information in different languages and how that information is produced. She teaches translation (Finnish to English), machine translation, interpreting, and technical writing.

Abstract

The widespread adoption and rapid evolution of Machine Translation (MT) since the mid-2010s, along with the emergence of genAI models, took us to a crucial crossroads. As mentioned by Moniz & Escartín (2023), there is a need to discuss the legal and ethical implications of these systems so that informed decisions are taken about how such technologies are developed and used. This work presents findings from a survey conducted among translators to address three main aspects: (1) their familiarity with MT; (2) the perceived impact of MT on their professional activities; and (3) their awareness of MT's ethical implications. The research, conducted along with a colleague from Tampere University and supported by translators' associations in Portugal and Finland, aimed at collecting data to measure the influence of MT and genAI on the work of translators and to provide insights that could contribute to addressing the ethical challenges

associated with this subject. The survey, launched in July 2023 after a period of design and testing, gathered 85 responses (32 from Portuguese translators and 53 from Finnish translators). The results indicated that MT is prevalent in translators' workflows, but genAI models like ChatGPT are used for translation by only a few. Many view MT as a threat and have ethical concerns about it. Additionally, there is a noted lack of MT literacy and guidelines to help translators adapt to this technology. Proposed future initiatives include training and guiding translators in navigating these technological changes, with plans to explore broader aspects of genAI.
This work was supported by the Portuguese Recovery and Resilience Plan through project C645008882-00000055 (i.e., the Center For Responsible AI), by Fundacão para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT), through the project with reference "DOI: 10.54499/UIDB/50021/2020" and also by UID/00214: Centro de Linguística da Universidade de Lisboa.

Keywords

ethics, generative AI, professional translators

LLMs Through the Looking Glass - An ethical assessment of the future of large language models in the language industry using scenario planning

Ms Monja Jannet
Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland. ADAPT Centre, Dublin, Ireland

Ms Monja Jannet

Monja Jannet is a PhD student at Dublin City University (School of Applied Language & Intercultural Studies) and the ADAPT SFI Research Centre for AI-Driven Digital Content Technology. Her research addresses the interface of translation studies, ethics and computer sciences. More precisely, she focuses on the investigation of ethical issues with generative artificial intelligence tools when used for translation and related tasks in the language industry. Considering the emerging character of tools based on generative artificial intelligence, such as large language models, she takes on an anticipatory approach to the investigation of ethical issues pertaining to these tools.

Abstract

Artificial intelligence (AI) has already been a part of the language industry for many years. Although translation studies researchers have studied ethical issues of previous AI paradigms, the advent of large language models (LLMs) has sparked a new interest in exploring ethical issues of using AI in the language industry. LLMs show robust translation capabilities for well-resourced languages and can be applied for translation-related tasks such as post-editing and quality evaluation. LLM features such as the chat-based interface and the possibility of writing free-text prompts even allow for emerging applications, including adjusting the style and tone of LLM-generated text. Yet, considering the fast pace at which tech giants such as OpenAI, Google and Meta present new, seemingly more and more capable models (see for instance multimodal models) to the public, the professional landscape as well as researchers, it is important to investigate LLMs from an ethical viewpoint. Due to the emerging character of LLMs, researchers interested in ethical implications of these systems are challenged to anticipate how LLMs might develop in the future taking potentially emerging ethical issues into account. In order to discuss ethical issues of the future of LLMs in the language industry, I draw on the established ethics research method of scenario planning. I develop four scenarios each illustrating another plausible future of LLMs in the language industry. Therefore, I employ academic and non-academic literature published on the topic of LLMs, their usage in the language industry and societal consequences associated with it. The scenarios are informed by various types of publications, including research output, industry reports and AI company publications, among others. Taking various kinds of publications into account enables me to develop elaborate plausible future scenarios of LLM usage in the language industry without painting a black-and-white picture of the future.

Keywords

translation, large language models, scenario planning

Embedded land and labor in multilingual AI: Combining environmental and labor advocacy among translator networks

Dr. Matt Riemland
SWPS University, Warsaw, Poland

Dr. Matt Riemland

Matt Riemland is an Assistant Professor of Translation at SWPS University (Warsaw, Poland). He holds a PhD in translation studies from Dublin City University (Ireland), a master's degree in literary translation from Trinity College Dublin (Ireland), and a bachelor's degree in German from the University of Michigan (United States). His research broadly focuses on the relationship between translation and power, emphasizing the connections between language, land, and labor. He is particularly interested in the substantial environmental and social costs of multilingual AI technologies, and is currently working with translator networks and professional translator associations to address these issues.

Abstract

Researchers and the public are growing increasingly concerned with the environmental costs of multilingual AI models such as neural machine translation (NMT) and LLMs, given their carbon emissions, water consumption, and the extraction of materials required for AI infrastructures. Moreover, multilingual AI has adversely impacted translators' livelihoods: the industry's inclination towards post-editing pressures workers to increase their productivity under tighter time constraints for diminishing returns (do Carmo, 2020). This presentation describes the potential for translator networks to develop an agenda that jointly addresses these intertwined issues, suggesting some potential collective actions. I first outline the various forms of land and labor embedded in AI models, drawing attention to their dependence on land- and resource-intensive infrastructures and data appropriated from linguists and internet users. I then demonstrate the necessity of situating AI's environmental and labor issues within the political economy, briefly highlighting the inadequacy of pursuing technical solutions to these inherently politicized, society-wide problems. Moreso than tech-adverse workers or inefficient models, I argue that it is the AI's unimpeded expansion and the industry's power asymmetries that drive these technologies' increasing harms to labor and the environment. I then draw from Srnicek's (2022) analysis of the three key inputs underpinning tech monopolies' highly profitable expansion of AI models: data, compute, and labor. I suggest collective actions translators might take in each of these dimensions in order to benefit both their bargaining power and the environment. These actions embody Princen's (2002) "distancing" concept, aiming to reduce the diffusion of accountability between actors extracting resources for AI infrastructures and those developing or using the resultant technologies. Whereas popular approaches to AI ethics tend to take these material aspects for granted, this presentation offers an ethical perspective that incorporates the underlying exploitation of land and labor that props up the current AI landscape.

Keywords

LLMs, green AI, sustainability

Why focus on non-translators? Large language models, users and the centrality of English in South Korea

Prof. Ji-Hae Kang[1], Prof. Younghee Cheri Lee[2]
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Prof. Ji-Hae Kang

Ji-Hae Kang is Professor of Translation Studies at the Department of English Language and Literature and Director at Ajou Center for Translation and Interpreting Studies (ACTIS) at Ajou University, Republic of Korea. Her research focuses on the agency of translation actors in institutional contexts, the interplay between translation and multimodality in digital culture, and issues of equality and sustainability related to translation technology. She is the guest-editor of Translation in Institutions, a special issue of Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice (2014), and the co-editor (with Judy Wakabayashi) of Translation and Interpreting in Korean Contexts: Engaging with Asian and Western Others (2019, Routledge). Her articles have been published widely in such journals as Target, The Translator, Meta, and Perspectives, among others. She is currently Vice President of the Korean Association of Translation Studies (KATS) and serves on the editorial board of Perspectives and Translation and Interpreting Studies (TIS).

Prof. Younghee Cheri Lee

Younghee Cheri Lee is an Assistant Professor of English Language and Literature at the School of Global Communication, Mokpo National University, Republic of Korea. Her research centers on corpus linguistics, particularly translationese, translation universals, and corpus-based analyses of human- and machine-generated translations. With a career spanning over two decades, Dr. Lee's career is marked by her significant contributions to English language education, authoring over a hundred ELT books for K-12 students and young adults. Her scholarly work, including numerous articles on translationese and translation universals, has been widely published in respected international and domestic journals. In addition to her academic work, Dr. Lee is the Vice Director at the Center for Corpus-based English Studies and Statistical Solutions, part of the English Linguistics Society of Korea (ELSOK). She also serves on the Editorial Board of the Korea Association of Teachers of English (KATE), specializing in corpus linguistics. Her ongoing research continues to influence both academia and practical language education.

Abstract

The social impacts of generative AI tools based on large language models (LLM) have become topics of compelling interest to industry, researchers in academia, and the public. In translation studies, research often views the 'user' of these tools from a language industry or translator training perspective. Everyday users of free online tools are underrepresented in research. More importantly, current analyses of stakeholders and the LLM-powered ecosystem lack empirical research and suffer from disproportionate availability of language data. This paper examines how South Korean users of LLMs utilize the tools by analyzing the perception and usage patterns of approximately 600 university students. A survey of these students reveals that the tools are used frequently and extensively across all disciplines, with Korean-to-English/English-to-Korean being the most widely used language combinations. Key factors for the tools' widespread use include convenience and accessibility, showing a high level of users' satisfaction with LLMs. At the same time, the analysis demonstrates varying degrees of user awareness regarding both the strengths and limitations of LLMs, which contrasts with existing literature that suggests a general lack of user awareness of language complexities and ethical issues. Finally, an awareness of the risks of LLMs in high-stakes contexts was not prominent among the users surveyed, indicating a potential gap in understanding these risks. These findings underscore how the diverse category of 'user' is overlooked in current research. They also highlight the intricate connection between the English language, which plays a crucial role in educational attainment, career development, and social mobility in South Korea, and LLM use, raising questions concerning whether multilingual LLMs genuinely contribute to promoting multilingualism. Furthermore, the findings underline the need for machine translation literacy within university education.

Initiatives should be implemented to maximize these tools' benefits while further raising students' awareness of their limitations and ethical considerations.

Keywords

Generative AI tools, non-professional users, machine translation literacy

Poker Face: Researching How Generative AI Changes Translation and Shapes Global Multilingual and Intercultural Communication

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Dr Federico Gaspari

Federico Gaspari is associate professor of English language and translation at the Department of Political Science of the University of Naples "Federico II" (Italy) and a research fellow in multilingual and translation technologies affiliated to the ADAPT Centre for Digital Content Technology at Dublin City University (Ireland). His main teaching and research interests, which are also the focus of his publications over the last 25 years, include translation technologies, especially machine translation (evaluation, post-editing, online use, use by professional translators) and AI-driven language and translation tools, applied translation studies, corpus linguistics, corpus-based translation studies and descriptive and variationist English linguistics. Following a first BA-level degree in translation studies (Italian, English and German) from the University of Bologna at Forlì (Italy), he received an MSc and then a PhD in machine translation from the University of Manchester (UK). After lecturing in technical and specialised translation, translation technologies and Italian language at the Universities of Manchester and Salford (UK), he held lecturing and (senior) research positions at the Universities of Bologna at Forlì, Macerata (Italy) and at the University for Foreigners "Dante Alighieri" of Reggio Calabria (Italy), where he was the coordinator of the 2-year Master's-level Programme in Languages and Translation for International Communication and director of the University Language Centre. He is affiliated to the ADAPT Centre for Digital Content Technology at Dublin City University (Ireland), where he collaborates on international EU-funded research projects focusing on language and translation technologies and AI-supported multilingualism.

Abstract

Translation and multilingual communication are directly exposed to the unprecedented and far-reaching impact of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in a wide range of ways. Depending on the communicative contexts and situations, the influence of AI on the multilingual processing and manipulation of multimodal digital content may be obvious, subtle, but also disguised, hidden or even concealed, whether ethically, with ill intent or unknowingly. Drawing on the well-established overt vs. covert polarity (House, 1981), the paper argues that since AI-driven translation is pervasive in today's multilingual communication, despite becoming less manifest or invisible (Gaspari, 2022), there is a crucial need to research and understand the relevant linguistic, (inter-)cultural and socio-political dynamics – in the interest of authors, translators, end-users, publishers, technology providers, digital media outlets, and all the individual or institutional stakeholders involved (Kenny, 2022). This entails the necessity to judiciously evaluate, update and re-organize the methodologies, theoretical frameworks, priorities and agendas of translation research, leaving behind old ways that are no longer suitable, revisiting and refreshing conceptual constructs and methodological tools, and embracing new and pioneering paradigms that are fit to investigate how AI-powered translation affects multilingual and intercultural communication (Sofo, 2024). The paper outlines a programmatic view of priorities in translation studies, which can broadly apply to any of its areas and fields insofar as they are impacted by AI, including e.g. interpreting (Downie, 2020; Fantinuoli, 2023), audiovisual (de los Reyes Lozano and Mejías-Climent, 2023; AVTE, 2021; AVTE, 2024) and literary translation (Ning and Hongtao, 2023). Attempting to encourage a forward-looking approach sustained by the collective agency, responsibility and ethical commitment of the translation studies community (cf. Moorkens et al., 2024), the paper reviews continuities and disruptions, critically discussing worthwhile pursuits, relevant issues and key challenges in investigating how AI affects translation, thereby shaping global multilingual and intercultural communication.

Keywords

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), Research, Translation Studies

Mitigating Queer and Gender Bias in text translated by ChatGPT

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Ms Yin Zhang

Yin Zhang is a PhD candidate in Translation Studies at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting in the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr Deblina Bhattacharjee

Deblina Bhattacharjee is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) at the Department of Computer Science in the University of Bath, UK. Previously she was a machine learning postdoctoral scientist at EPFL, Switzerland.

Abstract

This paper explores the intersection of queer identity, gender and Generative AI-based Large Language Models in translation, focusing on the translation of Chinese to English and Chinese to French using ChatGPT. Our study uncovers significant issues in how queer aand gender identities are represented, particularly in translating Chinese terms related to those identities into these widely spoken languages. These challenges are not merely technical errors but reflect deeper systemic biases embedded in generative AI models like ChatGPT. As reliance on ChatGPT in the translation industry grows, addressing these issues is crucial to ensure ethical and inclusive translations, especially since ChatGPT's Western language-focused training often overlooks the subtleties and diverse representations in non-Western languages like Chinese. To illustrate these challenges, we analyzed the eight volumes of MXTX's Heaven Official's Blessing, translating them from Chinese to English and French using ChatGPT. Our findings reveal that ChatGPT frequently mistranslates key elements such as 1) terms of endearment in queer relationships that are left in their Chinese Pinyin form, and 2) queer subtext, where the original romantic tone in Chinese is often altered to a non-romantic tone. These issues demonstrate how translation can dilute or misrepresent queer identities, contributing to broader marginalization. Additionally, gender-neutral terms in Chinese, such as "ta" (他/她/TA), are often mistranslated into binary pronouns like "he/il" or "she/elle," erasing non-binary identities. Similarly, "rén" (人), meaning "person," is frequently translated as "man/homme" or "woman/femme," imposing a binary framework where none exists. In response, we present a queer- and gender-sensitive ChatGPT model, fine-tuned on data collected from LGBTQIA+ communities with their consent. Our results show that this fine-tuned model is more inclusive and culturally sensitive, taking a step toward mitigating queer bias in generative AI-based translation systems.

Keywords

Multilingual Translation, Generative AI, Ethics and bias

LT.06 | Panel 19 | Exploring Translators' Archives from a Gendered Perspective: Methodologies and Deontology

Chairs: Serenella Zanotti, Pascale Sardin

Contemporary Women Translators' Archives and Action Research: Countering Double Invisibility

Professor Agnes Whitfield
York University, Toronto, Canada

Professor Agnes Whitfield

Agnes Whitfield is Professor of English, French and Translation Studies at York University (Toronto, Canada). Her research focuses on translator agency and archives, institutional practices in intercultural literary exchange, voice in post-colonial translation contexts, and translation and minority language rights. She has published twelve books, including Le Métier du double. Portraits de traducteurs et traductrices littéraires (2005), Writing Between the Lines. Portraits of Canadian Anglophone Translators (2006), and L'écho de nos classiques (2009), authored 90 peer-reviewed articles in Canadian and international journals and given more than 100 refereed conference papers and invited lectures. A recipient of 40 research grants from Canadian and international funding agencies, she contributed as Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada/Heritage Canada Virtual Scholar (2006-2007) to new Canadian policy and funding for literary translation. As President of the Canadian Association for Translation Studies (1995-1999), she created the Canadian Vinay-Darbelnet Awards in Translation Studies and signed a Research Exchange Agreement with EST. She is the founding editor of Vita Traductiva, an international peer-reviewed and accredited publication series in Translation Studies based at York University. A visiting professor at several universities (Bologna (May 2003), McGill (2003-2004), Ottawa and Carleton (2009-2010), and Mainz (summers 2017-2022), she is an associate member of TRACT (Traduction et communication transculturelle), Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3, where she has been instrumental in initiating and co-organising five major international conferences and the 2024-2025 TRACT annual seminar series on surrealism and translation. She is also a published literary translator, poet and short story writer.

Abstract

Recent research in Translation Studies on translators' archives has revealed both how productive and how theoretically and methodologically complex delving into such material can be. Since translators' archives are rarely grouped in personal fonds, archival research on translators inevitably involves an arduous piecing together of disparate information from a wide variety of paratextual, peritextual and epitextual sources of variable reliability and relevance. These challenges are compounded by gender. Indeed, perhaps the main theoretical and methodological concern with respect to women translators' archives is their persistent erasure. While acknowledging the important work to be done on locating and reconstructing women translators' archival traces from the past, this paper adopts an Action Research perspective to explore how Translation Studies could contribute concretely to collecting and conserving contemporary women translators' archives. Such an approach leads to new research questions and goals given the radically changing social, institutional and material contexts for archival development and the specific consequences for women translators. Declining budgets at traditional archival hosts, such as university libraries and national archives, are reducing funds and space for archive acquisition and exacerbating issues of prioritization (or de-prioritization). Armed conflict and environmental catastrophes are directly jeopardizing the physical conservation of archives. As translators work and communicate increasingly online, archival material itself, including drafts, revisions, notes, and correspondence, is increasingly ephemeral, raising new challenges for data conservation both by translators themselves and by archival institutions. Drawing primarily but not exclusively on my experience building documentation on Canadian literary translators and focusing on the specific gender-based challenges and methodological and theoretical questions such projects raise, this paper will sketch out a few kinds of Action Research projects Translation Studies scholars could undertake in collaboration with archival institutions, professional associations and public broadcasters to collect, circulate, promote and conserve contemporary women translators' oral and written archives.

Keywords

Action Research, Contemporary women translators, archives

Looking for translators in Italian feminist archives: texts, translators and the creation of a feminist geneaology of theories and practices

Prof Eleonora Federici
University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy

Prof Eleonora Federici

Eleonora Federici (M.A. e Ph.D University of Hull, UK) is Full Professor of English Language and Translation Studies at the University of Ferrara where she is the Director of the Language Center and the President of the equal rights committee. Her main research areas are: Translation Studies, LSP, Gender Studies and Utopian/ Science Fiction Studies and ecofeminism. She coordinated European projects on translation and memory and she has published books and articles in international journals on the issue of feminist translation. Among her publications: Translating Gender (Peter Lang 2011), Bridging the Gap between Theory and Practice in Translation and Gender Studies (2013 with V.Leonardi, Cambridge Scholars), Translation Theory and Practice Cultural Differences in Tourism and Advertising (2018 Loffredo), Gender issues. Translating and mediating languages, cultures and societies (with S. Maci, Peter Lang 2021), New Perspectives on Gender and Translation. New Voices for Transnational Dialogues (with J. Santaemilia, Routledge 2021). She is now working on a monographic issue with E. Maestri on Feminist translation and activism, result of the last Colloquium on Gender and Translation held in Ferrara in 2022 (the fifth Colloquium on this topic organised in different Universities together with José Santaemilia).

Abstract

Translation has been a central tool for widening the reception of feminist theories and practices around the world. Local feminisms, feminist theories and practices born in one context have been re-contextualized and reshaped in totally different situations acquiring new nuances thanks through translations. It is through translations that feminist ideas born in the U.S.A context have been shared and that feminist practices have arisen within the Italian collectives in the 70s and 80s. My intention is to offer a map of the existing feminist archives, to retrace the names of translators - if translators' names are visible or retraceable - and their role in the transmission of feminist theories and practices. Looking at materials kept in different Libraries and women's centres in Italy (The women's national library in Bologna; Milan Women's bookstore archive; Fondazione Elvira Baldaracco Women's Studies Centre in Milan) I will try to delineate a genealogy of feminist translators, to outline the corpus of texts that have been translated from English into Italian and that have had a crucial role in the transmission of feminist ideas, and the editing choices of the collected materials in the process of translation.

Keywords

Italian feminist arichives, feminist translators, genealogy of theories and practices

A Cohort of Traductrices: For A Gendered Approach to the Archives of Translators' Unions

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Yale University, New Haven, USA

Mrs Jeanne Sauvage

Jeanne Sauvage is a PhD student in French at Yale University, and a graduate of École Normale Supérieure in Paris. Her research focuses on the cultural interactions between France and the US through the prism of translation practices and literary networks in the 20th century. Her main areas of interest include translation and translator studies, transatlantic book history and the novel in French and American literature.

Abstract

This contribution questions how the archives of translators' unions can contribute to the historical knowledge of translation labor, especially as these documents bear witness to the professional lives of women translators. Taking as my main example Traduire, the quarterly bulletin issued by the Société Française des Traducteurs (the first union of translators in France, created in 1947), I argue that the journal serves as a collective archival "locus of visibility" for a group of women translators usually sidelined from the archives. Individual translators' archives often signal "an atypically high degree of literary capital on the translator's part" (Susan Pickford 2021): while translation is a heavily feminized labor compared to other links of the editorial chain, the work of these women left a much thinner paper trail than that of their male counterparts. While Translator's Studies have recently tended to research individual journeys and practices, this paper suggests that switching focus to a cohort of translators provides useful methodological tools – both quantitative and qualitative – to retrace a sociology of women translators in mid-20th-century France. My interest in Traduire lies in its capacity to map a network of French women translators with little historical visibility, since unionized translators are likely to be those lacking the social capital to negotiate with publishers, and who might very well need the support and arbitration provided by the SFT. By centering an institutional bulletin, I thus showcase the political and reflexive agency of an unacknowledged community of professional translators and locate the contribution of women translators to the SFT's ongoing struggle for socioeconomic recognition.

Keywords

women translators, union, archives

Translating women's way to the legal world: Female court interpreters in Republican China, 1912-1949

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Ms Yang Chen

Yang Chen is currently in her third year of doctoral studies in translation and interpreting at Newcastle University. Her project explores the history of judicial interpreting in early 20th-century China, focusing on the role of interpreting policies in China's efforts to abolish extraterritoriality. Prior to pursuing her PhD, Yang earned her master's degree in interpreting and translating from the University of Bath in 2006. Between 2007 and 2017, she worked as a full-time lecturer at Sun Yat-sen University, teaching interpreting courses to postgraduate students. From 2014 to 2017, she was the Principal Investigator of the research project "Quality Expectation and Interpreter's Role: Simultaneous Interpreting for Focus Group Discussion", funded by Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press. The results of this project were published in the peer-reviewed journal Chinese Translators Journal. She is also a co-author of the book A Guide to Writing MTI Dissertations (Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2012). Alongside her academic role, Yang has accumulated over 15 years of experience as a freelance conference interpreter (A: Mandarin, B: English, C: Cantonese). She has also served as a language consultant for various global institutions. Yang's research interests span various domains of interpreting, including conference interpreting, healthcare interpreting, history of interpreting, AI-assisted interpreting, sociology of interpreting, interpreting pedagogy, and methodology in interpreting studies.

Abstract

This research is part of a prosopography project on court interpreters during Republican China (1912-1949), focusing on the archives of ten female interpreters from a pool of 250 interpreters officially registered at Chinese courts. Utilising court archives, newspaper reports, and personal memoirs, this study investigates the identities, life experiences, and career trajectories of these women against the backdrop of judicial reforms and women's rights movement of the era. It addresses three main questions: 1) What factors led these women to become court interpreters? 2) How did their gender identities shape their professional roles? 3) What impact did their role as court interpreter have on their career development? Findings reveal that the emergence of female court interpreters resulted from profound social changes, particularly the inclusion of women in legal education and the expansion of foreign language training in China. While their appointments were hailed as signs of social progress and women's liberation in official narratives, media portrayals often sexualised these interpreters and highlighted a perceived "mismatch" between female interpreters and the male-dominated legal environment. The study also shows that the role of court interpreter was downplayed in these women's personal accounts and seldom mentioned in their career records or memoirs. Nonetheless, by reconstructing these women's professional paths, the study demonstrates that the role of court interpreter was crucial for enabling these Chinese women to enter the judicial field, often serving as a stepping stone for them to ascend to significant legal positions and participate in politics. Building on this analysis, the study argues that interpreters' archives should extend beyond their active professional lives. This approach offers deeper insights into the long-term influence of interpreter experience on both individual development and societal evolution.

Keywords

female court interpreters, interpreters' archives, Republican China

Ontology and deontology: Věra Kunderová and women translators' voices embedded in the archives.

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Professor Michelle Woods

Michelle Woods is full Professor of English at SUNY New Paltz. She is the author of Kafka Translated: How Translators Have Shaped Our Reading of Kafka (2014), Censoring Translation: Censorship, Theatre and the Politics of Translation (2012), and Translating Milan Kundera (2006), all of which are based on archival research, particularly on the archives of women translators and editors. Woods is the editor of a book of essays on literature and translation, Authorizing Translation (2017), and co-editor of Teaching Literature in Translation (2023). She is writing a non-academic book about the female translators of Anna Karenina: Reading Anna. She has published a number of articles on the translation of literature and film, including the recent book chapter, "Translator Memory and Archives" (2021). She is co-editor of the book series for Bloomsbury: Literatures, Cultures, Translation. Her translations have appeared in Granta and Words Without Borders, and she loves to teach as much dark and funny Central European literature as she can.

Abstract

What is a woman translator's archive? The recent "archival turn" in translation studies acknowledges that it is "women, whose materials are even less likely to have survived and been collected" (Cordingley and Hersant 2021, 17) when already the worries are "about all the translators whose papers have disappeared" (Munday 2014, 77). The archives of women translators that do survive show a deliberate effort by them to combat the invisibility of their literary legacy and an acute and pained awareness of gendered power asymmetries (Woods 2021). The personal archives of women translators are rare, and still under theorized ontologically, but so, too, are women translators' voices embedded in other archives (those of publishers and writers). Can we call these embedded voices translators' archives and, if so, how do we navigate them? This paper focuses on Věra Kunderová, who did not self-identify as a translator, and yet spent most of her married life interpreting, translating and working as a literary agent for her husband, the Franco-Czech novelist, Milan Kundera. He asked her to destroy their archive of manuscripts, correspondence, contracts and translation; she shredded the materials "into scraps. Forty years of my life," she said in one of her only ever interviews (Host 2019), something she described to a friend as "a traumatic experience" (Novák 2020, 13). Kunderová translated and wrote Kundera's English-language correspondence with Philip Roth; this paper analyzes her work as a translator as it appears in this archive, in the Knopf archives, and in the New Review of Books archive, tracing what evidence might be left of her professional life, and considers the question of deontology in light of the Kunderas' archival destruction but also of Kunderová's recent and rare assertion of her literary legacy in her 2019 interview.

Keywords

archive, gender, Kunderová

The role and status of Daria Menicanti as a translator in the Italian XXth century cultural context

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Mrs Adele D'Arcangelo

Adele D'Arcangelo is Associate professor at the Department of Interpreting and Translation of the University of Bologna, where she teaches Translation from English into Italian and Translation for Publishing. Her research focuses on Theatre and Literary translation also related to publishing policies and on Intercultural communication in translation training (Intercultural Competence for Translators, coedited by Adele D'Arcangelo, Daniel Tomozeiu and Kaisa Koskinen, London: Routledge 2017). She is also interested in Gender and Translation Studies ("Il progetto di traduzione di The Lady Anatomist", in La signora anatomista, Bologna: Il Mulino 2021). She combines research and translation practice and has translated works by Samuel Beckett, Alan Bennett and Steven Berkoff among others.

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to analyze the work and role of Daria Menicanti, poet and translator who was active in Italy during the second half of the 20th century. The research will try to uncover Menicanti's still scarsely researched role as a translator, in particular by considering her 1968 translation of the only novel written by Sylvia Plath "The Glass Jar/La campana di vetro", published in Italian by Mondadori. By means of a study conducted through archival research alongside the contrastive analysis of the English and Italian editions of the volume under analysis and through data collected on the reception of the volume in Italy, an attempt will be made to understand how Daria Menicanti contributed to the diffusion of Plath's work in the Italian cultural context as well as how much her activity as translator forged Daria Menicanti as an author characterizing her poetics. The research, which will cross-reference the data collected, will also attempt to emphasise Menicanti's role - during her collaboration with Mondadori - in the formation of a new contemporary literary canon in Italy, the result of a renewal that began in the post-war years and that, particularly in the cultural climate of the city of Milano home to numerous important publishing houses, saw the development of a fervid circle of intellectuals, capable of guiding this innovation. Among the mainly male members of the circle of intellectuals, the names of Daria Menicanti and of her historical friend and writer Lalla Romano stood out. Some conclusive considerations on the status of Menicanti as a woman poet and translator within the Milanese cultural context will also be made. The archival research will be conducted at the Daria Menicanti Archive, as well as at the Lalla Romano Archive and finally at the Fondazione Arnoldo e Alberto Mondadori archive.

Keywords

status of translators, literary canon, reception

LT.07 | General panel | Interpreting training

Chair: Elisabet Tiselius

Interpreter Professionality and Translation (Un)awareness: A Comparative Study of Trained and Self-Skilled Interpreters in Norway and Denmark

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Assoc. Prof. Marta Kirilova

Marta Kirilova is an associate professor at the department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Her research interests include sociolinguistics, multilingualism, language at the workplace and interpreter-mediated interaction. Since 2019 she has been part of INTERPRETING, a sociolinguistic project aimed at investigating communicative challenges in interpreting encounters between non-Danish speaking citizens and the authorities (police, court, health care). Kirilova has published in Nordic and international journals, edited books and handbooks on the topics of courtroom interpreting, interpreting in trauma settings, job interviews with minority background candidates and social/linguistic inclusion and exclusion in the workplace.

Assoc. Prof. Gro Hege Saltnes Urdal

Gro Hege Saltnes Urdal is an associate professor at the Department of Language, Literature, Mathematics and Interpreting at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences in Norway, where she has been teaching since 2005. She teaches both signed and spoken language interpreters. Her research interests include education of interpreters, intersubjectivity and interpreters' professionality. She has published in Norwegian and international journals, and she is also an editor of the Nordisk tidsskrift for oversettelses-og tolkeforsking. Urdal is currently a project manager and leader of two work-packages of a Norwegian research council funded project on Norwegian Sign language (DEPICT).

Abstract

This paper explores the perceptions of professionality among trained and self-skilled interpreters in Norway and Denmark, two Scandinavian countries with distinct approaches to interpreter education and regulation. In Norway, the Interpreting Act (2022) mandates the use of qualified interpreters, supported by formal education programs and certification tests. Conversely, Denmark views interpreting as a self-acquired skill, with no formal education or certification requirements. This contrast provides a unique context to examine how interpreters' beliefs, values, knowledge and skills are shaped by their professional role and context, and how societal (un)awareness towards the interpreting profession plays a role in constructing different views of professionality. The paper draws on two datasets: a Norwegian dataset comprising former students who attended an interpreting course, and a Danish dataset focusing on narratives from self-skilled interpreters with extensive experience in institutional interpreting. We employ the concept of professionality (Hoyle 1975; Evans 2008; Sela-Sheffy 2022), broadly understood as performance and improvement in one's profession interact with and shape societal discourses of translation (un)awareness. Analysis reveals differences in how trained and self-skilled interpreters articulate professionality and what qualities they attribute to being a skilled interpreter. These differences reflect the educational opportunities available to the two countries and highlight issues with the professional recognition of the interpreting profession at a societal level. The study underscores the need for enhanced translation and language awareness in interpreter training and offers recommendations for strengthening interpreting services both nationally and globally. Hoyle, E. 1975. Professionality, professionalism and control in teaching. London: University of London, Institute of Education. Evans, L. 2008. "Professionalism, professionality and the development of education professionals." British Journal of Educational Studies 56(1): 20-38. Sela-Sheffy, R. 2022. "The Translation Professions." In K. Malmkjær (Ed.), The Cambridge Handbook of Translation. Cambridge University Press.

Keywords

Trained vs. Self-Skilled Interpreters , Professionality, Translation (un)awareness

From Trauma Narratives to Resilience: Addressing Vicarious Trauma in PSIT Training

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Ms Chiara Rao

Chiara Rao is a junior researcher at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Brussels, Belgium), specializing in interpreting studies. She holds a master's degree in Multilingual Mediation and Communication, for which she specialized in interpreting research and the language combination English-Russian. Previously, she obtained a BA in Languages, Literature, and Cultural Communication from the University of Padua in Italy. Currently, her research interests focus on the psychological challenges faced by interpreters in various settings as well as trauma and its impact on language production. Additionally, she is actively engaged in an international project focused at improving mental healthcare access for migrants beyond language barriers across various European countries.

Prof. Dr. Koen Kerremans

Prof. Dr. Koen Kerremans is a senior lecturer at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), where he teaches courses on research methodology and terminology in the Applied Linguistics bachelor's programme, as well as translation technology and translation bureau simulation in the Translation master's. His research interests span multilingual communication, translation, interpreting, translation technologies, and terminology. He is passionate about applied research focused on facilitating effective communication across linguistic boundaries. His recent projects aim to address language barriers in health and migration settings. His research has been published in numerous peer-reviewed publications.

Abstract

Public service interpreters (PSIs) vocalize their clients' stories and, as critical actors in effective communication, are regularly exposed to trauma (Valero-Garcés, 2015, citing Peréz Rodriguez, 2011). In these contexts, trauma narratives may profoundly impact the interpreter's mental health, leading them to experience vicarious traumatization (henceforth VT). This phenomenon occurs when trauma-related symptoms from a traumatized individual are transferred to an unaffected person (Kindermann et al., 2017). VT can profoundly impact the quality of interpreters' personal and professional lives, as it may result in severe trauma-related symptoms, impair their judgment, and affect their professional approaches during interpreting assignments. Given this severe impact, it is crucial to create specialized training for interpreters to enhance their coping strategies and resilience. To this end, a more profound understanding is needed of how interpreters experience and manage trauma narratives and what coping mechanisms they employ. These aspects were examined in two studies that we will present: a pilot study based on a survey conducted in 2025 among interpreters in Belgium, and a qualitative case study involving semi-structured interviews with 16 Ukrainian interpreters who worked with Ukrainian refugees and asylum seekers in Italy or Belgium carried out between February 2022 and August 2023. The findings of our studies confirm that traumatic exposure and VT represent a significant risk for interpreters, emphasizing the urgent need for specialized training and other support systems to help them recognize and address this phenomenon. This contribution aims to underscore the necessity of addressing this issue and equipping PSIs with the essential skills to handle traumatic scenarios during emergency situations while exploring how understanding VT in interpreters can inform recommendations for training

Keywords

interpreting, trauma, training

Reconceptualising communicative expertise through the comparison of professional and non-professional mediators in action

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Prof Jemina Napier

Professor Jemina Napier has been at Heriot-Watt University since 2013 and is Associate Principal for Research Culture & People at HWU and Chair of Intercultural Communication in the Centre of Translation & Interpreting Studies in Scotland (CTISS), and Deputy PI on the UKRI funded EDI Caucus (https://edicaucus.ac.uk). Jemina began her career as a sign language interpreter before completing her PhD in Linguistics at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia and working as an academic there from 2002-2013. Her research expertise concentrates around sign languages, linguistic access, interpreting and translation, linguistic and cultural diversity, linguistic and social inclusion, mediated communication, and mediation as gendered work. Jemina conducts interdisciplinary linguistic, social and ethnographic explorations of direct and mediated communication in sign languages to inform interpreting studies, applied linguistics, has 150+ publications including sole authored books: Sign Language Brokering in Deaf-Hearing Families (2021, Palgrave), Linguistic Coping Strategies in Sign Language Interpreting (2016 2nd Ed., Gallaudet University Press), and co-authored: Research Methods in Interpreting (2013, Bloomsbury) with Sandra Hale, Sign Language Interpreting: Theory & Practice (2018 3rd. Ed., Federation Press) with Rachel McKee & Della Goswell, and Sign Language in Action (2016, Palgrave) with Lorraine Leeson. She is an elected Corresponding Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities and the UK Academy of Social Sciences, a Fellow of the Association of Sign Language Interpreters UK, an Adjunct Professor in the Dept of Linguistics at Macquarie University in Sydney and a Visiting Professor in the Centre for Deaf Studies at Trinity College Dublin.

Abstract

Some children act as 'language brokers' between their parents and family members as minority language users and majority language users within public institutions, and do so in a wide range of settings (Antonini, 2017). These are also the experiences of children with deaf parents, who broker between their signing deaf parents and the hearing majority who use a spoken language (Napier, 2017; Gee, et al. 2021). These people are often referred to as Codas (Children of Deaf Adults) (Preston, 1994), People from Deaf Families (PDFs) or heritage signers (Napier, 2021). Drawing on an applied sociolinguistic approach to the study of interpreting, this presentation will give an overview of a replication study of simulated mediated interactions (cf. Valdés, et al, 2003), which compares the interactional mediation techniques used by professional sign language interpreters as compared to non-professional sign language brokers. The participants included a new signer professional interpreter, two heritage signer professional interpreters, two adult heritage signers who do not work as interpreters and two teenage heritage signers. The findings reveal that each of these participants mediated the interaction between a school principal and a deaf parent in different ways. What was particularly salient was the difference between use of consecutive, simultaneous or blended interpreting modes, the use of first or third person, the use of summarizing techniques, the production of non-renditions, and embodiment of participant alignment. This presentation will provide a breakdown of the most pertinent findings, and discuss how the concept of communicative expertise can be reframed to take into account how natural brokers mediate communication, which can be harnessed into interpreter education.

Keywords

mediation, brokering, (non)professional interpreting

“They believe that the interpreter is a mind reader!” Interpreting students’ experiences from VRI practice

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Prof.Dr. Tatjana Felberg

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Prof.Dr. Hanne Skaaden

Dr Hanne Skaaden is professor at the Department of International Studies and Interpreting at Oslo Metropolitan University. Her research covers the process of professionalization in Public Service Interpreting, remote interpreting, and first language attrition and the bilingual migrant.

Abstract

“They believe that the interpreter is a mind reader!” Interpreting students’ experiences from VRI practice Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) is today broadly applied in institutional encounters, often without taking into consideration the interpreter’s needs, and interpreters’ voices are seldom heard due to their professions’ weak standing (Braun 2013; 2020, De Boe et al 2024; Hansen 2021, Salaets & Brône 2020, Skaaden 2018; 2023). The need for educating the professionals in charge of these institutional encounters, on how to communicate via an interpreter, is imminent (Felberg & Sagli 2023). Addressing interpreter students’ VRI experiences from their real-life practice and course exercises, this contribution incorporates interpreting studies with the education of interpreter users. By analyzing the interpreter students’ reflections on the professional interlocutors’ behavior during VRI and their descriptions of the resulting challenges, the paper addresses the following question: What can the interpreters’/ students’ experiences contribute to future interpreting practice and to the education of professionals who need interpreting in their own practices? The study analyses students’ postings during organized online learning activities. Taking part in a degree program course on VRI the students already practice as interpreters and draw on their experiences from the market as well as from in-class exercises. The data consists of postings from several year-classes pre, peri, and post Covid19 and include online reflections during 150 chat sessions over several year classes, including 233 students who cover a total of 18 working languages. The thematic discourse analysis (Braun & Clarke 2022) of our data shows that the students are addressing various topics of interest for professionals who communicate via VRI in their own practices, covering thematic categories such as: turn-taking, the professionals’ unrealistic expectations, the interlocutors’ disturbing studio behavior, their (lacking) knowledge of online technology etc.

Keywords

VRI (video remote interpreting), interprofessional cooperation, interpreters' voices

Voice Matters: Addressing the Essential Role of Voice Training for Conference Interpreters

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Ms. Ana Isabel Pérez-Real

Ana Isabel Pérez-Real is a doctoral researcher at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). She is a member of the MIRAS research group, the CIMAS project (Mediated Intercultural Communication in Healthcare Services), and a lecturer in conference interpreting. She holds a master's degree in Conference Interpreting (UAB), a bachelor's degree in Translation and Interpreting (UAB), and a bachelor's degree in Interpretation of Classical and Contemporary Music, specialising in Singing (ESMUC). She has presented her research at the 13th International Symposium for Young Researchers in Translation, Interpreting, Intercultural Studies and East Asian Studies (2023), the 2nd International Conference Translation and Cultural Sustainability: Challenges and New Avenues held in Salamanca (2024), and the 11th Conference of the Iberian Association for Translation and Interpreting Studies (AIETI, 2024), where she was awarded the "Jentil Award for Best Early-Career Presentation". Her research focuses on the interpreters' voice and its use during the interpreting process as well as intercultural communication.

Abstract

To date, the voice of conference interpreters has predominantly been examined through quality assessment studies, focusing on the impact of non-verbal parameters such as intonation and fluency (Collados Aís et al. 2007) on the client's perception, with scholars emphasising the critical role of voice in inspiring trust and credibility (Collados Aís, 2016). Furthermore, researchers have explored prosodic elements in simultaneous interpreting, identifying recurrent issues such as unnatural stress patterns and final rising intonation (Ahrens, 2017). However, there is a notable gap in the literature concerning the vocal use and health of conference interpreters and their specific vocal requirements for optimal performance. This study explores conference interpreters' self-perceptions of their voice within their professional context. It draws responses from 823 participants, gathered through a validated ad-hoc questionnaire (INT-VOICE) and the 10-item standardised Voice Handicap Index (Jacobson et al. 1997). A mixed methods approach combining statistical analysis and thematic analysis of open-ended questions was used to address the following specific objectives: (1) to assess interpreters' opinions on vocal training and the role of voice in conference interpreting, (2) to determine if interpreters implement vocal strategies or exercises to improve their vocal emission, (3) to evaluate their awareness of vocal use and health. Results show that while three quarters of the sample consider voice training important, only a quarter received voice training during their interpreting studies. Over half reported experiencing voice problems at some point in their careers, and those with voice training showed greater awareness of vocal use, particularly in recognising and reducing vocal strain. They were also more inclined to employ strategies for voice development. In conclusion, the study underscores the necessity for further research on voice in interpreting, and advocates for the introduction of tailored voice training within interpreter education programs to address the specific needs of these professionals.

Keywords

conference interpreting, interpreter training, voice training

Collaborative learning in translation and interpreting: A meta-study

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Ms Rui Du

Rui Du is a Ph.D. researcher at KU Leuven, Antwerp Campus. Before joining KU Leuven, Rui held an MA in Translation Studies from the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, China, where she received systematic conference interpreting training and academic training during her postgraduate studies. She is also a certified interpreter and translator. Rui's research interests lie in brain and cognition, interpreter training, and interpreting technology. She has published two book reviews and one research article in international peer-reviewed interpreting journals such as The Interpreter and Translator Trainer and attended several conferences to present the initial results of her doctoral project, which explores perceptions, cognitive load, and collaborative knowledge construction through collaborative learning in interpreter training.

Prof. Dr. Heidi Salaets

Heidi Salaets is an associate professor at the KU Leuven Faculty of Arts and also the chair of the Translation Studies Research Unit. Her research within this unit takes place mainly within the Interpreting Studies research group. She is the investigator of various projects funded by the Directorate-General for Justice of the European Commission and AIIC, ranging from interpreting for the police in the ImPLI project to cognitive load and well-being of interpreters working with video-based interpreting platforms. Research topics on intercept interpreting and language barriers in prisons, and pedagogy of interpreting, specifically, collaborative learning in interpreting, have been added since 2022. This demonstrates that interdisciplinary and participatory action research with valorization components is particularly important in Heidi Salaets' research. Stakeholders are involved in the various research phases, and interprofessional training is subsequently offered (medical and legal staff/students with interpreters/interpreting students). Heidi Salaets has published more than 20 articles in journals, including Interpreting. An International Journal of Research and Practice in Interpreting and Linguistica Antverpiensia New Series-Themes In Translation Studies and over 40 book chapters. She serves as an editorial member of well-known T&I journals such as Target. International Journal of Translation Studies, Translation and Interpreting: the International Journal of Translation and Interpreting Research and The Interpreters' Newsletter. She is also the editor of several books published by John Benjamins and Taylor & Francis Group such as Linking up with Video. Perspectives on Interpreting Practice and Research and Interactional Dynamics in Remote Interpreting: Micro-analytical Approaches.

Abstract

Over the past two decades, there has been a surge in empirical research examining collaborative learning within translator and interpreter training contexts, with a particular emphasis on elucidating the perceptions and experiences of participants. In the present study, we explored this topic through a meta-study approach. Specifically, we reviewed the research design, underlying theories, and methods for data collection and analysis employed across the included studies. Furthermore, the study delves into the perceived factors influencing the collaborative learning experience. The analysis reveals certain methodological and theoretical shortcomings prevalent among the examined studies, highlighting the need for more robust and rigorous investigations in this domain. Additionally, the study identifies 16 influencing factors, which are categorized into eight distinct themes. These themes encompass both individual factors, such as interpersonal dynamics, intrinsic motivation, personality development, and psychological factors, as well as external factors, including extrinsic motivation, support, productivity, and fairness. Subsequently, a model of collaborative learning in translation and interpreting is proposed, synthesizing the key findings to elucidate the underlying processes at play. The present inquiry delineates lacunae in the prior research, elucidates practical implications, and illuminates prospective avenues for further exploration.

Keywords

meta-study, collaborative learning, translator and interpreter training

LT.11 | Panel 36 | The Changing Face of Literary Translation (Studies) (cont.)

Chairs: Claudine Borg, Waltraud Kolb

Self-revision vs. MTPE: Tracking the workflow of literary translators

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Dr Sandra Ljubas

Sandra Ljubas holds an MA in Translation (German and Swedish) from the University of Zagreb, and a PhD in Philology – Linguistics from the University of Zadar, focusing on machine translation. Her research interests include MT, (literary) translation studies, computational linguistics, as well as lexicology. She is an experienced literary translator from Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, and German.

Dr Edin Badić

Edin Badić holds an MA in English and Swedish from the University of Zagreb, and a PhD in Interdisciplinary Humanities (Translation Studies) from the University of Zadar. His research interests include DTS, translation history, literary translation/translator studies, and translation criticism. He is an active literary translator from English, Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish into Croatian.

Abstract

This process-based study aims to contrast the technical and cognitive efforts required by translators to a) revise their own literary translation drafted from scratch and b) post-edit an MT output of a similar literary text. A group of English-to-Croatian literary translators will principally be asked to draft and revise a first version of a short literary text while adhering to their usual workflow and utilising all tools and resources they would normally resort to, even if it includes generative AI or MT engines of any sort. In addition, our participants will be asked to post-edit a stylistically similar literary text translated via a state-of-the-art NMT engine supporting automatic translations from English into Croatian. Both processes will be monitored using GGXLog and a built-in screen recorder. Capturing keystrokes and pauses will allow us to compare the cognitive load and time investment required to perform these two tasks. Screen recordings will help us track all activity outside of the keylogger and determine the nature of potential workflow disruptions. Our participants will also be encouraged to give their feedback through unstructured interviews. Their impressions of the technical and cognitive efforts involved in each revision method will be contrasted with the data elicited from the keylogger and screen recorder. The concept of this study not only aligns with recent empirical research (Ruffo et al. 2024; Kolb 2023; Moorkens et al. 2018) but also focuses on a low-resource TL. Studies such as CEATL's 2024 survey on AI reveal that the use of MTPE for literary translations continues to be a rarity in Croatian publishing. However, many literary translators have raised concerns about the future of their profession. Therefore, our study will offer much-needed insights into the intricacies of two different revision methods and is expected to contribute to the field of literary translation studies.

Keywords

self-revision, MTPE, keylogging

MTPE in literary translation from a Danish perspective: The genre question and the blurring of roles

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University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Prof. Hanne Jansen

I hold a PhD in Italian and Contrastive Linguistics and have since 2005 been Associate Professor in Italian and Translation Studies at the Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies (ENGEROM), at the University of Copenhagen. My current research field is within Translation Sociology where I pursue two tracks: a) The selection of literary works for translation, and their reception (which agents are involved, which are the selection criteria, what image of the source culture is conveyed in the selected works?). I have looked at the total number of Italian novels translated into Danish between 1980 and 2018 and discussed possible explanations for the selection, and I have conducted more focused studies on the translation and reception of specific authors, such as Italo Calvino, Dino Buzzati and Eugenio Montale. b) The interaction between literary translators and the other agents involved in the translation process (authors, editors and translator colleagues). As empirical material, I use author instructions, email correspondences, as well as questionnaires (e.g. a survey entitled: "Collaboration in Literary Translation", distributed among literary translators in Scandinavia). My research is underpinned by my work as Italian-Danish literary translator (since 1985 and of such authors as Claudio Magris and Dino Buzzati). I coordinate the MA programme in Translation Studies at ENGEROM. From 2013 to 2022 I co-organised the St. Jerome Day at UCPH, assembling researchers, students, practitioners and other translation agents. See publications on: https://engerom.ku.dk/ansatte/?pure=da%2Fpersons%2Fhanne-jansen(85e23ff9-dc16-409e-8283-87a7bec63eb7)%2Fpublications.html

Abstract

In 2015, I conducted a survey on the collaboration of literary translators with authors, translator colleagues, and editors (cf. Jansen 2017, 2019). Since then, MT has entered the literary translation domain and non-human actors (MT and AI) will undoubtedly play an ever more important role in the translation process, alongside or substituting human actors. In my paper, I explore this new situation in the Danish publishing industry, paying special attention to a) who is involved in the process and b) which texts are chosen for MTPE. Taking the 2015 survey as my starting point, I investigate the data from 6 interviews, conducted between November 2024 and February 2025, with literary translators, text editors and publishers. The texts chosen for MTPE are primarily commercial fiction intended for digital publication. What does this hierarchy between texts deserving to be translated by either a machine or a human translator imply for the readers (cf. CEATL's Statement on Artificial Intelligence (2023): "Every genre deserves a human translation")? Will "the slackening of the demands on quality", which one interviewee admits being the case, bring about a "democratic deficit" seen from the end users' perspective? And how does the publishing industry legitimize the cutback on quality? The interviews furthermore clearly support the statement of Koponen et al. (2020:3) that "the traditional boundaries between the functions of translators, revisers and post-editors are starting to blur." This blurring of roles holds for those employed as PEs – translators or text editors – and for the whole process involving copyeditors, proofreaders and publishing editors. Will the publishers' wish to reduce costs and time lead to the elimination of some steps in the process? How do the PEs see their role and does their approach to the work also relate to the genre question?

Keywords

machine-assisted literary translation, post editing, genre issues

What Do Publishers Think about Technologically Assisted Literary Translation? Finnish literary publishers as a case in point

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Prof. Kristiina Taivalkoski-Shilov

Kristiina Taivalkoski- Shilov is Professor of Multilingual Translation Studies at the School of Languages and Translation Studies at the University of Turku. Her research interests include literary translation, translation history, and ethics of translation. Currently, she is the PI of the research project "Narrative Text, Translator and Machine: In Search of User-Friendly Translation Technology for Literary Texts", funded by the Research Council of Finland (2022-2026). Throughout her career, she has worked on the notion of "voice" in translation, which she has examined from theoretical, historical, and ethical perspectives. Her most recent publications include: Agentivité et discours rapporté (2022, a special issue of Synergies pays riverains de la baltique) co-edited with Léa Huotari, Using Technologies for Creative-Text Translation (2022, Routledge) co-edited with James Luke Hadley, Carlos S. C. Teixeira and Antonio Toral, Traduire les voix de la nature/ Translating the Voices of Nature (Vita Traductiva 11, 2020), co-edited with Bruno Poncharal, Voice, Ethics and Translation (a special issue of Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice, 2019), co-edited with Cecilia Alvstad, Annjo K. Greenall and Hanne Jansen and Textual and Contextual Voices of Translation (Benjamins Translation Library 137, 2017) co-edited with Cecilia Alvstad, Annjo K. Greenall and Hanne Jansen and Communities in Translation and Interpreting (Vita Traductiva 9, 2017) co-edited with Liisa Tiittula and Maarit Koponen.

Dr. Minna Ruokonen

Minna Ruokonen is a University Lecturer in English Language and Translation at the University of Eastern Finland. Her PhD thesis (2010) dealt with the translation of allusions in the Finnish translations of Dorothy L. Sayers' detective novels. She has collaborated on three extensive surveys on translators' status and working conditions among Finnish translators and translation students. Her current research interests include literary translators' experiences of translation technology, translators' job satisfaction and well-being, and the development of translation teaching. She has recently co-edited a special issue on translators' and interpreters' job satisfaction with Elin Svahn and Anu Heino (Translation Spaces 13:1).

Dr. Leena Salmi

Leena Salmi works as University Lecturer in French and Translation Studies at the University of Turku. Leena has been involved in translator education for over 20 years (in 2024-2016 as professor of translation studies at the University of Turku), and has 3 years' industry experience as translator and technical writer. Her PhD thesis (2004) dealt with the usability of computer user documentation and since then, her research has dealt with various themes. Her current research interests relate to translator training, translation technology and translation quality assessment. Her teaching focuses on practical translation courses (French-Finnish), translation technology, and translation company simulation, as well as supervision of MA and PhD thesis.

Abstract

As Froeliger, Larsonneur and Sofo (2023, 9) point out, the last decade's substantial advances in artificial intelligence (AI), particularly in the fields of machine translation (MT) and natural language processing, are broadening the domain in which translation tools can be used. It is no coincidence that the last ten years that have been marked by a remarkable technological progress have also seen the rise of research on technologically assisted literary translation. Furthermore, some translators and their publishers have also adopted translation tools: recent surveys (Daems 2022, Ruffo 2022, Ruokonen & Salmi 2024) show that some literary translators already use translation tools in their everyday work. At the same time, the publishing industry has been unprepared for the advent of AI: there is little legislation, good practices or ethical principles (Haapiainen-Makkonen 2024). New dilemmas related to copyright have emerged. Some authors have completely banned the use of AI in the translation of their works (ibid.). While such bans protect literary

translators as a profession (see Koponen et al. 2022, 192), they limit translators' choice of working tools (not only when translating, but possibly also when doing information mining). Overall, little is known about publishers' use and perceptions of translation technology. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to investigate what Finnish literary publishers think about the use of technologically assisted literary translation, including CAT tools, MT and AI. Are they against it or do they perhaps already require post-editing of MT in literary translation? How can translation technology be integrated into publishers' workflows? What kind of measures are they envisaging to solve the ethical and practical dilemmas related to AI in their field? Our paper will be based on a a survey and/or interviews to be conducted among Finnish literary publishers in the spring of 2025.

Keywords

literary translation, publishers, translation technology use

The Changing Face of Literary Translation: Translating Metaphors in Literature with AI

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Dr. Aletta G. Dorst

Aletta G. Dorst is an Associate Professor in Translation and Human-centred AI at Leiden University. Her research focuses on metaphor variation, metaphor translation, style in translation, literary machine translation, and machine translation literacy. She recently led an NRO Comenius Senior Fellow project on "The value of machine translation in the multilingual academic community" (2020-2023), which resulted in an open access educational website for Machine Translation Literacy in Higher Education (www.universiteitleiden.nl/machinetranslationliteracy), and two pilot projects investigating metaphor in literary machine translation and post-editing, funded by the Leiden University Digital Humanities Small Grants and the European Association for Machine Translation. She is currently the lead researcher on a 5-year Vidi project on "Metaphor in Machine Translation: Reactions, Responses, and Repercussions" (2025-2029), funded by the Dutch Research Council.

Dr. Alina Karakanta

Alina Karakanta is an Assistant Professor in Machine Translation at Leiden University. She received a PhD from the University of Trento and Fondazione Bruno Kessler on the topic of automatic subtitling. Her research has been navigating disciplinary boundaries between translation studies, computational linguistics and machine learning. Her research interests include speech translation, NLP for low-resource languages and scenarios, corpus-based translation & interpreting studies, and media accessibility.

Abstract

Literary translation has been called 'the last bastion' of machine translation (MT), despite a growing number of studies obtaining promising results for different genres and languages (e.g. Green et al., 2010; Voigt & Jurafsky, 2012; Toral & Way, 2015a, b). However, no studies have focused specifically on metaphor, which is pervasive in fiction and non-fiction alike (e.g. Steen et al., 2010a, b). Given recent developments in MT, also brought about by large language models (LLMs) (Kocmi et al., 2023), our current project investigates (i) how different types of metaphor are translated by different systems, (ii) how literary translators react to machine-translated metaphors during post-editing, and (iii) how readers react to machine-translated metaphors when reading short excerpts. This paper presents the results of the first two activities, including product-oriented and process-oriented results. Our test set contained four English fiction texts from the VUAMC corpus (Steen et al., 2010c) that were manually aligned to their published Dutch translations (482 sentences, ~6700 words) and machine-translated using commercial NMT (Google Translate, DeepL, ModernMT), a literary-adapted NMT (S3Big), general purpose LLMs (GPT4, Geitje7b), and translation-adapted LLMs (Tower 7B, 13B). Three selected passages of 300 words each were subsequently post-edited by six literary translators in MS Word, collecting their reactions and responses using tracked changes, comments and a post-task interview. In our paper we discuss how suitable state-of-the-art systems are for translating metaphors considering the outcome of (i) automated metrics (SacreBLEU [Post, 2018], COMET [Rei et al., 2020], BERTscore [Zhang et al., 2020] and MetricX [Juraska et al., 2023]); (ii) human evaluation (error annotation); and (iii) the PE task and interviews. Overall, we find that while commercial MT systems perform better in terms of translation quality based on automatic metrics, the human evaluation demonstrates that open-source, literary-adapted NMT systems translate metaphors equally accurately. The systems' accuracy of metaphor translation ranges between 64-80%, with lexical and meaning errors being the most prominent. Our findings indicate that metaphors remain a challenge for MT systems and adaptation to the literary domain is crucial for improving metaphor translation in literary texts. Moreover, the post-editors experienced considerable cognitive effort and interference from English when deciding whether particular metaphor translations were accurate and

adequate. The big question that remains is how machine-translated metaphors affect readers' understanding and appreciation. If the cost for obtaining idiomatic metaphor translations is a shift in meaning is that a price we are willing to pay?

Keywords

metaphor, literary machine translation, literary post-editing

Creativity in literary translation and the role of machine translation in the creative process.

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Mrs Nastja Shaboltas

Nastja Shaboltas is a PhD candidate in Translation Studies at the University of Groningen. From 2018-20, she was a master's student in Erasmus Mundus Clinical Linguistics programme, where she studied prediction in language comprehension, using eye tracking. She now studies creativity in literary translation as a part of the five-year project INCREC (2023-2028) led by Dr. Ana Guerberof Arenas, that explores the translation creative process in its intersection with technology in literary and AVT translation. She is also an experienced literary translator from Swedish.

Dr Ana Guerberof Arenas

Ana Guerberof Arenas is an associate professor in Translation Studies at University of Groningen. From 2020-22, she was a Marie Skłodowska Curie Research Fellow working on the CREAMT project that looked at the impact of MT on translation creativity and the reader's experience in the context of literary texts. More recently she has been awarded a ERC Consolidator grant by the European Research Council to work on the five-year project INCREC (2023-2028) that explores the translation creative process in its intersection with technology in literary and AVT translation. She has authored refereed articles and book chapters on MT post-editing; reading comprehension of MT output; translator training, ethical considerations in MT, AI and the industry, creativity and reception studies. She has more than 23 years' experience in the translation industry.

Abstract

In recent years with the fast development of machine translation (MT), the translation industry is becoming more technology-driven that has both positive and negative effects on translators (Taivalkoski-Shilov, 2019). Still, the effects of MT on literary translation remain not well-known. In this study our goal is to uncover the creative process of literary translation and the effects MT might have on this process. We approach literary translation as a creative activity and aim to explore it through the eyes of the literary translators. Research on creativity in literary translation has mainly focused on the product of translation and the reception of the texts translated by human translators or with the aid of machine translation (Guerberof-Arenas & Toral, 2024). It has been shown that machine-translated literary texts without human intervention have lower creativity scores and the readers find these texts to be less engaging (Guerberof-Arenas & Toral, 2020). However, less is known on how this new technology affects the creative process of literary translation and the literary translators in general. In this study we suggest a theoretical framework of the major stages of the creative process in literary translation based on self-reports of 20 professional literary translators from English to Dutch and from English to Catalan. We use mixed research methods from research on creativity in other domains, such as creative process report diaries (Botella et al., 2017), and semi-structured interviews (Botella et al., 2018) to observe how the professionals translate a literary text in their habitual work environment and to gather more understanding on their creative process and on their view on the effects of machine translation on creativity. This study is a part of a larger project that seeks to uncover the creative process of professional literary translators when working with technology.

Keywords

creativity, creative process, literary translation

Hearing Voices? Fictional Orality in Machine-Translated and Post-Edited Literary Text

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Dr Marion Winters

Marion Winters is Senior Lecturer in Translation Studies at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland. She is founding editor of the journal New Voices in Translation Studies, professional member of the German and Irish translators' associations (BDÜ, ATII) and member of the Society of Authors. Her main research interests lie in the areas of corpus-based approaches to translator style, translation and autobiography, and more recently how the use of machine translation might affect literary translators. She recently published the edited book Technological Change in Translation and Interpreting Studies co-edited with Sharon Dean-Cox and Ursula Böser (Bloomsbury 2024) as well as articles on translator style and machine translation co-authored with Dorothy Kenny.

Prof Dorothy Kenny

Dorothy Kenny is full professor of translation studies at Dublin City University (DCU), Ireland. She holds a BA in French and German from DCU and an MSc in machine translation and a PhD in language engineering, both from the University of Manchester. Her current research interests include corpus-based analyses of translation and translator style, literary applications of machine translation and approaches to the teaching of translation technology. From 2019 to 2022 she was principal investigator on MultiTraiNMT, a European-Union funded strategic partnership that created and disseminated innovative materials for teaching and learning about machine translation. Her recent publications include the edited volumes Machine translation for everyone: empowering users in the age of artificial intelligence (Language Science Press, 2022), Fair MT: Towards ethical, sustainable Machine Translation (special issue of Translation Spaces 9(1), coedited with Joss Moorkens and Félix do Carmo in 2020), and Human Issues in Translation Technology (Routledge, 2017), as well as chapters on translator style and machine translation co-written with Marion Winters. She is co-editor of the journal Translation Spaces and an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Linguists (UK).

Abstract

One of the notable characteristics of literary texts is their plurivocality. Among the many voices manifest in literary narrative texts and dubbed 'textual voices' by Alvstad et al. (2017), we find those of narrators and characters, authors and translators. Voices can be layered, with translators' voices (our concern) laid over and intertwined with those of narrators and characters. Winters (e.g. 2010) uses corpus techniques to study how this plays out in one novel translated by renowned translator Hans-Christian Oeser. Machine translation (MT) can, likewise, leave traces in target texts, with the MT's voice sometimes discernible as 'noise' (Taivalkoski-Shilov 2019). A further level of analysis allows us to investigate how post-editors' voices can be tracked in their reworkings of MT output (Kenny & Winters 2020). Kenny & Winters (2024) and Winters & Kenny (2024) further investigate Oeser's voice, this time in his post-edited version of a MT into German produced by DeepL of Christopher Isherwood's The World in the Evening. Using keyword analysis, these studies find that among the word forms that best distinguish Oeser's post-edited translation (Oeser PE) from the MT (DeepL MT), over half can be linked to Oeser's striving to evoke fictional orality (Brumme & Espunya 2012). In the current study, we drill down into these findings, asking precisely where these and other evocations of fictional orality take place, and what they tell us about how the translation process changes when MT is used to produce intermediate versions of literary translations. Ultimately, our aim is to uncover ways in which a human translator and an MT system handle and even add to plurivocality in literary texts, thus contributing to ongoing debates about human and machine 'intelligence' in literary translation processes.

Keywords

translator style, fictional orality, post-edited literary machine translation

LT.17 | Panel 41 | The Changing Faces of Surveys and Interviews as Methods and Text Genres

Chairs: Brita Dorer, Anna Kuźnik, Cornelia Zwischenberger

Value and functions of an exploratory research phase. Example of combining interviews, website structure and conceptual maps for a multimodal and multimethod research design

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Dr Anna Kuznik

Anna Kuznik, PhD, graduate and holder of MA in French Studies from the Jagiellonian University of Cracow in Poland (1995), she was awarded a European PhD in Translation and Intercultural Studies by the Autonomous University of Barcelona in Spain (2010); since 2011 - assistant professor at the Institute of Romance Studies of the University of Wrocław, Poland. From 2005 to 2021 member of PACTE research group established at the Autonomous University of Barcelona; member of TREC/Thematic Network on Empirical Research in Translation and Cognition; member of CTER/Consortium for Translation Education Research, and of the Centre for Cognitive Research on Language and Communication established at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Wrocław. Coordinator for cooperation with external stakeholders in the Institute of Romance Studies UWr. Certified translator and interpreter of French and Spanish. Expert member of TEPIS/Polish Association of Sworn and Specialised Translators. ORCID: 0000-0002-3567-5118.

Abstract

Even if Translation & Interpreting Studies scholars fully recognize the importance of an exploratory phase when preparing a complex empirical research design (Rojo 2013: 19-52; Saldanha and O'Brien 2013; Hale and Napier 2013; Mellinger and Hanson 2017), literature devoted to this topic is still quite limited in our field, considered – probably – as not interesting nor worth reporting, discussing and disseminating in the scientific community. Literally, the verb "to explore" means "to travel into or around in a place in order to learn about it" or "to feel something thoroughly with one's hands or another part of one's body" (Oxford Dictionary 2005), both literal meanings being present in the researcher's experience when undertaking a new, complex empirical study. In the research methodology, the exploratory phase allows the researcher to achieve a process of maturation, an internal self-construction, developing open-mindedness, nurturing flexibility that allows for innovation and creativity, and acquiring an understanding of the importance of reflexivity (Hesse-Biber 2015). In our paper, we will focus on the exploratory stage of a research design: we will outline its theoretical and methodological value (Verd and López 2008), describe its multiple functions (Quivy and Campenhoudt 2005), and exemplify these issues by our own methodological experience of combining verbal data from interviews (Dorer et al. forthcoming) with visual data from conceptual maps (sketched by the interviewees) and from translation company websites (Van Leeuwen and Jewitt [eds] 2001). We will end with remarks on how this exploratory "travel" and the initial methodological "feelings" converged into a multimodal, multimethod (Salmons 2015; Han 2018) research design meant for studying the contemporary understanding of the translation service concept among translation service providers and their (potential) clients. Additionally, specific methodological features of the research carried out in collaboration with competitive, business-oriented entities will be mentioned.

Keywords

exploratory stage of a research design, interviews, visual data

Exploring the role of interviews in netnographic Translation Studies research

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MA MA Denisa Drabantová

Denisa Drabantová holds an MA in Translation studies and an MA in Scandinavian linguistics, both obtained from the University of Vienna. She is currently working as a research assistant at the Viennese Centre for Translation Studies and has been teaching linguistics and academic writing at the University of Vienna since 2021. Her research interests include online collaborative translation (particularly fan translation), audiovisual translation and netnographic research in Translation studies. In her PhD project, she is conducting a netnographic study of a Czech and Slovak fansubbing group. The aim of the project is to shed light on the formation processes of the social identity in this group, and how these shape the translation practices in that group.

Abstract

In recent years, numerous virtual translation communities have proliferated in Web 2.0. One way to investigate these communities in Translation Studies (TS) is through applying the netnographic approach. Netnography is defined as a qualitative research approach that adapts ethnographic methods (e.g. participative observation, collecting archival data, and conducting interviews) to the study of online communities and cultures (Kozinets 2010, 2019). Qualitative interviews are considered central in netnographic research, as they provide in-depth insights into the dynamics and practices of virtual communities. Kozinets (2010: 74f.) argues that interviews and interactive data are equally important in netnography as archival data, because interactive data is what makes an observation participative and therefore netnographic. Although interviews are an important component of the netnographic research, it seems that only a small number of netnographic studies in TS have applied qualitative interviews so far, and often only as a complementary method to collecting archival data (e.g. Wongseree 2017; Yu 2019; Yao 2021; Rogl 2022). The aim of this talk is to explore the role and purpose of interviews in netnographic TS research. I will first provide an overview of interviews conducted in previous netnographic TS studies based on a thorough search in the BITRA database. Based on this overview, I will discuss the purposes for which interviews can be used in netnographic TS research, and which advantages and potential drawbacks interviews may have for TS research depending on their purpose. Drawing also on reflections from my ongoing PhD project on the formation processes of social identity in a Czech and Slovak fansubbing group, I will finally argue that qualitative interviews should become an integral part of the netnographic data collection in cases when deeper insights into the thoughts and reflections of participants are needed, as these cannot be obtained by archival data alone.

Keywords

interviews, netnography, fansubbing

Exploratory sequential mixed-methods design integrating case law review, observation, interviews and questionnaires: A case study of interpreting in migration and refugee review hearings in Australia

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Ms Zhefei Wang

Zhefei (Florence) WANG is a PhD candidate at UNSW Sydney, under the supervision of Prof. Sandra Hale and Prof. Ludmila Stern. Her PhD research examines interpreting in migration and refugee review hearings and explores the interprofessional collaborative standards in such hearings. Her research interests include interpreting and translation studies, language access in legal settings, language policy and planning, international Chinese education, etc. She has presented her papers at CIUTI (Conférence Internationale Permanente d'Instituts Universitaires de Traducteurs et Interprètes) International Conference, AUSIT national conference, Emerging Scholars Network Workshop, 2023 conference of Kaldor Center for International Refugee Law, and AUSIT (Australian Institute for Translators and Interpreters) National Conference. In addition to research, Zhefei is also a certified interpreter in both Australia and China and has also been working as an English<->Mandarin conference interpreter and translator for the World Bank Beijing Office, Minister of Agriculture, multiple universities and enterprises, etc.

Abstract

Mixed-methods research (MMR), integrating various methods and data sources, offers complementary strengths and minimizes weaknesses inherent in using single methods alone (Johnson & Turner, 2007). The complexity of being a multi-modal activity involving various stakeholders and interactants makes interpreting ideal for mixed-methods research. Recent years have indeed witnessed more traction in Interpreting studies to use MMR—combining qualitative and quantitative methods for richer analysis (Grbić & Pöllabauer, 2006; Hale & Napier, 2013; Napier & Hale, 2023). This paper will present the methodology of a PhD study in Australia. This ongoing PhD study is situated in the interpreted migration and refugee review hearings in Australia. It adopts four data collection methods (case law review, observations, interviews, and questionnaires) and involves four groups of participants (interpreters, Tribunal Members, Tribunal administrative staff, and Language Service Providers). This paper will answer why and how mixed-methods design is used, with two focal points. First, the application of MMR design, specifically the exploratory sequential design (Teddlie and Tashakkori, 2009; Creswell & Clark, 2011), will be explained. A highlight will be put on how codes and patterns from text analysis and observation were transferred to frames and structures of interviews and surveys. Second, the data collection process will be detailed, including the testing and administration of online interviews and questionnaires. The comprehensive methodology, together with the involvement of voices from different groups of participants, is expected to help understand the complexities within a specific interpreting setting and provide relevant insights into the design of other mixed-methods research on translation and interpreting.

Keywords

mixed-methods research, interpreting, surveys and interviews

Screens and Streams: Integrating Online Surveys in Remote Multi-Method Research

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Xinying Chen is a PhD student in Translation at the University of Bristol. Her research interests lie in text on screen, audience reception, and multimodality.

Abstract

In TIS, multi-method research continues to gain momentum, with surveys remaining one of the dominant tools. The presentation will discuss the integration of online surveys in multi-method research based on a reception study of captioning on Chinese TV. The reception study conducts both surveys and an eye-tracking experiment in an unsupervised online setting. The online format accelerates data collection compared to traditional lab settings while enabling cost-effective access to target participants. A cloud-based backend system is designed to link the data-gathering tools and record participation. This system allows participants to independently complete all tasks in one session from their preferred location, requiring only a stable internet connection. The presentation will detail the advantages of this remote, multi-method approach, including 1) rapid data collection without real-time researcher presence, 2) increased participant accessibility and comfort, 3) seamless integration of different research tools, and 4) support for incentive distribution if needed. It will also report challenges encountered during remote data collection, for instance, a) ensuring data quality and validity, b) maintaining anonymity and/or pseudonymisation, c) navigating geo-blocking issues, and d) mitigating fraudulent responses. The presentation shows how technological advancements are reshaping research methodologies in TIS. By leveraging cloud-based technologies, researchers can integrate surveys with other research methods in the digital realm, thereby enabling sophisticated remote studies. However, such integration brings unique challenges that require careful consideration and innovative solutions. The reflections on the current integration contribute to the ongoing dialogue on evolving research practices in TIS, offering insights into implementing technology-enhanced, remote, and multi-method research.

Keywords

Online surveys, Multi-Method Research, Technological Integration

Conducting interview and survey studies in TIS: comparison of the two methods using the example of revision in specialised translation

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Dr Aurélien Riondel

Aurélien Riondel is a post-doctoral researcher at the universities of Antwerp and Geneva. He is a member of the TricS research group (Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies; Antwerp) and Transius, the Centre for Legal and Institutional Translation Studies (Geneva). After having studied specialized translation, he first worked for a few years as a professional translator before returning to academia to carry out a PhD on revision (2018-2023). His thesis addresses the social dimension of revision (the verification of a translation) and, more broadly, deals with how revision is practiced and perceived. During his PhD, he was a visiting researcher at the Tampere University and University of Vienna. His research interests include revision, didactics, research methodology, translation policies, institutional translation and the language industry. Outside of his academic activities, he also works as a freelance translator. He is a certified member of ASTTI, the main Swiss professional association in the field, and translates for institutional clients and associations, mostly from German to French. Websites: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2975-4298 https://transius.unige.ch/en/members/aurelien-riondel/ https://www.unige.ch/fti/en/faculte/enseignants-collaborateurs/aurelien-riondel/

Abstract

Interviews and surveys are classical research methods in social sciences. During the last decades, they have become standard in Translation and Interpreting Studies (TIS), too. Traditionally, interviews are used in qualitative approach while surveys are a typical means of doing quantitative research, and both can be combined in mixed methods studies. In other terms, interviews and surveys pertain to distinct approaches, which can be successively adopted to examine the same object of study from different perspectives. This is what I have made in my research with the topic of revision (or translation revision). For my PhD, I conducted an interview study in Switzerland to provide a comprehensive overview of revision policy and get a fine-grained picture of revision practices and perceptions in Switzerland. My ongoing research, for its part, consists of a survey that aims to measure the practices and perceptions of revision at a larger scale, that is, with a greater number of participants working in more diverse contexts. While the qualitative study mainly followed an inductive path with the goal of getting into the details, the quantitative study mainly aims at testing hypotheses by measuring the influence of different factors on other variables. In this presentation, I will briefly describe the results achieved with the interviews and the survey to emphasize the differences and commonalities of both methods in the context of TIS. The main differences are the selection of participants, ethical considerations, the role of translation and types of evidence, whereas the main commonalities are the case-based approach and the use of new technologies.

Keywords

Revision, Interviews, Survey

LT.19 | Panel 42 | The Changing Landscape of Literary Translation and/as Soft Power

Chairs: Olivia Hellewell, Olga Castro, Laura Linares

Translation rights as wartime cultural diplomacy: British and US international 'copyright work' in the Second World War

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Dr Anna Lanfranchi

Anna is a Teaching Fellow in Translation and Transcultural Studies and Italian at the University of Warwick, UK. Her research sits at the intersection between translation, Italian and book studies and focuses on transnational publishing history from the 19th century to the present day. Anna's first book, 'Translations and Copyright in the Italian Book Trade: Publishers, Agents, and the State (1900-1947)' (Palgrave, 2024) investigates the political, social and cultural value of intellectual property by retracing the negotiation of translation rights to British and US works in Italy over the first half of the 20th century, as well as the networks of authors, publishers, translators, authors' societies, and literary agents working across language and state borders. Her next project will explore British and US cultural diplomacy and propaganda in Italy through book and translation programmes, from the interwar years to the Cold War. This project's pilot phase has received the Fredson Bowers Award of the UK Bibliographical Society and Bibliographical Society of America (2024).

Abstract

In recent years, translation studies have witnessed a growing interest in the relationship between translation practices, cultural diplomacy, and propaganda in historical terms (von Flotow 2018; Haddadian-Moghaddam & Scott-Smith 2020). Meanwhile, scholars have also been expanding our understanding of the transnational history of copyright and intellectual property (Seville 2006; Baldwin 2016; Ricketson & Ginsburg 2022). As for translation rights, bilateral treaties and the Berne Convention ensured a degree of shared protection across Europe and the Atlantic by the beginning of the 20th century. While nation states and empires developed and strengthened their cultural diplomacy apparatuses in the interwar period (Martin & Piller 2021), the Second World War became the first stage for translation rights to be employed as soft power on an international scale. By relying on archival records from the UK National Archives and the US National Archives and Records Administration, this contribution explores how translation rights became a tool to foster Allied cultural diplomacy. Comparing government programmes facilitating the publication of translations of British and US works in liberated areas during and in the immediate aftermath of the conflict, and Italy in particular, this paper reflects on the origin of the soft power function of translation rights, and on the tension between cultural diplomacy and political propaganda in war and peace. Finally, by cross-referencing state records with those of Italian publishers and literary agents, this contribution explores the complex dynamic – ranging from opposition to co-operation and appropriation – that informed the interactions between cultural agencies and the publishing sector in source and target areas, as well as the implications of state-led translation programmes for the development of the international book trade in the following decades.

Keywords

translation rights, cultural diplomacy, translation history

Are there any soft-power goals? Data driven analysis of the Czech institutional support of translation in 1998-2019.

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Dr. Ondrej Vimr

Ondřej Vimr is a researcher at the Czech Academy of Sciences (Institute of Czech Literature), specializing in the history and sociology of translation and publishing. Serving as the Scientific Secretary of the Czech Literary Bibliography and leading its Global and Digital Literary Studies Lab, he oversees and coordinates research and innovation projects within this large research infrastructure on. Presently, he directs his efforts toward integrating bibliographical data science and the study of translation history. He has published widely on topics including translation history and sociology of translation.

Abstract

This paper investigates the impact of institutional support on the translation of Czech literature, employing data analysis to assess policy outcomes beyond official claims. Over recent decades, European countries and regions have established institutions to promote the translation of their literature (Vimr, 2022). Scholars have focused on "less translated languages" (Branchadell & West, 2005), "smaller European nations" (Chitnis et al., 2020), and "stateless cultures" (Castro & Linares, 2022), highlighting their challenges in achieving international recognition. Even "central literatures" like French have experienced a decline in global significance without state support, affecting soft power and cultural diversity (Heilbron, 1999; Sapiro, 2010). The official soft-power policy goals of translation support institutions are typically vaguely defined, with their policies and decision-making processes evolving over time. This makes evaluating their overarching long-term impact challenging. Successes - however defined they may be - are easily attributed to effective policies, while failures are blamed on poor policy-making or inadequate funding. This paper analyses translation data to discern the actual impact of these policies. It seeks to identify patterns in supported versus unsupported translations and determine if any overarching policy goals can be inferred from the data. Focusing on Czech literature translations globally, the study examines a dataset including over 25,000 translations since the 1820s, with specific attention to the period since the establishment of Czech translation support in 1997, which has supported over 1,300 translations until 2019. Methodologically, the research employs quantitative methods of bibliographic data science (Lahti et al., 2019) to analyze the linguistic, geographic, and temporal distribution of translations. It also scrutinizes the decision-making act behind each supported translation, investigating the alignment between the symbolic capital of supported authors and the symbolic capital of Czech literature in the individual target languages. This comprehensive analysis provides insights into the actual impacts of translation support policies on Czech literature's dissemination.

Keywords

translation support policy, data driven analysis, less translated literatures

Championing Soft Power: Translation Support Policy in Thailand

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Asst. Prof. Dr. Gritiya Rattanakantadilok

Gritiya Rattanakantadilok is an Assistant Professor of Translation Studies at the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand. She was awarded a fully-funded scholarship by the Thai government to pursue a PhD at the University of Leeds, UK. A part of her PhD thesis, titled 'Translating The Tale of Khun Chang Khun Phaen: Representations of Culture, Gender, and Buddhism,' will be published in 'National Epics' (Oxford University Press, forthcoming). Her co-written book chapter, 'Sinophone Thainess: The Problematic Landscape of Creolization in the Thai-Chinese Translation Zone,' appears in the volume 'Of Peninsulas and Archipelagos: The Landscape of Translation in Southeast Asia' (published by Routledge in 2023), representing one of the emerging voices of translation scholars in Southeast Asia. In 2019, she received the Research Grant for New Scholars from the Thailand Research Fund for her project 'Transitioning from an Authoritarian to a Democratic Regime: Thai Translations of George Orwell's Animal Farm.' Her most recent publication, 'Animal Farm Afterlife: Epitextual Values,' published in the Qualitative Research Journal, examines epitext in digital spaces where political power struggles unfold, and news items execute a multitude of paratextual roles. Her single-author book on soft power and translation in Thai is scheduled for publication in mid-2025. Her current research interests cover literature written by Sino-Thais and Malay Muslims in the three southernmost provinces of Thailand and paratextuality in translation.

Abstract

In 2023, the newly appointed Thai government set out a detailed vision to foster the creative economy by emphasising soft-power policies. A policy supporting the export of translations has emerged following the government's recognition of a lack of demand on the target side. Given that Thai is a non-global language, the government acknowledges that supply-driven translation can enhance the international visibility of literature in Thai, a less-diffused language than Chinese, Japanese or Korean. Before 2023, Thai literature was translated into other languages, predominantly English, without grants or subsidies from the Thai government. The Thai translation export policy, driven by the current government's political agendas, is still in its early stages. The Thailand Creative Culture Agency (THACCA), a state actor, and The Publishers and Booksellers Association of Thailand (PUBAT), a non-state actor, have become key institutions in promoting Thai language and culture abroad. In May 2024, PUBAT and the Sub-committee for the Book Industry announced a call for translation grant applications, offering grants for the complete translation of 20 selected books across all genres into English. One of the criteria for selection is that the content must 'contain Thai elements'. It appears that the state actor plays the visible hand in shaping a monolithic view of what national literatures should be. The materials examined in this study consist of digital content, specifically focusing on books that have been selected for translation. Following the announcement of results in February 2025, only 15 books were chosen. The selected texts have the potential to promote greater cultural and linguistic diversity while also internationalising Thai writers. Whether any of these selected texts will achieve recognition or prominence in the international arena remains to be seen.

Keywords

extranslation, translation support policy, translation export policy

Soft Power, "International Literature," and Prizing the Other: Restless Books and the Prize for New Immigrant Writing

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KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

Prof. Núria Codina

Núria Codina is assistant professor at the Translation Studies Department at KU Leuven. She is also the Principal Investigator of the ERC Starting Grant project "COLLAB: Collaborative Practices of Making Literature in Contexts of Migration and Displacement" (2023-2028), which looks at a wide array of collaborative practices across Europe that create spaces for literary participation of migrants. Her previous research, funded by the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), studied the role of refugee writing as well as multilingualism and minor languages in contemporary world literature. She received a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Tübingen and is the author of Verflochtene Welten. Transkulturalität in den Werken von Najat El Hachmi, Pius Alibek, Emine Sevgi Özdamar und Feridun Zaimoglu (2018). She has also published in journals such as Interventions, Contemporary Women's Writing, Research in African Literatures, MELUS and Textual Practice.

Prof. Jack Mc Martin

Jack McMartin is assistant professor of Translation Studies and English at KU Leuven. His current research investigates the production and reception of Dutch literature in translation, focusing on the people, institutions, and spaces that shape the global book market. He is co-editor (with Jan Van Coillie) of Children's Literature in Translation: Texts and Contexts (Leuven University Press, 2020) and has also published on the life and work of the American-Dutch translator, translation theorist and poet James Holmes.

Abstract

Situated at the intersection of international relations, the sociology of literature, translation studies, textual analysis, and global literary studies, this paper focuses on Restless Books' consecratory practices (publication of translated literature and prizing) to shift the directionality of traditional soft power studies and draw attention to the role of literature in shaping political discourses. The paper highlights the agency of non-state actors and independent presses such as Restless Books in co-opting national discourse and putting forward more inclusive notions of cultural and linguistic identity. Restless Books is a US-based independent, nonprofit publisher of international literature in English and the organizer of the Prize for New Immigrant Writing, one of the few awards in the US to specifically recognize emerging writers with an immigrant background. Through the publication of translations and the promotion of marginalized voices, Restless Books brings more diversity to the cultural field and questions national values and foreign policies. By examining the publisher's editorial policy and consecratory practices and linking them to innovations at the textual level through a close reading of Rajiv Hohabir's Antiman: A Hybrid Memoir, one of the prize-winning books, we demonstrate the necessity of interdisciplinary approaches to literature, soft power, and translation that link text and context in more direct ways.

Keywords

Soft power, Prizing, Migration

The Etxepare-Laboral Kutxa Translation Prize: Disseminating Basque literature abroad

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Dr Elizabete Manterola Agirrezabalaga

Elizabete Manterola Agirrezabalaga is a Senior Lecturer in Translation and Interpreting at the University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU. She completed her PhD in 2012, which focused on the translation of Basque literature into foreign languages. She has been a member of the research group TRALIMA/ITZULIK since its inception in 2010 and is currently its principal investigator (GIU21/060). She has contributed to research projects such as TRACE (UPV/EHU) and EACT (UAB), which were funded by the Spanish Ministry of Culture. Manterola is the author of the books La literatura vasca traducida (Peter Lang, 2014), where she studies the translation and exportation of Basque literature. Additionally, she established the Catalogue of Basque Literature in Translation (ELI Catalogue), which compiles the references to books translated from Basque into other languages. Her principal research interest is the study of translation from Basque, with a particular focus on literary translation. However, she has also contributed to the field of audiovisual translation. Her research interests include Basque literature and translation, translation in minority language contexts, and self-translation. She has published numerous articles in academic journals as well as monographs with referential publishers. She frequently participates in conferences, symposia and other academic events, and has experience organising them.

Abstract

A substantial corpus of literature exists on the power relations and political dimensions of translation. Furthermore, the translation policies of national institutes have been identified as driving forces of cultural exchange. This paper addresses a translation prize awarded by a public institution of the source culture with the intention of expanding the study of prizes as tools for cultural promotion and as instruments of soft power, which has hitherto been rather limited. The study of prizes can provide insights into the representation of cultural diversity and the cultural values of specific nations or institutions. This paper will examine the circulation of translations from literature written in a peripheral language by analysing a translation prize awarded by the Etxepare Basque Institute, a substate national institution for the promotion of Basque culture. The Etxepare-Laboral Kutxa Translation Prize was established in 2015 with the objective of enhancing the visibility of Basque literature to help build and develop the capacity of translators and to motivate publishers to translate literature from peripheral languages and recognise their efforts. This paper will examine the effects that the Etxepare-Laboral Kutxa Translation Prize has had on the promotion of awarded works, the careers of award-winning translators and the translation strategies of award-winning publishers. To this end, the first stage of the analysis focuses on the annual call for the prize, by observing the characteristics of the prize, and the second stage studies the candidate translations and the award-winning translators and publishers. The ten editions held to date (2015-2024) will be studied to identify trends and assess the impact of the prize. The objective is to examine to what extent an institutional initiative such as a translation prize aligns with the needs of publishing industries. Additionally, the effectiveness of translation prizes as foreign actions by public institutions of the source culture will be assessed.

Keywords

translation prize, cultural promotion, peripheral languages

Less Translated Literatures and Soft Power: Slovenia and Spain as Guests of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair

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Dr Olivia Hellewell

Olivia Hellewell is Assistant Professor in Spanish and Translation Studies at the University of Nottingham. She completed her PhD on the translation of Slovene literature (1991-2016) at the University of Nottingham in 2019, and in 2020, she was the recipient of an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship in which she developed the concept of supply-driven translation beyond the small-nation context of Slovenia. Her monograph, Supplying Literary Translation: Slovene Literature and Routes into Translation for 'Small' European Nations, is forthcoming with Routledge. In addition to her research interests in literary translation, soft power and less translated languages, Olivia is a practising literary translator from Slovene into English, and during 2020-21 was one of two inaugural translators in residence at the British Centre for Literary Translation. Her translations have won a number of prizes, including a 2020 PEN Translates! Award from English PEN for her translation of Goran Vojnović's The Fig Tree (Istros Books), which was named as one of 75 Notable Translations of 2020 by World Literature Today; and her translation of the children's book Adam and His Tuba by Žiga Gombač was recognised by USBBY as an Outstanding International Book of 2024. In 2027, Olivia will be one of three guest editors, along with Olga Castro and Laura Linares, of a forthcoming special issue for the international Translation Studies journal Target, on literary translation and soft power in the 21st century.

Dr Olga Castro

Olga Castro is "Beatriz Galindo" distinguished senior researcher at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain, and Reader in Translation and Transcultural Studies at the University of Warwick (on leave, 2024-2027). Her research focuses on the social and political role of translation in the construction of gender and national identities in the Hispanic world, with a particular focus on transnational feminism, multilingualism, self-translation and stateless cultures in Spain. Edited publications include the books Translating Women in the Anglosphere: Activism in Action (ITI, 2020), Feminist Translation Studies: Local and Transnational Perspectives (Routledge, 2017) and Self-Translation and Power: Negotiating Identities in Multilingual Europe (Palgrave, 2017). In 2019 she co-edited with Laura Linares a special issue titled "Transnational Encounters: Crossing Borders in Galician Translation and Interpreting Studies" for Galicia 21. Journal of Contemporary Galician Studies. She was Principal Investigator of the projects "Stateless Cultures in Translation" (British Academy, 2018-2021) and "Changing the Translation Landscape from Multilingual Spain" (AHIF, 2022-23). She is currently Co-IP of the Feminist Translation Network (AHRC Network scheme). Between 2017 and 2021 she was Vice-President of the Association of Programmes in Translation and Interpreting of Great Britain and Ireland (APTIS). She is co-founder and editor-in-chief of the journal Feminist Translation Studies (Taylor & Francis). She is also corresponding member of the Royal Galician Academy.

Dr Laura Linares

Laura Linares is Assistant Professor at the University of Limerick. She completed her PhD in Translation Studies at University College Cork in 2022, focusing on the translation of Galician narrative into English. She was awarded the Association of Hispanists of Great Britain and Ireland Publication Prize in 2022, and her forthcoming monograph Translation Landscapes: Contemporary Galician Fiction in English will be published by Legenda at the end of 2024. She has also led the creation of a new MA in Translation programme at the University of Limerick, which she will be directing from its start in September 2025. She was research assistant and academic partner respectively, in the projects "Stateless Cultures in Translation" and "Changing the Translation Landscape from Multilingual Spain", led by Olga Castro. Also with her, in 2019 she co-edited a special issue titled "Transnational Encounters: Crossing Borders in Galician Translation and Interpreting Studies" for Galicia 21. Journal of Contemporary Galician Studies. Her main research interests include translation and ideology, cultural representation, translation in non-hegemonic cultures and the role of translation in the construction of identities in a global world, as well as the application of corpus-based methodologies to the study of texts and their translations.

Abstract

The Guest of Honour (GoH) role at Frankfurt Book Fair is widely recognised as a key site for literary markets to establish a presence on the international stage. Indeed, as the world's largest and most important book event as far as the trade in translation rights is concerned, the Frankfurt Book Fair represents a significant opportunity for national literatures to exert influence through a range of soft power initiatives. Two recent GoH at Frankfurt were Slovenia (2023) and Spain (2022). While at first glance they present two very different contexts, a key feature of Spain's presentation at Frankfurt 2022 was linguistic plurality, embracing Spain's diverse literary heritage in languages other than Spanish. Such a focus therefore establishes a link between what we might define as the less translated literature of the Slovenian nation-state, and the less translated literatures of the Basque, Catalan and Galician stateless nations. Through comparing the attention paid to the less translated literatures in these two recent GoH programmes, this paper seeks to develop a more nuanced understanding of the notion of soft power in literary translation. More specifically, we will analyse how these literatures are represented in press releases about the Book Fair, the Programme of Events and in the allocation of translation grants, with a view to interrogating whether the nation-state or stateless context(s) has a determining role vis à vis soft power goals. Does, for example, the cultural apparatus of a nation-state provide favourable conditions for less translated literatures to exert influence through the GoH role at Frankfurt? Are there any inherent limitations for these literatures, regardless of atthe national infrastructure supporting the GoH programme? With this novel comparative approach, our paper will shed light on the nature and limitations of soft power for less translated literatures in recent times.

Keywords

less translated literatures, soft power, Frankfurt Book Fair

LT.20 | Panel 22 | GenAI in Domain-specific Translation and Interpreting Studies

Chairs: Yu Yuan, Jun Yang

Translating gender: A comparative analysis of AI and scholar-led translations of Chinese Marriage Law

Dr Minlin Yu
University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Dr Minlin Yu

Minlin Yu has recently defended her doctoral thesis in Translation Studies at the University of Glasgow, where she has taught modules in Contemporary Chinese and Translation Studies as a graduate teaching assistant. She holds an MSc in Translation Studies from the University of Edinburgh. Her research focuses on the translation/construction of gender roles and identities against the backdrop of Chinese cultural history. Her research interests span artificial intelligence and translation, corpus linguistics, gender and cultural studies.

Abstract

The Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China, first enacted in 1950 and revised in 1981 and 2001, was integrated into the Civil Code in 2020, substantially influencing societal norms for family and marital relationships.1 The law and its iterations, while promoting gender equality, retains gendered cultural traditions and idiosyncrasies in its language. Terms like "夫妻" (husband and wife) reflect historical hierarchy based on traditional gender constructs and roles, mirroring judicial realities that favour patrilineality and patrilocality (Li, 2022; Kuo, 2012; Fincher, 2016). This research, informed by the functionalist approach (Nord, 2018), examines gender representation in the English translations of these iterations, which intend to inform rather than regulate. Utilising Sketch Engine for corpus analysis, I compare gender terminology and pronouns in two translations—one generated by ChatGPT 4.0, and another led by Mainland Chinese scholars. It discovers that the Scholar translations maintain gender-specific pronouns like "his/her," whereas ChatGPT renditions avoid them using alternatives like "they/their." Additionally, scholars use gendered occupational nouns, while ChatGPT eschews such terms favouring neutral alternatives and substitutes "spouse" over "husband/wife." These contrasts illuminate: one translation casts the law as a socio-cultural phenomenon, echoing and reinforcing traditional norms and societal dependencies on gender divisions, the other de- and recontextualises the law, aligning it with English language discourse on gender neutrality, yet remains tethered to gendered delineations of the source text, creating dissonances within and between legal and cultural systems. ChatGPT translations foster an illusion of historical and cultural homogeneity, glossing over discrepancies and complexities through its algorithmic makeup and cultural predispositions. This study challenges the perceived neutrality of AI translation and presents a compelling case for the social shaping of technology (MacKenzie and Wajcman, 2002). It advocates for the consideration of socio-cultural dynamics in cultivating machine sensitivity in intercultural exchanges.

Keywords

legal translation, social shaping of technology, gender representation

Translating Justice: A Battle of Synonymy Between Human Expertise and AI in Legal Texts

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West University Of Timișoara, Timișoara, Romania

PhD Denisa Ungurean-Mitroi

Ungurean-Mitroi Denisa is a dedicated scholar with a solid academic background, holding bachelor's degrees in both Law and Modern Applied Languages from the West University of Timișoara, Romania. With a profound interest in the intersection of language and law, she pursued a PhD in philology, specializing in legal linguistics. Her doctoral research focused on the challenges of legal translation and the development of quality assessment methodologies in legal translation studies. Denisa's work is distinguished by her commitment to enhancing the precision and reliability of legal translations, especially in Romanian courts of law, a critical field where language meets justice. Her expertise is reflected in numerous publications and presentations at both national and international conferences, where she has contributed valuable insights into the challenges and innovations in legal translation. Through her research, she continues to explore the evolving dynamics of translation quality, particularly in the context of new technologies such as AI.

Abstract

While AI tools are revolutionizing translation practices, their effectiveness in handling the nuanced demands of legal language remains under-explored. This analysis offers insights into how AI technologies might complement or compete with human translators in the legal domain, taking a closer look at the potential future trajectory of legal translation in an increasingly digitized world.This paper presents a comparative quality assessment of two translations of a legal document, a divorce judgment originally written in Romanian and subsequently translated into English. The first translation was completed by a human translator authorized by Romania’s Ministry of Justice, while the second was produced using DeepL Pro, a leading AI translation tool. The original Romanian text contains 745 words, and the human translation extends to 1,010 words. This study implies the use of a custom-designed quality assessment tool that focuses on the extraction and analysis of nouns and noun collocations from both the source and target texts. The assessment tool maps the quality of the translations based on the degree of synonymy between the original Romanian terms and their English equivalents. Each term is evaluated and graded as either “Absolute” or “Partial” depending on the accuracy and precision of the translation. Grading the terms implies looking not only into the linguistic value but also at the practicalities of the law systems: Civil and Common Law, grading the terms which overlap completely as "Absolute" and those which have nuances or are conceptually different will be graded as "Partial". By systematically comparing the results, this study aims to determine which translation method, human or AI, achieves greater fidelity to the original text. The findings will contribute to the ongoing discourse on the impact of AI on the translation industry, with a particular emphasis on the niche field of legal translation.

Keywords

Legal translation, Artificial Intelligence, Synonymy assessment

Exploring the potential of Generative AI for English-Arabic legal translation: A prompt engineering approach

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Qatar University, Doha, Qatar

Dr Khaled Al-Shehari

Dr Khaled Al-Shehari is an Associate Professor in Translation Studies at Qatar University. He is a PhD holder in Translation Studies. Particularly interested in Crisis Communication, innovative translation teaching methodologies, and translation technologies, he has looked at multilingual crisis translation and collaborative Wikipedia translation. Dr Al-Shehari has published considerably on communication about health-related risks and the role of translation in times of crisis. In addition, his current research focuses on how translation technologies can improve multilingual communication at times of crises, specifically in linguistically diverse contexts, such as Qatar.

Abstract

Legal translation is a complicated task, and it is one of the most challenging practices of translation. Although Neural Machine Translation (NMT) has made significant improvements, it systematically struggles to retain the necessary legal terminology that is key to correctly translating legal documents. With the advent of recent large language models (LLMs) – more specifically, GPT-4 – prompt engineering techniques provide promising alternatives. This paper investigates the performance of GPT-4 and the influence of prompt engineering in English–Arabic legal translation. It examines a corpus of nine legal documents taken from Qatar's Legal Portal (Al-Meezan), consisting of legislation, treaties, and court rulings. Three different prompt engineering strategies are adopted for GPT-4 translations: few-shot learning, chain-of-thought reasoning, and domain-specific terminology injection. An expert human evaluation on the linguistic, legal function, and translation strategy dimensions measures the translation quality. It identifies the error patterns and translation difficulties for each document type and evaluates the effectiveness of various prompt engineering techniques. This in-depth understanding of LLMs as a technology provision in legal contexts will help address specific challenges, particularly regarding terminological accuracy, domain-appropriateness, and the management of differences between legal systems. By offering empirical evidence and structured insights, this study informs prompt engineering approaches used in legal translation while investigating the possibilities of further tailored translation solutions within the context of ongoing legal globalization.

Keywords

Legal Translation, Generative AI, Prompt Engineering

AI-Generated Legal Translation and Human Intervention

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Prof Eva Ng

Eva Ng is Associate Professor of the Translation Programme in the School of Chinese, University of Hong Kong. She graduated from The University of Hong Kong with a BA in Translation, and holds an MA in Translation and Linguistics from the University of Birmingham and a PhD in Forensic Linguistics from Aston University, both in the United Kingdom. Prior to joining HKU, she served as a staff court interpreter in the Judiciary of the Hong Kong Government. Her research interests include legal translation and interpreting, and bilingual courtroom discourse analysis. Her research uniquely integrates her substantial professional experience as a court interpreter and her academic training in forensic linguistics. Her works have appeared in leading international journals including Interpreting, International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law, and International Journal for the Semiotics of Law. She is the author of Common Law in an Uncommon Courtroom: Judicial Interpreting in Hong Kong. She was a Doris Zimmern HKU-Cambridge Hughes Hall 2019–2020 Fellow, and a Harvard-Yenching Institute Visiting Scholar in the 2022–2023 academic year.

Abstract

In Hong Kong, statutory laws are uniformly bilingual, yet this is not the case for case laws. Judgments from the Court of Final Appeal (CFA) are predominantly issued in English only, while many Court of Appeal judgments are monolingual, available either in Chinese or English. This linguistic inconsistency creates accessibility issues: Chinese-only judgments are inaccessible to other common-law jurisdictions, while English-only judgments pose challenges for local litigants with limited English proficiency. However, manual legal translation is expensive and time-consuming. The advent of generative AI, specifically ChatGPT, has propelled machine translation to a new level of intelligence. Yet, the use of ChatGPT for translating legal judgments remains largely uncharted, prompting questions about its effectiveness, efficiency, and reliability in this highly specialized field of translation. This study investigates the application of ChatGPT in translating court judgments. Excerpts of selected Chinese or English court judgments available on the Hong Kong Judiciary's website were used as the source texts for generating the translated texts. The findings reveal that ChatGPT performs better when translating from Chinese to English than vice versa. The study also found that legal terminology poses a significant challenge to ChatGPT, underlining lexical equivalence as a prominent limitation in AI-generated legal translation. However, this study demonstrates that human intervention, in the form of providing standard translations of legal terms or sample bilingual legal texts, significantly enhances the AI translation's lexical, syntactic, discoursal, and stylistic equivalence. This study suggests that while ChatGPT proves efficient and cost-effective for translation, human expertise remains crucial in guaranteeing the quality of the translation.

Keywords

legal translation, AI translator, human intervention

Optimising AI for cultural nuances: Designing a fine-tuned LLM for recognition of English culture-specific items

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Dr Urszula Paradowska

Urszula Paradowska is an assistant professor at the Department of Foreign Languages and a freelance translator. Her main research interests include translation-related technologies, translator training and authentic project work. She teaches translation studies, new technologies in translation and translation projects.

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Tomasz Oczkos is an experienced CIO and IT Director, who has over 20 years of professional expertise, particularly in AI and automation. With a proven track record in diverse sectors including finance, manufacturing, and consulting, he has successfully led strategic IT initiatives and complex projects. His dual expertise in top management and hands-on engineering, especially in AI and database management, uniquely positions him to bridge strategic oversight and technical execution.

Abstract

The translation profession has consistently evolved with technological advancements, from CAT tools and NMT to LLMs. Now it seems particularly exposed to the advent of AI (Eloundou et al. 2023). GenAI is a disruptive technology whose revolutionary potential may be compared to other historical game changers such as the wheel and the printing press. Since the release of OpenAI's GPT model in 2022, most translators have integrated AI in their workflows (ELIS Research 2024; Slator 2024). However, domain-specific translations, particularly those involving culture-specific items (CSIs), remain challenging for LLMs. Despite fears of redundancy, human translators remain indispensable. They will play critical roles in validating AI outputs, training models, annotating data, and developing assistive tools. The "human in-the-loop" (Way 2020) will remain the most important part of the translation process. Siu (2023) argues that a human-AI partnership can yield better results than either working alone. A study by Paradowska (2024) found that while prompt-tuned ChatGPT-4o recognised nearly 80% of CSIs in audiovisual content, its accuracy was less than 50%, which highlights the potential of the model but also the necessity for enhanced precision. The paper introduces an in-house LLM fine-tuned to recognise English CSIs, leveraging recent advancements in AI technology. Unlike base models that require extensive training, our approach involves fine-tuning a pre-existing model, modifying just 0.1% of its parameters to enhance its performance. The process is streamlined by using synthetic datasets, eliminating the need for large-scale data collection. Furthermore, fine-tuning can now be performed locally without sharing proprietary models with base model providers. The model's quantisation enables it to run on standard laptops, making it more accessible. Our ultimate goal is to develop an assistive tool that enhances the efficiency and accuracy of human translators, demonstrating that human-AI collaboration is not only viable but essential for the future of translation.

Keywords

Large Language Models, fine-tuned LLM, culture-specific items

AECMTE: An Annotated English Corpus for Maritime Term Extraction

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Shijie Liu is currently pursuing his PhD in Maritime Language Studies and Applications at the College of Foreign Languages, Shanghai Maritime University, Shanghai, China. His research primarily explores computational linguistics, with a particular emphasis on multilingual terminology extraction and translation technology. He has published in peer-reviewed journals such as The Interpreter and Translator Trainer, IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication, Foreign Language Education, and Shanghai Journal of Translators.

Prof. Yan Zhang

Yan Zhang is a Professor of Applied Linguistics at Shanghai Maritime University, China. Her research interests intersect English for specific purposes, maritime language studies, and English-Chinese contrastive linguistics. She has published extensively in international peer-reviewed journals, including Ibérica, Journal of Foreign Languages, Modern Foreign Languages, Foreign Language Teaching and Research, and Journal of Marine Science and Engineering.

Abstract

The maritime-safety-specialized terminology system defines the indispensability and necessity of the research on annotated datasets and Automatic Term Extraction (ATE) in the maritime safety domain. This study constructs an annotated dataset for the maritime safety domain and develops a deep learning-based automatic term extraction model for maritime safety terminology. The paper profiled the scope of corpus collection as based on the "human-machine-environment-control" four-element model of maritime safety issues proposed by Chen (1998), upon which a maritime safety English corpus could be constructed. Accordingly, a maritime safety dataset of approximately 400,000 tokens, named AECMTE (An Annotated English Corpus for Maritime Term Extraction), was manually annotated using sequence labeling techniques. The annotation process was conducted by three graduate students specializing in maritime language, with expert maritime linguists performing quality review and validation to ensure accuracy and consistency. Based on the AECMTE dataset, this paper applied deep learning methods, particularly pre-trained language models, to construct an automatic term extraction model for maritime safety. Concurrently, a comprehensive state-of-the-art (SOTA) baseline system was established, including rule-based methods, statistical methods, and traditional machine learning approaches for subsequent comparison and analysis. The main contributions of this research include (1) the first large-scale annotated dataset (AECMTE) for maritime safety, which provides a valuable resource for ATE research and natural language processing tasks in this field; (2) pioneering the extension of ATE research into a new domain (maritime safety); and (3) the development of baseline models specific to the maritime safety domain. The research outcomes will facilitate information retrieval (Peñas et al., 2001), machine translation (Wolf et al., 2011), aspect-based sentiment analysis (De Clercq et al., 2015), ontology building (Iqbal et al., 2017), and translation quality estimation (Yuan et al., 2018) in the maritime safety domain, while providing new insights for ATE research in vertical domains.

Keywords

AECMTE, Maritime Safety Terminology, Automatic Term Extraction

LT.21 | Panel 20 | Fostering Human-Centred, Augmented Machine Translation

Chair: Vicent Briva-Iglesias

Enhancing MT Literacy through the evolution of digital training platforms

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Pilar Sánchez-Gijón is professor at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She is member of Gelea2LT at UAB, and is mostly interested in translation technologies and the acquisition of digital literacy skills. She is a member of the coordination team of the Masters' in Tradumàtica and the chief editor of Revista Tradumàtica.

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Ester Torres-Simón is Serra Húnter Lecturer at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain). She is a researcher at GREGAL and CERAO (at UAB), an external collaborator of the Research Group on Reception and Translation Studies (at the University of Lisbon), and a member of the European Society for Translation Studies Wikipedia Committee. She has a keen interest in indirect translation and innovative teaching practices and has published about the topic in several high profile journals.

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Nora Aranberri is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Arts at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), where she lectures in translation and interpreting. She is a researcher at the HiTZ Basque Center for Language Technology, specialising in the area of machine translation (MT). Her research focuses on MT evaluation and pays special attention to aspects related to its use by both professional translators and regular users. Although not exclusively, she works with Basque, which provides her the opportunity to explore the implications MT can have for low-resource minority languages.

Prof. Dragoș Ciobanu

"Dragoș Ciobanu is Professor of Computational Terminology and Machine Translation in the University of Vienna Centre for Translation Studies. He leads the HAITrans research group (Human and Artificial Intelligence in Translation - https://haitrans.univie.ac.at/) and investigates ways to improve localization workflows by integrating translation and speech technologies, as well as methods to optimise collaborative translation and training practices. He collaborates with Language Service Providers from around the world and trains linguists from International Organisations to maximize the use of language, localisation, and project management technologies.

Dr. Ana Guerberof Arenas

Ana Guerberof Arenas is an associate professor in Translation Studies at University of Groningen. From 2020-22, she was a Marie Skłodowska Curie Research Fellow working on the CREAMT project that looked at the impact of MT on translation creativity and the reader's experience in the context of literary texts. More recently she has been awarded a ERC Consolidator grant by the European Research Council to work on the five-year project INCREC (2023-2028) that explores the translation creative process in its intersect

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Mrs. Janiça Hackenbuchner

Janiça Hackenbuchner is an FWO fellow PhD researcher in machine translation at Ghent University. Her research focus lies on machine translation systems and gender inclusiveness. She is a co-founder of the DeBiasByUs platform and co-organiser of the first two Workshops on Gender-Inclusive Translation Technologies. Before her PhD, she worked on the DataLitMT Project (with Ralph Krüger) developing didactic resources for teaching data literacy in the context of machine translation literacy. Her broader research interests cover developments in NLP and fairness, as well as data and digital literacy training. She holds an MA in Specialised Translation and a BA in Sciences, and she has experience teaching at the BA and MA levels.

Prof. Dorothy Kenny

Dorothy Kenny is full professor of translation studies at Dublin City University. She holds a BA in French and German from DCU and an MSc in machine translation and a PhD in language engineering, both from the University of Manchester. Her current research interests include corpus-based analyses of translation and translator style, literary applications of machine translation and approaches to the teaching of translation technology. She was principal investigator on MultiTraiNMT from 2019 to 2022. She is co-editor (with Joss Moorkens) of the journal Translation Spaces and an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Linguists (UK).

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Ralph Krüger is a professor of language and translation technology at the Institute of Translation and Multilingual Communication at TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences, Cologne, Germany. He received his PhD in translation studies from the University of Salford, UK, in 2014 and completed his habilitation at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, in 2024. His current research focuses on the performance of neural machine translation (NMT) and large language models (LLMs) in the specialised translation process and on didactic strategies and resources for teaching the technical basics of NMT/LLMs to students from translation and specialised communication programmes.

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Joss Moorkens is an Associate Professor at the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies in Dublin City University (DCU), Science Lead at the ADAPT Centre, and member of DCU's Institute of Ethics and Centre for Translation and Textual Studies. He has published over 60 articles and papers on the topics of translation technology interaction and evaluation, translator precarity, and translation ethics. He is General Coeditor of the journal Translation Spaces with Prof. Dorothy Kenny, coeditor of a number of books and journal special issues, and coauthor of the textbooks Translation Tools and Technologies (Routledge 2023) and Automating Translation (Routledge 2024). He sits on the board of the European Masters in Translation Network.

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Prof. Caroline Rossi

Caroline Rossi is a full professor of Applied linguistics and Translation Sudies at Université Grenoble Alpes (UGA). She holds a PhD in Psycholinguisics (on language acquisition), an Habilitation in Translation Studies, and she has expertise in cognitive and corpus linguistics as well as translation technologies. She currently leads UGA's contribution to the LT-Lider project.

Dr. Alina Secará

"Alina Secară is Senior Scientist in the University of Vienna Centre for Translation Studies where she investigates accessibility practices and technologies, and teaches modules related to accessibility and audiovisual translation, as well as multimedia localization processes and technologies. A UK Stagetext accredited theatre captioner, she worked with theatres across the UK to integrate captioning for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing audiences, and provided customized hands-on training in subtitling and captioning to EU and UN in-house linguists. She managed the UK University of Leeds MA in Audiovisual Translation Studies for over a decade and contributed to a variety of EU-funded translation technologies projects such as eCoLoTrain, eCoLoMedia and DigiLing. Currently she co-leads the University of Vienna contribution to the LT-LiDER project.

Dr. Antonio Toral

Antonio Toral works as Associate Professor in Language Technology at the University of Groningen, where he coordinates the Computational Linguistics research group. His research interests include the application of machine translation (MT) to literary texts, MT for under-resourced languages and the computational analysis of translations produced by machines and humans. Prior to starting a faculty position, he was a postdoctoral researcher and research fellow at Dublin City University, and before that a PhD student at the Universitat d'Alacant and at the Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale. He coordinated the Abu-MaTran project, which was flagged by the European Commission as a success story and won the best paper award at MT Summit 2019 for his work on post-editese.

Abstract

One of the key challenges in young translators' training and subsequent lifelong learning is understanding the inner workings of translation technologies. The difference between a professional who simply uses technology and one who can select the best-suited tool for the task and adapt it to their needs lies in their ability to interact with and modify these technologies. Augmented translation technologies aim to support translators and adapt to each translation task's specific conditions (Kenny, 2022; Hackenbuchner and Krüger, 2023). This presentation introduces the educational platform developed by the LT-LiDER project for NMT training, an updated and improved version of the open-access platform MutNMT (Ramírez, 2023). This platform, available for download on GitHub, is one of the results of the Literacy in Digital Environments and Resources (LT-LiDER), a collaborative partnership consortium consisting of researchers and teachers with extensive experience in NLP and translation technologies, aims to address this information deficit. LT-LiDER proposes a platform closer to industry standards by replacing Joey technology with Marian, improving the interoperability with external corpus repositories, facilitating direct access to a translation editing interface and integrating new evaluation metrics such as Comet. Additionally, the "researcher" user profile will complement a platform specially designed to facilitate the understanding and use of all features related to the development, use and evaluation of MT tools, and to develop the user's competence to make the most efficient and appropriate use of MT on any translation project. Kenny, Dorothy. 2022. Machine translation for everyone: Empowering users in the age of artificial intelligence. Language Science Press, Berlin, Germany. Hackenbuchner, Janiça, and Krüger, Ralph. 2023. DataLitMT – Teaching data literacy in the context of machine translation literacy. In EAMT 2023. https://aclanthology.org/2023.eamt-1.28 Ramírez-Sánchez, Gema. 2023. "MutNMT, an open-source NMT tool for educational purposes." Proceedings of the 1st Workshop on Open Community-Driven Machine Translation. https://aclanthology.org/2023.crowdmt-1.0/

Keywords

MT, Training, LT-LiDER

Uncovering macro creative process in subtitling: providing a new framework to foster human-centered, augmented machine translation

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Ms. Xiaolu Wang

Xiaolu Wang is a PhD student in Audiovisual Translation at the University of Groningen. Her doctoral research is part of Guerberof-Arenas' EU-funded project INCREC (2023-2028). Her work focuses on exploring both the macro and micro processes involved in subtitling and machine translation-assisted subtitling of creative content.

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Ana Guerberof Arenas is an associate professor in Translation Studies at University of Groningen. From 2020-22, she was a Marie Skłodowska Curie Research Fellow working on the CREAMT project that looked at the impact of MT on translation creativity and the reader's experience in the context of literary texts. More recently she has been awarded a ERC Consolidator grant by the European Research Council to work on the five-year project INCREC (2023-2028) that explores the translation creative process in its intersect with technology in literary and AVT translation. She has authored refereed articles and book chapters on MT post-editing; reading comprehension of MT output; translator training, ethical considerations in MT, AI and the industry, creativity and reception studies. She has more than 23 years' experience in the translation industry.

Abstract

The growing demand for audiovisual translation challenges the subtitling industry to localize more content within shorter deadlines. While studies suggest that machine translation can improve subtitling productivity (Matusov et al., 2019), they often fail to account for the differences in how machine translation and human translators solve specific problems in the source text that require a high degree of creativity (Guerberof-Arenas & Toral, 2022). This study aims to define the creative processes of subtitlers and develop a framework of creative stages in subtitling that might augment creativity when technology is involved. We will present a study conducted with 20 professional subtitlers and involved subtitling a 15-minute sitcom script with high creative content, during which participants documented their experiences in a Creative Process Report Diary (CRD) (Botella, Nelson & Zenasni, 2019). In the diaries, participants selected stages of the creative process, scale their emotions and teamwork, describe their creative processes in detail, and list the tools and resources they used. After the translation task, in-depth interviews were conducted to explore this creative process. This study is the first work package in a larger project that seeks to understand the creative process in subtitling in order to determine at what stage and in which way technology can be better applied to the subtitling workflow in order to increase creativity.

Keywords

Subtitling, Creative process, Machine translation

The Ergonomics of Literary Machine Translation: Effects of Technology on Translator Flow

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Dr Damien Hansen

Damien is assistant professor in translation and AI at the ULB, in Belgium. Damien worked broadly on using personalized corpora, CAT tools and machine translation in creative sectors, focusing mainly on literature and video games. His thesis focused on the possibility and limitations of customized MT systems for literary translators, on their ability to learn patterns of style, as well as on the ergonomic and broader social issues surrounding the advances of technology in this field. Recently, his research shifted towards the effects of translation tools on the cognitive processes and socio-economic factors involved in literary translation, but his interests also brought him to the field of game studies, with the recent publication of a book on the meta-languages and social semiotics of video games.

Abstract

Since the advent of neural machine translation (NMT), more and more research has delved into the topic of literary machine translation, focusing more recently on the possibility of customizing these tools for this particular activity (Kenny and Winters 2024). In this context, our previous work aimed to assess the technical feasibility of individualized and style-adaptive NMT. While the conclusions of this work were largely positive, further experiments were recently carried out to reinforce the ecological validity of the research, by conducting an expert evaluation during which we asked a professional literary translator to translate three chapters with the help of this customized system. To that end, we adopted the methodology presented by Borg (2023), combining various investigation methods to uncover the cognitive and creative processes of a translator working in situ. These observation and interview sessions revealed many constraints influencing the translation, and were further confirmed by the comparison of the same excerpt translated without the help of MT ten years ago. Unsurprisingly, this expert evaluation highlighted and reactualized the exact same types of cognitive loads, both intrinsic and extraneous, that were already identified with the growing use of CAT tools (O'Brien et al. 2017), and that are mostly tied to the post-editing interface, on the one hand, and the modalities of the human-machine interaction on the other. These results thus highlight the dire need for more user-centred research, especially considering how little innovation has to do with considerations such as ease of use or work satisfaction (Lavault-Olléon 2011), as well as more work involving both MT and CAT tools (Vieira et al. 2023), focusing on the interfaces and interactions of machine translation systems and the post-editing activity rather than purely technical improvements (Laubli et al. 2022), and promoting more cooperation between researchers, developers and translators (O'Brien and Conlan 2018).

Keywords

Literary machine translation, Expert evaluation, Ergonomics

Control and autonomy in Human-Centered MT: quantitative results of a survey study on translators' attitudes towards control of translation technologies

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Prof. Miguel A. Jimenez-Crespo

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Abstract

In the human-centered AI (HCAI) paradigm, end-users need to be part of the "process of conceiving, designing, testing, deploying, and iterating" technologies (Vallor 2024: 17). Once developed, users must be in control of these technologies with the highest possible degree of automation (Shneiderman 2020, 2022). In this context, the objective of this study is to research professional translators' attitudes towards "control" and "autonomy" over translation technologies. The rationale for this study is that the adoption of translation technology normally implies "reverse adaptation" (Briva-Iglesias 2024; Valor 2024), meaning that translation technologies are developed, and users then need to be trained or adapt to existing technologies or workflows. This process normally leads to negative or divergent attitudes towards these technologies and resistance to adoption, with frequent complaints about lack of control (Ruokonen and Koskinen 2017; Sakamoto et al 2024). To reverse this trend, and help develop AI technologies that are human-centered, it is crucial to study users' needs, expectations and attitudes prior to their development and implementation. Methodologically, the study involved a self-administered online Qualtrics survey available to US translators in May-June 2024. Fifty-one US-based professional translators completed the survey. The survey included both qualitative and quantitative data. Quantitative results (Jimenez-Crespo forthcoming) show high self-reported levels of "perceived control" and "autonomy", but perceptions of control declined dramatically in the future AI era. This paper reports on the qualitative analysis of open-ended questions related to (1) current control and autonomy over translation technologies, (2) how future AI driven technologies should be developed to increase users' control, as well as (3) perceptions on how AI developments might, or might not, improve their self-perceived control and autonomy. These results provide important clues for developers and LSPs to achieve real human-centered, augmented technologies.

Keywords

Human-centered AI, Translation technologies, Control and autonomy

The road to augmentation is paved with trust (in automation)

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Ms. Shaimaa Suleiman Shalaby

Shaimaa is a PhD student at the University of Surrey's Centre for Translation Studies. Her research examines the interplay among translation technology, trust, and translators' personal characteristics, particularly in high-stakes settings. Insights generated from this work may help inform personalized translator training and policies for using translation technologies in public communication based on a clearer understanding of personal and situational factors impeding or enabling translator trust in such technologies. This research is jointly funded by the University of Surrey and the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Before moving to the UK, Shaimaa served as an Assistant Lecturer at Ain Shams University in Egypt. She is now on sabbatical until the completion of her PhD. Since 2014, Shaimaa has been deeply engaged in teaching both theoretical and practical aspects of translation in addition to providing translation and revision services for various local and international organizations.

Dr Félix do Carmo

Félix do Carmo is a Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Translation Studies of the University of Surrey, where he teaches and researches the application of technologies to translation work processes, with a focus on their ethical and professional implications. He is a Fellow of the Surrey Institute for People-Centred Artificial Intelligence, and an Expert member of the Surrey Future of Work Research Centre. He worked for more than 20 years in Porto, Portugal, as a translator, translation company owner and university lecturer, and he was awarded a post-doctoral research fellowship to work at Dublin City University. He can be contacted at: f.docarmo@surrey.ac.uk.

Abstract

Amid warnings of Al taking over the translation industry, augmentation emerges as perhaps the most optimistic, even empowering, outcome promised to translators, but some remain hesitant to embrace it. A plausible explanation could be that augmentation, as a human-centered interaction with technology, is governed, like human-human interactions, by trust. Traditionally, translation technology research has almost entirely premised trust on system performance, but human-centered approaches are now interrogating translator- and situation-related factors. Such efforts, however, are neither rooted in nor have they produced a theory of trust in translation technologies that explains what trust is, how and why it emerges, and whether it can foster augmentation. We argue that such a theory can be built on an existing construct like trust in automation (Lee & See, 2004; Hoff & Bashir, 2015). This may allow trust in translation technologies to be more clearly understood and related to factors internal to translators as users (e.g., characteristics and dispositions) and external (e.g., features of situations involving system usage). To assess this approach's explanatory power, exploratory interviews were conducted where memorable (dis)trustful encounters with MT were recalled by translators in a post-editing context. Results show conceptual overlaps between trust in automation and translators' experience of post-editing as an MT-augmented workflow. Trust-testing potential seems particularly prominent in high-stakes post-editing, with room for interaction between internal and external trust factors. These insights have informed a new study aiming to measure trust in MT output against an internal factor, post-editors' demographics and personality traits, and an external one, the risk profile of two post-editing tasks involving public communication. We operationalize trust as the willingness to accept MT choices relative to the frequency and complexity of post-editing actions (do Carmo, 2020). It is hypothesized that certain internal factors may lower post-editor's trust in MT as task-based risk increases.

Keywords

human-centered MT, trust in automation , high-stakes post-editing

LT.23 | Panel 14 | Diversifying Discussion: The Feminist and Queer Production, Translation and Reception of Media in a Global Context

Chairs: Hanyu Wang, Xinyao Zhang

The Journey of Queer AVT Studies: Current Status and Future Outlook

Dr Iván Villanueva-Jordán
Peruvian University of Applied Sciences, Lima, Peru

Dr Iván Villanueva-Jordán

Iván Villanueva-Jordán is a research associate professor at the Peruvian University of Applied Sciences (Lima, Peru). His research experience includes empirical studies about drag performances, telecinematic discourse, and audiovisual translation. He is the author of the book Traducción audiovisual y teleficción queer: teoría y metodologia traductológicas (UPC, 2024). His research has been published on journals such as Perspectives, Mutatis Mutandis, Cadernos de Tradução, Babel, MonTI, Hikma, Meta, The Translator, Target, among other edited volumes specialized on audiovisual translation. His current research interest is focused on the (re)presentation and translation of homoeroticism in television and film.

Abstract

This paper addresses the results of a meta-synthesis of 80 studies on audiovisual translation and non-normative gender/sex identities published in journals and edited volumes between 2000 and 2024. The presentation will center around three main areas: the types of analyzed artifacts/products and media (television, film, web content); the theoretical constructs that support or derive from these studies; and the research designs employed in this body of research. From a critical and constructive standpoint, these results will help imagine prospective lines of research, considering what areas are missing in current studies, particularly how media and social contexts (new visibilities, hyper/super-visibility, cultural wars, or "anti-woke" responses) can inform academic inquiry. This proposal will also highlight the importance of an interdisciplinary theoretical background, acknowledging the gaps in previous theoretical views regarding transgender identities, the materiality of the body, desire and eroticism, and the prevalence of a representational perspective on language and sexuality informed by queer studies. Regarding methodology, the results of the meta-synthesis contribute to understanding the relevance of case study designs and contrastive/interlingual analysis in audiovisual translation, but also highlight the limits of these methods when conventional research quality criteria are not properly employed. Considering that inquiry methods reflect how researchers understand the world, it is important to consider how queer, gender, and trans studies are integrating new approaches to embodied knowledge, particularly pos/qualitative studies. These approaches can help develop new ways of thinking about audiovisual corpora (through concepts like assemblage or rhizome) and how reception studies with particular populations can include approaches to queering empirical data.

Keywords

audiovisual translation, sexuality, gender

Trans Stories Crossing Borders: How to Grow Together in Translation?

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University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, USA

Dr Emek Ergun

Emek Ergun is Associate Professor of Women's & Gender Studies and Global Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, US. Her interdisciplinary area of expertise is at the junction of transnational feminisms, feminist and queer translation studies, and critical border studies. More specifically, her research focuses on the political role of translation in disrupting local heteropatriarchal discourses and connecting feminist texts, activists, and movements across borders, particularly between the US and Turkey. Ergun's first single-authored book, Virgin Crossing Borders: Feminist Resistance and Solidarity in Translation was published by the University of Illinois Press in 2023. She is currently writing her second book Emek Ergun is Associate Professor of Global Studies and Women's and Gender Studies at UNC Charlotte. Her first single-authored book, Virgin Crossing Borders: Feminist Resistance and Solidarity in Translation was published by the University of Illinois Press in 2023 and received the Middle East Studies Association's (MESA) 2024 Fatema Mernissi Book Award. Ergun is also the co-editor of Feminist Translation Studies: Local and Transnational Perspectives (Routledge, 2017) and the 5th and 6th editions of Feminist Theory Reader (Routledge, 2020 and forthcoming in 2025). Additionally, Ergun is a feminist translator and her most recent published translations include the Turkish translation of Octavia E. Butler's classic speculative novel Kindred (Ithaki Press, 2019), the English co-translation titled The Purple Color of Kurdish Politics (Pluto Press, 2022), and the Turkish translation of Canadian trans writer and artist of color Vivek Shraya's award-winning book, I'm Afraid of Men (Güldünya Feminist Press, 2024).

Abstract

This paper focuses on the Turkish queer-feminist translation of Canadian trans writer and artist of color Vivek Shraya's 2018 award-winning book, I'm Afraid of Men. I came across Shraya's book while looking for a text that would help my undergraduate students engage with trans people's experiential stories, rethink their normative understandings of gender, and expand their visions of gender justice beyond the US borders. But after reading the book, I knew I wanted to do more than teach it. Shraya's powerful book, wherever it travels to, has a potential to encourage readers to revisit their gendered experiences and transform their relations with marginalized others, particularly those from queer communities and communities of color. At a time when trans lives are under intense attack, translating a queer text to intervene in the current transphobic and racist climate can be quite empowering across borders. Providing a critical confrontation with toxic masculinity from the lived perspective of a trans woman of color, I'm Afraid of Men invites us to reimagine gender as a diverse, inclusive, and safe spectrum of existence. By translating the book into Turkish I sought to expand the borders of that collective queer reimagination beyond Canada and the US and foster stronger connections between gender justice activists across multiple localities. While translating the book (published a feminist publisher in Turkey), I also kept asking, how do I expand the web of liberatory relations and meanings that Shraya's book has initiated? How do I teach the book to raise critical understandings and appreciation of translation among students? How can I include my students as subversive mediators and meaning-makers in this process of expanding queer narratives and possibilities? My paper will discuss some translation strategies, teaching activities, and campus/community events that I created to experiment with those questions.

Keywords

queer-feminist translation, trans liberation, gender justice

Translating the Gay Homographesis into Chinese: The Gay Intertextuality of San Clemente Syndrome

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Dr. Liehui Wang

Dr. Liehui Wang earned his PhD in Translation Studies from the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University. His research interests include queer literary translation, queer popular culture, multimodality in translation and (queer) media studies.

Abstract

The award-winning gay fiction Call me by Your Name (2007, hereafter Call) has been translated into four Chinese editions; two editions in simplified Chinese published by two mainland Chinese publishing houses and two in traditional Chinese issued by a Taiwanese publisher. This paper explores how the Chinese translations render the gay intertextuality embodied in the "San Clemente Syndrome," a key feature underpinning Call Me by Your Name as a novel of becoming. I will first discuss the notion of intertextuality, particularly as applied in Roland Barthes's post-structuralist approach to text analysis. Specifically, I will draw on Barthes's analysis of Balzac's novella Sarrasine, paying special attention to the five codes of reading: hermeneutic code, proairetic code, semantic code, symbolic code, and cultural code. These codes combine to create a complex "weaving of voices" and a multiplicity of meanings and connotations, contributing to the "multivalence of the text" (Barthes 1974, p. 20), wherein multiple layers of meaning and references intertwine. Based on this foundation, I will develop a theoretical framework to explore gay intertextuality. This concept refers to "the appropriation of certain literary texts that may subsequently be quoted in other gay texts" (Mira 1999, p. 114). Given the cultural asymmetries between the source and target texts, translating gay intertextuality involves possible gains and losses in the performativity of gay signification. Following Barthes's use of lexia as a unit of analysis, I will focus on the San Clemente Syndrome and examine its renditions in the TTs. Here, lexia encompasses how signs function in language, involving denotation (literal meaning), lexia identification (specific meanings within the text), and connotation (implied meanings or associations). I will first delineate the interwoven intertextual codes, then examine how these codes are reworked in the TTs, and finally explore the ideological implications of these shifts.

Keywords

translating gay intertextuality, San Clemente Syndrome, Taiwan and mainland China

Creating a Feminist and Queer Digital Utopia through Fan-remixes of Yue Opera

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Ms Xinyao Zhang

Xinyao Zhang is a fourth-year PhD candidate in Translation and Transcultural Studies at the University of Warwick, supervised by Dr. Olga Castro and Dr. Qian Liu, and funded by the AHRC-Midlands4Cities Doctoral Training Partnership. Her project investigates the recontextualisation of Virginia Woolf's gender ideas in the Chinese context. Her research interests include gender and translation, fan/amateur translation, and the intersection between audiovisual translation and transnational feminist translation studies.

Abstract

This paper will explore fans' remixes of Yue opera, a distinguished opera genre that originated in China in 1906. Notable for its all-women cast performing female and male roles, Yue opera primarily caters to women audiences. It emerged as a response to the historical exclusion of women from public entertainment and the underrepresentation of themes central to women's everyday lives within a predominantly men-dominated elite cultural production market. In this context, Yue opera thrives within a value system crafted by women, constituting a feminist utopia that offers female audiences diverse aesthetics and sexual fantasies, allowing them to make their own judgments. In Yue opera, gender and sexuality are fluid and adaptable to the needs of the narrative. This inherent queer and feminist subtext resonates strongly with Chinese online queer and feminist fan subcultures. Fans often distort and challenge the original storyline by 'coupling' two female characters, assigning them roles that transcend conventional gender binaries. These practices further liberate characters from traditional patriarchal constraints and contribute to reconstructing queer and feminist utopian narratives. Drawing on Gentzler's hermeneutical approach to translation, which emphasises the significance of meaning-making through intralingual and intersemiotic translation, this paper will investigate fans' video remixes centred around the "Jun - Xiao partner," the most popular Yue opera duo that emerged in 2023. It aims to explore fans' significant role in gendered meaning-remaking through their reconfigurations and redistributions of Yue opera, enabling more fluid understandings of sexuality. Furthermore, it probs to examine how these remixes, along with viewers' comments and participatory engagement, contribute to constructing a digital queer and feminist utopia. By focusing on fans' creative engagements in cross-discourse and inter-semiotic translation, my research will be addressing the remarkably underexplored area of fans' audiovisual translation practices beyond interlingual translation.

Keywords

Queer and Feminist Translation, Fan Remix, Yue Opera

Producing and Adapting Girls' Love Narrative Through Intersemiotic Translation in Contemporary China: The Case of Couple of Mirrors (2021)

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Mr Peng Qiao

Peng Qiao is a PhD candidate at the University of Leeds and a translation researcher at the Hebei Normal University. He has been a freelance translator for five years, with two translated books published. His research interests are Chinese Internet literature, translation and social media, Bakhtin, reader reception and fan studies.

Abstract

There has been a relative dearth of industrial attention and scholarly discussions surrounding the production of girls' love (GL) narratives in mainland China in the post-2010 years, nor has intersemiotic translation been adequately explored in the context of queer Chinese media and pop cultural content adaptation. This article offers an illustrative case study of a successful GL multimedia storyworld, Couple of Mirrors (CM), which unfolds across a webtoon, a novel, and a web series. First, we scrutinize the multilevel state regulation on queer content creation in different media formats. Notably, the censorship of homosexual content in web series and physical book publishing is tighter than that in webtoon. Such variations lead to the consciousness and cautiousness of queer media content producers as intersemiotic translators to act tacitly when publishing homosexual content in different formats across different platforms. Second, we delineate the intersemiotic translation of CM from the web series to the novel and webtoon, which is different from the mainstream boys' love (BL) transmedia stories. Through a textual and paratextual analysis of official producers' and fans' participation, we argue that the strategy of interseminotic translation has built a transmedia storyworld for CM, and creates explicit GL elements through negotiation between market preferences, heteropatriarchal ideologies, and governmental censorship. The webtoon, novel and web series complement and compensate for each other in explitising, expanding and enhancing the GL narrative. In doing so, we show that intersemiotic translation is a meaningful tactic in making CM a successful non-heteronormative cultural commodity within the mainland Chinese media market.

Keywords

intersemiotic translation, girls' love narrative, adaptation

Creating queer cinema in translation: Peccadillo Pictures

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Dr Jonathan Evans

Jonathan Evans is Senior Lecturer in Translation Studies at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK. He is the author of The Many Voices of Lydia Davis (2016), co-author of Fan Translations (forthcoming) and co-editor of the Routledge Handbook of Translation and Politics (2018), as well as seven special issues of scholarly journals. He is Deputy Editor of Journal of Specialised Translation. He has published widely on translation and media.

Dr Ting Guo

Ting Guo is Senior Lecturer in Translation and Chinese Studies in the Department of Languages, Cultures and Film, University of Liverpool (UK). Her research interests include translation and history, Chinese cinema, modernity and sexuality. She is the author of Surviving Violent Conflict: Chinese Interpreters in the Second-Sino Japanese War (1931-1945) (2016), co-author of Fan Translations (forthcoming) and Associate Editor of Target, the International Journal of Translation Studies.

Abstract

This paper will explore the ways in which the British distributor Peccadillo Pictures creates an understanding of queer cinema in translation. While there is an established body of work on the translation of queer texts, and some work on queer TV, there is significantly less work on queer cinema in translation. Existing work tends to focus on specific films in either fan translation (Guo and Evans 2020; Evans and Guo forthcoming) or official translation (Jin and Ye 2023), or the role of translation in film festivals (Guo and Evans 2023). However, the role of distributors has not previously been considered in relation to translation, though work in film and TV studies has demonstrated their power in creating, maintaining and questioning categories (e.g. Bradbury-Rance 2023; Shacklock 2023). Peccadillo Pictures has carved out a niche for itself in the United Kingdom as a distributor of both physical media and online of LGBTQ+ films from around the world. We argue that its influence has created a category of queer cinema in translation that is associated with the distributor itself. Through an analysis of branding, Peccadillo's catalogue and paratexts, we will examine how it has created such a category and how it has affected the visibility of international, translated queer cinema in the British market. By analysing translations of the films L'inconnu du lac/Stranger by the Lake (Alain Guiraudie, 2013) and Tomboy (Céline Sciamma, 2011), we will explore how subtitles contribute to the Peccadillo brand and its creation of queer cinema in translation.

Keywords

queer cinema, subtitling, distribution

LT.24 | Panel 31 | Role Diversity in the Language Industry: Conceptual and Educational Implications

Chairs: Natasa Pavlovic, Gary Massey, Maureen Ehrensberger-Dow

The diversification of translation services in commercial marketing translation

Ms Sara Palmer, Dr Félix do Carmo
University of Surrey, Guildford, United Kingdom

Ms Sara Palmer

Sara Palmer is a doctoral student at the Centre for Translation Studies, University of Surrey, under the supervision of Félix do Carmo and Sabine Braun. She holds an MA in non-fiction translation from Linneaus University, Sweden, and a BA in Comparative American Studies from Warwick University, UK. She has worked as a professional translator for close to 15 years in both in-house and freelance positions, specialising in marketing, entertainment and audio-visual translation. The changing working conditions for translators under increasing adoption of translation technologies has fuelled her interest in studying the language industry from an academic perspective. With her research Sara hopes to contribute to the growing area of Language Industry Studies with insights that combine high industry relevance and academic research rigour. Sara's PhD project is based on three studies of service diversification in the commercial translation industry, with a focus on the marketing translation sector. The first study was carried out in 2024 and a paper based on this project has recently been submitted for publication. The second study is currently underway and will be completed by the summer of 2025.

Dr Félix do Carmo

Félix do Carmo is a Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Translation Studies of the University of Surrey, where he teaches and researches the application of technologies to translation work processes, with a focus on their ethical and professional implications. He is a Fellow of the Surrey Institute for People-Centred Artificial Intelligence, and an Expert member of the Surrey Future of Work Research Centre. He worked for more than 20 years in Porto, Portugal, as a translator, translation company owner and university lecturer, and he was awarded a post-doctoral research fellowship to work at Dublin City University.

Abstract

Our previous research (Palmer & do Carmo, forthcoming) has shown that service diversification is a prominent feature in marketing translation, identifying translation, machine translation post-editing (MTPE), localisation, and transcreation as highly relevant services in the sector. Of the 70 global companies included in the study, 54% offer these four core services and 83% offer at least three. A qualitative content analysis of companies' client-facing websites suggests that the four core services can be seen as different modes of translation, differentiated mainly through their varying levels of efficiency (in terms of cost, time, and technology) and customisation (in terms of textual adaptation and communicative effectiveness). These two notions are shown to have an inverse relationship on a scale developed based on the study data, with standard translation in the middle. Translation is thus more efficient than localisation and transcreation, but less so than MTPE, and more customised than MTPE, but less so than localisation and transcreation. As companies are emphasising the efficiency and customisation of their other services, translation is frequently compared to these in negative terms, a fact which due to information asymmetry may contribute to the devaluation of translation as a service and as a concept. In the panel, the next stage of our research will also be presented, including survey and interview data investigating company perspectives on the diversification of services, while continuing to investigate the scale above as a tool of analysis. This study addresses the economic and business impacts of service diversification on companies active in the marketing translation sector, beyond how translation services are sold on their websites. The final stage of Sara's PhD project will also be introduced in the panel, where attention is turned towards how translation professionals work with these four services in practice. The outcome of this project will be a combination of knowledge of how companies present the four core services to clients on their websites, how translation service diversification impacts business models and translator recruitment, and how service diversification influences modern translation practices in the commercial language industry.

Keywords

translation service diversification, language industry studies, marketing translation

Navigating complexity: The construction and communication of translation expertise in the workplace

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University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Ms Daniela Schlager

Daniela Schlager holds an MA in Translation and is a member of the 'socotrans' research group (Socio-Cognitive Translation Studies: Processes and Networks) at the University of Vienna. She is currently working as a graduate research assistant on the third-party funded research project 'Rethinking Translation Expertise: A Workplace Study' (RETREX), led by Hanna Risku. From 2018 to 2022, she worked as a graduate research and teaching assistant at the University of Vienna. In her PhD thesis, she explores translators' personal goals as a dimension of translatorial agency. Her research interests include sociological, socio-cognitive, political and historical aspects of translators and translation.

Ms Antonia Baumann

Antonia Baumann holds an MA in Translation and Dialogue Interpreting from the University of Graz and is currently working as a graduate research assistant on the third-party funded research project 'Rethinking Translation Expertise: A Workplace Study' (RETREX), led by Hanna Risku at the University of Vienna. She is also part of the 'socotrans' research group at the University of Vienna, studying the sociocognitive and technological embedding of translation praxis. The research group examines both the situative cognitive elements in translation processes as well as the interactions between translators and other relevant actors, artefacts and their (work) environment. Antonia Baumann is completing a PhD thesis within the RETREX project, focusing on feedback in the translation industry. Her research interests include sociological and socio-cognitive aspects of translation and interpreting, workplace research, and accessibility. Additionally, she works as a freelance Speech-to-Text Interpreter.

Ms Anna Sourdille

Anna Sourdille has a background in philosophy and a BA in Transcultural Communication. She is currently completing a Masters in Conference Interpreting at the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna. In addition to her studies, she works as a freelance translator and organisational assistant and contributes to the research project 'Rethinking Translation Expertise: A Workplace Study' (RETREX), led by Hanna Risku. She is also a member of 'Socotrans' (Socio-Cognitive Translation Studies: Processes and Networks), a research group focusing on socio-cognitive aspects of translation in different work settings. For her Master's thesis, Anna is researching interpreting practices at Queer Base, a Vienna-based NGO supporting LGBTIQ refugees. Her research interests include the philosophical, queer, socio-political and didactic aspects of translation and interpreting, as well as workplace and ethnographic field research.

Dr Regina Rogl

Regina Rogl holds a PhD in Translation Studies / Transcultural Communication and is currently a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Vienna. She also serves as an Associate Researcher on the third-party funded research project 'Rethinking Translation Expertise: A Workplace Study (RETREX)', led by Hanna Risku. Previously, she was involved in the research project 'Extended Translation: Socio-cognitive Translation Processes in the Workplace (EXTRA)' at the University of Graz and completed her PhD thesis on the interplay between the social and the technological in online amateur translation at the University of Vienna. Her research interests include digital translation practices, socio-technical conceptualisations of translation, non-professional translation and interpreting, and workplace research.

Prof. Hanna Risku

Hanna Risku is professor for translation studies and head of the research group 'Socio-Cognitive Translation Studies' (socotrans) at the University of Vienna, Austria. Her research areas include translation and situated cognition, translation workplace and network research, and translation expertise. She has published on sociological and cognitive approaches in translation studies and the ethnographic study of translation processes. Prior to her work in Vienna, she was professor for translation studies at the University of Graz, professor for applied cognitive science and technical communication, head of the Department for Knowledge and Communication Management and vice rector at the Danube University Krems, guest professor at the University of Aarhus, Denmark,

and lecturer at different universities in Austria, Finland and Sweden. Professor Risku served as co-editor of Fachsprache – International Journal of Specialized Communication and as president of TCeurope – the European umbrella organisation for technical communication. In 2010, she was awarded the TCeurope Award for Services to Technical Communication in Europe. In 2023, she was CETRA Chair Professor at KU Leuven and DOTTSS Guest Professor at Tampere University. She is a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters.

Abstract

In our workplace study "Rethinking Translation Expertise", we investigate translation expertise using a qualitative, contextualized approach. Based on a socio-cognitive understanding of expertise, we assume that it is not absolute, objective or individual but rather relative, subjective and interactive, constructed and performed within contextually embedded social interactions. We seek to explore this 'lived expertise' in authentic work contexts, emphasizing the perspectives of professionals in different roles in the translation sector. This contribution focuses on how actors in translation production networks – both individuals and agencies/departments – construct and communicate their expertise in response to rapid technological and socio-economic developments. We examine what they perceive necessary to successfully navigate current and future translation activities, the foundations of these perceptions and how they manifest in doings and sayings. Furthermore, we explore where tensions and conflicts arise and how they are managed. We collected extensive data in our multi-case ethnographic study, including participant observations, interviews and document analysis in four settings: three translation agencies and a translation department in a public institution. We also conducted focus groups with translation agency CEOs and (freelance) translators. Our qualitative in-depth data analysis enables us to gain nuanced insights into the individual cases and to identify overarching themes and patterns. Based on this analysis, we aim to model translation expertise as perceived by working professionals in various roles (translators, project managers, CEOs), addressing the organizational, group and individual levels. Our participants emphasize the importance of navigating complexity in their work practices, the different roles, services and technical skills required as well as social-communicative and work-organizational aspects. They strive to remain relevant and adapt to rapidly changing societal, technological and economic circumstances, balancing adaptability with specialization. Their communicative efforts in marketing, relationship-building and societal engagement focus on demonstrating their added value over AI, thereby securing and shaping their future.

Keywords

translation expertise, workplace research, social construction

Transforming roles in translation: Human actors in the era of machine translation

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Dr Eun-Kyoung Choi

Eun-Kyoung Choi is a lecturer with a background in English Translation, educated and trained at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Korea. Her research interests focus primarily on translators and the sociology of translation, particularly the English translation of Korean literature and its dissemination. Her MA thesis explored the translation of culture-specific references in Korean novels. She holds a PhD from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, where her dissertation examined the Actor-Networks involved in the English translation of Korean literature.

Abstract

This study investigates the evolving roles of human actors within the context of modern language technology, focusing on the comparison between traditional human translation processes and machine translation post-editing (MTPE). By integrating Actor-Network Theory (ANT) and Practice Theory, this type of research can provide a comprehensive analysis of the dynamic interplay between human actors and technological systems in the language industry. ANT offers a framework to understand the complex networks of relationships between human and non-human entities, emphasizing mutual shaping interactions. Practice Theory focuses on the routinized behaviors and practices of individuals, highlighting their evolution over time within specific contexts. The study presented here draws on qualitative data collected through interviews with human actors in the language industry in South Korea, including translators and project managers, and observational studies within translation and localization companies. By examining workflows and practices in both human translation and MTPE, this research identifies key shifts in the roles and responsibilities of human actors. It explores how human actors navigate and negotiate their positions within increasingly automated environments, and how their expertise and practices are redefined by the integration of machine translation technologies. Preliminary findings suggest that while both traditional human translation processes and MTPE are human-centered, the MTPE model significantly alters the roles of human actors. Translators transition from being sole creators of content to collaborative editors working alongside machines, necessitating new skills and altering professional identities. The implications of this research are multifaceted. It provides insights into socio-technical transformations within the language industry, highlighting the necessity for continuous professional development and adaptation to new technologies. Furthermore, it underscores the importance of designing language technologies that complement rather than replace human expertise. This study ultimately contributes to a deeper understanding of the future trajectory of the translation profession in an era of rapid technological advancement.

Keywords

human actors in Machine Translation, Actor-Network Theory, Practice Theory

Changes, shortage, catastrophes: Risks beyond linguistic aspects in modern translator education

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Dr. Carmen Canfora

Carmen Canfora holds a PhD in translation studies from Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in Germersheim, Germany, and has been a freelance translator for over 20 years. She has been a lecturer and researcher at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz since 2008. Her main teaching and research interests are risk management, quality management, translation process research and translator education.

Associate Prof. Jean Nitzke

Jean Nitzke has been associate professor for translation with a focus on translation technology at the University of Agder, Norway, since 2021. Before, she was a lecturer and researcher in Germany, mainly at the faculty for translation studies, linguistics, and cultural studies in Germersheim, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. Her main teaching and research interests are post-editing machine translation, translation technologies, domain-specific translation, and cognitive translation studies.

Abstract

Automatization processes and digitalisation have played a huge role in professional translation in the last decade, especially machine translation (MT) and post-editing (PE). Consequently, professional translators constantly have to keep up to date, and potential roles for translators and translation students are becoming increasingly diverse. In the last few years, the focus in much research has moved from merely looking at the MTPE process and the quality of the final product to a broader picture including ethical questions, risks, and their implications for higher education. We have previously discussed how the acknowledgment of translation risks should be integrated into translator education (Nitzke et al. 2019, 2024). In this presentation, we want to take a broader look at the risks associated with the automatization of translation processes. We will draw on the results of the Allianz Risk Barometer (2024), an annual report on the most threatening corporate risks, with over 3,000 respondents from 92 countries and 24 industry sectors. The following were voted as the most pressing risks: cyber incidents; business interruptions; natural catastrophes; changes in legislation and regulation; macroeconomic developments; fire and explosions; climate change; political risks and violence; market development; and shortage of skilled workforce. First, we will assess which of the top 10 risks are relevant for the translation industry, especially when using Neural Machine Translation systems and Large Language Models. We will explore how these should be integrated in translator education to develop modern translator skills and competencies for different roles, and to accommodate the complexity of current translation processes. Allianz Risk Barometer. 2024. https://commercial.allianz.com/news-and-insights/reports/allianz-risk-barometer.html Nitzke, J., Hansen-Schirra, S., & Canfora, C. (2019). Risk management and post-editing competence. The Journal of Specialised Translation, 31, 239–259. Nitzke, J., Canfora, C., Hansen-Schirra, S., & Kapnas, D. (2024). Decisions in projects using machine translation and post-editing – an interview study. The Journal of Specialised Translation, 41, 127–148.

Keywords

Translator education, Translation risks, AI Literacy

Meeting the challenge of blended roles: Translator-project manager

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Dr. Dalia Mankauskienė

Dr. Dalia Mankauskienė holds a position of Associate Professor in Translation and Interpreting Studies at Vilnius University. She successfully defended her PhD thesis in 2018 and her ongoing research interests include interpreting studies, translation project management, and technology. Dr. Mankauskienė played a pivotal role in the development of the Lithuanian iteration of ORCIT (Online Resources for Conference Interpreter Training), led by the University of Leeds. Presently, she is actively engaged in the AMIF-funded project, MHealth4All, led by the University of Amsterdam. EST member since January 2019.

Abstract

Translation is in motion and the boundaries in Translation Studies are shifting (Dam, Broger, & Zethsen, 2018). This presentation focuses on aspects of one of these shifts – the merging of the roles of 'translator' and 'project manager', the competencies required for this combination, and how it impacts educational curricula. The discussion draws on the data from two main sources: 1. A survey of 43 translation project managers focusing on the assessment of Translation Project Management (TPM) competencies using a revised version of Plaza-Lara's (2022) TPM model (conducted in April 2022). This study identified competencies required for TPM success and determined their optimal acquisition time. The data show that skills attainable after a few months or training correspond closely with the academic syllabi of universities that have already included TPM in their curriculum and could easily be attained by others. 2. A survey of translators-project managers in traditional translation agencies conducted in spring 2025. The main goal of this survey was to ascertain the competencies that are needed for this blended role and how they can be acquired. This study also allows for a comparison with Masiliūnienė's (2023) findings, who surveyed translators-project managers in an international decentralized network of translators, providing a broader understanding of the competencies required in different translation environments. The results of these studies highlight the need for educational curricula to align with current job market demands, ensuring graduates are better prepared for diverse career opportunities. Dam, H. V., Nisbeth Brøgger, M., & Zethsen, K. K. (Eds.). 2018. Moving boundaries in translation studies. Routledge. Masiliūnienė, A. (2023). Vertėjas-projektų vadovas decentralizuotame vertėjų tinkle: kompetencijų modelis. MA thesis, Vilnius University. Plaza-Lara, C. (2022). Competencies of translation project managers from the academic perspective: Analysis of EMT programmes. The Interpreter and Translator Trainer, 16(2), 203–223.

Keywords

translation project management, translator-project manager, competencies

‘Translation’ category in the light of diversifying translator roles – an empirical study of prototypes

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Prof. Natasa Pavlovic

Nataša Pavlović is a Professor at the University of Zagreb, Croatia, where she teaches translation theory and practice. Her research interests include translator education, translation process research, translation technology, and research methodology. She has been co-editor of The Interpreter and Translator Trainer since 2020. She is a member of Thematic Network on Empirical and Experimental Research in Translation (TREC) and COST action Language in the Human-Machine Era (LITHME). She is the author of two Croatian language books on translation theory and research.

Prof. Mateusz-Milan Stanojevic

Mateusz-Milan Stanojević is a Professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia, where he teaches courses in general and cognitive linguistics. His current research interests include conceptual and discourse metaphor as well as cognitive grammar of Slavic languages and English. He has also published on English as a Lingua Franca, English language teaching, translation and online teaching skills. He is the author of three books in Croatian, and the (co-)editor of a number of volumes (including one published by John Benjamins). He currently serves as president of the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association.

Dr. Goranka Antunovic

Goranka Antunović is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia and the Head of its Scandinavian Studies Section. She teaches courses in Swedish linguistics and in translation theory and practice. Her research interests are split between contrastive Swedish – Croatian linguistics and topics in Translation Studies (translation norms, translation process, translator training).

Abstract

Advances in technology and proliferation of digital/multimedia content have had a major impact on the work of translators in recent decades. Translators interact with technology more closely than ever in tasks such as post-editing, web localization, subtitling or terminology management. On the other hand, full or partial automation of some language tasks has driven translators to turn to areas that are more "automation-resistant" (Pym & Torres-Simon, 2021), engaging in new forms of language mediation, such as transediting, transcreation, plain language adaptation or audio description. This expansion of the activities that translators perform and language-mediated formats that audiences engage with might have an impact on our very understanding of what ‘translation’ is (ibid.). The notion of the ‘prototype’ (e.g., Rosch, 1978) has been successfully applied to the concept of ‘translation’, both in terms of its subcategories and its position in relation to similar categories, most prominently by Halverson (e.g., 2000). More than two decades after the latter's seminal work, the present study aims to revisit the extent to which specific types of language mediation are perceived to belong to the ‘translation’ category. Illustrative examples were created, featuring prominent aspects of each concept, to represent interlingual human and machine translation, interlingual interpreting, sign language interpreting, intralingual transfer, localization, subtitling, closed captioning, transediting, transcreation, and audio description. Professional translators and translation students were asked to rate each example on a seven-point Likert scale, stating to what extent they think it is ‘translation’. In this way, data were collected about the above-mentioned "translation-like activities" (Zethsen, 2007) and their perceived relation to the prototype. These results will advance our understanding of the ‘translation’ category as conceptualized at a time of its increasingly fluid manifestations in the profession. Halverson, S.

(2000). Prototype effects in the ‘translation’ category. In A. Chesterman, N. Gallardo San Salvador, & Y. Gambier (Eds.). Translation in Context (pp. 3–16). John Benjamins. Pym, A., & Torres-Simón, E. (2021). Is automation changing the translation profession? International Journal of the Sociology of Language, 279, 39–57. Rosch, E. (1978). Principles of Categorization. In E. Rosch, & B. Lloyd (Eds). Cognition and Categorization (pp. 27–48). Lawrence Erlbaum. Zethsen, K. K. (2007). Beyond Translation Proper – Extending the Field of Translation Studies. Traduction, terminologie, rédaction, 20(1), 281–308.

Keywords

translation conceptualization, translator role diversification, prototype theory

Session 10 | 13:30-15:00

LT.01 | Panel 8 | Changing Models of Translation Cognition and the Challenge of AI

Chairs: Félix do Carmo, Fábio Alves, Anna Pakes

Emerging models of translation as a cognitive activity: a retrospective and prospective account in the age of artificial intelligence

Prof Amparo Hurtado Albir[1], Prof Fabio Alves[2]
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Prof Amparo Hurtado Albir

AMPARO HURTADO ALBIR (ORCID: 0000-0002-4362-7183) holds a PhD in Translation Studies from the ESIT of the Université Paris III. She is a French-Spanish translator and a Chair Professor of translation and interpreting at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She has been the principal investigator of the PACTE research group since its creation in 1997. She has supervised 10 funded research projects on the didactics of translation and on translation competence and its acquisition, levels and evaluation; she was also the principal investigator of the project that led to the creation of the TREC Network in 2011. She is the author of over 150 publications about translation theory, the didactics of translation, and translation competence, including La notion de fidélité en traduction (1990); Enseñar a traducir (1999); Traducción y Traductología (2001; 2022, 13th ed.); Aprender a traducir del francés al español. (2015); Researching Translation Competence by PACTE Group (ed., 2017); Translation as a Cognitive Activity (forthcoming), with F. Alves.

Prof Fabio Alves

FABIO ALVES (ORCID: 0000-0003-1089-4864) holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics with a focus on translation process research from the Ruhr-Universität Bochum in Germany. He is a Full Professor of Translation Studies at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) and a Senior Research Fellow of the Brazilian National Research Council (CNPq). He has published widely about translation process research and expertise in translation in journals such as Target, Meta, Across Languages and Cultures, and in book series by John Benjamins, Routledge and Springer. He serves on the editorial board of Target and Translation, Cognition & Behavior.

Abstract

Models of the translation process and of translation competence and its acquistion have a long history in the study of translation as a cognitive activity. First empirically oriented models drew basically on data elicited through think-aloud protocols while later models were built on empirical data elicited through a multi-method approach (Alves and Hurtado Albir, 2017). In this paper, we review models of the translation process and of translation competence and its acquisition to present their evolution and show how empirical-experimental research of translation as a cognitive activity has evolved into five clearly defined phases: (1) predominant use of think-aloud protocols, (2) introduction of the triangulation paradigm, (3) consolidation of a multi-methodological paradigm, (4) focus on interdisciplinarity and convergence of tools, (5) enhanced interdisciplinarity and focus on human-computer interaction (Alves and Hurtado Albir, forthcoming). By revisiting this evolution, we aim to provide an overarching account for cognitive translation and interpreting studies (CTIS) and inquire into how existing models can be expanded to include emerging questions resulting from challenges imposed by recent developments in artificial intelligence which impact human-computer interaction as well as human cognition. Therefore, new emerging models of the translation process have to account for situated, distributed and embedded aspects (Alves and Jakobsen, 2021) and the focus and the analytic framework of cognitive-oriented research in translation has to be expanded to incorporate the challenges brought about by new technologies and their impact on translation task execution. From a theoretical and methodological perspective, we argue that these changes require new investigations and new models of the translation process and of translation competence and its acquisition, and we point to directions that such research may take.

Keywords

cognitive models of translation, human-computer interaction in translation, impact of artificial intelligence on translation task execution

The Extended Cognitive Features of ChatGPT: an Analysis of Meta-probability and Translation Entropy

Prof. Yaling Guo
Hebei Normal University, Shijiazhuang, China

Prof. Yaling Guo

Yaling Guo, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at the School of Foreign Studies, Hebei Normal University. Her research focuses on Translation Process Research and Embodied Cognitive Translation. She has authored textbooks on English-Chinese interpreting and contributed articles to various journals, including Frontiers in Psychology and notable Chinese publications like 外语教学与研究 (Foreign Language Teaching and Research), 外国语 (Foreign Languages), and 外语电化教学 (Computer-Assisted Foreign Language Education).

Abstract

The emergence of ChatGPT has great impact on translation by extending translators' cognition with translations based on probability calculation of source text and target text data. How does ChatGPT extends human cognition with probability computation is largely under-explored. How does the artificial intelligent tool calculate the probability of probability (meta-probability) in translations from Chinese to English? To investigate the extended cognitive features of ChatGPT, we designed a 2 (ChatGPT VS human) X 2 (objective probability VS subjective probability) experiment to answer the following questions: (1) Does ChatGPT translate texts involving probability differently from human? (2) What are the differences? The materials consisted of 30 texts involving objective probability and 30 texts involving subjective probability from CCL Chinese corpus. ChatGPT 4.0 were prompted to translate the 60 texts at an interval of an hour and 40 translations of each text were collected. Forty MTI students were required to translate the 60 texts in class. In a comparative analysis of translations by ChatGPT and human , we used translation entropy and meta-probability as indicators and mental probability as baseline. The results revealed that （1） the translation entropy of ChatGPT was significantly lower than that of human; （2） ChatGPT and human translate partially consistently with mental probability, with the meta-probability of 47%-60% consistent with mental probability and the meta-probability above 67% inconsistent with mental probability;（3） the consistency of ChatGPT to mental probability was significantly lower than that of human in translating subjective probability. The results suggest that (1) ChatGPT centralizes probability and decreases differences between human; (2) ChatGPT is not adept in processing high probability and tends to lower probability as a whole ; (3) ChatGPT extends computational cognition of human but not heuristic cognition. The study may suggest large language models like ChatGPT have computational extended cognition with the limitation of centralizing and lowering probability.

Keywords

extended cognitive features, ChatGPT, meta-probability of translation

Unraveling the Black Box: A TAP Study on Human-AI Collaboration in Cross-Cultural Translation

Prof. Sanjun Sun
Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing, China

Prof. Sanjun Sun

Sanjun Sun is a Professor of Translation Studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University. He received his Ph.D. in Translation Studies from Kent State University in 2012. He serves as the editor of the Chinese journal Fan Yi Jie (Translation Horizons) and is affiliated with the MC2 Lab at the University of Bologna. Dr. Sun is also a member of TREC and serves on the advisory board of Across Languages and Cultures. His research focuses on Cognitive Translation and Interpreting Studies, empirical research methods, and translation technology.

Abstract

As artificial intelligence reshapes the landscape of translation, understanding the cognitive processes involved in human-AI collaboration becomes crucial. This study examines the intricate interplay between human translators and ChatGPT in handling cross-cultural translation challenges. Employing a mixed-methods approach, we conducted a think-aloud protocol (TAP) experiment with 40 graduate students in translation studies, focusing on the post-editing of ChatGPT translations for 30 carefully selected sentences rich in cultural nuances. Our research design integrates TAP recordings, keystroke logging, screen recording, and retrospective reports to provide a comprehensive view of the translation process. By analyzing these data sources, we aim to uncover the decision-making processes, problem-solving strategies, and cognitive efforts involved in refining AI-generated translations. Preliminary findings suggest that while ChatGPT excels in handling certain linguistic structures and idiomatic expressions, human intervention remains critical for navigating complex cultural allusions, contemporary cultural elements, and nuanced rhetorical features. The study reveals patterns in how translators approach different types of translation problems, their interactions with the AI system, and the cognitive load associated with various post-editing tasks. This research contributes to our understanding of translation cognition in the AI era, shedding light on how traditional models of translation process research may need to evolve. By elucidating the strengths and limitations of AI in cross-cultural translation, we provide insights for optimizing human-AI collaboration in professional translation practice and informing translation pedagogy in the age of artificial intelligence.

Keywords

Translation cognition, Human-AI collaboration, Think-aloud protocols

Reshaping Translation Cognition: Interdisciplinary Insights from Extended Mind Theory and AI

Prof. Isabella Cultrera
University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada

Prof. Isabella Cultrera

After obtaining her BA in Translation from IULM University of Milan (Italy) and her MA in Translation Studies from Universidad Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona (Spain), where she graduated with a thesis on the Philosophy of Translation, in 2022 Isabella Cultrera began her doctorate program at the University of Ottawa (Canada), where she also works as a Part-time Professor at the Faculty of Arts. Her many research interests include philosophy, ethics, and translation, and she is currently developing her PhD thesis under the supervision of Prof. Salah Basalamah. Through reflections on the nature of cognition and translation from a cognitive phenomenological stance, her interdisciplinary work engages in philosophical discussions about the nature of cognition in the context of translation and AI, by reflecting on how AI challenges traditional notions of agency, creativity, and expertise in translation within the backdrop of HCI, with the goal of challenging and expanding existing models of cognition, translation, interpreting, and gen-AI, fostering innovative research and practice in Translation Studies and beyond.

Abstract

This paper explores the profound implications of the extended mind theory for translation in the context of rapidly advancing artificial intelligence (AI). Starting from Douglas Robinson's "feeling extended" notion, the Extended Mind Theory is used to offer a compelling framework for examining the interplay between human and machine cognition in translation in a very contemporary debate. Adopting EMT and 4EA perspectives in translation practice can aid in exploring how the use of AI is affecting translation practice and theory, while also analyzing the affective dimensions of translation within the backdrop of AI, to try and answer questions such as "how do AI tools become part of a translator's cognitive process?" and "what does it mean to translate when part of the process is offloaded to machines?". By investigating the experiential aspects of "extended translation" and the role of generative AI tools in augmenting translators' cognitive processes, this approach will provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics at play in human-AI collaboration in translation practice. By advocating for interdisciplinary approaches in translation cognition, this author encourages collaboration between cognitive science, philosophy of mind, computer science, and translation studies to develop new models of translation cognition by proposing research projects that integrate methodologies from multiple disciplines to study the cognitive processes in translation. Moreover, this research touches upon the ethical issues surrounding AI and HCI in translation, proposing ethical guidelines for the use of AI in professional translation settings while engaging with philosophical reflections on cognitive boundaries, reshaping our understanding of individual agency and responsibility in translation, and exploring the broader implications for the philosophy of mind and cognition in an AI-enhanced era.

Keywords

extended mind, human-AI collaboration, translation cognition

LT.06 | General panel | Audiovisual Translation Issues and Workplace

Chair: Kristijan Nikolić

Behind the scenes at a Swiss bilingual TV channel: A workplace study of subtitling practices and collaboration

Dr Sevita Caseres, Ms Tinka Stössel, Prof. Alexander Künzli
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Dr Sevita Caseres

Sevita Caseres is a Research Associate at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting of the University of Geneva, where she specializes in research on French and German subtitling. Sevita completed a PhD at University College Cork, focusing on processes and collaboration in two French subtitling production contexts. Her research interests include subtitling practices and processes, subtitler working conditions and workplaces, as well as collaboration in translation. Additionally, she is an Editorial Assistant for the translation studies journal Parallèles.

Ms Tinka Stössel

Tinka Stössel is a Research Assistant and PhD student at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting of the University of Geneva, as well as Editorial Assistant for the translation studies journal Parallèles. Her dissertation is an action research project aiming to provide suggestions for a more sustainable system of subtitling in the streaming industry, and she recently wrote a book chapter on audiovisual translation for streaming platforms. She has an MA in cultural and cognitive linguistics and was most recently involved in the Subtitling Ecosystem project, which sought to analyze the subtitling process at a bilingual Swiss TV channel.

Prof. Alexander Künzli

Alexander Künzli is Professor of Translation Studies at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting of the University of Geneva. He holds an MA in translation and psychology from the University of Geneva and a PhD in French Linguistics from Stockholm University. His main research interests are audiovisual translation and translation quality assurance. He is Editor-in-Chief of the translation studies journal Parallèles and Co-editor of the book series Audiovisual Translation Studies published by Frank & Timme. Among his most recent publications are a handbook on audiovisual translation as well as articles on the workplace psychology aspects of interlingual subtitling.

Abstract

This presentation explores German and French intralingual subtitling practices for TV distribution in Switzerland by examining the work of six in-house subtitlers and their team manager. These findings are part of the project “The subtitling ecosystem: A workplace study of roles, interactions, and resources”, conducted in collaboration with a bilingual Swiss TV channel. The project’s primary goal is to map the subtitlers’ processes, roles, and interactions in creating subtitles for news broadcasts. A secondary phase of the project aims to identify areas to optimise the workflow and suggest guidelines for increased efficiency and ergonomics. Employing a research methodology rarely used in translation studies, particularly in audiovisual translation, this workplace study provides an empirical understanding of the processes and collaboration in subtitling within a bilingual context. The subtitling team consists of three German-speaking and three French-speaking subtitlers, whose perspectives form the core of this research. The data collection involved each subtitler participating in an online questionnaire, direct non-participant observation of one to three workdays, and a retrospective interview for data triangulation. Additionally, the team manager’s views were considered through the same questionnaire and an interview. The study reveals significant insights into their work practices, communication habits, and the challenges posed by tools and processes. This presentation shares our findings on the daily production of subtitles. It analyses the subtitlers’ roles through their tasks and collaboration with various colleagues, including journalists and producers, within this bilingual work environment. It also highlights the differences between the language teams in terms of dynamics, workload, and workflow due to distinct linguistic and broadcasting needs. By shifting away from a product-oriented

perspective, this study emphasises processes and human actors. It also underlines the collaborative efforts between academia and industry, thereby promoting mutual learning and giving voice to practitioners, whose work and perspectives are frequently overlooked.

Keywords

workplace studies, subtitling processes, bilingual TV subtitling

On beavers, banana skins and biting the bullet: How metaphors are rendered in audiovisual translation

Dr Jan Pedersen
Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

Dr Jan Pedersen

Associate Professor Jan Pedersen received his Ph.D. from Stockholm University in 2007. His dissertation is a comparative study of subtitling norms, entitled Scandinavian Subtitles. He is co-editor of Benjamins Translation Library and Journal of Audiovisual Translation, which he co-founded. He is a frequent presenter at international conferences, and his publications include the 2011 monograph Subtitling Norms for Television, and several articles on subtitling, translation and linguistics. His forthcoming monograph on translating metaphors has been commissioned by BTL. He is the former Director of The Institute of Interpreting and Translation Studies at Stockholm University, where he still teaches and researches audiovisual translation. He also worked as a television subtitler for many years.

Abstract

Metaphors and other figures of speech constitute one of the classic translation problems, even the most important one, according to Newmark (1988:84). In fact, it has been studied to the degree that even a special subfield or theory for metaphor in translation has been suggested, as discussed and rejected by Shuttleworth (2017: 62). Metaphor remains a conspicuously unresearched translation problem in audiovisual translation (AVT), however. Only a few case studies of subtitled metaphors have been carried out to date, and there is only one in dubbing. This absence of studies is surprising, considering the extra layers of complexity that polysemiotic texts (Gottlieb 2001: 15) represent. The co-presence of the source text dialogue in subtitling, and the presence of multiple semiotic channels in all forms of AVT, including dubbing, means that the task of rendering metaphors becomes very challenging indeed. This is particularly true for revitalized metaphors (Van den Broeck 1981: 76), i.e. metaphors in which the vehicle and topic is foregrounded simultaneously. This gets even more complex when the foregrounding involves other semiotic channels, particularly the visual ones (Forceville 2006) to create visualized metaphors, in which the vehicle of a metaphor is shown or illustrated on-screen. In cases where the source text metaphor is also monocultural, i.e. not known in the target culture, insoluble translation problems may actually occur (Pedersen 2015), if semiotic cohesion (Díaz Cintas & Remael 2021) is to be maintained. This monograph-scale study investigates how dubbers and subtitlers handle these complexities. It scrutinizes metaphors and their translations in Yes, Prime Minister (Jay & Lynn 1986–1988), The Great British Bake Off (Beattie 2010–) and SpongeBob SquarePants (Hillenburg & Osborne 2004; Hill 2020) to find out how subbers and dubbers bite the metaphorical bullet to render e.g. metaphorical beavers without slipping on metaphorical banana skins.

Keywords

Metaphors, Subtitling, Dubbing

“Dialogue must never be censored”: assessing compliance with streaming platforms’ guidelines in dubbing and subtitling

Prof Chiara Bucaria, Dr Anna Bevilacqua
University of Bologna, Forlì, Italy

Prof Chiara Bucaria

Chiara Bucaria is Associate Professor of English Language and Translation at the University of Bologna’s Department of Interpretation and Translation. She has published extensively in the fields of dubbing and subtitling, media paratexts, humor studies, and translation and manipulation. She has authored the volume Dark Humour as a Culture-Specific Phenomenon: A Study in Audiovisual Translation (2009) and co-edited Between Text and Image. Updating Research in Screen Translation (2008), Non-Professional Interpreting and Translation in the Media (2013) and Taboo Comedy. Television and Controversial Humour (2016). She is the co-founder of The Taboo Conference Series.

Dr Anna Bevilacqua

Anna Bevilacqua is a professional subtitler and videogame translator from English and French into Italian and a future PhD student in Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies at the University of Bologna’s Department of Interpretation and Translation. After graduating in Specialized Translation in 2021, she was granted a research scholarship for the European project EYLBID (Empowering Young Language Brokers for Inclusion in Diversity). Her research interests include subtitling norms of streaming guidelines and fansubbing practices; subtitles for the d/Deaf and hard of hearing, especially sound, music and paralanguage indications; inclusive language in translation and videogame localization also related to the perception of the public.

Abstract

The negotiation of taboo content and language in the cross-cultural localization of audiovisual products has been a prolific area of inquiry in the discipline of Audiovisual Translation, with scholars seeking to illustrate the ways in which taboos are often manipulated when subtitled or dubbed into other languages (e.g., Díaz-Cintas & Remael, 2007; Díaz-Cintas, 2012; Pavesi & Malinverno, 2000; Alsharhan, 2020; Bruti & Vignozzi, 2024). Given the considerable amount of this kind of content that has been – and continues to be – made available to viewers worldwide (Azzaro 2018), this phenomenon is still of particular interest, especially after the advent of global streaming platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, which allegedly subscribe to a “no censorship policy” in the cross-cultural adaptation of their content. The aim of this proposed paper is to assess whether or not – or to what extent – streaming platforms actually comply with their own dubbing and subtitling guidelines stating, for example, that “Dialogue must never be censored. Expletives should be rendered as faithfully as possible” (Netflix guidelines). The study will include a selected sample of English-language original productions from both Netflix and Amazon Prime Video marked as 18+ (suitable for viewers 18 and over), which is presumably more likely to contain examples of taboo language and content, such as swearing and mentions of sex, death, disability, extreme violence, racism, and homo/transphobia. A close, contrastive analysis of the original English dialogue and its Italian subtitled and dubbed versions will be performed and checked against each platform’s respective set of guidelines for the localization of taboo language and content. The analysis is expected to provide valuable insights into aspects of audiovisual localization such as the translators’ self-censorship and issues concerning revision and quality control in the localization work flow.

Keywords

audiovisual translation , taboo, localization

Fleabag and its Postfeminist Humour Translated into Italian

Prof. Margherita Dore
Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy

Prof. Margherita Dore

Margherita Dore is Associate Professor at Sapienza - University of Rome, Italy. She is the author of Humour in Audiovisual Translation. Theories and Applications (Routledge, 2019, translated in Chinese and published by WUP, 2023). Her main research interests are in Humour Studies and Audiovisual Translation. She (co)edited several essay collections and special issues on these topics. She also (co)authored more than 30 papers on literary translation, AVT and translated humour in a range of contexts, including stand-up comedy.

Abstract

British comedian Phoebe Waller-Bridge has garnered widespread recognition for her candid, often sexually explicit humour. Her critically acclaimed comedy-drama series Fleabag is particularly notable for its innovative writing, compelling performances, and distinctive style. Adapted from Waller-Bridge's 2013 one-woman stage play of the same name (first performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where it was awarded a Fringe First Award) the series is distinguished by its frequent breaking of the fourth wall, as the protagonist directly addresses the audience through internal monologues and commentary. This narrative device evokes the immediacy of live theatre, thereby enhancing the show's originality. Given these characteristics, Fleabag presents an especially fertile ground for analysis, both in its original English version and in translation. Accordingly, this study pursues a twofold objective. First, it seeks to demonstrate how Fleabag functions as an exemplar of "postfeminist humour," defined as humour that critiques the shortcomings of both genders with equal incisiveness (Shifman & Lemish, 2010). Second, through a comparative analysis of the original English version and the Italian dubbed and subtitled adaptations across both seasons, this research aims to assess whether—and to what extent—each mode of audiovisual translation (AVT) influences the transmission of Waller-Bridge's postfeminist humour. This investigation builds upon Dore's (2023) work, which examined the transmedial adaptations of Fleabag's first season and its Italian dubbing.

Keywords

Postfeminist humour, Fleabag, AVT

Ideological Manipulation of Subtitles in Portugal during the Dictatorship

Dr Katrin Pieper
Nova University, Lisbon, Portugal. Centre for English, Translation and Anglo-Portuguese Studies (CETAPS), Lisbon, Portugal

Dr Katrin Pieper

Katrin Pieper studied Translation at Leipzig University (Germany) and specialised in audiovisual translation. After graduating, she started working as a subtitler of operas, documentaries and films, before continuing her career managing subtitling and voice-over projects for MTV Networks, among others, in Berlin. In 2011, she moved to Portugal, where she worked as a freelance subtitler, translator and German teacher at Coimbra University. Her research interests include censorship and manipulation in audiovisual translation, as well as multimodal translation. She is a member of the Centre for English, Translation and Anglo-Portuguese Studies (CETAPS), the European Association for Studies in Screen Translation (ESIST) and the History and Translation Network (HTN). In 2024, she finished her PhD thesis at Coimbra University on ideological manipulation in subtitling during the dictatorship in Portugal and is currently teaching translation studies at the Nova University in Lisboa.

Abstract

During the Estado Novo (1933-1974), under dictator António de Oliveira Salazar, all foreign films had to be submitted to the state censorship board. Many films were banned, others mutilated by cutting scenes and by suppressing and manipulating subtitles. What reached the audience, in many cases, was an ideologically cleansed version of the original. The censorship documents in the National Archive in Lisbon contain the correspondence between distributors and censors, the orders to cut certain scenes and to approve or reject a film, as well as the subtitles typed on paper. Comparing these subtitle lists with the original film not only offers an insight into the translator´s work and decisions, but also reveals if and how deeply the message of a film was altered by translation. This presentation first takes a brief look into the analysis of thirteen English-language films, which starts from the context (metalevel), works its way through the censorship processes (macrolevel), takes into account the instructions of the censors (mesolevel) and finally identifies even small changes at the linguistic level (microlevel). The focus then moves to the results of this analysis, which provide not only findings on the censorship measures and the extent to which every film was altered by translation, but also lead to conclusions about how the official ideology and directives of the Estado Novo were put into practice, revealing the ideological aspects that were censored more, or less, intensively.

Keywords

Subtitling, Manipulation, Ideology

LT.07 | General panel | Translation, Migration and Crises

Chair: Patrick Cadwell

Translation and the access to information in Finland: the case of recent immigrants from Ukraine and Russia

Dr Juha Lång[1], Dr Arseniy Svynarenko[2]
[1]University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland. [2]Finnish Youth Research Society, Helsinki, Finland

Dr Juha Lång

Juha Lång is a post-doctoral researcher currently working in the project Democratic Epistemic Capacities in the Age of Algorithms (DECA) where he examines how members of linguistic minorities use language technology in overcoming language barriers in everyday information retrieval. His other research interests include cognitive translation research and translation in academic research context. In his doctoral dissertation, completed in 2023, he studied the reception of audiovisual translation with eye tracking methodology.

Dr Arseniy Svynarenko

Arseniy Svynarenko is a post-doctoral researcher currently working in the project Democratic Epistemic Capacities in the Age of Algorithms (DECA) where he studies epistemic rights and capabilities of immigrants from Ukraine and Russia, their identities and linguistic conversion.

Abstract

The right to trustworthy information is one of the major epistemic rights of a citizen in a democratic society (Nieminen, 2024), and the intensification of international migration adds urgency to the question of epistemic rights of displaced people. In Finland, governmental agencies, municipalities, and public service providers offer information principally in the two official languages of Finland, Finnish and Swedish, as well as in most cases also in English. Additionally, public service providers have an obligation to offer customers either direct service or speech interpretation in a language they understand, for example when a customer has an appointment with a migration or welfare officer, or they are questioned by the police. Nevertheless, direct access to information (through web pages, published materials, correspondence) often requires language skills that not all migrants possess, and the rapid increase in the number of refugees in Finland since 2022 has also unveiled shortcomings in interpreting services. DECA project (Democratic Epistemic Capacities in the Age of Algorithms) examines the impact of algorithms, including the ones that are working behind our social media feeds to choose content for us or the ones converting information from one language to another when using machine translation, on the creation, access and dissemination of information in democratic societies. As part of this cross-disciplinary research consortium, we concentrate on members of linguistic minorities, more specifically recent migrants and refugees, as consumers of information. We examine, through experimental data and interviews with people who have moved to Finland from Ukraine or Russia in the recent years, the experiences these people have with translation services and translators, and the ways they use translation technology to overcome language barriers in their everyday life. We have interviewed people who have moved to Finland from Ukraine or Russia in recent years about their experiences with translation services and translators, as well as about their information needs and sources, and the role of translation technology in their everyday life. Additionally, we have gathered experimental data with simulated information retrieval tasks, through which we are able to examine the search strategies of these individuals when they are trying to find information that is most likely not available in their first language. The joint analysis of these data sets highlights the issues migrants face in information availability while living in a foreign country. Furthermore, the data provides further empirical evidence on the capabilities of language technology as a tool for overcoming language barriers.

Keywords

epistemic rights, machine translation, immigrants

MTUX of Migrant Women: Insights from a Participatory Research Project

Mrs Ines Buchegger
Department of Translation Studies, University of Graz, Graz, Austria

Mrs Ines Buchegger

Ines Buchegger is a university assistant and PhD-researcher at the Department of Translation Studies at University of Graz since September 2021. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Transcultural Communication from the same institution as well as her Master of Arts in Translation Studies. Her research interest lies in non-professional users of AI-based translation. Under the guidance of Prof. Şebnem Bahadir-Berzig she is investigating how migrant women use translation apps to overcome language barriers. To do so, she is project lead in the participatory research project "DiMiTra" (Digitalisation, Migration, Translation), which is funded by the Department of Integration and the Department of Culture of the City of Graz. In addition to her research, Ines has gained valuable experience as a lecturer, helping undergraduate students grasp the theoretical and practical aspects of scientific work. She is currently preparing an article for 'Just. Journal of Language Rights & Minorities' to be published in 2026.

Abstract

In current research on machine translation (MT), non-professional users such as migrants have received only scattered attention. However, migrants with low language proficiency often rely on the use of various (translation) apps, which they can access via smartphones. These include not only traditional machine translation but also augmented reality (AR) features such as Google Lens and optical character recognition (OCR). Drawing on the participatory research project DiMiTra (Digitalization, Translation, Migration), which investigates the machine translation user experience (MTUX) of migrant women, this contribution examines the extent to which MT influences their everyday lives and the inequalities it (re)produces. The project engaged two groups of co-researchers, comprising nine women in total. The first group included five highly educated women speaking Chinese, Ukrainian, Polish, Bulgarian, and Persian. The second group consisted of four Persian-speaking women with little or no literacy and limited experience with MT technologies. Reflecting the principles of participatory (action) research (Freire 1970; Lewin 1946), the research questions and focus areas were not predefined. They evolved through an ongoing dialogue between my perspective as project leader and the knowledge and interests of the co-researchers. This dimension, along with the methodological challenges and advantages of participatory research, will also be discussed. With regard to the data that was collected in a collaborative process, the theoretical contribution goes beyond human-computer interaction (HCI) by replacing the notion of interaction with Barad's (2007) concept of "intra-action" and conceptualizing MT as a material-discursive practice. Thus, from an onto-epistemological perspective, it will be shown that meaning-making and, in the further, MT is a matter of matter, depending on which devices are available as well as personal resources like (digital) literacy, additional languages or educational background. Furthermore, it is evident that MT cannot completely fulfil the promise of enabling communication when it is used by people with low or no literacy in low-resource languages.

Keywords

Translation Apps, New Materialism, Participatory Research

The Multifaceted Roles of Fixers in Ukraine

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Dr. Lesia Ponomarenko

Lesia Ponomarenko is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Geneva's Faculty of Translation and Interpreting (FTI). Her research interests include journalistic translation, interpreting in conflict zones, multilingual news production, and identity construction. She studied translation and interpreting from German and English at the National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv (Ukraine) and completed the joint Master's program in German and European studies at the National University Kyiv-Mohyla-Academy facilitated jointly with Friedrich Schiller University of Jena. She was a teaching assistant at the Department for Translation and Interpreting at the National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv. In 2019, she defended her Ph.D. thesis, "Translating Identities in Multilingual News," at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. She also worked as a translator and interpreter with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and, later on, with the ICRC in Geneva.

Prof., Dr. Lucía Ruiz Rosendo

Lucía Ruiz Rosendo is an Associate Professor at the University of Geneva's Faculty of Translation and Interpreting (FTI), where she is the Director of the Interpreting Department. Her main line of research is interpreting in conflict zones and the history of interpreting, with a particular focus on armed conflicts. She has recently co-edited Interpreting Conflict. A Comparative Framework (Palgrave 2021), Interpreter Training in Conflict and Post-conflict Situations (Routledge 2022) and Towards an Atlas of the History of Interpreting. Voices from around the Word (John Benjamins, 2023). Her research has appeared in a range of volumes and journals in the fields of Translation, Peace and Conflict Studies and Social Military History. She is the coordinator of various courses for training interpreters in the field, such as the course run jointly between the FTI and the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross). She participates in a training project for interpreters who work in the context of the Centre of Competence for Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN). Lucía is also a conference interpreter working for the international organisations based in Switzerland and an active AIIC member.

Abstract

Local media and language professionals play indispensable roles as mediators, interpreters, assistants, and coordinators for international correspondents' teams when covering events from war-affected areas. Commonly referred to as fixers, they not only bridge the communication between international journalists and local sources but also undertake diverse responsibilities ranging from journalistic storytelling to translation, logistics, and security management, which is often associated with significant challenges. Focusing on the case of Ukraine, this presentation aims to examine the work environment of the professionals responsible for bridging the multilingual communication between international journalists and the local communities while covering the war in Ukraine, understand the skills and expertise required to perform these roles effectively and highlight the challenges they face. The research employs a qualitative approach, drawing on semi-structured interviews with fixers and interpreters in Ukraine and on an in-depth analysis of published testimonies of Ukrainian fixers. The findings show that fixers perform a multitude of tasks, such as translation, interpretation, logistical support, risk assessment, material drafting, and editing. Their local knowledge and networks help journalists obtain and verify information. As most fixers have journalistic backgrounds, they also gather information, suggest story angles, conduct interviews, and co-author the materials, and they consider themselves local producers. Although they have often been invisible to the target readers, their names tend to appear in credits more often, which also depends on the policy of a particular broadcaster. In terms of language, fixers in Ukraine often have to explain various cultural markers, colloquial language, and the constantly evolving local war-related slang to international correspondents' teams. This result shows that there are linguistic aspects that are still not fully controlled by automatic translation and speech-to-text recording tools that are also used in journalistic reporting.

Keywords

Interpreting in conflict zones, Journalistic translation, Fixers

LT.11 | General panel | Translator Training

Chair: Alejandro Bolaños

‘What I mean and what I say is two different things’: Lexicology Meets Translation in the Training of Literary Translators

Dr. Daria Protopopescu, Prof. dr. Nadina Vișan
University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania

Dr. Daria Protopopescu

DARIA PROTOPOPESCU is Associate Professor in the English Department, University of Bucharest. She holds a PhD degree in Philology, summa cum laude, from the same university. She is the author of the books Elements of English Terminology, 2013, Editura Universităţii Bucureşti, and co-author of New Perspectives on English Grammar, 2014, Editura Institutul European Iași, as well as numerous articles on literary translation studies. Her research interests include translation studies, terminology, syntax and the history of the English language. She is also a member of the research Centre for the Translation and Interpretation of the Contemporary Text (CTITC) at the University of Bucharest.

Prof. dr. Nadina Vișan

NADINA VIŞAN is Professor PhD in the English Department, University of Bucharest, Romania. Her main interests lie in the direction of historical linguistics and translation studies. She is the author of A Discourse Representation Theory Analysis of the Perfect in English and Romanian (București, Editura Universităţii București, 2006) and Elements of English Lexicology (București, Editura Universităţii București, 2015). She is also a member of the research Centre for the Translation and Interpretation of the Contemporary Text (CTITC) at the University of Bucharest.

Abstract

The present paper attempts to explore the benefits that a comparative method combined with a corpus stylistic approach might offer in the field of literary translation. The investigation we conduct is both qualitative and quantitative, as the examples discussed are culled from a multi-text unit consisting of a carefully selected sample from an English source text and its corresponding non-published versions by students in the literary translation MA programme at the University of Bucharest. We are thus looking at the way in which these students approached the lexical ambiguities in Roald Dahl’s well-known book, The BFG, in Romanian before and after being trained in lexicology. Since Roald Dahl’s text is famous for its coinages and the creative ways in which the author uses language in order to entertain, educate and empower young readers, the present paper addresses problems in the translation of creative language based on ambiguity in the Romanian versions of Roald Dahl’s text. In doing that we rely on a version of Wagner’s (2020) text-based, pragma-semantic model of ambiguity in children’s literature, tailored so as to suit a translation studies analysis. The set of “translatorial” strategies employed in this analysis is couched in Epstein’s framework (2012, 2019) on the translation of expressive language in children’s literature. Considering the challenges that the translation of expressive language poses, we expect that all Romanian target texts are bound to be struggling with recreating the same effects of the language foregrounded in the source text, prior to the students’ exposure to lexicology classes. Our expectations are that instances of unresolved ambiguity in wordplay are the most difficult to translate and that the students who were not exposed to lexicology classes will opt for deletion while those who were trained in lexicology will try replacement.

Keywords

ambiguity resolution, coinage, wordplay

The impact of the source text on translation trainees' post-editing performance

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Dr Márta Lesznyák

Márta Lesznyák graduated as a teacher of English and German languages from the University of Szeged, Hungary. She obtained her second MA degree in Education at the University of Sussex. She taught at the Department of Education at the University of Szeged for more than 10 years, where she also gained experience in translating texts on education, psychology and social sciences. She received her PhD in Applied Linguistics/Translation Studies from the University of Pécs, Hungary, in 2009. Currently she works as an Associate Professor at the Institute of English and American Studies, at the University of Szeged, where she is involved both in teacher training and translator training. In translator training she teaches courses in general translation, legal translation and intercultural communication. Her research interests include the methodology of teaching translation, cognitive aspects of the translation process, and the intercultural aspects of translation.

Dr Eszter Sermann

Eszter Sermann graduated as a teacher of Italian and Spanish languages from the University of Szeged, Hungary. Currently she works as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Szeged, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Italian Linguistics and Literature, and has been involved in translator and interpreter training for many years. She has been teaching Translation Studies, Terminology Theory and Practice, Translation and Interpreting. She is interested in translation-oriented terminology, translators' infomining competence, translation tools and terminology databases. She also works as a freelance translator of technical and literary texts, and she also contributed to the first English-Hungarian termbase on laser physics, the DictionEli.

Dr Mária Bakti

Mária Bakti graduated as a teacher of Geography and English form the University of Szeged, Hungary in 1998, and holds an MSc in Local Development from the same institution. In 2000, she obtained a licentiate diploma in English (B) - Hungarian (A) translation and interpreting. She received her PhD in Translation/Interpreting Studies from the Eötvös University, Budapest, in 2011. Currently she is an Associate Professor at the University of Szeged, where she is involved in interpreter and lower primary teacher training. Her research interests include the psycholinguistic aspects of interpreting, explicitation in interpreting, interpreting competence, and content and language integrated learning (CLIL).

Abstract

It is widely accepted that the genre, the domain and the difficulty of the source text can have a major impact on the translation process and the performance of the translator or the post-editor. Nevertheless, there is relatively little empirical research on the topic, particularly on how the relative importance of sub-competencies and background factors change in translation and post-editing performance as a function of the characteristics of the source text. The aim of this presentation is to discuss the findings of an investigation that focused on (1) how the source text influences translation trainees' post-editing performance; and (2) how the effect of subcompetencies on performance changes as a function of the source text. 42 translation trainees in an MA program formed the sample of the study, 25 of whom post-edited a legal text (part of a copyright agreement) and 17 post-edited an academic text (an abstract of a study on bilingualism). Performance criteria were time on task and error numbers. The results indicate that students post-editing the academic text, which was more familiar to them both in form and content, worked faster and produced a slightly better target text than the students who worked with the legal text. A more intriguing finding was that post-editing performance and background factors showed different correlation patterns in the two conditions. When working on the legal text (highly demanding both in terms of language

and domain knowledge) language competence, particularly reading competence had a decisive impact on performance as evidenced by regression analysis. In the bilingual text condition, however, domain knowledge and grammar competence showed significant correlations with performance indicators. Beliefs about translation played an equally important role in both conditions. In the interpretation of the findings, the complexity, the dynamicity and the adaptivity of post-editing competence will be highlighted.

Keywords

post-editing competence, efficiency of post-editing, source text as background factor

Time Constraints in Sight Translation in a Translation Training Context

Ms Marine Valverde
University of Mons, Mons, Belgium

Ms Marine Valverde

Marine Valverde is a doctoral researcher specialising in the field of sight translation (SiT). Her interest in SiT was sparked when she first explored this area through her Master's thesis. It examined the factors influencing SiT proficiency, such as time constraints, annotation methods, and gender. This initial research laid the groundwork for her current doctoral project at the University of Mons in Belgium, where she is further investigating the complexities of SiT. Her PhD research focuses on identifying and analysing the various elements that impact SiT proficiency among translation students, such as text difficulty, time constraints, and cognitive load. The project combines linguistic analysis, cognitive frameworks, and experimental design to assess how these factors influence SiT performance. This study aims to provide practical solutions in instructional settings and connect academic research with the actual needs of translation training. The ultimate objective of this work is to improve educational practices and student outcomes in SiT. In addition to her research activities, Marine Valverde holds a position as a teaching assistant within the English Studies Unit: Literature, Language, Interpretation, and Translation at the Faculty of Translation and Interpretation at the University of Mons.

Abstract

Sight translation (SiT) is defined by Dragsted and Hansen (2009, p. 589) as a hybrid between translation and interpretation and involves orally translating a written text. SiT requires cognitive engagement, as evidenced by Gile (2009, p. 179) in his Effort Model and Risku (2002, p. 525) in her Situated Translation framework. SiT is typically used as a training exercise for future translators and interpreters throughout their studies to develop quick cognitive processing skills and linguistic accuracy. A SiT exercise typically involves a preparation stage, where the source text (ST) is read and annotated, followed by a rendition phase, in which the ST is translated orally in the target language (Su, 2020, p. 22). Lee (2012, p.710) hypothesizes that time constraints can affect SiT quality but regrets that this correlation has not been thoroughly researched thus far. This study went some way in filling this gap as it tested the hypothesis through an experiment involving 60 second-year Master's students. They were asked to sight translate a text from English into French and were divided into three groups: the first had 4 minutes to prepare, the second 8 minutes, and the last one 12 minutes. The student's oral translations and annotated STs were then collected and analysed. Twenty translation teachers assessed the SiTs quality according to predefined criteria. A correlation between preparation time and SiT quality was observed and showed that the more preparation time students are afforded, the higher the perceived quality of their oral output. Other variables, such as gender and annotation methods, were also analysed for their impact on SiT quality. Interestingly, male students showed better performance, and some annotation techniques, like translating specific words or phrases, proved effective for some students but counterproductive for others, underlining Kiraly's (2005, p.1103) view that no single method is a panacea.

Keywords

Sight translation, Time constraints, Translation training

On the matter of “language engineers”: an exploratory study of perceptions from prospective translators from the degrees in English Studies and Translation and Interpreting

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Mrs Inmaculada Rosal Bustamante

Inmaculada Rosal works under a pre-doctoral contract awarded by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities (FPU20/01287) in the English Philology (English Language) Department at the University of Seville. She has a First Class BA (Hons) in English Studies and a MA in Translation and Intercultural Studies with Distinction and an extraordinary award for MAs, having the best academic record and GPA in her class at the University of Seville. She has completed research and training stays at the University of Cambridge, the University of Warsaw and the University of Warwick. Currently, she is a junior researcher in the Erasmus+ Teacher Academies Project “Towards a European Syllabus in Teacher Education”. She has presented several communications in international and national conferences in the field of Applied Linguistics, particularly about subtitling in didactic audiovisual translation and transcreation in the higher education EFL classroom, pedagogical translation and mediation in the foreign language classroom, and authorship and visibility of female audiovisual translators, among others.

Abstract

Before the 1990s, when Translation Studies had not yet been fully integrated into higher education curriculum, most translators came from philological or related backgrounds. With the wide range of curricular options in any of the subdisciplines in Translation Studies, language industry professionals now typically receive hybrid, transdisciplinary training. Concurrently, the “technological turn” in the world of translation (Jiménez-Crespo, 2020) and the irruption of AI in the language industry has made the “translator” label as a professional career replaceable. In fact, professional profiles in the language industry more and more frequently include positions such as “linguists”, “localization or language specialists”, or “language quality specialists”. In turn, these labels or professional designations may not have yet resonated within many higher education contexts. The goal of this study was to find out whether, depending on their educational background, students from different language-based backgrounds may have certain positive attitudes or prejudices towards these current labels. Eighty higher education students (from English Studies and Translation and Interpreting undergraduate programmes in Spain) were surveyed. An analysis of students’ answers about whether they consider themselves “language engineers” (Briva-Iglesias & O’Brien, 2022), “linguists”, or “translators” was conducted. A panoramic view, on the prejudices and receptivity of students towards linguists’ roles in language industry, has been examined in detail. It can be concluded that there is a lack of receptivity in certain linguistic educational contexts towards these recently coined terms. Consequently, a first step to prevent these prejudices from further development is to start introducing them in the translation classroom.

Keywords

language engineers, language industry, prejudices

LT.17 | Panel 41 | The Changing Faces of Surveys and Interviews as Methods and Text Genres (cont.)

Chairs: Brita Dorer, Anna Kuźnik, Cornelia Zwischenberger

What distinguishes professional translators and social scientists during questionnaire translation and post-editing? A keylogging and screenreording study.

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Dr. Anke Radinger

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Dr. Dorothée Behr

Dorothée Behr is a translation scholar, cross-cultural survey methodologist, and head of the Team “Cross-cultural Survey Methods” at the Survey Design and Methodology (SDM) department of GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in Mannheim, Germany. She holds a diploma in translation. In 2009, she obtained her PhD in Applied Translation Studies from the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany. She teaches and provides consultancy on all aspects related to questionnaire translation. She has been responsible, amongst others, for setting up the translation guidelines for the background questionnaire of the OECD study “Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies” (PIAAC); she is also a member of the “European Social Survey” (ESS) Translation Expert Panel. Between 2015-2016, she was interim professor for Applied Translation Studies at the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, Germany. Her research focuses on questionnaire translation methodology and cross-cultural web probing. Since 2022, she has been PI of the TransBack project, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Mrs. Ulrike Efu Nkong

Ulrike Efu Nkong is a trained translator for English, French, Spanish and German and a researcher in the department of Survey Design and Methodology at the GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences. Before entering the academic world, she was working as a freelance translator for more than 10 years, specializing in questionnaire translation and its diverse procedures throughout different fields of application: in clinical research, educational testing as well as the social sciences. She is currently doing her PhD in the field of questionnaire translation and at the same time working in the Translation Team of the European Social Survey (ESS). Her research interests are translation and review methods in cross-cultural surveys, translator background, comparability and comprehensibility as well as cognitive interviews.

Abstract

The comparability of questionnaire translations in social survey research is a requirement for valid conclusions. The field uses translation methods unused in other fields, such as double translations, team reconciliations, pretests, etc. The personnel implementing these procedures and producing translations is often less well defined and varies greatly, from exclusively researchers, interdisciplinary teams, and exclusively translators. Against this backdrop, as part of the DFG-funded TransBack project (2023-25), we conducted a TPR study on questionnaire translation to investigate the effect of translators’ background (social scientists vs. professional translators) on their translation behavior, essentially to answer the question: Who is the better questionnaire translator and under which condition? We recorded product and process data during the translation of several questionnaire items from English into German in two separate

tasks: 1) translation from scratch (983 words) and 2) post-editing of machine translated items from English into German (504 words). The selected items consisted of authentic introductions, questions/statements and answer scales from different international cross-cultural surveys. As participants, German native speakers with English as L2 with and without questionnaire translation/questionnaire design experience wer recruited: 16 professional translators and 16 social scientists. They completed the two tasks and filled out an extensive background questionnaire to describe their linguistic, professional and translation background While another presentation will look at the quality of the resulting translations from both groups, this presentation will focus on temporal and cognitive aspects of the participants. To this end, data from Translog II, Inputlog and screenrecordings will be analyzed to differentiate the two groups in their translation and research activities. Results are meant to be fed back into guidelines and trainings for translation personnel in cross-cultural social research, to improve comparability and ultimately the validity of research results.

Keywords

translation process research, survey translation, translator background

Translation experience, subject matter knowledge, questionnaire experience – which expertise plays a greater role in questionnaire translation? And can AI be considered an expert yet?

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Abstract

Measurement instruments in different languages are at the heart of cross-cultural survey research. To ensure the comparability and comprehensibility of these different language questionnaires, translation procedures have continuously been optimized. However, the impact of qualifications and experience of the translators involved in questionnaire translations – whether human experts of different backgrounds or AI – have, to date, not been examined in this field. As part of a DFG-funded project (TransBack) we designed and implemented

an experiment comparing the work of 16 professional translators and 16 social scientists (some having more questionnaire (translation) experience than others) as well as an AI machine translation output. The participants were asked to translate 45 authentic questionnaire items at our institute. 26 items had to be translated from scratch (983 words) and 19 items (504 words) had been machine pre-translated and participants were asked to perform a post-editing step. An extensive background questionnaire was used to find out details on their qualifications, language knowledge and professional experience. Additionally, one pure AI generated translation was created. We then performed a sentence and word alignment as well as an expert review of the translations, the latter based on a customized Multidimensional Quality Metrics (MQM) error typology. The evaluations were done without knowing which type of translator had produced which translation. The focus of this presentation will be on the quality of the translation products produced by experts having different backgrounds. Translation experience, subject matter knowledge or questionnaire experience – what plays a greater role in achieving high quality questionnaire translations? And how does AI compare in this field? New methods considering the changing faces of translation need to be tested before being considered in translation guidelines for cross-cultural survey research. First results will give an insight into these questions and help to further improve translation procedures.

Keywords

questionnaire translation, translator background, AI vs. human translation

Using Machine Translation and Postediting in the TRA(P)D Approach: Effects on the Quality of Translated Survey Texts

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Dr. Brita Dorer

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Dr. Diana Zavala-Rojas

Diana is a social scientist interested in all aspects of the survey data lifecycle. She is a specialist in multinational, multiregional and multilingual comparative social research, holding a doctorate in comparative survey methodology. She is a member of the Core Scientific Team of the European Social Survey (ESS). Her work in the ESS contributes to questionnaire design, translation, measurement quality, cross-national measurement equivalence and documentation of the data lifecycle. She has participated in the design of ESS questionnaires Rounds 6 to 10. She is also a member of the ESS Translation Expert Panel. Currently, in the Social Sciences & Humanities Open Cloud (SSHOC) project, Diana leads a research project aimed at improving the translation process of survey questionnaires. Her current research lines focus on 1) quality of cross-cultural survey data, 2) analysing the effects of linguistic dimensions on data quality, 3) Survey translation and, 4) the role of research infrastructures in the Social Sciences. Other research interests are experimental designs in survey research and structural equation modelling. As a survey adviser, she has large experience in questionnaire design, measurement quality of survey questions and analysis of survey data. In her previous experience, she co-coordinated the electoral surveys of a national newspaper for the 2006's Mexican presidential election. She collaborated as public opinion consultant at Mexican Senate and the Mexican Congress. Diana has been consultant for World Health Organization (WHO) advising on projects in Turkey and Spain. As an independent consultant, she is partner at SurveyWise, a survey methods consultancy.

Dr. Dorothée Behr

Dorothée Behr is a translation scholar, cross-cultural survey methodologist, and head of the Team "Cross-cultural Survey Methods" at the Survey Design and Methodology (SDM) department of GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in Mannheim, Germany. She holds a diploma in translation. In 2009, she obtained her PhD in Applied Translation Studies from the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany. She teaches and provides consultancy on all aspects related to questionnaire translation. She has been responsible, amongst others, for setting up the translation guidelines for the background questionnaire of the OECD study "Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies" (PIAAC); she is also a member of the "European Social Survey" (ESS) Translation Expert Panel. Between 2015-2016, she was interim professor for Applied Translation Studies at the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, Germany. Her research focuses on questionnaire translation methodology and cross-cultural web probing.

Ms. Danielly Sorato

Danielly Sorato is a computer scientist specialized in Natural Language Processing (NLP). She holds a BSc and a MSc in computer science from the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (Florianópolis, Brazil) and is a PhD candidate in the Traducció i Ciències del Llenguatge doctoral program at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain).

Abstract

In cross-cultural survey methodology, TRAPD (consisting of the steps Translation, Review, Adjudication, Pretesting and Documentation) is considered best practice to translate questionnaires into multiple target languages. The “T” step consists in two parallel translations, to be discussed in a Review meeting (“R”). In past years, the recommendation had been to use two human translations. We carried out an experiment to gain evidence on the involvement of machine translation and postediting (MTPE) in this translation step (“T”). We designed and carried out a study involving a highly controlled experimental setting to test the effects of integrating MTPE into the TRAPD approach. Four experiments were conducted in total, two concerning the language pair English-German and two in the language pair English-Russian. In our experiment, one of the two parallel translations was developed using MTPE (each one experiment implementing light MTPE, one full MTPE), and in a baseline setting, both parallel translations were developed by human translators. The experiments show evidence that in German and Russian languages and for our sample of survey questions, the effect of integrating machine translation and postediting on the quality of the review outputs—with quality understood as texts output with the fewest errors possible—can hardly be distinguished from the quality that derives from the setting with human translations only. The presentation will first describe the TRAPD method. Then we will describe the study design and implementation of the experiment, as well as our analyses and results: the translations resulting from the Review meetings from the four experiments were coded using a coding scheme based on the harmonized MQM-DQF translation quality metrics. Statistical analyses included a z-score test statistic, a Poisson regression, and exploratory analysis included the use of chi-square tests.

Keywords

questionnaire translation, machine translation and postediting, controlled experiment

Evolving TI survey-based research: Enhancing psychometric properties and epistemological rigor

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Prof. Christopher Mellinger

Christopher D. Mellinger is Professor in the Department of Languages and Culture Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He is the co-author of Quantitative Research Methods in Translation and Interpreting Studies, co-editor of Translating Texts: An Introductory Coursebook on Translation and Text Formation, and editor of The Routledge Handbook of Interpreting and Cognition. He also serves as co-editor of the journal Translation and Interpreting Studies.

Dr. Thomas Hanson

Thomas A. Hanson holds a Ph.D. in Finance and teaches in the Lacy School of Business at Butler University. He is co-author of Quantitative Research Methods in Translation and Interpreting Studies. His research interests include survey methodology, investments and derivatives, financial literacy, statistics, and the effects of translation and globalization on financial markets.

Abstract

Translation and interpreting studies relies on survey-based research for a range of areas of inquiry, probing the attitudes, beliefs, and traits of professional and non-professional translators and interpreters as well as the users of these services. In some cases, researchers have developed these surveys within the field, defining the constructs of interest and developing associated measures. In other cases, researchers have adopted or adapted survey instruments from other disciplines, thereby leveraging previous methodological work in measuring and studying various phenomena. While numerous studies employ surveys as a data collection method, TI scholarship has less commonly considered survey instruments themselves as objects of inquiry. Some exceptions include reflection on the role that information and communication technologies have played on surveys in the field (Künzli & Gile, 2021) and on the translation of survey instruments (e.g., Pan et al., 2019). Such methodological work is particularly salient for empirical studies that employ surveys but also for supporting the validity and reliability of the instruments and their relationship with underlying latent variables. This paper raises epistemological and methodological issues associated with survey instruments in translation studies (Mellinger & Hanson, 2022), with further emphasis on the impact of translation on the underlying psychometric properties of survey instruments (Mellinger & Hanson, 2024). The paper includes results of a simulation study that examines potential statistical effects of translation on survey measurement. The study posits that ambiguity, shifts in valence, and issues with negation can be modeled as increased variance, changes in skewness, and reverse coding, respectively. The ramifications for exploratory factor analysis and reliability play a role in the internal validity of any survey-based study.

Keywords

survey translation, psychometric properties, research instruments

LT.19 | Panel 42 | The Changing Landscape of Literary Translation and/as Soft Power (cont.)

Chairs: Olivia Hellewell, Olga Castro, Laura Linares

Literary Translation and/as Soft Power in Greece: The Story So Far

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Prof. Vasiliki Misiou

Vasiliki Misiou is Assistant Professor of Literary Translation at the School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. Her publications and main research interests focus on gender and/in translation, literary translation, paratexts and translation, translation in non-hegemonic cultures, as well as translation and semiotics. She is the author of The Renaissance of Women Translators in 19th-Century Greece (Routledge, 2023), and co-editor of New Paths in Theatre Translation and Surtitling (Routledge, 2023) and Transmedial Perspectives on Humour and Translation: From Page to Screen to Stage (Routledge, 2023). She is currently guest co-editing a special issue on "Gender and/in Drama Translation" with Translation Studies. She is assistant editor of the journal Feminist Translation Studies (Taylor & Francis).

Abstract

Literary translation has always played a pivotal role in Greece. While a great deal of foreign literature is still translated into Greek, the Hellenic Foundation of Culture recently launched GreekLit, a translation grant programme, as part of its cultural diplomacy strategy. Informed by current research on culture, literary translation, and soft power (Bachelor 2019; Carbó-Catalan and Roig-Sanz 2022; Castro and Linares 2022; Hedberg and Vimr 2022) and focusing on Greece's translation policy-making, the aim of this paper is twofold: on the one hand, it investigates Greek institutional initiatives and the control they (can) exert over the cultural production that is exported, and on the other, it places special emphasis on women in translation. What can we learn from the strategies used so far? Has GreekLit contributed to a shift in Greece's position in the global book market? Do Greek institutional initiatives interface with the needs and demands of the publishing industry? And what is the position of women writers in Greece's changing literary landscape? Have they been provided with opportunities to get their work translated and tackle under-representation? This study ultimately reflects on the usefulness of translation grants as soft power instruments and on the need for synergy between the private publishing industry and institutional funding bodies.

Keywords

translation fund initiatives, GreekLit, women in translation

Russian Literature as Soft Power – Before and After February 2022

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Dr Sarah Gear

Dr Sarah Gear holds a PhD from the University of Exeter, which she undertook as part of the ERC funded RusTrans, Dark Side of Translation project. Her research examines the ways in which politics and publishing intersect within the literary translation market, and compares the commission, translation and reception of contemporary novels by "nationalist" and "liberal" Russian writers. Sarah holds an MA in Translation Studies from the University of Stirling, and a BAHons in French and Russian from the University of Glasgow. She works as a Russian tutor at the University of St Andrews, and is Assistant Interview Editor for literary translation journal Asymptote. Her reviews and interviews have appeared in Asymptote, the Times Literary Supplement, Los Angeles Review of Books, Modern Language Review, the Slavonic and East European Review, Full Stop, the Glasgow Review of Books and Rights in Russia.

Abstract

Before Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, the majority of translated Russian fiction published in the UK and US was funded by Russian state-affiliated Institut Perevoda (the Institute of Translation). Between 2011 and 2022, the institute awarded grants for the translation of over a hundred Russian novels into English, as well as into tens of other languages across the world. Since February 2022, UK and US publishers are no longer prepared to accept financial support from Institut Perevoda. Despite this, Russian novels continue to be translated into English, albeit far fewer than before. While prior to the war fifteen to twenty novels might have been published a year, in 2024 this was reduced to eight. The absence of Institut Perevoda funding has had an enormous impact on what publishers can afford to commission in a literary market where contemporary Russian fiction is rarely economically viable. Dr Sarah Gear will compare the Russian-English literary translation landscape before and after February 2022. She will present the funding history of Institut Perevoda, and consider to what extent their selection process, and the books they choose to support, can be regarded as an expression of Russian soft power. This will include a discussion of where and how Institut Perevoda have directed their funding since the start of the war. The question of soft power and politics does not belong to Russia alone, however. This paper will also briefly consider UK and US publisher practice, and discuss how recent commissioning decisions echo the geopolitical dynamics between the UK, US and Russia.

Keywords

Russia, Funding , War

The Translation of China: “Absence” of Popular Literature as Soft Power

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Miss Luyao Yan

Luyao Yan is currently pursuing a PhD in Translation Studies at Queen’s University Belfast. She has worked as a professional translator and interpreter since her undergraduate years, providing language services for a variety of international organisations, including the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics Committee. Luyao holds a master’s degree in Chinese-English Translation from University of International Relations, China, where she developed a strong interest in the fields of linguistics, literary translation, and socio-translation studies. She has published academic papers on topics such as pragmatics in political discourse and the dialogic relationship between Chinese and Western philosophies in literary translation. Additionally, she led a translation research project titled "Translation Criticism on the work The Last Empire: The Final Days of the Soviet Union from the Perspective of Translator Behaviour Criticism" within the scope of socio-translation studies which was funded by the University of International Relations. Her current research interest focuses on the vivid representation of Chinese popular literature in the Anglophone context, with a particular emphasis on the translator creativity and the interplay between Chinese and Western philosophies within the translation of Chinese wuxia literature.

Abstract

This paper examines the role of Chinese literary translation in enhancing national soft power, with a particular emphasis on the crucial yet underutilised popular literature. Despite China’s official efforts to project its cultural influence globally, significant challenges remain in disseminating Chinese literature abroad. These challenges largely stem from the narrow focus of state-sponsored translation projects, which have traditionally prioritised high and officially sanctioned literature. This selective approach, by its strictly filtering nature, has constrained the potential of popular literature as an effective tool for cultural diplomacy, resulting in a “one-way information flow” dictated by power relations that limits effective Sino-Western cultural dialogue. The study critically analyses the broader landscape of China’s top-down literary translation policies, identifying key obstacles that hinder their effectiveness as a soft power strategy. By examining the limitations inherent in the selection processes of national translation initiatives, the research highlights the significant gap created by the “absence” of popular literature. Building upon this analysis, the study explores the potential of popular literature to enhance China’s cultural influence, using case studies of existing popular literary works that have successfully reached the global market through various representations. These cases demonstrate both the viability of popular literature as a soft power tool and the accidental nature of its success, often occurring independently of official policies. The originality of this paper lies in its critique of the entrenched dichotomy between high and popular literature within China’s translation policy framework. It advocates for official investment in identifying, nurturing, and creatively rendering vibrant popular literature, boosting a multi-layered approach to literary translation that better reflects the diversity of Chinese literature in its pursuit of enhancing soft power. This study provides insights and practical recommendations for developing more inclusive and dynamic translation strategies, particularly by re-evaluating the role of national control over translation policies.

Keywords

soft power, popular literature, translation policy

Translations as a soft power resource? From the critique to methodological nationalism to new research avenues

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Prof Diana Roig Sanz

Diana Roig-Sanz is an ICREA Professor and ERC grantee at UOC, Barcelona. She is the coordinator of the Global Literary Studies Research Lab. Her research deals with global and sociological approaches to literary and translation history, and applies computational methods and gender perspectives to the circulation of minor/ less-translated literatures. Her publications include Bourdieu después de Bourdieu (2014), Literary Translation and Cultural Mediators in 'Peripheral' Cultures (2018, with R. Meylaerts), Cultural Organisations, Networks and Mediators in Contemporary Ibero-America (2020, with J. Subirana), Culture as Soft Power (2022, with E. Carbó-Catalan), Global Literary Studies: Key Concepts (2022, with N. Rotger) or Contemporary Global Thinking from Latin American Women: Writings from the Margins (2024, forth.). She has published in international journals such as the Journal of Cultural Analytics, Translation Spaces, Translation in Society, Revista Chilena de Literatura, or the Journal of Global History. She has also conducted research residencies at the Oxford Internet Institute, KU Leuven, École Normale Supérieure, or the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis, and she is an international staff member of the Center for Translation Studies Summer School.

Dr Lucía Campanella

Lucia Campanella is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain), where she leads the Anarchist Translation Flows and World Literature Project (ARGOT). Her current research explores the intersection of literature and politics by examining the circulation of literary translations in the anarchist press across various cities and languages at the turn of the century. She holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies from the Universities of Perpignan (France) and Bergamo (Italy). Since 2017, she has been a registered researcher in the Uruguayan National System of Researchers (SNI - ANII, Nivel 1).

Dr Elisabet Carbó

Elisabet Carbó-Catalan holds a PhD in Humanities and Communication by the Open University of Catalonia (Spain) and a PhD in Translation Studies by the KU Leuven (Belgium). She has been a member of the ERC project "Social Networks of the Past: Mapping Hispanic and Lusophone Literary Modernity, 1898-1959" (2019-2024), and has written a dissertation on language and translation policies in the Intellectual Cooperation Organization (1922-1946). Her research interests include global approaches to literature, translation history, and the relationships between power/politics and culture. Her main publications seek to historicize forms of public support to translation and foreign cultural action. Her most recent publications are: Culture as Soft Power. Bridging Cultural Relations, Intellectual History and Cultural Diplomacy (with D. Roig-Sanz), and the following articles: "Literary Translation: Between Intellectual Cooperation and Cultural Diplomacy. The Ibero-American Collection, 1930-1940" in Translation in Society and "The Foreign Action of Peripheries, or the Will to Be Seen: Catalan Cultural Diplomacy in the Interwar Period" in Comparative Literature Studies and Translation in Society. She currently works as a postdoctoral fellow in translation studies and digital humanities at Centre d'Études Simenon at the University of Liège.

Abstract

Translation studies, and more specifically, translation history and cultural policy, have witnessed a renewed interest in the concept of soft power applied to culture (Carbó-Catalan and Roig-Sanz) and to the institutions and dynamics that have politically shaped the practice of translation and translation flows over the years. As illustrated by recent scholarship, translation has been explored regarding its consecratory effects and its relation with both the marketplace, state, regional governments and national programs for translation (McMartin; Kvirikashvili; Hedberg and Vimr; Ren and Wang), or international organizations (Carbó-Catalan). This interest has favored the coinage of concepts presenting a great heuristic potential for the study of translation both in the present and in the past, such as "supply-driven translations" (Vimr) or "national translation capacity" (Ren & Li), as well as the borrowing of notions from international relations, such as soft

power applied to translation (Roig-Sanz, Carbó-Catalan and Campanella) Paradoxically, these developments have taken place at a time when the critique of methodological nationalism, the analytical primacy ascribed to the state (or nation), is still controversial, whether on epistemological or methodological grounds (Brenner; Amelina et al.; Faist). Indeed, the discussion has echoed research regarding translation (Cussel; Castro & Linares; Pym) in the humanities, and soft power and international relations in the social sciences (Faucher, Dummer Scheel, and Gatica Mizala). At the crossings between the political, the cultural, and the economical perspectives, this paper proposes new insights to advance the discussion on methodological nationalism in TS by drawing specific attention to: 1) the state as a relevant object for TS, especially if understood as a collective body operating at a multiscalar level, and 2) the way in which a soft power approach requires theoretical and methodological reflection on the difficulties of articulating scholarly attention to the pole of production and the pole of reception of translations.

Keywords

translation and cultural policy, soft power, methodoloogical nationalism

LT.20 | Panel 22 | GenAI in Domain-specific Translation and Interpreting Studies (cont.)

Chairs: Yu Yuan, Jun Yang

Rephrasing or Retranslation in Public Domain Books: A Stylometric Study of Human and GenAI Translations of On the Road

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Mr Delu Kong

Delu (Daniel) Kong is currently pursuing his PhD at Tongji University and Ghent University. He has published multiple research papers and participated in the completion of two Chinese National Social Science and Ministry of Education projects. His research interests primarily lie in machine translation post-editing, translation technology, and corpus-based translation studies. He possesses good capability at programming and applying machine learning algorithms and text mining techniques to his research.

Prof. May Li

Professor Mei Li, Ph.D. Supervisor, received her doctorate in Linguistics (Syntax) from the University of Manchester, UK. She is a Professor at Tongji University and Dean of the School of Foreign Languages at Zhongqiao University. She concurrently serves as Vice President of the Shanghai Science and Technology Translation Society, Vice President of the Translation Technology Education Research Committee under the World Interpreter and Translator Training Association (WITTA), a council member of the Translators Association of China (TAC), and an editorial board member of Shanghai Journal of Translators.

Abstract

In China, after the copyright of literary books expires (Public Domain Books), numerous “retranslations” of the book often appear on the market. However, how can we assess the value of these retranslations? How are they rated by readers? What motivates publishers? These questions remain to be discussed. This paper uses On the Road, a literary book whose copyright expired in 2020, as a case study. It selects seven English-Chinese human retranslations (available in the market) and seven English-Chinese GenAI machine translations (state of the art LLMs) and applies machine learning and text mining methods with over 500 linguistic features to explore the three questions raised above. The study finds that: (1) The value of human retranslations exhibits significant diachronic variation. Translations produced before the copyright expired tend to have distinct linguistic styles that highlight strong translational features, while those produced afterward show less stylistic variation and may even display signs of rephrasing. (2) Compared to human translations, GenAI translations exhibit less linguistic diversity and show a certain degree of "generalization," often featuring repetitive and awkward wording. (3) Considering reader reception and publisher motivations, the phenomenon of "rephrasing", which disguised itself under the mask of "retranslation" of public domain books, is primarily driven by fierce market competition. Publishers, eager to maximize profits quickly, exploit translators' labor to rush to market, resulting in some subsequent retranslations being of questionable quality and limited content value. This study provides a foundational basis for re-evaluating the value and practice of retranslations.

Keywords

Retranslation, Rephrasing, HT vs. GenAI MT

The Application of ChatGPT in Interpreting Preparation and Its implications for Interpreting Training

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Dr Ran Xu

Ran XU is Associate Professor at the Department of English and International Studies, China Foreign Affairs University. She holds a PhD in Translation & Interpreting Studies from the University of Leeds, UK (2015). In addition to her academic work, she is also a freelance conference interpreter. Ran XU's main research interests lie in the acquisition of interpreting skills, empirical research methods in interpreting studies and the use of technology in interpreting training, practice and research. Ran XU's teaches courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including Consecutive Interpreting (Undergraduate), Specialized Consecutive Interpreting (Economy & Trade) (Postgraduate) and Introduction to Interpreting Studies and Research Methods in Interpreting (Postgraduate).

Abstract

Interpreters' knowledge acquisition is mostly done before the interpreting assignment, and their knowledge acquisition of specialised topics is term-based and job-oriented. Previous studies mainly focused on using corpus tools to automatically extract bilingual terminologies for interpreters. However, interpreters may still find relevant terms not activated enough for their interpreting assignments. The use of ChatGPT offers potential benefits to interpreters by providing an enabling environment for learning the terms in context and their background information that make possible linking the new vocabulary to other terms and prior knowledge. This paper reports an ongoing research project which attempts to study how to conduct effective terminological preparation with ChatGPT and empirically verify how it influence the interpreter's SI performance. A pilot experiment involves 22 postgraduate trainee interpreters to prepare and interpret for a specialised English speech into Chinese. The experiment setting simulates what may happen in real conference preparation: the speaker's PPT slides with major information in the speech are provided. In terms of data collection, this study uses BB Flashback to record the interpreters' screen behaviors during preparation. Their simultaneous interpreting performances after preparation are also recorded. This paper will report the preliminary findings and discuss several pedagogical implications. There is room for preparation to receive more attention in interpreting classroom. After the basic interpreting skills have been mastered, the trainee interpreters should be introduced to various resources and tools for their preparation (eg. online corpora, term extraction tools, ChatGPT, etc.). Even though the resources and tools have clear and easy-to-use interface, the trainees may experience a steep learning curve before the tools could be used efficiently. Over the long run, the trainees should develop their preparation modalities that best suits them for different contexts and be able to increase term accuracy in interpreting assignments.

Keywords

interpreting preparation, ChatGPT, interpreting training

AI-Assisted Localization: A Triangulated Quality Assessment of ChatGPT-4's Localization of a Mobile App into Arabic

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Dr. Mohammed Al-Batineh

Mohammed Al-Batineh is Associate Professor of Translation Studies at the United Arab Emirates University, UAE. He has extensive experience in translator and interpreter training, and has served as a content expert for online translation courses for several institutions in the US, Europe, and the Arab World. His research interests include translator training, translation technologies, and localization.

Abstract

In this study, the potential use of ChatGPT-4 in localizing an English open-source Android music app, Odyssey, into an Arabic Quran player was investigated. A literal translation of the linguistic content of the source app such as "music," "songs," and "artists" would be offensive in the context of Quran player and should be replaced by appropriate Quran-related Arabic terms. The source XML string file was processed in ChatGPT-4 to create a localized Arabic target XML, which was then imported to the Android app to create the Arabic version. A three-layered quality assessment was proposed to investigate the extent to which the target app was linguistically, culturally, cosmetically and functionally successful. First, a corpus-based analysis of the English and Arabic versions was performed, followed by localization testing of the target app and a user reception survey. Results revealed that ChatGPT-4 has potential in XML and mobile app localization with some limitations related to XML handling and linguistic quality. This study is hoped to provide insights into the use of ChatGPT-4 in XML and app localization as well as the quality assessment of mobile app localization.

Keywords

Mobile App Localization, Localization Quality, ChatGPT-4

Integrating Large Language Models into Video Game Localisation Teaching and Learning: Preliminary Findings from BA and MA Localisation Courses in Hong Kong

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Dr. Luis Damián Moreno García

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Dr. Carme Mangiron

Carme Mangiron, PhD, is an associate professor, a member of the research group TransMedia Catalonia at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and a member of the knowledge transfer network AccessCat. She was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award at UAB in 2022. She has extensive experience as a translator, specializing in software and game localisation. Her main research areas are game localisation, game accessibility, audiovisual translation and accessibility to the media. She has published extensively in international journals and participated in several national and international research projects. She is currently leading, together with Anna Matamala, the WEL project (From written to oral texts in Easy Language: easy audios in cultural visits and video games, PID2022-137058NB-I00, funded by MCIU/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by ERDF, EU. She is co-author of Game Localization: Translating for the Global Digital Entertainment Industry (O'Hagan and Mangiron, 2013), and the main organiser of the Fun for All Conference, about game translation and accessibility, which is held at UAB every two years.

Abstract

This study introduces an on-going project that, with the support of a Teaching Development Grant (TDG), explores the incorporation of Generative AI (GenAI) into video game localisation curricula in Hong Kong, in search of a more authentic learning experience. Taking advantage of access to OpenAI chatbots provided by Hong Kong Baptist University, students of four separate BA and MA courses will engage, to differing degrees, in GPT-supported video game translation and localisation tasks that aim to reflect current industry standards and challenges. The project will develop interactive modules and in-class activities, explore automatic/secondary assessment approaches via GenAI, as well as develop training to maximise the pedagogical potential of GPT models in translation-related courses. Preliminary findings in relation to imparting and acquiring specialised knowledge with the support of GPT chatbots will be shared, and possible applications to the instruction and acquisition of domain specific expertise will be discussed.

Keywords

Large Language Models, Video Game Localization, Curriculum Development

Corpus-based Error Analysis of Chinese-English Translated Healthcare Texts in Greater China: An AI-Enhanced Approach

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Mr Bopu Fan

Fan Bopu is a master student in Master of Arts in Translation and Interpreting program, in Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Before enrolling into NTU, he gained the Bachelor of Mathematics from University of Waterloo, Canada. The author worked as a bilingual teacher in education institutes and manager assistant in horticultural company for international cooperation relations.

Prof Huaqing Hong

Dr. Hong holds MA and PhD in Corpus and Computational Linguistics from National University of Singapore (NUS). He is Professor and Director of Centre for Language Intelligence & Smart Education at Shanghai International Studies University (SISU), China. Concurrently he is also Research Scientist at Center for Research & Development in Learning (CRADLE) at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. Previously, Dr. Hong held several key positions: 1. Senior Assistant Director and Head of e-Learning at Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine), NTU (2013-2020); 2. Research Scientist at the National Institute of Education (NIE), NTU (2005-2013); 3. Linguistics Engineer at the Institute of InfoComm Research (I2R), Agency for Science, Technology & Research (A*STAR), Singapore. His research interests span multiple areas, including Translation Technology, Multimodal Learning Analytics, Corpus/Computational Linguistics, Education Innovation, Teacher Development.

Abstract

While error analysis is well-established in translation studies, there remains a gap in research focusing on Chinese-English bilingual healthcare texts. This study conducts an innovative, corpus-based error analysis of healthcare pamphlets across four major Chinese-speaking regions: Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore, integrating AI technology for enhanced accuracy and efficiency. We compile a corpus of healthcare pamphlets from these regions and classify translation errors, including lexical errors, literal translation issues, word choice problems, omissions, cultural discrepancies, and misinterpretations. Our methodology innovatively implements natural language processing (NLP) algorithms for automated error identification, categorization, and quantification, enabling efficient large-scale analysis and precise cross-regional comparisons. Qualitative and quantitative methods are applied to contrast error patterns across regions. Findings indicate that while most errors are minor, they can significantly impact the accuracy and reliability of healthcare communication. The study reveals common translation errors in published healthcare pamphlets, regional variations in error patterns and frequencies, and potential causes of these translation discrepancies. By addressing the understudied area of healthcare translation in Chinese-speaking regions and demonstrating the potential of AI-enhanced methodologies in translation studies, this research provides valuable insights to improve the quality and cultural relevance of bilingual healthcare texts. The findings have important implications for translators, healthcare professionals, and policymakers, potentially enhancing the effectiveness of healthcare communication across diverse Chinese-speaking communities. This study not only contributes to the field of translation studies but also showcases the potential of integrating advanced technologies in linguistic research.

Keywords

Healthcare Text, Error Analysis, Translation

LT.21 | Panel 20 | Fostering Human-Centred, Augmented Machine Translation (cont.)

Chair: Vicent Briva-Iglesias

Augmenting translation through LLM-driven MT and prompt engineering: researching the potential of LLMs to provide contextually aware MT translations

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Prof. Miguel A. Jimenez-Crespo

Miguel A. Jiménez-Crespo holds a PhD in Translation and Interpreting Studies from the University of Granada, Spain. He is a Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Rutgers University, where he directs the graduate and undergraduate program in Spanish – English Translation and Interpreting. He is the author of Localization in Translation (Routledge, 2024), Crowdsourcing and Online Collaborative Translations: Expanding the Limits of Translation Studies (John Benjamins, 2017). And Translation and Web Localization (Routledge, 2013). He is in the editorial board of top-tier journal of Translation and Interpreting Studies journals such as Meta: Studies in Translatology, Jostrans: The Journal of Specialized Translation, Translation and Interpreting, The Journal of Digital Translation, L10Journal, InContext or Sendebar. He is

Dr. Pilar Sanchez Gijon

Pilar Sánchez-Gijón is professor at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She is member of Gelea2LT at UAB, and is mostly interested in translation technologies and the acquisition of digital literacy skills. She is a member of the coordination team of the Masters' in Tradumàtica and the chief editor of Revista Tradumàtica.

Abstract

The introduction of generative large language models (LLMs) has initially been conceptualized as a potential augmentation tool or artifact to augment human translation beyond TM and MT support. Nevertheless, recent research has shown the potential limitations of LLM augmentation through prompt engineering, LoRA, APE, or adapting GPTs with mixed results in terms of the quality outcomes(e.g., He 2024, Castaldo and Monti 2024, Macken 2024),. This paper focuses on one of the areas in which LLMs could augment human translation relates to the explication of cultural references or other elements that are contextually and communicatively situated. It investigates from a process-perspective the potential to customize LLMs with culturally situated training data to provide explicitations of culturally situated information elements to adapt the target text for culturally distant audiences. Methodologically, the paper uses a multi-translation corpus of 900 translated tweets as direct quotes that appeared in digital news reporting, including 20% of texts that included 20% explicitations. The corpus also includes the social media embedded Google NMT translation. The study will produce a (1) zero-shot translation using GPT4, (2) a translation using Chain-of-Thought prompt using real examples from the corpus where human translators embedded cultural explicitations in the tweet translation, as well as (3) adapted GPT engine with data rich in cultural explicitations in the same context. These four textual populations will be presented to human translators for post editing. To identify the potential to augment human processing, three options will be recorded and available to professional translators, (1) accept as is, (2) accept and edit, (3) reject and start from scratch. The objective of the study is to identify the potential to "augment" human post editing processes through LLM integration in terms of translation brief or contextual and communicative differences between source and target context.

Keywords

MT and LLM augmentation, Explicitation, Culture

Bridging the patient-healthcare professional language gap: an early exploration of human-centered, augmented machine translation in Ireland

Dr. Vicent Briva-Iglesias
Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland

Dr. Vicent Briva-Iglesias

Vicent is an Assistant Professor in Translation Studies at Dublin City University. His research revolves around human-computer interaction and human-centered, augmented machine translation, mainly focusing on making a positive impact on people through technology augmentation. In addition, he collaborates with McGill University (Canada) and Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain). Vicent's interest in the academic aspects of translation is heavily influenced and enhanced by his professional approach and practice of translation: he runs AWORDZ Language Engineering LTD, a small language service provider based in Dublin.

Abstract

In the context of globalization and increased migration, effective communication between patients and healthcare professionals has become a critical issue, particularly in regions with diverse linguistic populations. In Ireland, where 18% of the population comprises non-Irish citizens whose primary language is not English (Central Statistics Office, 2023), language barriers can significantly hinder access to healthcare services. This research investigates the potential of human-centered, augmented machine translation (MT) to bridge the language gap between migrant patients and healthcare professionals in Ireland. Despite the ideal of utilizing professional interpreters, practical challenges such as high costs and the unavailability of interpreters for less common languages often leave healthcare providers and patients struggling to communicate effectively. This study explores the feasibility of employing MT as a supplementary tool to aid communication in these situations. The research is grounded in the MT "reverse adaptation" framework (Briva-Iglesias, 2024), which advocates understanding users' needs from MT first, and then developing technology to meet such needs before adopting new technologies. Through an early exploration with healthcare professionals and migrant patients in Ireland, this study examines needs, attitudes, perceptions of MT tools in clinical settings. The findings suggest that if MT users are trained in using these technologies and MT is designed and implemented with a focus on safety (with guardrails), reliability, and trustworthiness, it can offer significant benefits. These include enhanced communication, reduced misunderstanding, and improved overall patient care in multilingual healthcare environments. This research contributes to the broader field of HCI by highlighting the importance of user-centered design in the deployment of MT technologies. It underscores the need for continued exploration and adaptation of MT systems to ensure they meet the complex and nuanced requirements of healthcare communication, ultimately promoting more equitable access to health services for migrant populations in Ireland and elsewhere.

Keywords

healthcare, human-centered artificial intelligence, augmentation

Integrating machine translation into the translation workflows: How are translators' post-editing processes influenced?

Ms Elise Wu
The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

Ms Elise Wu

Elise is a PhD candidate at the Asia Institute at the University of Melbourne. She obtained a Master's degree in Translation and Interpreting from the University of Melbourne in 2022. Elise's doctoral project focuses on translation workflows that integrate machine translation in the translation industry. Her research interests include machine translation, post-editing, and ethnographic research in translation.

Abstract

Applying machine translation (MT) and integrating it into the translation workflow in an environment incorporating various translation technologies has become a common practice in the translation industry. MT is not a standalone tool, nor is post-editing of machine translation an isolated last step in the workflow. Translators and other stakeholders have many available options to meet their different needs and objectives, collaborating to produce the target text. This study examines the practices of human actors in MT-integrated translation workflows, including their interactions both among themselves and with technology. It focuses on the factors influencing translators' use of MT, their translating process and the development of the final target text. Adopting an ethnographic approach, this study investigates the practices of three Australian language service providers in producing target texts in MT-integrated or MT-assisted workflows. Preliminary findings from the participant observation at workplaces and interviews with translation stakeholders show that MT is integrated into the project workflows in a flexible way, guided by the purpose, client's requirements and project specifications. Translators have a high degree of agency in deciding how to interact with MT and whether to employ other technologies, although the communication among stakeholders and the editing of the source text that occurs in the pre-production process affect translators' actions and decisions. During post-editing, generative AI is used along with MT as an alternative or complementary solution if MT suggestions fail to meet translators' expectations. Nevertheless, doubts about the stability of generative AI and MT, accountability concerns and uncertainty about the effective instructions for the optimal outputs from generative AI stop translators from opting for this option. Meanwhile, account coordinators, project managers, revisers and QA specialists report a potential increase in the workload for quality control of the target text. This study provides insights into human-machine interactions in the translation workflow.

Keywords

machine translation, post-editing, translation workflow

Post-Editing in the Era of AI: A Mixed-Methods Investigation of Cognitive Effort in AI-Assisted vs. Traditional Post-Editing among Translation Trainees

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Ms. Yao Yao

Yao YAO is a PhD candidate for dual PhD programme of School of Foreign Studies, Xi'an Jiaotong University and Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Her research interests are translation and interpreting process research, and corpus-based translation and interpreting studies.

Ms. Tianyi Han

Tianyi HAN is a PhD student in the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Her research interest lies in empirical approaches to translation process research, and cognitive processes of interpreting and translation.

Prof. Dechao Li

Dechao LI is a Professor of Translation and Interpreting Studies in the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He also serves as the chief editor of Translation Quarterly, a journal published by the Hong Kong Translation Society. His research interests include corpus-based translation studies, empirical approaches to translation process research, the history of translation in the late Qing and early Republican periods, and PBL (problem-based learning) as well as translator/interpreter training.

Abstract

The increasing reliance on machine translation post-editing (MTPE) has introduced novel cognitive challenges for translation trainees, despite its benefits in terms of productivity gains compared to from-scratch translation. To address this, AI-assisted post-editing (AIPE) has emerged as a promising solution, leveraging the Chain-of-Thought (CoTs) functionality of Large Language Models (LLMs) to provide post-editors with editing suggestions and explanations. This study investigates the effectiveness of AIPE in reducing translation trainees' cognitive effort during MTPE compared to traditional post-editing (TPE), examining the main effect of PE mode (AIPE vs. TPE) and its interaction with translation directionality (L1-L2 vs. L2-L1), and translation brief (Full PE (FPE) vs. Light PE (LPE)). Employing a mixed-method approach, we assessed PE cognitive effort through 14 measures, including eye-tracking metrics, pause analysis, and subjective ratings. Twenty-six postgraduate students majoring in translation and interpreting participated in the study, performing eight tasks, half in TPE mode and half in AIPE mode. In each PE mode, participants were required to perform four tasks, including FPE + L1-L2, FPE + L2-L1, LPE + L1-L2, LPE + L2-L1. The findings indicate that AIPE does not consistently demonstrate a significant reduction in cognitive effort across all measures; however, its effectiveness is more pronounced in source text processing than TPE. Moreover, AIPE significantly reduces cognitive effort in L1-L2 translation and is more effective in LPE conditions. Furthermore, AIPE generally imposes a lower cognitive load than TPE, particularly when paired with the LPE brief, while TPE requires a higher load in FPE conditions, regardless of directionality. This study underscores the significance of considering translation directionality and brief when evaluating the cognitive impact of PE mode. By exploring the cognitive and behavioural implications of AIPE, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of how to effectively integrate LLMs into translation workflows, ultimately enhancing the learning experience and performance of translator trainees.

Keywords

Machine translation post-editing, Large Language Models, Cognitive effort

LT.23 | Panel 14 | Diversifying Discussion: The Feminist and Queer Production, Translation and Reception of Media in a Global Context (cont.)

Chairs: Hanyu Wang, Xinyao Zhang

Translational and Translatorial Strategies of Feminist Resistance: The Case of the Slovak Feminist Journal Aspekt

Dr. Ivana Hostová
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Dr. Ivana Hostová

Ivana Hostová is a researcher at the Department of Translation Studies at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and Institute of Slovak Academy of Sciences and writes on various aspects of translation and literature within the Central European context. Her recent papers include "Slovak poetry in English translation after the collapse of state socialism" (META, 2023), "Translated, transgressed, transported: A century of Whitman in Slovakia" (World Literature Studies, 2024, in print), and "Pre lásku lacanovskú (a básnickú): Feminizmy, psychoanalýza a básnický výskum subjektu a tela… [For the love of Lacan (and poetry): Feminisms, psychoanalysis, and poetic research of the subject and the body…]" (Slovenská literatúra, 2024). She has edited and co-edited multiple scholarly books and journals on poetry, translation, and world literatures, including Translation Studies in Ukraine as an Integral Part of the European Context (VEDA, 2023; with Martin Djovčoš, Mária Kusá, and Emília Perez), Translation and Identity Trouble (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017), as well as special issues of World Literature Studies journal and (co-)organized numerous academic events, including the series Translation, Interpreting, Culture held bi-annually in Slovakia. Her two books, Medzi entropiou a víziou [Between Entropy and Vision] (2014) and Haugovej Plathová, Plathovej Haugová [Haugová's Plath, Plath's Haugová] (2013) map contemporary Slovak poetry and contribute to Plath studies respectively. She is also a translator between Slovak and English specializing in literary translation.

Abstract

The contribution examines the role the Slovak feminist journal Aspekt played in shaping feminist awareness in post-totalitarian Slovakia. Established partly in response to the ultranationalist takeover of Slovak cultural institutions after the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in 1993, Aspekt played a significant role in introducing feminist ideas and activism to new audiences. The periodical consciously aligned itself with the transnational feminist network through its regular section "Listujeme v… [Leafing through…]," which featured extracts from feminist journals from all around the world. Aspekt can be seen as a meshed space where multiple layers of translation met. The paper looks at translations and translators published in the journal during its twelve years in print (1993–2004). Besides prototypical interlingual translations, the journal published texts emerging from various translatorial strategies (summarising, abridging) employed by its team of translators and translations of local cultural phenomena through its feminist contents. The latter were sometimes also the results of editorial and compositional procedures and of the selection of visual material and epigraphs. An example of such translation of a cultural item is the rendering of the well-known portrait of the Slovak woman writer Timrava into a feminist statement – an emblem of the reappropriated label of the "ugly feminist." The translation was conducted through the inclusion of excerpts from Naomi Wolf's The Beauty Myth (summarized by the journal's chief editor Jana Juráňová) and other materials in the issue which printed a full-page portrait of the writer on the verso of its cover. My contribution offers insight into the early spread of feminist ideas in Central Europe from a translational perspective, with a particular focus on the journal's active communication with transnational feminist network. The impact of the journal on the Slovak society is studied through sociological methods (survey) and diachronic corpus analysis.

Keywords

Translation in Periodicals, Feminism in Slovakia, Central Europe

Heroine Chic: The Rewriting of English literary heroines on Chinese social media and e-commerce platforms.

Mrs Jenny He
University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom

Mrs Jenny He

Jenny is a second-year postgraduate researcher in Translation and Transcultural Studies at the University of Warwick, under the supervision of Dr Caroline Summers and Dr Sijing Lu. Her PHD project examines the red translation of English novels as propaganda for marriage and fertility policies under the algorithmic governance of Xi Jinping. Jenny writes for Modern Poetry in Translation, Poetry London, Tears in the Fence, The Asian Review of Books, and Hopscotch Translation. She is also a trustee at Charity Translators.

Abstract

Social media's algorithmic curation of lifestyle aesthetics is of fundamental importance in understanding the production and reception of female identity. Wellness (O'Neil, 2024); Confidence Cult(ure) (Gill and Organd, 2015); and self-care (Martinez-Jimenez, 2023) are three of the popular topics of content in current circulation which narrate the ideal post-feminist version of womanhood, complicit with neoliberal capitalism, "as an individualistic, entrepreneurial project that can be inculcated by the self" (Gill & Orgad, 2015). In Chinese social media parlance, this woman is 大女主 da nv zhu 'the heroine'; a post-feminist rebranding of Confucian female virtue, re-encoding traditional gender norms and beauty canons into popular discourse, where every woman can be the glamorous main character of her life story. The role played by #booktok and #bookstagram – a realm where the "cult" of books as "totemic magical objects" (Guardian, 2023) connote symbolic, cultural, and erotic capital (Bourdieu, 1986) (Hakim, 2010), and how that migrates across a transnational context - has received little academic criticism. This paper examines the contemporary discussion and marketing of translations of English novels on Chinese social media and e-commerce platforms Douyin (TikTok) and Taobao where English literary heroines promote "a market of empowerment" (Gill & Orgad, 2015) compatible with the "her economy" of "Capitalism with Chinese characteristics" (Breslin, 2004) under a regime of algorithmic governmentality (Rouvroy, 2013) which rewrites (Lefevere, 1992) the novels and their authors as role models of the neoliberal Confucian female ideal. Through the algorithmic governmentality (Rouvroy, 2013) of content on literary translation reception, women "freely self-discipline and self-manage in the name of their own wellbeing" (Martinez-Jimenez, 2022) in a symbiotic relationship between the individual and their consumed content, ultimately recalibrating a population of self-commodified eligible heroines.

Keywords

Social Media, Feminism, Heroines

Looking at the machine translation of abortion personal narratives through a socio-narrative lens

Dr Paola Ruffo
Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

Dr Paola Ruffo

Paola Ruffo is a researcher in the field of Computer-Aided Literary Translation. In 2022, she joined Ghent University as a Marie Skłodowska–Curie Postdoctoral Fellow to work on 'Developing User-centred Approaches to Technological Innovation in Literary Translation (DUAL-T)'. She has previously worked as an English>Italian freelance translator and as a Lecturer in Translation Technology at the University of Bristol.

Abstract

Stigma has been linked to shame, discrimination and silencing of people's experiences of abortion (Kissling, 2018). This makes it extremely difficult for personal narratives of abortion to be shared, and 'reinforces an inflexible tension between cultural ideals and women's lived realities' (Ellison, 2003), preventing individuals from potentially finding comfort in other people's narratives, as well as sharing their own lived experiences. Abortion is an understudied topic in Translation Studies, with recent research focusing primarily on interpreting interaction in healthcare settings (Fletcher, 2018). This paper reports on an ongoing study on the automated translation of personal narratives of abortion shared on the shoutyourabortion.com website. Shout Your Abortion is an feminist activist organisation started in 2015 which seeks to normalise abortion by sharing anonymous abortion stories submitted by users. Their website stores more than 2000 of these stories. All materials are in English, and thus access to the stories for non-English speakers is primarily mediated by machine translation (MT). This study adopts a socio-narrative framework (Baker, 2006) as a lens to understand the impact of MT on personal narratives of abortion, with a particular focus on Italian translation. A second stage of the research will consist of a reader reception study of MT abortion narratives involving native speakers of English and Italian. Results highlight the implications of using MT for translation of activist content and opens up a path for future research on abortion in translation.

Keywords

feminist translation, machine translation, socio-narrative theory

LT.24 | Panel 10 | Conference Interpreting Practice and Research in the Technological Era: Business as Usual or Next Level?

Chairs: Agnieszka Chmiel, Bart Defrancq

Automatic subtitles decrease cognitive load and increase accuracy in simultaneous interpreting

Mr Tianyun Li[1], Prof. Agnieszka Chmiel[2]
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Mr Tianyun Li

Tianyun LI is a PhD candidate at the School of Translation Studies, Shandong University. He conducted this study during his research visit at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. His research interests include socio-psychological factors in interpreting quality perception and technology in simultaneous interpreting. He also works as a conference interpreter.

Prof. Agnieszka Chmiel

Agnieszka Chmiel is an associate professor and Head of the Department of Translation Studies at the Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. Her research interests include: interpreting studies, lexical processing and memory in interpreting, reading in sight translation, audiovisual translation and audio description. She currently leads an interdisciplinary research team that examines bilingual control mechanisms in conference interpreting and develops PINC, the Polish Interpreting Corpus. She was also a co-investigator in the AIIC-funded project on the impact of remote interpreting settings on interpreter experience and performance.

Abstract

When used in simultaneous interpreting, automatic real-time subtitles improve performance for numbers (Defrancq & Fantinuoli, 2021), terminologies (Prandi, 2018) and general accuracy (Cheung & Li, 2022). However, their impact on simultaneous interpreters' cognitive load remains rather underexplored. In this study, we employed multiple measurements including interpreting accuracy, the NASA-TLX for subjective cognitive load rating, eye-tracking and theta power recorded through EEG measurements. Twenty-three Polish professional simultaneous interpreters interpreted a speech presented in five conditions: without subtitles and with subtitles of varying precision rates (100%, 95%, 90% and 80%). The results revealed that the presence of subtitles significantly improved interpreting accuracy, with a suggested optimal precision rate of 90% or higher. Although interpreters reported no significant cognitive load changes, their theta power results indicated a decrease in cognitive load when exposed to automatic subtitles with either 80% or 100% precision. We believe that the cognitive cost of processing subtitles as an additional information channel is offset by cognitive gain through visual prompting. Our study highlights a complex effect of subtitles on interpreting with various factors modulating cognitive load that come into play in such a workflow.

Keywords

automatic subtitles, speech recognition in simultaneous interpreting, electroencephalography (EEG)

The artificial booth mate and cognitive load: Back to the lab.

Prof. Kilian Seeber, Ms Mariia Oganezova
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Prof. Kilian Seeber

Kilian G. Seeber is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting of the University of Geneva in Switzerland where he serves as vice dean and as program director of the Master of Advanced Studies in Interpreter Training (MAS-IT). His research interests include cognitive load and integration during multilingual and multimodal language processing.

Ms Mariia Oganezova

Mariia Oganezova is an assistant and a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting of the University of Geneva. Her areas of research include the impact of new technologies on simultaneous interpreting as well as the history of interpretation.

Abstract

Artificial intelligence holds the potential of changing the face of simultaneous conference interpreting – it is also likely to impact the complex interpreting process. Technological advancements in automated speech recognition (ASR) and machine translation (MT) have led to the development of computer-assisted interpreting tools able to interface with interpreters' work in real time (Defrancq & Fantinuoli, 2020). While these tools have the potential to facilitate the interpreter's task systematic research into their impact on the interpreting process is relatively scarce and its findings limited by methodological constraints (Desmet, Vandierendonck & Defrancq, 2018; Prandi, 2023). Our project aims at specifically addressing the tenuous cause-and-effect relationships derivable from uncontrolled naturalistic stimuli and in-situ experiments. We will present the results of a laboratory experiment designed to measure the amount of cognitive load generated by the introduction of what has become known as the "artificial boothmate", an AI-based application able to extract and display specific tokens occurring in spoken discourse for the benefit of interpreters. Using a custom set of controlled audio-visual stimulus materials and an array of quantitative and qualitative measures, including electrodermal and ocular responses as well as response times and accuracy, we aim at testing the causal relationship between the integration of this ASR-CAI tool and the quality and quantity of cognitive load experienced by interpreters. Defrancq, B., & Fantinuoli, C. (2020). Automatic speech recognition in the booth Assessment of system performance, interpreters' performances and interactions in the context of numbers. Target, 33. DOI: 10.1075/target.19166.def Desmet, B., Vandierendonck, M., & Defrancq, B. (2018). Simultaneous interpretation of numbers and the impact of technological support. In C. Fantinuoli (Ed.), Interpreting and technology (pp.13-27). Language Science Press. DOI:10.5281/zenodo.1493291 Prandi, B. (2023). Computer-assisted simultaneous interpreting: A cognitive-experimental study on terminology (Translation and Multilingual Natural Language Processing 22). Language Science Press. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.7143056

Keywords

simultaneous interpreting, ASR-CAI tools, cognitive load

Professional interpreters' untrained ASR/CAI use during SI: Performance analysis, challenges and required skills

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Mrs Francesca Maria Frittella

Francesca is a conference interpreter, trainer, and educational consultant. She is concluding a PhD research project at the University of Surrey's (UK) Centre for Translation Studies combining research on interpreting technology (computer-assisted interpreting) with educational design research. She also provides training for interpreters' professional associations and universities and works as an Educational Adviser at the University of Twente (NL).

Abstract

In recent years, the use of computer-assisted interpreting (CAI) during simultaneous interpreting (SI), enabled by ASR and AI, has emerged as a promising but controversial area of technology-supported interpreting. The potential benefits for workflow efficiency and performance accuracy suggest that CAI tools may support interpreters in navigating an increasingly fast-paced and technologised profession. However, research also points to possible negative effects of untrained CAI use by master's degree students. A deeper exploration of the challenges in CAI, the factors affecting task complexity, and the role of skills may help better understand the impact of these tools on SI and shed light on their true potential and limitations. This presentation is based on a PhD research project exploring CAI as performed by experienced conference interpreters to identify the key knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for this complex activity and ultimately develop training recommendations. Data collection consisted of two empirical cycles with conference interpreters with over 10 years of professional experience as participants—10 and 8 participants in cycles 1 and 2 respectively. In individual online tests, participants interpreted from their B (English) to their A (Italian or Spanish) language simultaneously with the CAI tool SmarTerp and were subsequently interviewed. The presentation will share key insights of the study concerning recurring patterns in performance errors and interpreters' strategy use as well as the general challenges and complexity factors in CAI. It will discuss the complex interplay between intrinsic challenges in CAI and the skills required to perform the task effectively. In concluding, the presentation will address the impact of technological limitations and affordances on the research design and materials.

Keywords

Computer-assisted simultaneous interpreting, Complexity factors, Skills

Investigating simultaneous interpreters' interaction with the Artificial BoothMate: Insights from eye-gaze during real meetings

Mrs. Ana-Maria Pleșca, Mr. Michiel Kusé, Prof. Dr. Evy Woumans, Prof. Dr. Bart Defrancq
Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

Mrs. Ana-Maria Pleșca

Ana-Maria Pleșca is currently working as a predoctoral research staff member within the EQTIS research group at Ghent University. She has obtained her Master's in Linguistics with a focus on psycholinguistics in 2022 from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Her thesis investigated the interplay of social-formality register congruence and verb-argument semantic relations on written sentence comprehension. She has held a research fellowship at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin between 2022-2023 and worked as a research staff member for the Berlin University Alliance (2023). Her research interests encompass aspects of language processing such as: the effects of social cues on language comprehension, bilingualism, emotion, deception, as well as attention.

Mr. Michiel Kusé

Michiel Kusé (Ghent University) holds degrees in Translation (KU Leuven) and Literary Studies (KU Leuven et al.) and is currently pursuing a PhD in Translation Studies. The focus of this PhD project is on the occurrence of default translation patterns, i.e. instances where target text production runs smoothly with limited mental effort, in both translators and interpreters. The aim is to uncover these types of patterns in online process and product data by means of EEG, eyetracking, and recording of participants' output, to help us understand when and why they happen, and if they are related to training and experience.

Prof. Dr. Evy Woumans

Having obtained my Master's degree in Translation (Danish/English) in 2009 (Erasmushogeschool Brussel), I completed a teacher training programme in 2010 and an Advanced Master's degree in Linguistics in 2011 (Vrije Universiteit Brussel). In October 2011, I started working on my PhD in Psychology at UGent under the supervision of Prof. Dr Wouter Duyck, unravelling the effects of bilingualism on cognition, studying myriads of bilingual populations (including interpreters, children, and patients). After receiving my PhD degree in May 2015, I was a postdoctoral member of the LEMMA project (Language, Education, and Memory in Multilingualism and Academia – a concerted research actions project) at the UGent Department of Experimental Psychology until I was offered a three-year contract as Doctor-Assistant in January 2017 at the same department. In September 2020, I was appointed full-time assistant professor (tenure track) at UGent's Department of Translation, Interpreting, and Communication. My research interests include (but are not limited to) bilingualism and all its (psycholonguistic) aspects, translation and interpreting processes, second language acquisition, and instruction languages in education (e.g. EMI, CLIL).

Prof. Dr. Bart Defrancq

Bart Defrancq is an associate professor of interpreting at Ghent University and the current president of CIUTI. His main areas of research are simultaneous interpreting and police interpreting. Originally a corpus linguist, he brought corpus-based methods to interpreting research and built two important corpora of interpretations. He is also known for his experimental research on CAI tools in simultaneous interpreting.

Abstract

In-booth support for simultaneous interpreting is increasingly attracting interest. Several experimental studies have been conducted on system and interpreter performance since Defrancq & Fantinuoli (2021). However, behavioural patterns in CAI-tool-equipped booths remain underexplored. In a multi-modal study (N = 12) we investigated simultaneous interpreters' interaction with an AI-powered CAI-tool, the Artificial BoothMate, during international organisation meetings. Using a dummy-booth paradigm, participants from the Dutch, German, Spanish, and French booths performed interpreting tasks while integrating the Artificial

BoothMate into their workflow. The tool offered a live transcript, technical terms with their equivalents, and numbers extracted from the speakers' output during the meetings. We compared interpreters' eye-gaze behaviour towards three main areas of interest (AOIs): tool, supporting materials (paper-based and digital resources), and floor (meeting room, slides, and speaker), during tool-on and off intervals alternated at a 15-minutes pace. Analyses of fixation counts revealed that during tool-on intervals, participants fixated 15% on the tool, 30.5% on materials, and 54.5% on the floor. Via linear mixed-effects models we analysed fixation duration and count based on tool activation, AOIs, and booth. We detected significant effects of tool activation whereby fixation duration and count increased during tool-on vs. off intervals across tool and supporting materials AOIs. A significant tool activation-by-AOI interaction revealed significantly longer fixation durations on the transcript for tool-on (vs. off) intervals, whereas the terms were fixated equally across intervals, suggesting that participants sought terminology assistance also during tool-off intervals. Booths differed in their attentional patterns towards the tool, floor, and supporting materials. Moreover, tool activation impacted participants' interaction with supporting materials. Accordingly, longer fixation durations on supporting materials were observed during tool-on (vs. off) intervals, possibly reflecting effects of increased cognitive effort during material consultation. Overall, the findings suggest that the tool significantly impacts attentional patterns and cognitive load during simultaneous interpreting.

Keywords

simultaneous interpreting, CAI-tool, eye-tracking

Session 11 | 15:30-17:00

LT.01 | Panel 8 | Changing Models of Translation Cognition and the Challenge of AI (cont.)

Chairs: Félix do Carmo, Fábio Alves, Anna Pakes

The effect of live captioning on simultaneous interpreters' cognitive effort and performance: A multi-method exploratory study

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Ms Siqi Zhang

Siqi Zhang is a PhD candidate in Interpreting Studies at the College of Foreign Languages and Cultures, Xiamen University. She is also a visiting PhD researcher at the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, Durham University. Her research interests include cognitive interpreting studies and anxiety studies.

Prof. Jing Chen

Jing Chen is a professor, doctoral supervisor, and the Dean of the College of Foreign Languages and Cultures at Xiamen University, China. She also serves as the Deputy Director of the Interpreting Committee of the Translators Association of China, Vice President of the Fujian Translators' Association, and Director of the Institute of Interpreting Studies at Xiamen University. Her research interests focus on translation and interpreting studies. She has contributed widely to peer-reviewed journals in the field, including Interpreting, Meta, The Interpreter and Translator Trainer, and Language Assessment Quarterly.

Prof. Binghan Zheng

Binghan Zheng is Full Professor of Chinese and Translation Studies at Durham University, UK. His research interests encompass cognitive translation/interpreting studies, neuroscience of translation/interpreting, and the conceptualisation of translation/interpreting. He serves as an Associate Editor of the Routledge journal Translation Studies, and his recent publications have appeared in journals such as Target, Meta, Translation Studies, The Interpreter & Translator Trainer, Journal of Pragmatics, Brain & Cognition, Across Languages & Cultures, Translation & Interpreting Studies, Perspectives, and LANS-TTS.

Abstract

Technological advancements have significantly reshaped the way simultaneous interpreting (SI) is performed. Empowered by automatic speech recognition and machine translation technologies, live captioning has emerged as a promising tool for enhancing interpreting quality and productivity. However, while some researchers suggest that live captioning may free up cognitive resources, others argue that it could introduce additional cognitive challenges for interpreters. Against this backdrop, our study investigates the effects of different live captioning conditions—namely, no captions, source language captions, target language captions, and bilingual captions—on interpreters' cognitive effort and their SI performance. We recruited a group of trainee interpreters (N=20) to perform four comparable English-to-Chinese SI tasks, each featuring a different captioning condition generated in real-time by iFLYTEK software. Cognitive effort was measured using a Tobii Pro Spectrum eye-tracker and NASA Task Load Index. Interpreting performance was assessed using the rubrics-based scale developed by Han (2015), with accuracy being further evaluated via propositional rating, and fluency additionally measured by the number of pauses. A post-hoc semi-structured interview was conducted to explore participants' perceived effectiveness of live captioning across the four conditions. The results indicate that (1) participants performed better when captions were provided. Source language captions were perceived as more trustworthy, while target language captions, being in the participants' first language, allowed for more intuitive and faster retrieval of target information. (2) Participants' perceptions of captioning effectiveness were aligned with their actual interpreting performance. This study, which innovatively explores four potential captioning conditions, provides empirical evidence that contributes to the ongoing debate on the role of live captioning in facilitating the SI process and enhancing its

outcomes. The findings also have significant implications for interpreter training and professional practice, particularly in integrating AI-powered technologies into real-world SI workplace.

Keywords

Live captioning, SI process and performance, cognitive effort

Navigating Digital Translation Landscapes: A Triangulation Framework for AI-Assisted Research

Dr Zhilu Tu
Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, China

Dr Zhilu Tu

ZHILU TU holds a PhD from the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University. His research bridges Translation Studies and Digital Humanities, employing digital methodologies to explore translation and cross-cultural communication. Drawing on traditional translation theories and advanced digital techniques, he has developed innovative tools, including the award-winning WikAligner for multilingual text alignment. His work has been presented at international conferences and is being published in peer-reviewed academic venues.

Abstract

In the era of AI and big data, translation studies faces unprecedented challenges in both its methodology and its object of study. The proliferation of digital media outlets has dispersed translations, while AI threatens to disrupt traditional translation practices and research. To reconcile these challenges, this study proposes a triangulation framework that integrates discourse and narrative analysis to navigate between reader and authoritative viewpoints. In addition to adopting a discourse and narrative-based perspective, this triangulation approach leverages AI-based visualization techniques to extract key information from quantitative data and support in-depth qualitative analysis. This enables the depiction of discourse centralization and narrative construction through an approach that I term "Cluster and Flow", where topic modeling facilitates discourse clustering and network co-occurrence graphs illuminate underlying narratives. The visualization-based framework provides researchers with a more nuanced understanding of translation in the digital era. The framework's efficacy will be evaluated through a case study of translations of state-run media posts on social platforms, characterized by a mobile reading context with strong ideology, and contrasted with translations on collaborative platforms like Wikipedia. This study aims to map the digital media translation landscape, explore AI's role in translation research and highlight the need to refine it, emphasizing its quantitative analysis capabilities and prioritizing human qualitative analysis. This preliminary exploration of AI-assisted research in translation studies seeks to spark further discussion and refinement in this area.

Keywords

Triangualtion, Translation in digital media, Discourse and narrative analysis

Language Technologies and Interlingua

Prof. Yuri Balashov
University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA

Prof. Yuri Balashov

Yuri Balashov is a professor of philosophy and a faculty fellow in the Institute for Artificial Intelligence at the University of Georgia, USA. He is also a certified member of the American Translators Association (ATA) and a member of the Association for Machine Translation in the Americas (AMTA). Yuri is working on an NSF-funded project exploring cognitive, linguistic, and philosophical dimensions of human and machine translation. He gave talks at ATA, AMTA, and local translation association meetings. Recent publications include "The Translator's Extended Mind" (Minds and Machines, 2020) and "The Boundaries of Meaning: A Case Study on Neural Machine Translation" (Inquiry, 2022). Yuri's presentation at the MT Summit 2025, based on a collaboration with another translator and a programmer, is focused on the rapidly expanding new opportunities arising from recent progress in language technologies for individual translators and language service providers with modest resources. Current work in progress includes an extended reflection on the origins of the translation abilities of large language models.

Abstract

Translation, human or machine, apparently involves the transfer of meaning from a source to a target language. Does this process include a language-independent stage? The concept of Interlingua, understood as a formal representation of the source text that is used to generate a semantically equivalent output in a target language, has a long history. With the rise of computing and formal linguistics in the 1950–1960s, the notion of Interlingua, reflected in the famous "Vauquois triangle," made its way into rule-based machine translation (RBMT) and was also adopted by translation scholars in the earlier theoretical models of human translation, no doubt under the influence of generative and transformational grammars. While the ideal of Interlingua was never successfully implemented in RBMT, it served as an inspiration for important theoretical developments and a point of contact with related ideas in semiotics and "symbolic AI." But the subsequent abandonment of RBMT in favor of corpus-based statistical methods left no room for Interlingua. Instead, a completely different, inherently probabilistic notion of what constitutes a good translation came to dominate the field. With the advent of neural MT and large language models (LLMs), some researchers have suggested that Interlingua staged a comeback in the form of language-independent intermediate vector representation of linguistic meaning. This claim is controversial, and its plausibility hinges on the details and performance of multilingual NMT systems and LLMs prompted for translation. What does it take to implement Interlingua in any translation system—natural, artificial, or hybrid? What are the desiderata for a linguistically, cognitively, and philosophically plausible concept of Interlingua? Does continuous vector representation of linguistic meaning, emerging from the current, deep learning-based work on multilingual and low-resource translation, meet such desiderata? My working hypothesis is that the concept of Interlingua has always been a captivating illusion, serving various stimulating functions throughout the evolution of language technologies, with no solid conceptual foundation. Real-life translation, human or machine, is messier, more opportunistic, and much less systematic than is assumed in any interlingual account. Most multilingual NMT and LLM-based systems must struggle with numerous challenges including representation bottlenecks; the need for knowledge distillation, additional language-specific adapters, data balancing, incremental training, and shared subword vocabularies; language divergence and "leakage"; and others. The performance of multilingual systems remains very uneven at the time of writing. And the conceptual shape of the "Interlingua" emerging from this new research is quite different from its classical ideal: it is non-transparent, data-dependent, and noisy. Is cross- or multi-lingual transfer that apparently happens in a multilingual NMT or LLM-based system—for example, when the training signal from a high-resource language pair, such as Spanish-English, is used to improve translation from Catalan to English—truly interlingual? What defines the boundaries among languages in this context? How do multiple languages interface with each other in this

computational environment? What about languages based on very different writing systems? The increasing use of LLMs in translation raises new questions about the source of their often-surprising translation ability. Some of it may be related to the trace amounts of parallel multilingual data in the predominantly English content (90–95%) on which LLMs are trained. The sheer total volume of this content (trillions of tokens) could make its multilingual portion substantial and comparable to the amount of parallel data used to train dedicated NMT models. But that is not true of low-resource language directions (e.g. Japanese-Swahili). Even for high-resource language pairs, such as English-German, most of the German content present in the overwhelmingly English data used to train LLMs is unaligned with its English counterparts. And yet, LLMs demonstrate performance competitive with that of dedicated NMT engines for some language pairs and domains. Do they achieve it by learning truly interlingual representation of the data? Or rather by "memorizing" and "triangulating" the data coming from different sources? Does this type of learning, based on decoder-only models, bear any similarity to what happens in unsupervised MT, which uses ingenious encoder-decoder architectures? Finally, how much of LLMs' multilingual translation abilities comes pre-training compared to in-context learning induced by creative prompting, for example, when the model is explicitly asked to translate from Romanian to Chinese (a low-resource pair) in two steps by going through a pivot language (i.e. English)?

Keywords

interlingua, machine translation, multilingual translation

Translation as Self-Referential Modeling: Insights from Embodiment, Emotion, and AI

Dr. Michael Carl
KSU, Kent, USA

Dr. Michael Carl

Dr. Michael Carl is a Distinguished Professor at Kent State University/USA and Director of the Center for Research and Innovation in Translation and Translation Technology (CRITT). He maintains and extends CRITT's Translation Process Research-Database (TPR-DB), a publicly available resource that contains large amounts of behavioral translation data (keylogging and gaze data). His work in the past decade has mainly centered around the conceptualization, analysis, and evaluation, as well as the empirically grounded modelling of the observed relations in the CRITT TPR-DB data.

Abstract

For Chalmers (2023), thinking consists of “mental acts such as judging and wondering.” He imagines the possibility of “pure thinkers” — beings capable of thought without any capacity for sensation or action. Such pure thinkers, he suggests, could develop semantic, logical, mathematical, and metaphysical concepts and infer causal relations between them, despite lacking input, output, experiences, feelings, or emotions. These creatures would therefore be “largely structuralist thinkers.” In contrast, large language models (LLMs), with their symbolic input and output, exceed the imagined capabilities of pure thinkers — yet they still lack experiential content (i.e., qualia). According to Chalmers, LLMs can, however, “use abduction to form theories about the world that produces these inputs.” Along these lines, Millière and Buckner (2023) argue that LLMs possess linguistic compositionality and are capable of inferring concepts and “world-knowledge.” But while the world-knowledge of LLMs reflects statistical patterns of their linguistic environment (i.e., the training data), human world-knowledge is fundamentally different: it is goal-oriented, felt, and motivated, tied to experiences of survival, care, fear, joy, etc. Nevertheless, LLMs, through their statistical knowledge, can identify translation equivalents—what Catford (1965) called “formal correspondents”: target-language expressions that occupy roughly the same place in the linguistic economy of the target language as their source-language counterparts. This suggests that no experiential faculties, feelings, or emotions are required to find translation correspondents. It supports Saussure’s view of the "signified" as defined by its differences to other signified, rather than by reference to external realities. The act of translation, on this view, is non-representational, as translators do not need to refer to any state-of-affairs neither within their own body (e.g., feelings, emotions) nor to experiences of an outside world. The act of translation itself—whether human or machine—is thus self-referential, as it can be achieved through modeling cross-linguistic relations, discourse trajectories, and context-sensitive predictions rather than analyzing or specifying representational content. This perspective seems consistent with Gutt’s (2000, 2005) account of translation as interpretive language use, which stipulates that translators establish resemblances between "bodies of thought" rather than preserving propositional truth. Kiverstein and Rietveld (2021, and others) refute the possibility of "pure thinkers." For them, linguistic thought does not exist independently in the mind of a (human) speaker prior to its expression in speech. As they put it, "the thought is accomplished in the bodily activity of talking with others, or in writing and doesn’t exist in the speaker’s head as a ready-made thought prior to this activity of talking or writing" (p. S178). Thus, mental acts such as judging and wondering—to the extent they involve operating on possibilities—are tightly related to sensing and acting, but otherwise unthinkable. For us, affect, emotions and feelings have a biological survival function (Damasio 2004). They are faculties of our biological and psychological makeup that exert also a regulatory social function, which is an important aspect of translation itself (Koskinen 2020, Robinson 2023). Building on these considerations, I propose an architecture of the translating mind that resonates with Robinson’s (1991, 2023) ideosomatic theory of

translation. Drawing on Peirce’s triadic model of interpretants, Robinson's ideosomatic theory emphasizes the translator’s bodily and emotional involvement. He suggests three layers of interpretants: • The emotional interpretant is the immediate, intuitive feeling response that shapes attention and meaning. • The energetic interpretant corresponds to embodied/motor reactions, expressed in typing and gaze behavior. • The logical interpretant steers reflective processing that regulates and reinterprets emotional input. Robinson argues that translation involves a “feeling-becoming-thinking” process: smooth translation arises when emotional and motor states align, but reflective thought may be called upon when there's a mismatch. Catford (1965). A Linguistic Theory of Translation. London: Oxford University Press. Chalmers (2024) Does Thought Require Sensory Grounding? From Pure Thinkers to Large Language Models, https://arxiv.org/abs/2408.09605}, Gutt (2005). On the significance of the cognitive core of translation. The Translator, 11(1), 25–49. Kiverstein & Rietveld. (2021) Scaling-up skilled intentionality to linguistic thought. Synthese 198 (Suppl 1), 175–194 Koskinen (2020) Translation and affect. Essays on sticky affects. Amsterdam, John Benjamins Millière and Buckner (2024) A Philosophical Introduction to Language Models, https://arxiv.org/abs/2401.03910 Robinson. (1991). The Translator’s Turn. Baltimore. The Johns Hopkins University Press. Robinson. (2023). Questions for Translation Studies. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: Benjamins Translation Library.

Keywords

Large Language Models (LLMs), Affect and cognition, Non-representational thinking

LT.06 | General panel | Policy and Politics

Chair: Luc van Doorslaer

Local News in My Language: Journalistic Translation and Epistemic Rights

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Dr Nina Havumetsä

Nina Havumetsä is a University Lecturer of translation (Russian to Finnish) at the University of Eastern Finland. Her research interests include translation in journalism, translation of nonfiction, and the norms of translation. Recently Nina has been working in the DECA consortium (www.decatutkimus.fi), in which she and her colleagues are investigating both how linguistic minorities access information in different languages and how that information is produced.

Dr Mary Nurminen

Mary Nurminen is a University Instructor and researcher at Tampere University in Finland. Her research focuses on the various ways in which non-translators use machine translation. Recently Mary has been working in the DECA consortium (www.decatutkimus.fi), in which she and her colleagues are investigating both how linguistic minorities access information in different languages and how that information is produced. She teaches translation (Finnish to English), machine translation, interpreting, and technical writing.

Abstract

Access to information has long been tied to human rights, including in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that all people have the right to "seek, receive and impart information and ideas" (United Nations 1948: 5). It is also encompassed in the concept of epistemic rights, defined as the right to reliable information about society, the right to be heard, and the right to participate in the production of knowledge (DECA n.d.). Watson (2018: 92) further states that individuals' epistemic rights subsequently impose on mainstream media the duty to provide people with "knowledge, information, understanding and truth." However, language issues are rarely mentioned in these discussions. In Finland, public broadcaster Yle fulfills its epistemic obligations by providing news in the national languages of Finnish and Swedish, but also in Russian, English and Ukrainian. Yle's strategy is to provide reliable information to the whole population, increase mutual understanding between population groups, and promote pluralism and democratic development (Yle 2020). In our presentation, we report on a study we conducted on Yle's Russian, English and Ukrainian journalists. In our interviews (7) and in situ observation (1), we explored the role of multilingualism and translation in their work, their views on their role in society, how their work promotes the epistemic rights of their target audiences, and how they use language technology.

Keywords

epistemic rights, journalistic translation

Evaluating Translation Policy

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Dr. Gabriel González Núñez

Gabriel GONZÁLEZ NÚÑEZ is an Associate Professor at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. He is the Director of Translation and Interpreting Programs at said university. He is the author of the monograph Translating in Linguistically Diverse Societies (John Benjamins) and is the lead editor in the book Translation and Public Policy (Routledge). He has published articles and chapters on translation policy and translation history, among other topics. He has a BA in translation (Brigham Young University), a JD or law degree (Brigham Young University), an MA in translation and intercultural studies (Rovira i Virgili University), and a PhD in translation studies (Catholic University of Leuven). He is originally from Uruguay.

Ms. Viridiana Zúñiga Pelayo

Viridiana ZÚÑIGA PELAYO is the Director of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's (UTRGV) Translation and Interpreting Office. She is a member of the Oregon Society of Translators and Interpreters. Her first interpreting job was for WIRED magazine. Since then, she has provided services for in-patient mental health facilities, Child Protective Services, immigration, criminal and family court, prisons, and non-profits. She also worked with the U.S. Department of Health during the COVID-19 pandemic. She holds a BA in translation and interpreting and a certificate in medical interpreting (University of Texas at Brownsville) and an MA in Spanish translation and interpreting (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley). She is originally from Mexico.

Abstract

In the last decade, many studies in our field have explored translation policy. A number of these studies analyze translation policy based on the tripartite model of translation management, translation practices, and translation beliefs. The model has proven fruitful for the understanding of translation in public policy contexts. In such contexts, policy is deployed to achieve certain goals. However, when scholars in Translation Studies have analyzed translation policy, evaluations of whether a policy actually achieves its initial goals are rarely carried out. Yet policy evaluation deserves scholarly attention because translation policies, when deliberately deployed by public institutions, do not exist for the sake of existing but rather to pursue social goals. It is in the evaluating of public policies that decisions can be made regarding what works and what ought to be changed in a policy. This presentation proposes to help advance the study of translation policy by focusing on evaluation. Specifically, it will present the case study of a small institution, the Translation and Interpreting Office of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, and evaluate its translation policy. The aim of this presentation is to encourage further policy evaluation within Translation Studies.

Keywords

translation policy, policy evaluation, public policy

Framing violent protest in translation: A narrative analysis of the 2019 Hong Kong protests

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Mr Hao Mo

Hao Mo is a PhD candidate in Translation Studies at the University of East Anglia, specializing in news translation, narrative theory, and framing analysis. A member of the Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL), he has extensive experience as an English-Chinese translator.

Abstract

In 2019, Hong Kong witnessed the largest protests since its handover in 1997. Despite extensive research on this globally significant event, scholars have overlooked the crucial role of translation in disseminating narratives of the protests. News media of different languages rely on translation to spread their versions of the story across language borders and influence target readers' perceptions. This study investigates how translation frames the news narratives of the 2019 Hong Kong protests by comparing original English articles with their Chinese translations from the BBC, the NYT, and XNA. It draws on narrative theory and the protest paradigm, a concept from framing studies, to propose an interdisciplinary approach to analysing translation-mediated coverage of protests. While narrative theory helps analyse translation strategies (e.g., omissions, additions, and labelling), it lacks an explicit methodology. This challenge is addressed by using protest paradigm components as narrative elements to identify key points of narrative analysis and guide where to start the analysis and what to look at. Results show that the translated narratives disseminated by the three news organisations to Chinese readers reflect the ideologies of their source cultures. The different translation strategies they adopt suggest the divergence in their institutional translation practices and the influence of target readership and sociopolitical factors. These strategies lead to the weakening, reproduction, or strengthening of ideologies. The current study also raises the question of how media can improve their coverage and translation of protest news.

Keywords

narrative approach to translation studies, the protest paradigm, the 2019 Hong Kong protests

LT.07 | General panel | Arabic Translation

Chair: Neil Sadler

Modality in the Translation of Arab Countries' Constitutions: A Diachronic Corpus-based Study

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University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom. Taif University, Taif, Saudi Arabia

Miss Maha Alshehri

Maha is a PhD researcher in legal translation studies at the University of Leeds, UK. Her research explores legislative Arabic language and its translation into English. She holds an MA in Arabic/English Translation with the Excellence Prize from the University of Leeds (2019). Maha works as a Lecturer in Translation at the Department of Foreign Languages, Taif University, Saudi Arabia. She is also a Certified Legal Translator accredited by the Literature, Publishing, and Translation Commission in Saudi Arabia and a member of Translation Association (SATA), the first official body for translators in Saudi Arabia. Her research interests involve legal translation, media translation, literary translation, corpus-based translation studies (CBTS), and translation technology.

Abstract

Legislative translation, especially for constitutions, is less investigated than other legal genres (Li, 2017). Similarly, most Arabic/English legal translation studies focus on contracts (e.g., Mohammad et al 2010, Alaqad 2014), leaving Arabic legislative texts understudied despite their value for "empirical linguistic investigations of authentic Arabic texts" (El-Farahaty et al, 2023). On the other hand, law's primary function- to impose duties and regulate behaviour (Hart 1961)- is achieved through deontic modals of obligation, prohibition, and permission, forming "a key generic feature" of legal texts, both translated and non-translated ones (Biel, 2014). However, modality is a highly varied grammatical category across languages (Biel, 2014, quoting Palmer, 2001), leading to mistranslation in legal discourse (Šarčević, 2007). Although many scholars agree that Arabic has an extensive vocabulary to express modality, it lacks a formal grammatical system for modals (El-Hassan 1990, Abdulfattah 2005, Eades 2011, El-Farahaty 2015, Farghal 2018). El-Farahaty and Elewa (2020) examined the recent constitutions of 19 Arab countries (from 1992-2016) to investigate how modals are expressed in Arabic and translated into English. Motivated by their study, and aiming to examine more authentic legislative texts in Arabic, this paper seeks to provide a corpus-based diachronic analysis of modality used in Arab constitutions issued since 1923 till present, using the Leeds Parallel Corpus of Arabic Countries' Constitutions (LPCACC), and adopting El-Farahaty and Elewa's (2020) method for identifying and categorizing modals. The dataset includes 51 parallel files from 20 Arab countries, many of which have issued multiple constitutions over time, which allows for examining the discrepancies in drafting and translating the deontic modals and assessing shifts in modal strength.

Keywords

Arabic constitutions , Modality in legal discourse, Diachronic analysis

Translation Awards in the Arab World: Contexts, Impacts and Policy-Making

Dr. Mahmoud Alhirthani
Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar

Dr. Mahmoud Alhirthani

Mahmoud Alhirthani teaches Translation at Hamad University, Doha. He has been in the field of English Arabic Translation for the last 25 years as a teacher, translator, reviewer, and researcher. His Arabic translation of Brownlie's Principles of Public International Law (2022) won Shiekh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding (2023). He published research on literary translation, the translation of Palestinian resistance literature into English, translation and the reproduction of knowledge in the Arab world with focus on nation and translation with specific reference to the history of translation in Palestine as well as the impact of social narratives that affect the inclusion and exclusion in institutional translation. His current research examines how the field teaching of English/Arabic translation can pedagogically address issues resulting from the increasing role artificial intelligence is undertaking in the field of intercultural communication, with specific reference to English/Arabic translation.

Abstract

This paper explores the contexts and impacts of translation awards in the Arab world, focusing on the Qatar-based Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding. It examines how such awards influence translation policy-making and shape the evolving landscape of translation in the 21st-century Arab world, particularly in relation to cultural diversity and cross-cultural dialogue. As a key form of patronage, these awards play a pivotal role in prioritizing certain languages, cultures, genres, and discourses, thereby shaping the broader cultural sphere. Diversity will be examined through the selection criteria of literary prizes, the demographics of winners, and the broader cultural implications of prize outcomes. A more detailed analysis includes case studies of awarded authors or works, assessing how the prize affects their visibility and reception within the cultural sphere. Drawing on André Lefevere's concept of patronage—ideology, economics, and status, as well as recent scholarship on prizes, the paper offers a descriptive analysis of translation awards in the Arab world, highlighting trends and gaps in selection processes and their impact on policy-making. It also explores the strategies employed by these awards to balance the preservation of Arabic cultural traditions with the integration of translated works from other cultures. The study investigates the nature of awarded translations in both directions: from other languages into Arabic and from Arabic into other languages. Additionally, it analyzes the factors and dynamics driving policy decisions that shape the translation landscape. As a form of patronage, translation awards influence intellectual debates on global issues, potentially enhancing or constraining cross-cultural understanding. Findings underscore the significance of these awards in promoting translation, raising visibility, fostering cultural diversity, and enriching global intercultural communication. The paper concludes by discussing the implications of patronage for translation policy-making, advocating for balanced and equitable support systems that cultivate a diverse and vibrant translation ecosystem.

Keywords

Patronage , Policy-making , Translation Awards

Arab Feminist Discourse and Translation of Its Narratives (A critical discourse analysis of the translated novels from Arabic into English After the Arab Spring)

Ms Sarah Alshamran
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Ms Sarah Alshamran

- PhD researcher in Translation Studies. - Lecturer in Linguistics (Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University) I am driven by the belief that language wields transformative power and inspired by its profound impact on fostering societal change. My research explores the intersection of politics and feminism in Arabic literature translated into English post-Arab Spring using critical discourse analysis.

Abstract

The Arab Spring, an anti-government revolution that began in Tunisia in late 2010, spread across the Arab region, significantly impacting Arab nations and catalysing women's active engagement in the uprising. This socio-political context provides a rich backdrop for studies on war narratives, women in revolution, and feminist discourse. This article delves into the transnational journey of Arab feminist discourse, highlighting its adaptability and resilience as it is reproduced and reinterpreted across diverse cultures. It also scrutinizes the articulation, presentation, and translation of a spectrum of Arab feminist activism in the post-Arab Spring era. Employing a transnational feminist reading, this study analyzes the English translation of Arabic novels written after the Arab Spring. Specifically, it offers a feminist critical discourse analysis of "Alkhʾifūn" (2017) by Syrian writer Dima Wannous and its English translation "The Frightened Ones" (2019) by Elisabeth Jacquette. The article proposes an analytical framework that combines Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Feminist Translation Strategies (FTS) to uncover ideological manipulations in literary translations. It draws on Fairclough's CDA for textual analysis in social context, Van Dijk's Ideological Square for ideological discourse analysis, and FTS as an ideological device. Through this multifaceted approach, the study explores how "The Frightened Ones" reproduces Arab feminist ideology as transnational feminism, contributing to our understanding of the complex interplay between language, ideology, and cultural context in the global circulation of feminist narratives.

Keywords

Literary discourse translation, Transnational feminisms, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

Translation as Normalization: Downtoning Queer References in Arabic Subtitles and Its Social Impact

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Al Maaref University, Beirut, Lebanon

Dr. Zeinab Anis Jaber

As a university instructor, Dr. Zeinab Anis Jaber has imparted her expertise in translation across various Lebanese institutions. Her impact extends to her role as the founding chairperson of the Department of Translation and Languages at both Al Maaref University and another esteemed institution, where she has established influential translation programs and student organizations. Her entrepreneurial spirit is evident in co-founding a translation company, while her creative endeavors include contributions to children's literature and the publication of a poetry book in Arabic. Her multifaceted career highlights her dedication to advancing translation and nurturing future language professionals.

Abstract

This paper investigates the translation of the word "gay" and its synonyms from English into Arabic, focusing on a corpus of 50 films from different genres with available Arabic subtitles on Netflix. The study examines the frequency of euphemized or neutralized translations of the word "gay" and its related terms, particularly the adoption of مثلي الجنس (mithli al-jins), a modern, neutral translation that has replaced older, negatively connoted terms like شاذ (shādh) or لوطي (louti). The primary aim of this study is to determine whether the high frequency of euphemized/neutralized translations contributes to the normalization of gay culture in Arabic-speaking societies. It argues that the increased use of neutral terms, which are not culturally rooted in the Arab target culture but reflect the values and language of the Western source culture, disrupts the traditional relationship between old perceptions of sexuality and the newer, neutral terms. This shift is hypothesized to reduce the emotional charge associated with the older terms and open the door for greater acceptance, or at least less rejection, of gay culture. The research combines a survey and four focus groups with Arabic-speaking participants categorized by age to reflect varying levels of exposure to globalized media and Netflix. The survey gauges the broader public's attitudes toward these translations, while the focus groups explore in-depth how different generations interpret euphemized translations and their emotional reactions to the normalization process. By analyzing the translation strategies used in the selected films and integrating feedback from both the survey and focus groups, the study aims to reveal how the frequency of neutralized translations impacts perceptions of sexual identity. The findings contribute to the broader discussion on audiovisual translation and cross-cultural communication, highlighting how translation practices can subtly shift cultural narratives and influence societal attitudes toward sexual identity in the Arab world.

Keywords

Queer Translation, AVT, Gender Translation

LT.11 | General panel | Literary Translation

Chair: Claudine Borg

Side Events: Literary Translator Statements and Changing Roles for Paratexts in the late 20th and first quarter of the 21st century

Dr Paschalis Nikolaou
Ionian University, Corfu, Greece

Dr Paschalis Nikolaou

Paschalis Nikolaou is Associate Professor in Literary Translation at the Ionian University. Essays on aspects of translation studies have been included in edited volumes; criticism and translations have appeared in The London Magazine, Modern Poetry in Translation, Parnassus and Notre Dame Review, among others. With Maria-Venetia Kyritsi, he has co-edited Translating Selves: Experience and Identity between Languages and Literatures (2008). His study, The Return of Pytheas: Scenes from British and Greek Poetry in Dialogue appeared in 2017 and in recent years, he edited Encounters in Greek and Irish Literature: Creativity, Translations and Critical Perspectives (2020) and guest-edited an issue of Synthesis (12. 2019; 'Recomposed: Anglophone Presences of Classical Literature'). He has written extensively on the translation history and receptions of C.P. Cavafy. His most recent book, Creative Classical Translation, was published in 2023 by Cambridge University Press, and forthcoming is the Selected Poems of Josephine Balmer (2025), which Nikolaou has edited and introduced.

Abstract

This paper surveys recent tendencies in the literary translation paratext. Recognising the indispensable, usually prescriptive nature of such writing for translational practice in previous centuries – not least reflected in the contents of key 'Readers' and sourcebooks for translation studies – an argument can be made about the current polyvalence, and distribution, of paratextual elements across an evolving publishing culture and digital sphere. Examples of paratexts accompanying translations of poetry, prose, theatrical texts and classical drama/verse in the late 20th and 21st century will be considered with regards to divergences in rhetoric and content compared to what has come before, and given directions now taken by translators and (poet-)translators; but also when it comes to online presentations of translated literature. In this sense, we may examine here how paratexts currently support implementations of theory – for instance, acts of feminist translation in Emily Wilson's Homer (along with other recent classical translation paratexts; see e.g. discussions in Balmer 2013). Equally, we address the value of 'cumulative' translation statements in collaborative, or group translations, as well as analyse a performative tendency, along with the conceptualizing of process and product that often coincides with fragments from the translator's autobiography, the translation paratext variously justifying the translation, or choices therein, as a form of life-writing. Moreover, a noted 'loosening' of the shape and parameters of the typical translation paratext can may serve to amplify/reflect the literariness of a translation or version, posing itself as a piece of literature – the poems that precede Anne Carson's versions of Antigone and Bakkhai would be an example. Finally, an interesting strand deals with formations and assemblies of paratextual material mostly observed in online environments and/or accompanying multilingual translation projects. The paper will conclude with proposed typological adjustments (reflecting also on Batchelor, 2018).

Keywords

translator statements/paratexts, collaborative translation, life-writing and literary translation

When literary translation encounters the posthuman: A case study of GPT-4 translation of online Chinese novels

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Dr Xiaofang Yao

Dr Xiaofang Yao is Assistant Professor at the School of Chinese, The University of Hong Kong. Her research interests include sociolinguistics, multilingualism, migrant cultures and digital humanities. She researches both theoretically and empirically the relationships among languages, space, objects and technologies. Her publications have appeared on journals such as International Journal of Multilingualism, Applied Linguistics Review, Social Semiotics, Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development, Big Data & Society, among others.

Dr Yong-Bin Kang

Dr Yong-Bin Kang is Senior Data Science Research Fellow at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society (ADM+S), Swinburne University of Technology. His area of expertise primarily lies in the domains of knowledge discovery, predictive modelling, and decision-making optimisation using advanced natural language processing, machine learning, and AI techniques. Recently, his research has focused on creating, directing, and delivering AI solutions that improve open, ethical, and trustworthy AI analytics practices for social good.

Abstract

Literary translation has been one of the areas where machine performance is controversial. Existing research suggests that machine translations of literary texts lack creativity, are prone to lexical, structural or pragmatic errors and fail to reproduce the literary style (Guerberof-Arenas & Toral, 2022; Moorkens et al., 2018; Toral & Way, 2018). Such quality assessment of machine translations often prioritises automated evaluation metrics and human evaluations based on subjective ratings, whereas the nuanced stylistic features of machine translations have rarely been systematically surveyed (but see Lee, 2022). The recent sensation around AI and posthuman translation may have re-ignited research interests in automated literary translation. However, empirical evidence is lacking to ascertain whether the use of AI will change the literary translation landscape. As a pioneering effort, this study aims to investigate the style of AI translation and assess the impact of this state-of-the-art technology on literary translation. It focuses on the stylistic features of GPT-4 translations as compared to those of human translations in a literary translation task of Chinese Internet literature as a case study. Employing a computational stylometry analysis, the study reveals that GPT-4 translations and human translations exhibit comparable lexical, syntactic and content features. While statistically significant differences are observed in character counts, total words, vocabulary richness, and sentence types, a machine learning driven comparison of content words suggests GPT-4 exhibits human-like word choices. These findings indicate that AI translations do not necessarily miss the aesthetics of literary style when compared with human translations. Among the first to assess the stylistic features of AI literary translation, this study sheds important lights on the implications of AI in posthuman translation studies where machine and human translations may become increasingly indistinguishable (see also Cronin, 2020; O'Thomas, 2017).

Keywords

AI, Translation, Chinese Internet literature

LT.17 | Panel 26 | Linguistic Vulnerabilities in Translation and Interpreting in Transnational Patient Mobility

Chairs: Sonja Pöllabauer, Katia Iacono, Magdalena Bartłomiejczyk

Roles of Medical Interpreters in South Korea

Dr. Minjung Kim
Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea, Republic of. Yonsei University Health System, Seoul, Korea, Republic of

Dr. Minjung Kim

Minjung Kim (ORCID ID: 0000-0001-6955-0543) earned a PhD in Translation and Interpreting (T&I) at Ewha Womans University and currently serves as an administrator at Yonsei University Health System. Her research interests include medical interpreting, medical communication, and the sociological aspects of translation and interpreting. Her doctoral thesis investigates the roles of medical interpreters in South Korea, where the demand for medical interpreting has been driven by both increasing cultural diversity and the growth of medical tourism. Kim has published three articles related to her areas of interest. The first article, titled "Translation Criticism on The Vegetarian Based on the Productive translation criticism theory of Antonie Berman" was published in The Journal of Translation Studies (2022, Vol. 22, Issue 1). This study examines how information about a translator and the surrounding sociocultural environment influences translation criticism. The second article, "Roles of Medical Interpreting Agents Using Job Advertisements" appeared in The Journal of Translation Studies (2022, Vol. 22, Issue 4). As a precursor to her doctoral thesis, this article explores the roles of medical interpreters in Korean healthcare settings through an analysis of job advertisements. The third article, "Doctor-Patient Relationship Management in Diagnosis Communication" was published in the Korean Journal of Health Communication (2022, Vol. 17, Issue 1). By analyzing medical dialogues from the Korean drama Hospital Playlist alongside previous studies, it identifies strategies that doctors employ to build rapport with their patients.

Abstract

The demand for medical interpreters in South Korea is rapidly growing, primarily driven by an increasing foreign resident population and deliberate governmental initiatives to promote medical tourism. Since the legal authorization in 2009 to attract international patients, South Korean healthcare institutions and agencies have actively embraced this opportunity, resulting in a significant rise in cross-border patient movement. In this environment, medical interpreters play a pivotal role as crucial intermediaries, ensuring interlingual communication between international patients and Korean healthcare professionals throughout the patient care continuum. The roles of medical interpreters employed as in-house staff by hospitals and related agencies are multifaceted: they engage with foreign patients from the moment of initial contact via various channels such as social media, email, and other digital communication platforms; assist with coordinating logistics, including hotel accommodations and transportation; schedule medical consultations and diagnostic procedures; and even follow up on patient care after the patients return to their home countries. Despite their significant involvement in clinical operations and patient care, their roles and responsibilities have not been clearly delineated. This study seeks to address these gaps by investigating the designations, qualifications, and roles of medical interpreters from the perspective of recruiting organizations, including medical institutions and related agencies in South Korea. The research employs both quantitative and qualitative methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of medical interpreters in domestic healthcare settings. In the quantitative component, the study analyzes job postings for medical interpreters collected from various recruitment platforms over a six-month period. This extended data collection period, compared to a previous study (Kim, 2021), allows for a more robust observation of temporal trends in the demand for medical interpreters. The analysis focuses on aspects such as the interpreting languages required, educational backgrounds, and work experiences sought by employers. The high demand for interpreters fluent in certain languages suggests an increasing influx of patients who speak those languages, thereby necessitating a greater number of qualified interpreters. Additionally, the job postings reveal that when the volume of foreign patients reaches a specific threshold, most healthcare institutions prefer to employ medical interpreters as full-time, in-house staff rather than relying on temporary or freelance arrangements. This study supplements the quantitative data with qualitative insights drawn from interviews with employers. These interviews reveal that while healthcare institutions expect medical

interpreters to act primarily as conduits for accurate language translation, they also anticipate a broader, interventionist role. In other words, interpreters are expected to function as coordinators, mediators, or even advocates during the interpreting process. Moreover, these professionals are required to interact effectively with various stakeholders within the institution, leveraging different tools and technologies to fulfill their responsibilities. The findings are intended to inform the development of targeted educational and training programs aimed at enhancing the professional skills of medical interpreters. Improved training will not only enhance communication with foreign patients, thereby contributing to patient safety, but will also help bridge the gap between the practical expectations of healthcare institutions and the theoretical frameworks proposed by government and academic bodies. By systematically documenting and analyzing the roles of medical interpreters, this study aspires to elevate their professional status, strengthen their occupational identity, and increase their visibility within the broader healthcare landscape.

Keywords

Medical interpreting, Medical tourism, Roles of interpreters

Multilingual communication in transnational patient mobility in south Spain

Ms. Beatriz Carrasco Aguas
Loyola University Andalusia, Seville, Spain

Ms. Beatriz Carrasco Aguas

Beatriz Carrasco Aguas graduated with a Master's in the field of Translation and Interpreting Studies from the University of Vienna. She is currently pursuing her PhD at Loyola University Andalusia in the field of Data Science. Her research focuses on interpreting in public services, specifically in multilingual access to healthcare services.

Abstract

Transnational patient mobility is understood as the temporary movement of patients across national borders to receive treatment for medical problems that cannot be satisfactorily resolved in their countries of residence. From the perspective of Translation and Interpreting Studies, it is a relatively understudied field. This contribution aims to shed light on various aspects of the multilingual communicative context in cases of transnational patient mobility in southern Spain. To this end, an overview of the most relevant aspects related to this reality will be presented, such as the geographical context of the Spanish territory or the particularities of its healthcare system (decentralization of services and duality between public and private systems). These are all fundamental pillars for understanding the reality of these patients. Their profiles can be categorized as follows: (1) patients who come from all over the world to be treated by a specific physician because he or she is an expert in a specific area, (2) patients who come for cultural or religious reasons because the specialty they seek does not exist in their country of residence, (3) patients who come for a more general specialty due to lack of resources to get treatment in their countries of residence, and (4) patients who decide to be treated in Spain because the treatment price is lower than in their countries of residence. Similarly, several resources are available to help doctors and other personnel overcome communication barriers with non-Spanish-speaking patients. In the public system, doctors have access to a telephone interpreting system while in private hospitals, each center has its own resources: in-house interpreters, bilingual medical staff, remote interpreters, or none of the aforementioned options. If no resources to facilitate multilingual communication are provided, the patient has to find a solution to overcome the language barrier on his or her own.

Keywords

transnational patient mobility, interpreting in healthcare services, multilingual communication in healthcare contexts

Experts in interpreting, in reproductive rights, or in mental support? Activist interpreters' perspectives on expertise

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Prof. Magdalena Bartlomiejczyk

Magdalena Bartłomiejczyk holds a position as Professor at the Institute of Linguistics, University of Silesia in Katowice and has been Visiting Professor at the University of Vienna in the academic years 2022/23 and 2024/25. Her main research interests have been focused on simultaneous conference interpreting, in particular, interpreting at the European Parliament. She has also done research in community interpreting, sociolinguistics and pragmatics.

Prof. Sonja Pöllabauer

Sonja Pöllabauer holds a position as Professor for Interpreting Studies at the Centre for Translation Studies, University of Vienna. She has been involved in projects on interpreting in asylum procedures, healthcare interpreting, and interpreter-mediated communication in institutional settings, as well as the organization of training courses for lay interpreters.

Abstract

We explore activist interpreting in the context of transnational patient mobility that circumvents the unavailability of legal abortions and anonymous births. Non-professional interpreters from an activist feminist collective Ciocia Wienia provide support and interpretation for Polish patients in Viennese abortion clinics and hospitals. Boéri & Delgado Luchner (2021) recognize expertise (alongside impartiality) as one of two most pertinent issues of activist interpreting ethics. Activist interpreting has challenged the traditional views on interpreting expertise through routine involvement of untrained bilinguals and trainees. However, faltering interpreting quality as a possible consequence may very negatively impact high-stake settings such as healthcare. Drawing on a corpus of 13 qualitative in-depth interviews with the activist interpreters, which we have reported on with a focus on ethical dilemmas (Bartłomiejczyk et al. 2025), motivation (Pöllabauer et al. 2024) and emotional challenges (Bartłomiejczyk et al. 2024), and a new follow-up focus group interview, we explore how they approach and frame expertise in their specific field. Their reflections on this topic were mostly triggered by a purposely vague question whether they consider themselves experts in what they do on behalf of the collective. However, some relevant insights also emerged elsewhere across our material, enforcing a more holistic approach to our data. Our analysis reveals a multifaceted picture of expertise, with most of the participants decisively not seeing themselves as experts in (healthcare) interpreting. The self-perceived deficits in competence preventing them from claiming this expert status mainly refer to two areas: terminology and background knowledge of medicine. On the other hand, some of our interviewees do see themselves as experts in issues around abortion. Some also claim expertise in providing mental support to patients, while others report adjusting the level of empathy as problematic.

Keywords

expertise, activist interpreting, reproductive rights

Expatriates as Long-Term Transnational Patients: Availability of Translated Healthcare Documents in Hungary

Dr Agnes Horvath
Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary

Dr Agnes Horvath

Agnes Horvath is an assistant professor at Semmelweis University, a medical university in Hungary. Her primary research focus is patient safety communication for patients not speaking the local language. She concentrates on language assistance via translations for non-native-speaking patients and conducts research to identify vital documents in the Hungarian health care. Her work centers on corpus-based analysis and translating informed consent forms.

Abstract

Hungary has long been known as a destination for short-term healthcare and medical tourism, attracting patients seeking affordable yet high-quality treatments, whether for prevention, health maintenance, or specific medical care. In recent years, the country has also seen a growing number of foreign residents, particularly since joining the European Union. While the reasons for long-term relocation vary, certain aspects of the Hungarian healthcare system may contribute to its appeal. The country offers a tax-funded healthcare system with relatively easy access to services, a growing private healthcare sector with lower costs compared to Western Europe and the US, and highly trained medical professionals. These factors could make Hungary a favorable destination for expatriates who require medical care during their long-term stay. This research investigates whether the Hungarian healthcare system is adequately prepared to meet the linguistic needs of expatriate patients through translated healthcare documents. To explore this issue, three questionnaire-based surveys were conducted among key stakeholders: healthcare professionals, foreign patients who have used Hungarian healthcare services, and health visitors working with international families. The surveys aimed to assess the availability of healthcare documents in languages other than Hungarian, identify gaps in translation, and determine the most needed languages for medical documentation. Findings suggest that while some translated materials exist, there are significant gaps in the availability and accessibility of multilingual healthcare documents. This raises concerns about effective doctor–patient communication, patient safety, and the overall quality of care for expatriates. By addressing these gaps, Hungary could further enhance its reputation as a favorable destination for both expatriates and international patients. The study's findings contribute to ongoing discussions on language accessibility in healthcare and the need for policy improvements.

Keywords

transnational patients, medical translation, language assistance

LT.19 | General panel | Translator Training

Chair: Joseph Lambert

Building dialogue through service-learning in translator education: Introducing IN.TRA

Professor Silvia Bernardini, Ms Patrycja Stempniewicz
University of Bologna, Forlì, Italy

Professor Silvia Bernardini

Silvia Bernardini is professor of English linguistics and translation at the Department of Interpreting and Translation of the University of Bologna, Italy, where she teaches translation from English into Italian, service-learning and corpus linguistics. She has published widely on corpus use in translator education and for translation practice and research. Her research interests also include the investigation of the points of contact between translation and interpreting, and translation and non-native writing, seen as instances of bilingual language use.

Ms Patrycja Stempniewicz

Patrycja Stempniewicz graduated in Language Mediation and Intercultural Communication (BA) and Languages and Cultures for International Communication and Cooperation (MA) from the University of Milan. She is currently attending the second year of the PhD programme in Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies at the University of Bologna. Her research interests include the didactics of translation, translation studies, and self-translation studies. Her Doctoral research deals with university service-learning and community translation.

Abstract

At a time of global conflicts and unrest, the role of translators as conduits for mutual understanding, advocacy, and social justice is more important than ever (Taibi and Ozolins 2016). Recognizing the potential of translators to act as catalysts for societal change and human rights advocacy, the University of Bologna has pioneered an innovative service-learning approach (Furco 1996) through its IN.TRA initiative—a student-driven pro bono language service provider that integrates academic training with the real-world demands and ethical imperatives related to the translators' profession (Tocaimaza-Hatch 2018). Launched in 2021 within the Department of Interpreting and Translation, IN.TRA blends well-established project-based learning (e.g. Buysschaert et al. 2017) with glocal service-learning based education (Braßler 2018, Adrian and Carvalho Teles 2021), where translation is both conceptualized as a composite set of skills to be honed, and as a tool for social impact. IN.TRA students put their language, translation and cross-cultural skills at the service of community partners (NPOs and NGOs). The collaboration contributes to breaking down the language and cultural barriers that hinder the activities of community partners, while enabling students to develop both disciplinary and citizenship skills, essential for the shaping of their future career trajectory (Tesseur 2023: 144). This contribution offers a comprehensive overview of IN.TRA's structure and pedagogical framework and takes stock of the achievements made and the challenges faced since its setup. We also present the findings of an exploratory study aimed at assessing translation students' perceptions of glocal service-learning and its effects. Through an in-depth analysis of responses to pre- and post-questionnaires and students' electronic reflective diaries (Bringle and Hatcher 1999), our aim is to offer insights into the impact of service-learning on translation students' professional development and personal growth into well-informed and impactful individuals, able to effect positive societal change.

Keywords

translation advocacy, glocal service-learning, translation didactics

Evaluating Different Levels of Translation Competence. The EACT Project

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Dr Elsa Huertas Barros

ELSA HUERTAS BARROS is a Senior Lecturer in Translation in the School of Humanities at the University of Westminster. Elsa's main research interests include translator education, translator competence, assessment practices, and student-centred approaches. Elsa has been an active member of the international projects EACT (Evaluation in the Acquisition of Translation Competence)(https://webs.uab.cat/eact/en/) and EFFORT (Towards a European Framework of Reference for Translation)(https://www.effortproject.eu/). Elsa has published her work in international journals including The Interpreter and Translator Trainer (ITT), The Journal of Specialised Translation and International Journal of Institutional Discourse. Elsa has also published book chapters in edited volumes published by Peter Lang, Routledge and IGI Global. Elsa co-edited an ITT special issue entitled 'New Perspectives in Assessment in Translator Training' (2018) and the volumes Quality Assurance and Assessment Practices in Translation and Interpreting (2019) and The Human Translator in the 2020s (2023). Elsa is currently the co-editor of The Interpreter and Translator Trainer (ITT).

Dr Amparo Hurtado Albir

AMPARO HURTADO ALBIR (ORCID: 0000-0002-4362-7183) is the principal investigator of EACT. She holds a PhD in Translation Studies from the ESIT of the Université Paris III. She is a French-Spanish translator and a Chair Professor of translation and interpreting at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She has been the principal investigator of the PACTE (https://ddd.uab.cat/record/273075) research group since its creation in 1997. She has supervised 10 funded research projects on the didactics of translation and on translation competence and its acquisition, levels and evaluation; she was also the principal investigator of the project that led to the creation of the TREC Network (D:\ikerketa\taldeak_proiektuak\MINECO_evaluación competencia traductora\2024-07-23_abstractarekin bueltaka\trecwebsite.com) in 2011. She is the author of over 150 publications about translation theory, the didactics of translation, and translation competence, including La notion de fidélité en traduction (1990); Enseñar a traducir (1999); Traducción y Traductología (2001; 2022, 13th ed.); Aprender a traducir del francés al español (2015); Researching Translation Competence by PACTE Group (ed., 2017); Translation as a Cognitive Activity (forthcoming), with F. Alves.

Dr Elizabete Manterola Agirrezabalaga

ELIZABETE MANTEROLA AGIRREZABALAGA (ORCID: 0000-0001-6622-0629) is a Senior Lecturer in Translation at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU). She is currently the principal investigator of the research group TRALIMA/ITZULIK. She has participated in several research projects, such as TRACE and EACT. Her research interests include translation didactics, translation within minority language contexts, self-translation, and indirect translation.

Abstract

This presentation outlines the EACT Project (Evaluation in the Acquisition of Translation Competence). The project involved 20 researchers from the following 6 universities: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universidad de Granada, Universitat Jaume I, Universidad del País Vasco/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea, Universidade de Vigo and University of Westminster. EACT aimed to propose assessment procedures for levels A1, A2 and B1 of translation competence set in the NACT (https://ddd.uab.cat/record/273075?ln=en) project carried out by PACTE research Group. The project focused on direct translation from English, French and German and translation between two Languages A. The target languages were Basque, Catalan, Galician and Spanish. The EACT Project comprised the following two studies: (1) A survey on current assessment practices in translation degrees in Spain, completed by 97 translation trainers. This study highlighted the need for a standardisation of assessment procedures and criteria to be able to measure different levels of

translation competence and to achieve a greater level of objectivity. (2) A proposal of tests to measure different levels of translation competence. Such tests were designed for levels A1, A2 and B1 and involved all language combinations of the project. The tests for each level comprised various assessment tasks for which translation correction scales and rubrics were designed. The proposal was then evaluated by 103 students and 42 translation trainers from the Spanish universities that took part in the study. The presentation will describe the EACT Project and outline the main results obtained in the two studies mentioned above.

Keywords

Translation Competence, Evaluation, Translation Training

Bridging Digital Literacy and Machine Translation: Development and Validation of Machine Translation Literacy Scale for Translation Trainees

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Prof. Junho Lee

Dr. Lee Jun-ho is a professor of the Advanced Interpreting & Translation Program at the Graduate School of International Studies, Chung-Ang University in Seoul, Korea. He received M.A. from Seoul University of Foreign Studies, majoring in conference interpreting. After working as a freelance interpreter for 12 years, he got his Ph.D. at the Graduate School at Hankuk University of Foreign studies. Dr. Lee is still active as a conference interpreter and is serving as the operation lead of the Korean Association of Translators and Interpreters. His primary research interests include machine translation and translation training, and he is currently the head of the Industry-Accademia Cooperation Committee of the Korean Association of Translation Studies.

Prof. Yeong-Houn Yi

Yeong-Houn Yi is a professor of Translation Studies in the Department of French Language and Literature at Korea University in Seoul, Korea. He earned his M.A. in French Linguistics from Korea University and obtained his Ph.D. from Sorbonne University in Paris, with a dissertation on Latinisms in medieval and Renaissance French. His primary research interests include the history of translation concepts in Korea, Bourdieusian sociology of translation, and Antoine Berman's translation theories. He currently serves as the director of the Institute of Translation and Rhetoric at Korea University.

Abstract

The rapid advancement of the digital era has significantly elevated the concept of digital literacy within academic discourse, attracting considerable scholarly attention and stimulating a broad spectrum of research initiatives. A pivotal development within this context is the emergence of neural machine translation (NMT), which has significantly improved the accuracy and fluency of machine translation, leading to its widespread adoption by the general public. The proliferation of machine translation (MT) technologies has underscored the critical need for a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of MT literacy. Recent scholarship has begun to delve into the specific literacies required for the effective navigation and utilization of MT systems. Bowker and Buitrago Ciro (2019) define MT literacy as encompassing the user's ability to comprehend the operational mechanisms of MT systems, evaluate the compatibility of texts with MT, and refine the resulting translations with proficiency. Despite these advancements, substantial gaps remain in our understanding of MT users' attitudes, motivations, and proficiency levels. Moreover, the literature addressing the technical and ethical challenges associated with MT use is relatively limited. Consequently, there is an urgent need to develop strategies for educating both the general public and translation trainees about MT, along with robust methods for assessing MT literacy. To address these challenges, this study has developed a diagnostic tool aimed at assessing MT literacy among undergraduate and graduate students majoring in translation in South Korea, with the objective of validating this framework and creating a reliable scale to evaluate MT literacy among translation trainees. Closing these gaps with a more objective MT literacy scale is essential for advancing machine translation as a vital component of digital literacy and translation training for the future.

Keywords

Machine Translation Literacy, Machine Translation, Machine Translation Literacy Scale

Transforming Language Education: AI Advances and Teacher Perspectives in Higher Education

Mr. Ángel Luis García-Junco
University of Seville, Seville, Spain

Mr. Ángel Luis García-Junco

Ángel L. García-Junco received a BA in English Studies (University of Seville) and was granted the Extraordinary Award for getting the highest GPA of his class. He was also given a national research scholarship during his MA in English Language, Literature and Culture with a specialty in Linguistic Studies. Currently, he is a PhD student holding a research contract (FPU22/02346) in the Department of English Philology (English Language) at the University of Seville. His research interests focus on new technologies (eye-tracking and speech synthesis) and Artificial Intelligence, and their application into English as a foreign language teaching and learning.

Abstract

The use of new technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) is currently booming with continuous and rapid advancements in various professional fields. One of the most impacted, both positively and negatively, is language education. Students are immersed in a digital environment, while most teachers lack experience and training in these technologies. This results in a digital and generational divide that hinders the progress of new teaching and learning techniques supported, for example, by the use of artificial intelligence in the foreign language classroom. Although some teachers may believe that using AI tools could negatively impact the learning process, numerous studies (Baidoo-Anu & Ansah, 2023; Hwang & Chen, 2023; Tai & Chen, 2024) advocate for the ethical use and innovative applications aimed at designing teaching techniques that better meet today's academic needs. This study aims to analyze the current situation in a university setting. Specifically, it seeks to investigate the uses, if any, that foreign language teachers make of artificial intelligence and for what purposes. Additionally, it intends to understand teachers' perspectives on this rapid incursion of AI into society and the impact they believe it may have on the process of learning foreign languages. The study was conducted through a questionnaire given to more than 30 university teachers, all of them foreign language teachers. They were asked to indicate their use of AI for teaching purposes and their opinion on including AI to enhance the students' learning process. The initial hypothesis posits that most university teachers do not use AI, nor do they offer positive opinions on the inclusion of AI as a language learning tool, mainly due to the existence of a digital and generational divide, as they lack the experience and training on how to utilize it.

Keywords

artificial intelligence, teacher perspectives, language learning

LT.21 | Panel 5 | Audio Description: The Visual Made Verbal

Chair: Joel Snyder

Revision practices for screen-based Audio Description (AD): A survey among professional audio describers

Ms. Marzieh Izadi
University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

Ms. Marzieh Izadi

Marzieh Izadi is a PhD student in the Department of Applied Linguistics/Translators and Interpreters at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. Her research interests include Audiovisual Translation, Audio Description, and Revision.

Abstract

Quality has been a widely debated issue in translation studies in recent years. Also, with the recent development of quality standards for translation services, more importance is being attracted to quality management procedures, i.e. quality assurance and quality control. Quality has also been a recurring topic in audiovisual translation (AVT) studies, but it has not yet prompted too much research. Among the few studies that have given insight into quality in AVT is Robert and Remael's (2016) survey of quality assurance and quality control practices in the subtitling industry. The survey was largely process-oriented and gave an overview of how subtitlers and their clients carry out quality control and quality assurance in their daily practice. However, although AVT comes in various modes, most of the studies on quality in AVT look into how quality is monitored in subtitling which is arguably the most researched mode of AVT. This study, which is part of a PhD project, wants to contribute to filling this gap by investigating quality in audio description (AD) as one of the younger modes of AVT. In an attempt to approach quality from both a product and process perspective, a survey was conducted among professional audio describers in Europe. The questionnaire contained items on both quality parameters and a series of aspects that can contribute (in)directly to AD quality, such as the level of education of audio describers, the availability of material, software used, and revision practices. The results shed light on the multisemiotic features of audiovisual modality leading to AD problems and thus challenges for quality; the types of revisional interventions revisers perform; the cooperation processes between audio describers and revisers and finally the different aspects of the audio describer's profile and of the material at their disposal that have an impact on AD quality.

Keywords

Audio Description, Quality Control, Revision

Modular Audio Description:The Visual Made Extended Verbal

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Ms Olga Davis

Olga Davis is currently a PhD student based at the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Surrey, UK under supervision of Prof. Sabine Braun and Dr Dimitris Asimakoulas. She has an MA in Translation and Interpreting Studies from the University of Manchester in 2020, where her dissertation was a practical audio description creation project and critical analysis. This work inspired a novel concept of modular audio description, and her research proposal was awarded the Techne scholarship by the Arts and Humanities Research Council UK in 2022. Her background is in the audiovisual translation and localisation industry. She worked as Language Editor at Discovery Channel between 2010-2016 (currently Warner Bros. Discovery, Inc.) and previously as freelance translator and editor of audio and multimedia guides for major museums and galleries in the UK, Europe, and the US at Antenna International. She is a member of Audio Description Association UK. Her research interests are in access services, audio description, inclusive design, and process optimisation.

Dr Dimitris Asimakoulas

Dimitris Asimakoulas is a Senior Lecturer in Translation Studies at the University of Surrey where he serves as Deputy Director for the Centre for Translation Studies. He holds a PhD in Translation Studies and teaches modules on translation theory, intercultural communication and translation, advertising discourse and literary translation. He also supervises doctoral student projects in the areas of literary and audiovisual translation. Relevant publications on comics translation, audiovisual translation, translation history and migrant literature have appeared in Hermes, Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics, Meta, The Translator and Traduction Terminologie Rédaction.

Prof. Sabine Braun

Dr Sabine Braun is Professor of Translation Studies and Director of the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Surrey, UK, a Research-England funded Centre of Excellence. She also serves as a Co-Director of Surrey's Institute for People-Centred AI. She specialises in human-machine integration in translation and interpreting to improve access to information, digital content and public services. For over a decade, she spearheaded a European-funded research programme investigating video-mediated interpreting in legal proceedings to improve language access in the justice sector (AVIDICUS 1-3; 2008-16), while contributing her expertise in video interpreting to other justice sector projects (e.g. QUALITAS, 2012-14; Understanding Justice, 2013-16; VEJ Evaluation, 2018-20). Subsequently she advised justice sector institutions on the use and risks of video-mediated interpreting, delivered training, developed European guidelines, and co-authored a DIN standard. She has also explored the use of video and virtual reality platforms for training interpreters and users of interpreting services (IVY, 2011-3; EVIVA, 2014-15; SHIFT, 2015-18; EU-WEBPSI, 2021-24) and is currently involved in projects investigating the application of communication technologies and AI-enabled language technologies to multilingual health communication (MHealth4All, 2021-24; Interpret-X, 2021-24). She conducts research on audio description and other translation modalities related to accessible communication. In the Horizon 2020 project MeMAD (2018-21), she explored the potential for (semi-)automating audio description to enhance digital media inclusion. In 2024, she launched a Leverhulme Trust-funded Doctoral Training Network on AI-Enabled Digital Accessibility (ADA). Her overarching interest centres on fairness, transparency, and quality in the use of technology in language mediation.

Abstract

In the field of Media Accessibility, audio description (AD) is the traditional standard method of making visual content accessible in a verbal format for the visually impaired audiences. Standard screen AD is time constrained, as the commentary is delivered during natural pauses in the existing soundtrack, in line with AD convention. This often leaves little room for describing salient visual elements, many of which remain inaccessible. A related issue is the 'accessibility' of meaning itself. Visual information is consumed by a range of audiences, including neurodiverse individuals. Neurodiversity could result in certain concepts and meanings not being recognised in the same way by everyone. Assistive technological solutions, such as AD, could make the hidden meaning associated with visual clues accessible. Modular AD is a novel method of

creating and delivering AD which harnesses personalisation potential of video-on-demand platforms. Building on the existing concept of extended AD, created by automatically pausing a video to allow more time for description, the proposed method aims to systematically extend and modularise descriptions. Extended descriptions form optional modules to facilitate delivery of relevant supplementary information about a visual scene along with a core description created to standard AD specification. This research investigates the potential of Modular AD to personalise the way users consume described streamed media content. The presentation discusses a conceptual model for the proposed method, the opportunities it offers, the methodology for a user-oriented research design, and preliminary results of the conducted studies. The project aims to provide foundations for a practical solution that could address individual access needs and broaden the audience that benefits from assistive commentaries. The modular method offers an inclusive cost-effective AD creation workflow that could be further supported by AI to meet both the demand for different AD versions for diverse user groups and the increasing production volumes.

Keywords

media accessibility, extended audio description, user-oriented research methodology

Accessibility in the arts in the United Kingdom from a foreigner's point of view: reviewing the Audio Description in London museums

Ms Martina Maggi
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Ms Martina Maggi

Martina Maggi is a translator, interpreter, and PhD candidate at the University of Turin (in partnership with the University of Genoa), Italy. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theories and Techniques of Interlingual Mediation (2017) and a Master's Degree in Translation and Interpreting (2020) from the University of Genoa, as well as an Master of Arts in Audiovisual Translation in Cinema, Television and Multimedia Publishing (2022) from the University of Turin. She is in her third and final year of a PhD in Digital Humanities, focusing on audio description and accessibility for all in the arts and museums. Between 2023 and 2024, she undertook her research abroad in London and Oxford, starting an internship with VocalEyes and connecting with accessible realities in London. Her research interests include audiovisual translation, audio description, linguistics, and translation theory.

Abstract

Museum audio description is a sub-genre of audio description that emerged at the beginning of the 21st century (Perego, 2023; Fineman and Cock, 2022; Hutchinson and Eardley, 2019, 2022). It aims to transfer the visual information of the museums (statues, paintings, objects) to a verbal description, beneficial for the blind and visually impaired visitors: "Access to the arts – it's about democracy" (Snyder, 2008). Today, museum audio description is a professional practice studied academically worldwide. It is mainly established in English-speaking countries, where targeted institutions and organisations flourished (e.g. Art Beyond Sight and The Audio Description Project in the United States of America, VocalEyes in the United Kingdom) (Perego, 2023). Between 2023 and 2024, during a six-month internship with VocalEyes, the audio descriptions of ten museums in London were reviewed from an academic, sighted, and foreign (in this case, Italian) point of view as part of a follow-up requested by the organisation. The museums had previously been audio described or trained in visual awareness by the VocalEyes team between 2019 and early 2023. A nine-question form was developed in collaboration with VocalEyes to address the topic of accessibility on different levels. More specifically, the availability and update status of the audio descriptive tracks, the awareness of the staff, and the accessible resources offered (QR code, handheld devices, Braille, touch opportunities). At the same time, it was also observed how the use of a "creative and interpretative language" (as defined in Orero, 2012; Randaccio, 2015; Soler Gallego, 2019; and Perego, 2023) in audio description tracks could benefit sighted visitors and foreign tourists as well. Indeed, the duration of an audio description track, which is usually shorter than a traditional museum audio guide (Giansante 2015; Hutchinson and Eardley, 2019), combined with the detailed descriptions of the works of art, could focus the users' attention to otherwise less noticeable elements, while at the same time providing explanations of painting techniques or specific terminology, enriching the vocabulary and and helping to overcome any linguistic difficulties. The paper presents an overview of the accessibility in London museums, as well as of the latest innovations to grant access to art and culture and to enhance, at the same time, blind and visually impaired visitors' independence. "Equal access shouldn't be considered a luxury but rather an opportunity to broaden and reach out to a new audience" (Snyder, 2014). Furthermore, it aims to ponder the benefits of audio descriptions in museums for sighted people and non-native English speakers based on first-hand experience.

Keywords

Audio Description, Accessibility, Museums

AI and Audio Description: For Good or Ill?

Dr Joel Snyder
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Dr Joel Snyder

Dr. Joel Snyder is known internationally as one of the world's first "audio describers," a pioneer in the field of Audio Description. Since 1981, he has trained audio describers, produced audio description, or spoken on audio description in over 40 states and 65 countries and has made thousands of live events, media projects and museums accessible to people who are blind or have vision loss. Most recently, Dr. Snyder was named a Fulbright Scholar to train audio describers in Greece over a four-week period in 2019 and conduct workshops in Malta and Ukraine. Dr. Snyder was a member of several media access panels at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as well as the Disability Access Committee of the International Telecommunications Union, and is currently on the Subject Matter Expert committee on the development of a certification program for audio description specialists. Dr. Snyder received his Ph.D in audiovisual translation and audio description from the Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain. His book, The Visual Made Verbal: A Comprehensive Training Manual and Guide to the History and Applications of Audio Description, is published by the American Council of the Blind and is now available as an audio book and in Braille from the Library of Congress Division of the Blind and Physically Handicapped. It has been published in print in seven languages. Dr. Snyder is the President of Audio Description Associates, LLC (www.audiodescribe.com) and he serves as the Founding Director Emeritus of the Audio Description Project of the American Council of the Blind (https://adp.acb.org).

Abstract

Note: The presentation is not based on formal research but rather on the professional practice of audio description by the presenter over four decades and an analysis of recent AI-based contributions to AD production. Audio Description (AD) is a literary art form. It's a type of poetry—a haiku. It provides a verbal version of the visual—the visual is made verbal, and aural (he points to his ear), and oral (he point to his mouth). Using words that are succinct, vivid, and imaginative, audio description conveys the visual image to people who are blind or have low vision. When I teach AD at sessions around the world, I focus a great deal on the crafting of the language used—but 99% of all AD is written to be heard. A voice talent trained in voicing techniques for AD is critical to the success of the effort to translate a visual image to the spoken word. It seems as though we are on the cusp of AI dominance in all manner of endeavor. Speech synthesis is already employed by some companies who produce AD for broadcast television. But both the writing and voicing of high-quality AD is done with nuance, attention to the images on screen, and an understanding of the phrasing necessary. Can the spread of AI/speech synthesis be stopped or forestalled? Should it be? This presentation will demonstrate and compare AD of an image written by AI and a trained human describer as well as the voicing of AD done by TTS and the same AD voiced by an experienced AD voice talent.

Keywords

audio description, blindness, audiovisual translation

LT.23 | General panel | New Directions in AVT

Chair: Valentina Ragni

Interreal translation: a new frontier for translation studies?

Prof. Mattia Thibault
Tampere University, Tampere, Finland

Prof. Mattia Thibault

Dr Mattia Thibault is an Associate Professor in Translation in the Creative Industries at Tampere University and has a PhD in Semiotics and Media (Turin University). In Tampere, he is a member of the Language Unit and Vice Director of the Research Centre in Gameful Realities. His research interests include semiotics and translation, extended realities, speculative research, and playfulness in the built environment (real and digital). He is the leader of the research group InterReality which focuses on the relations between different virtual spaces (and their inhabitants) and their connections with the "real" world.

Abstract

"Interreal translations" can be understood as a series of semiotic operations of translation of objects, spaces, and subjects across different "realities", i.e. media-generated virtual spaces, including virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and digital worlds (Thibault 2024). They can be understood as a subset of intersemiotic translations – or as a form of interpretation with mutation of continuum (Eco 2018). An example is the recreation of a heritage site in VR: the space is scanned, and the data are used to reproduce it in virtual form. The desire to preserve the characteristics of the original guides the choices of its translators in terms of technical solutions and design choices oriented towards an effect of "equivalence". Translations studies have much to offer to an investigation of these phenomena, both in term of theory and metalanguage, and in term of methodology. Approaches such as shift analysis, introspective methods, translator interviews – and even having a first-person approach to translatorial work as epistemological direction – are all key for this endeavour. However, this object of study also requires an expansion of TS's toolbox of methodologies. First, interreal translations are related to design and Human Computer Interaction and would therefore benefit from methods from research through design (Gaver 2012), such as design diaries and workshops. Second, mediatic spaces and technological interfaces evolve quickly: to avoid the risk that our studies become quickly obsolete, TS could borrow methods from speculative research (Michael & Wilkie 2023), such as worldbuilding, design fiction and fictional prototypes. This expansion and combination of methods presents both challenges and opportunities. This presentation will engage with the epistemological and methodological premises and strategies of a 5-year project that will study in depth the current translations among different "realities" and their possible future developments.

Keywords

Extended Reality, Intersemiotic translation, Human Computer Interaction

Participation, interaction and power dynamics of cybersubtitling: A netnographic study of danmu subtitling in China

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Ms Yan Qin

Yan Qin is a PhD candidate at the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Hong Kong SAR, China). She is an accredited interpreter, a veteran language teacher, and an early-career researcher. Before her PhD studies in Hong Kong, she worked as a lecturer at the Faculty of International Studies of Southwestern University of Finance and Economics (Chengdu, China) and as a part-time interpreter for many major international events. During 2016-2017, she served as a Fulbright fellow at Kenyon College (Gambier, US), taught two Mandarin courses and organized a series of Chinese cultural events, contributing to the local Mandarin language program and cross-cultural communications between the two countries. After years of teaching and practicing translation and interpreting, she is devoting herself to research in the interdisciplinary areas of translation, sociology, communication, and language education. Her research areas include audiovisual translation, sociology of translation, media and communication, and language education. Her PhD thesis explores the power dynamics of danmu subtitling through netnographic methods. So far, her works have appeared in edited volumes and international journals, including Lingua, The International Journal of Qualitative Methods, and the International Journal of Chinese and English Translation & Interpreting.

Abstract

In the era of Web 2.0, danmu subtitling emerged as a form of cybersubtitling in the audiovisual translation category and is popular on the Chinese video-sharing website Bilibili with its unique pseudo-synchronic and participatory interaction. So far, studies on danmu subtitling usually focus on danmu subtitles while overlooking the danmu subtitlers, a group of usually non-professional translators who produce the subtitles free of charge. Furthermore, current studies investigate danmu as translation products, and little is known about its production process, such as why and how this group of subtitlers participates in, practices, and perceives danmu subtitling in cyberspace. These overlooked parts of danmu subtitling would reveal a more authentic and holistic picture of this dynamic and participatory translating phenomenon in cyberspace. Therefore, proceeding from the activity theory, this study uses an ethnographic approach to explore the participation, collaboration and power dynamics of danmu subtitlers, and special attention will be given to the process of how they utilize the cybersubtitling platform and other digital technologies to practice danmu subtitling. In an 18-month netnographic study, 6 danmu subtitlers were invited, observed, and interviewed. It is found that danmu subtitling rises as an emerging and influential medium of cybersubtitling in social media and changes the way people perceive and practice translation in cyberspace. Also, there is an internal and external power dynamic in the translation process among the viewers and translators as they attempt to construct and reshape their identities and ideologies collaboratively. The study unveils the mechanism, power dynamics of danmu subtitling and enriches the concept of cybersubtitling as a new category of audiovisual translation.

Keywords

danmu subtitling, netnography, power dynamics

The translation of Qatari National Identity at the National Museum of Qatar through verbal and non-verbal texts.

Mrs Maha Aladba
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Mrs Maha Aladba

I'm a PhD student at the University of Geneva. My thesis investigates the translation of national identity at Qatar's National Museum using both verbal and nonverbal materials. I've spoken at a number of translation conferences and published work on cultural translation.

Abstract

Qatar is a small state whose population is traditionally divided into badu (desert dwellers) and hader (coast dwellers). However, the National Museum of Qatar (NMQ) aimed to remove this image of diversity in Qatari society, and replace it with one of social cohesion by presenting the Qatari people as having a single identity. It did this through its choice of location and architecture of the museum, and by the selection of objects, and their verbal and non-verbal texts. This study used semi-structured qualitative interviews to collect information from the NMQ curators on these four themes to reveal how the museum aimed to convey their desired picture of national identity. Firstly, all the curators agreed that the choice of the desert rose design, coupled with the location of the museum next to the sea and on the site of the Old Amiri Palace effectively conveys the fundamental duality of Qatari life. Secondly, according to the curators, the objects which were chosen for display represent life in the desert and on the coast as evidence to visitors that Qatari people lived a dual life depending on the season. Next, curators were engaged in the creation of labels, to ensure that both the Arabic and English texts accurately convey the intended image of national identity to visitors by referring to the Qatari people as 'People of Qatar' rather than Badu or Hader or the tribes' names. Finally, the museum used multimedia to represent national identity in an inclusive way; for example, a large interactive model of the Qatar peninsula, shows traditional seasonal journeys, and oral history videos, where Qatari people share memories of their traditional lifestyle, deliver the idea of social cohesion in Qatari society.
Keywords: translation, national identity, museum, curator, Qatar, NMQ

Keywords

national identity, Museum translation, interviews

Universal Advertisments - Professional and Academic Perspectives into Making Commercials Accessible, Creative, and For All.

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Dr Carlo Eugeni

Carlo Eugeni is the programme leader of the MA Audiovisual Translation and Localisation at the University of Leeds, where he teaches live subtitling, media accessibility, and conference interpreting. Carlo launched the International Symposium on Live Subtitling, co-funded the International Association of Respeaking on A.I.R., wrote the first book and Ph.D. thesis on respeaking, and designed the live subtitling self-assessment tool MARS. Carlo has researched and published in the fields of live subtitling, conference interpreting, and subtitling strategies; and has recently published two co-edited books for Routledge on Teaching Translation, and Teaching Interpreting and Live Subtitling. In 2018, Carlo received an honorary award by the Italian Association of Cochlear Implant Users APIC for his commitment in promoting the empowerment of deaf people through live and pre-recorded subtitling. He was Intellectual Output Leader of the Erasmus+ projects LTA on live subtitlers, T2V on Easy-to-Read validators and facilitators, and CCUV on Easy Italian writing; and is currently serving as a partner in the Horizon project iDEM on accessibility to the decision-making process, and as a member of the experts group on accessibility in the metaverse for the UN International Telecommunications Unit.

Dr María J. Valero-Gisbert

María J. Valero Gisbert, Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Valencia (Spain), is professor of Spanish Language and Translation at the University of Parma. She coordinates the online MA in Audiovisual Translation. Her research areas are Lexicography, Hispanic Phraseology, Audiovisual Translation, and Audio Description, where she has specialised in film products and the problems that arise due to the cultural content conveyed.

Abstract

Advertising is a multifaceted domain encompassing linguistic, semiotic, and socio-cultural dimensions. It employs strategic language, visuals, and symbols to persuade, inform, and resonate with target audiences. because of its persuasive techniques, discourse structures, and cultural implications, advertising has extensively been analysed by many scholars (Barthes, Chandler, Hall, Kilbourne, Berger, Jhally to name just a few), and under many perspectives (semiotics, media, culture, gender, politics, economy among others). In the field of Audiovisual Translation in general and Media Accessibility (MA) in particular, research on advertising is scarce despite the unique semiotic and technical challenges it poses, not to mention the considerations in translation and adaptation for different audiences, and the potential brought about by Universal Design (UD) and Accessible Filmmaking (AFM). Furthermore, while the complexities of making advertising content accessible and inclusive for audiences with disabilities looks a clear consequence of the progress in MA research and industry, the idea of making advertisements universal has not been fully developed. In this context, this research addresses the specific issue of universal advertising. In the framework of UD, and starting from Romero-Fresco's et alia's Toolkit for Accessible Filmmaking, this speech will report on the work carried out by a group of researchers, professionals, and experts who developed guidelines for creating born-accessible advertisements. In particular, this speech will briefly touch upon AFM, to then move to a discussion about the application of norms, best practices, and conventions to the subtitling, audiodescription for the blind, sign language interpreting, and easy-to-read translation of 30-second advertisements, with a specific focus on the difficult relationship between accuracy and accessibility. Finally, specific guidelines for producing born-accessible advertisements will be illustrated and discussed, in the light of a recent - still unpublished - survey carried out among MA professionals on the challenges creatives should consider when designing their advertisements.

Keywords

Advertisments, Universal Design, Accesible Filmmaking

LT.24 | Panel 10 | Conference Interpreting Practice and Research in the Technological Era: Business as Usual or Next Level? (cont.)

Chairs: Agnieszka Chmiel, Bart Defrancq

Interpreters' experiences with automatic speech recognition as a computer-assisted interpreting tool

Dr Eloy Rodríguez González[1], Dr Ahmed Saeed[2], Dr Tomasz Korybski[3], Dr Elena Davitti[1], Prof. Sabine Braun[1]
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Dr Eloy Rodríguez González

Eloy Rodríguez González works as a freelance conference interpreter and translator. His PhD from the University of Surrey investigated the use of automatic speech recognition as a computer-assisted interpreting tool in cloud-based remote simultaneous interpreting. His research interests include interpreter-machine interaction and the use of technology and AI in interpreter-mediated environments.

Dr Ahmed Saeed

Muhammad Ahmed Saeed, with an engineering background, currently researches patient journey dynamics in healthcare. He collaborates closely with Scottish healthcare to enhance clinician decision-making through interactive tools. His PhD from the University of Surrey focused on visual interfaces in Remote Simultaneous Interpreting, exploring the visual needs of interpreters. His research interests include HMI, information and communication technologies, game design, and healthcare innovation.

Dr Tomasz Korybski

Tomasz Korybski is a graduate of the University of Warsaw and holds a PhD in bilingualism and code-switching. In the years 2009-2019, Dr Korybski taught practical interpreting and translation skills at the University of Warsaw and other higher education institutions in Poland. His practical and academic experience enabled him to join Surrey's Centre for Translation Studies in October 2019, where he embarked on research projects in interpreting & technologies. He is particularly interested in remote simultaneous interpreting technology as well as hybrid (man+machine) solutions in conference interpreting.

Dr Elena Davitti

Elena Davitti is an Associate Professor in Translation Studies with expertise in interpreting, both conference and dialogue. Dr Davitti is also Programme Leader of the MA Interpreting (Multilingual pathway) and MA Translation and Interpreting offered by the Centre for Translation Studies (CTS) at the University of Surrey. She is currently working on hybrid modalities at the crossroads of traditional disciplines such as translation, interpreting, subtitling, with a particular interest in real-time speech-to-text communication across languages.

Prof. Sabine Braun

Sabine Braun is a Professor of Translation Studies, Director of the Centre for Translation Studies, and Co-Director (FASS) of the Surrey Institute for People-Centred Artificial Intelligence at the University of Surrey in the UK. From 2017 to 2021, Prof Braun also served as Associate Dean for Research and Innovation in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Surrey. Her research explores the integration and interaction of human and machine in translation and interpreting, for example to improve access to critical information, media content and vital public services such as healthcare and justice for linguistic-minority populations and other groups/people in need of communication support.

Abstract

Over recent years, automatic speech recognition (ASR) has garnered attention within interpreting studies as a potential computer-assisted interpreting (CAI) tool. The primary focus of research to date has been on assessing the influence of ASR on interpreting quality and the experiences of interpreters (e.g., Defrancq & Fantinuoli, 2020; Desmet et al., 2018; Prandi, 2023). In terms of interpreters' experiences, this research has highlighted benefits but also several challenges associated with ASR, including feelings of distraction, a

tendency to become overly reliant on the tool, and an increase in cognitive load when ASR support is available. Despite these findings, interpreters' experiences and perceptions of ASR as a CAI tool remain under-explored. To address this gap, the present study collected data from sixteen professional conference interpreters, each of whom interpreted four speeches with and without ASR support, in the form of AI-generated full transcripts. The post-interpreting questionnaire, consisting of eight questions, gathered qualitative and quantitative responses, which were analysed descriptively and thematically to extract insights into the participants' experiences with integrating ASR into a cloud-based remote simultaneous interpreting workflow. The results were triangulated with a qualitative analysis of interpreters' performance in the simulations and indicate that participants' usage patterns of the ASR-generated transcripts vary, with most interpreters in our sample using them randomly or when encountering difficulties. Moreover, participants had mixed opinions on whether the transcripts were supporting them or not, with some agreeing strongly, while others disagreed or were neutral. Mixed opinions also characterised participants' feedback regarding the use of ASR as a CAI tool, with some being positive about it while others had more reservations, stating that ASR is misleading or confusing. This presentation will first outline the study's objectives, methodological approach and key findings, and then discuss the implications for further development on ASR integration in interpreting workflows.

Keywords

Computer-assisted interpreting (CAI), automatic speech recognition (ASR), Interpreter experience

When CAI meets Poland's freelance conference interpreting market

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Dr Paula Gorszczyńska

Assistant Professor at the University of Gdańsk, employed at the Institute of English and American Studies in the Translation Studies Department; conference interpreter and translator, linguist, and scholar with research interest in interpreting , project management in translation teaching, audio description and crowdfunding language. Head of the post-graduate programme for Polish-English interpreters at the University of Gdańsk.

Dr Maciej Kur

Translator, proofreader, and Assistant Professor at the University of Gdańsk, Institute of English and American Studies in the Translation Studies Department. Interested in practical application of translation technologies spanning from CAT tools and MT solutions to the most recent AI developments and their potential. Conducts research focused on the efficiency of translation service provision within the area of audiovisual translation, software localization and technical documentation.

Abstract

The paper presents the results of the second phase of a project aimed at determining the readiness for computer-aided interpreting (CAI) application among Polish conference interpreters and interpreting programme undergraduates. In phase one, professional interpreters were surveyed on their experience of using particular types of CAI tools and their perception of their benefits and limitations. In the second phase, a group of professional conference interpreters and a group of undergraduate interpreters were first trained in the use of a selection of tools, including software designed for terminology extraction, automatic glossary creation, real-time terminology access, machine translation, and automatic speech recognition. Then, in a controlled setting, their CAI assisted performance was recorded, analysed and evaluated. The procedure was enriched by another opinion survey aimed at measuring the tools adoption success rate. The project attempts to respond to the findings described in the existing body of publications on the adoption of recent developments in Remote Simultaneous Interpreting and (Gen)AI applications in interpreting (i.a. Corpas Pastor and Defrancq, 2023). The overarching goal of the entire project is to bridge the gap between CAI technology providers, researchers and interpreters. Further phases envisage, among other initiatives, creating a series of training materials on the practical implementation of the latest CAI developments that could be used by conference interpreters in their workflows, as well as developing a method for tracking the adoption progress and the related interpreters' satisfaction. It is hoped that the feedback gathered throughout this series of studies will contribute to the enhancement of both the CAI tools development and the interpreting performance of the subjects.

Keywords

CAI, interpreting, technology adoption

Does Automatic Speech Recognition help in consecutive interpreting with varying accents? Evidence from interpreting performance and cognitive load

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Dr Zhangminzi Shao

Zhangminzi SHAO is a lecturer at the School of Foreign Languages of Zhejiang Gongshang University. She obtained her master's and doctoral degrees in translation and interpreting studies from the Graduate Institute of Interpretation and Translation of Shanghai International Studies University, and did her postdoctoral research in interpreting studies at Ghent University. Her research interests include cognitive processing in simultaneous interpreting and the use of CAI tools in both consecutive and simultaneous interpreting.

Dr Zhibin Yu

Zhibin YU got his Ph.D. degree in psycholinguistics from Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. He is currently a lecturer at the School of Foreign Languages, Zhejiang Gongshang University. His research concerns areas of interpreting studies, especially the emergence of interpreting competence in students of interpreting training. In addition, with performance data from Chinese-English bilingual participants, he has explored language transfer and automaticity from the perspective of semantic gender information processing in personal pronouns.

Abstract

Previous research has highlighted the potential of Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) technology in enhancing simultaneous interpreting performance, but its actual impact on interpreters' cognitive load awaits empirical evidence, and its application in consecutive interpreting (CI), particularly in scenarios involving accented speakers, remains largely unexplored. The present study investigates the effects of ASR assistance in CI, and examined whether the impact of ASR assistance was magnified when the source speech featured a strong, unfamiliar accent. Twenty-four second-year postgraduate interpreting students, all native Chinese speakers with English as their B language, participated in the experiment after six weeks of interpreting training with ASR. Each participant was assigned four CI tasks from English to Chinese, with two speeches delivered in General American English and two in Portuguese-accented English. Within each accent condition, one speech was presented with ASR assistance, and the other without. Interpreting performance was assessed based on several criteria: fidelity, delivery fluency, language quality, and overall performance. Three professional interpreting trainers evaluated fidelity, target language quality, and overall performance. Fluency was assessed separately through specific indicators such as speech rate, the frequency and mean duration of silent pauses, and the occurrence of disfluencies. Cognitive load was quantified by having participants self-rate on a 9-point Likert scale across three interpreting phases: listening and analysis, note-taking, and target speech production. The findings suggest that ASR's impact on student interpreters' consecutive interpreting (CI) is multifaceted. Specifically, while it tends to improve interpreting fidelity, it may also hinder target language fluency. This complexity is more pronounced when the source speech features an unfamiliar accent, potentially leading to interpreters' over-reliance on ASR and thus compromising target language quality. Notably, ASR does not affect interpreters' cognitive load during CI across all phases of the interpreting process, regardless of the presence of unfamiliar accents in the target language.

Keywords

Automatic Speech Recognition, consecutive interpreting, accent

Performance and visual attention in SIMTXT: an eye-tracking pilot study

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Prof. Isabelle S. Robert

Isabelle Robert is professor at the Department of Applied Linguistics, Translation and Interpreting Studies at the University of Antwerp (Belgium), where she teaches undergraduate courses on French oral and written text production and research methodology, and graduate courses on Dutch–French translation, revision, postediting, consecutive interpreting, and translation technology. Her main research interests include translation process research, audiovisual translation (interlingual live subtitling), translation revision processes, sight translation and multimodal simultaneous interpreting. She is vice-chair of her department and chief editor of LANS-TTS.

Prof. Esther de Boe

Esther de Boe is tenure-track professor at the Department of Applied Linguistics, Translation and Interpreting Studies at the University of Antwerp (Belgium). She holds a PhD in Translation Studies, an MA in Conference Interpreting (EMCI), in Translation, and in Liberal Arts. Her research interests are interpreting & technology, both in conference and dialogue interpreting. She teaches interpreting studies, remote interpreting, consecutive & simultaneous interpreting and interpreting skills (French-Dutch). Esther de Boe is a board member of the European Network for Public Service Interpreting and Translation (ENPSIT) and previously worked as a sworn interpreter in the Netherlands.

Abstract

The present paper reports on a pilot study exploring the effect of multimodal input on cognitive processing in SIMTXT (Simultaneous Interpreting with text) in experiments involving 12 young professional simultaneous interpreters, who carried out one SI and one SIMTXT task in near to real-life conditions. By manipulating a combination of input variables (e.g., speech rate, speech difficulty) in both experimental conditions, the potential facilitating effect of transcript use was investigated. The interpreters were provided with mobile eye-tracking glasses and electrodermal wristbands to collect quantitative data, which were analysed with a view of distribution of visual attention, cognitive load, and stress level. The two latter were also measured via self-report. These measures were combined with qualitative data analysis of the recordings of the interpreting product as well as retrospective interviews. In this presentation, we will focus on the impact of the condition, of the speech rate and the speech difficulty on interpreting performance. Results from a Linear Mixed Model analysis show that the condition is a significant predictor of performance, with interpreters performing better in SIMTXT, while speech rate and speech difficulty level are predictors of performance in both conditions. Finally, in SIMTXT, a positive effect of visual attention to the transcript on performance was established. Finally, we will also discuss methodological choices in the context of the main study starting in October 2024 which investigates the effect of additional types of visual support in SI (isolated and combined), i.e. slides, CAI tools, and intralingual captioning.

Keywords

Multimodal simultaneous interpreting, Visual attention, Performance

Posters

Translation revision as a practice of extended cognition

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Dr Annamari Korhonen

Dr Annamari Korhonen has a background in the translation industry, and completed her PhD in translation studies at Tampere University, Finland. She is currently active as a university teacher at the University of Turku. Her primary research interests include LSP practices, extended and socially distributed cognition in translation contexts, and human-technology interaction.

Abstract

The goal of this chapter is to present a model of professional translation revision as a practice of human-technology interaction in the LSP context, with particular attention on technological tools as extensions of the reviser's cognitive capacities (see, e.g., Risku & Rogl 2021). With the advent of AI tools, including advanced machine translation, it has been observed that revision and editing of machine-assisted translations constitute an increasing portion of professional translation tasks. The need for detailed knowledge of these second-stage text processing practices and the related cognitive processes is therefore urgent. The descriptive lens being adopted in this pilot study is practice theory, more specifically the theory of practice architectures as presented by Stephen Kemmis (2022), who bases his approach to practices on Schatzki (2006, 2012). Kemmis describes practices as semi-permanent procedures which reproduce patterns in the society. Practices have purposes and are essentially 'carried' by practitioners. The dynamic view of the social world as primarily consisting of practices can be traced back to Heidegger and Wittgenstein (see, e.g., Nicolini 2013: 162) and challenges the competing focus on social structures. The data for this study consists of three guided tour interviews (see Olohan 2021: 12, 125), carried out in semi-authentic environments, as well as nine regular interviews. The guided tour interviews consist of experienced translator-revisers revising a text and simultaneously explaining and commenting on their actions. The transcribed data is analysed with reference to the theory of practice architectures (Kemmis 2022). The theory of practice architectures provides a robust, multi-dimensional analytic framework, portraying practices as situated (or, in Schatzki's terms, site ontological) processes that are comprised of discourses, activities, and relationships which are enabled and constrained by cultural-discursive, material-economic and social-political conditions.

Keywords

extended cognition, human-technology interaction, translation revision

Irony in subtitled film texts: An Audience Reception Study

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Ms Ayat Almousa

Ayat Almousa is a PhD candidate in Translation Studies at the University of Leeds. She holds a master's degree in Arabic-English Translation from the University of Leeds. She currently hold the position of assistant lecturer in Translation Studies at the university of PSAU in Saudi Arabia. She is interested in Audiovisual Translation Studies and Reception Studies. She is particularly interested in empirically testing the impact of innovative practices of subtitling on the audience's reception and perception as opposed to professional subtitling.

Abstract

This paper presents an experimental reception study that examines the impact of different multimodal compositions and subtitling strategies (the conventional subtitles as opposed to innovative free-form subtitles) on the audience's reception of irony and their perception of the subtitles used. It addresses a number of limitations in current audiovisual translation practice. First, most AVT studies have not considered the non-verbal meaning-making resources as an integral component in the composition of multimodal text but rather limiting their offerings to a contextual role or hindrance to the translation process. Second, among the small number of audiovisual studies conducted on irony, very few have experimentally examined how the target audience interprets ironic meanings. Third, there is a lack of AVT studies on irony that consider the Arabian context. Therefore, this study proposes an original contribution to the study of AVT by filling in the mentioned gaps. The data is collected from 128 English and Saudi Arabian participants through questionnaires and interviews. The findings show a similar comprehension of irony for the TL participants in the conventional and free-form subtitles and there was no significant difference between the groups. Further, the reception of the English-speaking group is significantly higher than the Arabic-speaking group. The results show that TL participants with higher levels of English proficiency achieved significantly higher irony reception than participants with lower levels. Both self-reported questionnaires and interviews yielded interesting insights into the audience's perception. The majority of participants in the different subtitling conditions expressed a high level of enjoyment and satisfaction. Further, participants with low English levels seemed more interested in the use of innovative forms of subtitles than participants with high levels.

Keywords

Reception Studies, Audiovisual Translation, Irony

Adopting AI in Translation: Insights from the Slovak Market and Implications for Translator Education

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PhD. Ivo Poláček

Mgr. Ivo Poláček, PhD. teaches courses focused on CAT tools since their introduction to teaching at the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University. He co-founded the Centre for Translation and Interpreting Practice, which operates at the Faculty and which helps students to enter the labour market actively. In his research activities, apart from interpreting, he also analyses the translation skills that are most common and most in demand in the labour market, to make the transition from school to employment as easy as possible. He also looks at the latest trends in translation technologies such as machine translation, post-editing, and artificial intelligence. Besides his academic pursuits, Ivo Poláček is an active interpreter and translator, accredited with the EU institutions, a board member of the Slovak Association of Translators and Interpreters (SAPT), and a member of AIIC.

Mgr. Lucia Tonková

Lucia Tonková, a PhD student at Comenius University, specialises in translation and interpreting. She represents a new generation of researchers and practitioners in the field of translation and interpreting. Her research focuses on translators' technical competence. In 2023, she delivered a presentation at the TIC conference in Bratislava. Titled "The Use and Perception of AI-powered Information Technologies in Translation Practice", her talk delved into survey results among Slovak translators, showcasing her interest in the intersection of technology and translation. Later in 2023, she published an article titled "Technical Competence in Translator Training – Foundations, Present State and Development Possibilities", in which she proposed a model of teaching translation with a focus on acquiring technical competence. Tonková is actively engaged in academia, teaching university courses on translation and interpreting, and also in practice, being an active translator and an accredited EU interpreter.

Abstract

This joint presentation examines the use, perception, and implications of AI-powered tools and machine translation within the Slovak translation industry, focusing on both professional translators and Language Service Providers (LSPs). The research combines qualitative and quantitative methods to investigate how these stakeholders are responding to the emergence of AI-enabled tools, such as text-generative models like ChatGPT, and their impact on translation practices. Through structured interviews with LSPs and professional translators, the study explores their attitudes towards AI and machine translation, identifying the most widely used and preferred functionalities of AI and CAT tools, such as machine translation and proofreading. Additionally, it assesses practical, ethical, and legal considerations and the extent to which these tools have been integrated into their workflows. Complementing these findings, an online survey provides a descriptive analysis of how translators in Slovakia utilize AI-powered tools, their perceptions of these technologies, and their willingness to incorporate them into their daily workflows. Furthermore, the presentation will also present findings on how the translators use the CAT tools (in connection with MT and AI tools) and how these workflows are reflected in the university courses. By synthesizing these perspectives, the presentation highlights key areas that need to be addressed in translation training programs to ensure that future translators are well-equipped to work with CAT tools and AI technologies effectively and responsibly. The findings contribute to the ongoing debate on the evolving role of AI in translation, offering insights that can guide curriculum development to better align with the demands of the modern translation industry.

Keywords

AI in Translation, Technical Competence, Translator Education

Shakespeare in Greek translation 1801-1950: A parallel corpus

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Dr Konstantinos Kritsis

Konstantinos Kritsis is Assistant Professor in Translation and Interpreting Studies at the Department of English Studies of the University of Cyprus He has pursued his academic studies (BA in Interpreting, Ionian University, Greece; MA and PhD in Translation Studies, University of Warwick, UK; and MAS - Master of Advanced Studies in Interpreter Training, University of Geneva, Switzerland) and career alongside his professional work as freelance translator and interpreter between Greek, English, and German. His teaching experience includes designing and delivering undergraduate and postgraduate courses/modules in both disciplines in different academic settings in Europe (Ionian University, Greece; University of Hull, UK) and the Middle East (Sohar University, Oman). His research interests centre on the interfaces between the theories and practices of theatre, translation, and interpreting as well as on issues pertinent to cross-linguistic/-cultural discourse analysis.

Abstract

From text mining to enhanced information visualisations and from stylometric to quantitative text analysis, digital humanities offer an ever-increasing number of computational tools and methods for the exploration of traditional disciplines within humanities, such as history, literature, archaeology etc. Despite the long tradition in the use of computational tools and methods for the study of texts transferred from one language into another (as well as of the processes and actors involved therein), drama translation has arguably yet to decisively capitalise on the advances in digital practice and scholarship. One of the main reasons for that is the lack of tools that not only facilitate access to multiple (re-)translations of dramatic works, but also cater for their comparative analysis. It is the aim of this presentation to report on the UCY-funded research project Shakespeare In Translation – ShakeIT, which aims at addressing this lacuna through a) the creation of a comprehensive, queryable, segment-aligned, parallel corpus comprising W. Shakespeare's plays and the complete body of their Greek (re-)translations published as stand-alone editions between 1801-1950 in Greece and abroad and b) the use of that corpus for the exploration of the translators' rendering responses to cases of diachronic intralingual false friends identified in the Bard's copious work. In doing so, ShakeIT aspires functioning as a first-of-its-kind, multi-purpose, digital tool and resource for the exploration of cross-language re-interpretations of dramatic works (especially but not only) into Greek, enabling further research in the specific field of translation (studies) as well as across humanities scholarship.

Keywords

Drama translation, Corpora, Shakespeare

Boosting the Confidence of Future Interpreters: Learning From A Team Observed Structured Clinical Encounter in A Routine Postpartum Outpatient Visit with Limited English Proficient Patients

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Mrs. Laura Ramirez Polo

Laura Ramírez Polo is Assistant Teaching Professor at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, where she coordinates and teaches in the certificate and MA of Translation and Interpreting. She also coordinates translation and interpreting initiatives within the Humanities as part of her assignment in the Language Center. In this role she has managed the Language Bank project to create a database of volunteers for translation and interpreting services. Dr. Ramírez has over 15 years of experience as a freelance translator and language processes professional. She is ATA-certified English-Spanish and recently passed the CoreCHI certification as healthcare interpreter. Laura holds a degree in Translation and Interpreting from the University Jaume I in Castellón, a degree in Library Science by the Polytechnic University of Valencia, an MA in Computational Linguistics by the Ludwig-Maximlians-Universität in Munich and an MA in Medical Translation by the Universitat Jaume I. She is a PhD on Controlled Languages and Machine Translation from the University of Valencia. Her research interests focus on terminology and translation technology for professionals and translation training. More recently she is focusing on the role of interpreters in the encounter doctor/social workers and patients, as well as on medical communication.

Mrs. Stephanie Rodriguez

Biography Stephanie Rodríguez is an Instructor of Translation & Interpreting in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies at Rutgers University, Newark and Director of Lives in Translation. Professor Rodríguez also teaches in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Spanish and History from Rutgers University, Newark and Master's Degree in Translation & Interpreting from Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Professor Rodríguez is a translator and interpreter specializing in legal translation and court interpreting, literary translation, audiovisual translation, and medical translation and interpreting. She covered the subtitle creation for Viceland's WOMAN with Gloria Steinem, documentary TV series focused on stories of intersectional feminism, and the literary translation of the publication Art, City, and the Public Sphere in Chile, (Metales Pesados, 2015). Before her role at Rutgers, she was a court interpreter at New York City Housing Authority and a Localization Project Manager focusing on software development, content localization, and brand internationalization. She is also a member of the American Translators Association, Women in Localization, and Globalization and Localization Association. Her research interests include cognitive translation studies, translation technologies, language identity and bilingualism, and cognitive and linguistic dimensions of interpreting.

Abstract

When language barriers exist, patients who do not speak the same language as their providers are at risk for poorer medical outcomes, medical adherence, patient-provider trust, and follow-up care (Sentell et al. 2016; Eslier et al. 2023; Luton et al. 2022; Nadakuditi, 2023). These barriers are the catalyst to the design and development of practical approaches in Translation and Interpreting programs to prepare students in healthcare settings. This study focuses on interpreter-mediated communication in health care delivery, particularly in midwife consultations in the New Jersey context, where statewide, approximately 12.4% of persons over age 5 (1 in 8) are LEP (New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 2022). Specifically, we designed interprofessional workshops in which students from a Translation and Interpreting program and a Nursing program completed simulation practice to gain specialized training and experience in bilingual health communication to ensure LEP patients receive access to care in their native language. Data were collected in pre-intervention and post-intervention surveys. Quantitative an qualitative results showed that this in-person educational intervention was effective for boosting interpreting students' confidence,

improving their terminology knowledge, and gaining a greater understanding for providing effective, equitable, and quality care.

Keywords

Interpreted-mediated encounters, Limited English Proficiency, Bilingual healthcare communication

Evaluating Student Translator Performance in Post-Editing GPT-4 outputs: Effects of Translation Guidelines and Search Resources

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Ms Longhui Zou

Longhui Zou completed her M.A. in Interpreting and Translation Studies from Wake Forest University in the US. She is currently a doctoral fellow at Kent State University. Longhui focuses on Chinese and English translation and interpreting, as well as machine translation and post-editing, translation and interpreting processes, and translation technologies. Her most recent effort intends to collect new and analyze legacy keylogging and eye tracking data to investigate translation processes and identify higher-order cognition based on behavioral patterns of monitoring activity observed in logged translation sessions.

Dr Michael Carl

Dr. Michael Carl is a Distinguished Professor at Kent State University and Director of the Center for Research and Innovation in Translation and Translation Technology (CRITT). He has worked and published for more than 25 years in the fields of machine translation, computational linguistics, translation studies and translation process research. For more than ten years, he maintains and extends CRITT's Translation Process Research Database (TPR-DB), a publicly available resource that contains several hundred hours of behavioral translation data collected during thousands of translation sessions and hundreds of translators with different profiles, language directions and expertise. His work in the past decade was mainly centered around the conceptualization, analysis, and evaluation, as well as the empirically grounded modeling of the CRITT TPR-DB data.

Dr Jia Feng

Dr. Jia Feng is an associate professor at Renmin University of China. She holds a Ph.D in translation studies. Her research interests include cognitive translation and interpreting studies, translation assessment and human-machine interactions in the context of translation and interpreting. ORCiD ID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6419-1104

Abstract

This study investigates the performance of student translators post-editing raw GPT-4 translations under light vs. full post-editing (PE) guidelines and search resources (termbase vs. internet) in Trados. The PE experiment involved 30 students who worked with an identical set of four English source texts (STs) and their corresponding Chinese translations generated by GPT-4. The English STs were selected from retired American Translators Association (ATA) certification examinations with general topics. Each text is around 250 words long and contains about 10 segments. The Flesch-Kincaid Grade Levels for the STs are relatively similar, ensuring a balanced evaluation across participants. Our data shows that, on average, the students took approximately 79 minutes to complete the four PE tasks. The annotation was conducted using an ATA-adapted error taxonomy, specifically designed to capture the types and severity of human translation errors (Koby, 2015). The annotation process was applied to both the raw machine translation generated by GPT-4 and the 1,399 target segments produced by the participants. Ten professional translators participated in the manual evaluation, with each PE segment assessed by two annotators to ensure reliability and consistency. According to the weighted Fleiss' Kappa scores (Fleiss et al., 1981), the annotators strongly agree with each other on their evaluation for all the segments in this dataset ($\kappa = 0.862$). The results indicate that GPT-4 primarily generates fluency and minor errors. While student interventions reduce the overall error count by at least 60%, new types of errors are introduced. The interaction effect between search resources and PE guidelines is significant only for fluency errors. Access to internet search significantly increases error counts

compared to termbase. The higher cognitive load associated with Full PE may strain students' bilingual and instrumental sub-competences, leading to a higher number of minor fluency errors when relying on internet search compared to termbase.

Keywords

post-editing, translation quality assessment, large language models

How is information structure processed in simultaneous interpreting with live captioning? Evidence from an eye-tracking study

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Miss Lu Yuan

I am a PhD candidate in the Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies at University of Leeds. Before commencing my doctoral studies, I worked as a lecturer at East China Jiaotong University for five years, where I taught courses on business interpreting, consecutive interpreting, and simultaneous interpreting. Parrelel to my academic career, I am a NAATI (National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters) certified L3 translator and interpreter in Chinese and English. I have been working as a freelance conference interpreter for 7 years, providing conference interpreting services for at least 500 international conferences. Currently, my doctoral research at University of Leeds focuses on cognitive interpreting studies, specifically exploring how simultaneous interpreters process information using eye-tracking technology.

Abstract

This study examines how interpreters process information structure in a multimodal context, with a focus on simultaneous interpreting with live captioning. Previous research, such as the theoretical hypothesis proposed by Hatim & Mason (1997), suggests that simultaneous interpreters often rely on a theme-rheme organization to process information. While previous research has primarily explored interpreters' processing strategies in a cross-modal context, it has typically focused on how they process information embedded in a theme-rheme structure through product-based analysis. There is limited empirical evidence on how these structures are cognitively processed in a multimodal environment. Live captioning, as a form of multimodal input, adds an extra visual layer to the auditory channel, thereby creating a more complex setting for interpreters. To this end， this study combines process-oriented experiments with product analysis, using eye-tracking technology to explore how interpreters process information structure. The study focuses on three research questions: 1. What are the visual processing patterns associated with different information structures during simultaneous interpreting with live captioning? 2. How do simultaneous interpreters process different information structures, as reflected in their interpretation？ 3. How do interpreters perceive the function of information structure, and why? Information structure is manipulated in two experiments: one following a theme-rheme utterance structure and the other employing cleft sentences. 14 interpreting trainees in a postgraduate professional training programme were recruited, and data were collected in three parts: questionnaires and semi-structured interviews, eye movement metrics, and interpretation. The first two research questions will be explored through a quantitative approach, utilizing entropy-based eye movement metrics and a propositional analysis framework, while the third question will be addressed through qualitative analysis of questionnaires and interviews. The results will contribute empirical data to deepen our understanding of how simultaneous interpreters process information structure in a multimodal environment, as exemplified by live captioning.

Keywords

information structure, eye-tracking, simultaneous interpreting with live captioning

The impact of danmu subtitles on the visual attention and comprehension of intralingual subtitled videos: evidence from eye movements and surveys

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Dr Sijing Lu

Dr Sijing Lu is an assistant professor of translation at the University of Warwick. Her primary research areas of interest are audiovisual translation, including fansubbing, danmu, online translation communities, and Chinese new media. She is also interested in using new technologies to study the cognitive process of audience reception on audiovisual products.

Dr Siwen Lu

Dr Siwen Lu is a Lecturer of Translation Studies at University of Sheffield, UK. Her primary research interests include audiovisual translation (e.g. subtitling swearing and humour), multimodality and digital media cultures. She has published articles in some leading peer-reviewed journals including The Journal of Specialised Translation, Babel, New Media & Society, International Journal of Communication, Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice, and Visual Communication. She is currently a co-editor for the upcoming edited volume on Danmu-mediated Communication and AVT to be published by Routledge and a guest editor for the upcoming special issue on Audiovisual Translation in East Asia in The Translator.

Dr Xiaochun Zhang

Dr Xiaochun Zhang is a Lecturer in Translation Studies at the University College London, United Kingdom. Her research interests lie primarily in video game localisation and accessibility, fan audiovisual translation, and language technology. She is the co-founder and co-director of the Bristol Digital Game Lab. ORCID: 0000-0001-6334-6525

Abstract

The flow of global media has been successively shaped by the proliferation of “informal translation” (Dwyer and Lobato, 2016) engaging with the fan-based and participatory community. Danmu, or called danmaku, originates from Japan and refers to the live comments that run horizontally across the screen from right to left as the video plays (Zhang and Cassany, 2020). As can be directly overlaid onto the video, enthusiastic fans use danmu as a virtual space for public discussion and social interaction. They post sync-up opinions, notes, or share knowledge, translation in their engagement with the videos and other fans. This study focuses on audience’s reception and perception of danmu subtitles, which is an innovative, participatory and fan-produced live subtitles in East Asian online video-streaming platforms. By using eye-tracking experiment and surveys, the study investigates the impact of danmu subtitles to intralingual subtitled videos in terms of viewers’ visual attention distribution and overall comprehension of video content. 58 native Chinese speakers with English as their second language watched videos with English intralingual subtitles in two conditions, with danmu and without danmu. By analysing the eye tracking metrics (including gaze duration, fixation duration, scan path) and survey results, we aim to answer the following research questions: How do danmu subtitles influence Chinese audience’ watching behaviour and comprehension of English intralingual subtitled videos? 1) How much time audiences will spend on reading danmu subtitles? How much time they will spend on reading intralingual subtitles and main images? 2) Does danmu subtitles correlate with a better comprehension of the video content? Or does danmu subtitles distract viewer’s attention and thus resulting in a worse comprehension?

Keywords

danmu subtitling, eye-tracking experiment, comprehension

Investigating the Role of Machine Translation and Large in Enhancing Language Access: Quality Assessment in Public Service Translation

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Stephanie A. Rodríguez is an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Spanish and Portuguese Studies Department and Director of Lives in Translation, the Translation and Interpreting program, at Rutgers University - Newark. Rodríguez is a Ph.D. candidate in Bilingualism and Second Language Acquisition in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Rutgers University - New Brunswick. Her research intersects with various topics of translation and language use, ranging from the cognitive aspects of machine translation to the development of translation pedagogy, the study of bilingual language development and language access advocacy. Before her role at Rutgers, she was a court interpreter at New York City Housing Authority, and a Localization Project Manager focusing on translation technology, software development, and content localization.

Abstract

Recent legislative efforts across U.S. states have mandated the expansion of existing language access plans within government agencies. This signifies a commendable commitment to widening the net of language services offered and ensuring greater accessibility for a more diverse population. However, the potential role of translation technologies, specifically machine translation (MT), is not mentioned as a tool in facilitating this initiative. Therefore, this study aims to bridge the gap by investigating the quality of MT, post-editing MT (MTPE), and professional human translation (HT) in the translation of government-based documents. Methodologically, a selection of government-based documents was translated using three translation modalities, professional HT, MT, and MTPE. Moreover, the quality of two neural machine translation (NMT) systems and a large language model (LLM) were compared in English into Spanish translation in the legal domain. The translations were then analyzed by human annotators using an adapted evaluation framework based on the Multidimensional Quality Metrics (MQM). The findings indicate that (a) LLM, GPT-4 delivers a higher overall quality score than MT engines, DeepL and Google Translate; (b) MTPE and HT perform similarly in overall quality; and (c) the Accuracy error category constitutes the largest proportion of errors, making up 35.7% of the total errors across the four severity levels. This study aims to present the results of overall quality outcomes of the various translation modalities when translating government-based documents for public dissemination.

Keywords

Translation Technology, Quality Assessment, Public Service Translation

Supporting Leal Interpreters in Video Remote Interpreting Through the Use of Automatic Speech Recognition

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Mr Wangyi Tang

Wangyi Tang is a PhD researcher at the Centre for Translation Studies, University of Surrey. His current PhD project, " Supporting Leal Interpreters in Video Remote Interpreting Through the Use of Automatic Speech Recognition", aims to investigate how automatic speech recognition (ASR) impacts the interpreter's work during remote court interpreting. This project is funded by Techne, a partnership of the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council. He holds an MA degree in Interpreting from the University of Surrey and a BA in Dentistry from Zhejiang Chinese Medical University. He has five years of experience working as a freelance conference interpreter and translator. His research interests include how AI is reshaping the current practices of interpreters and translators, and its impact on other stakeholders, particularly in specialised fields such as medicine and legal proceedings.

Dr Diana Singureanu

Diana Singureanu holds a PhD in Interpreting Studies from the University of Surrey, where she is currently collaborating as a researcher on various projects related to remote interpreting and serves as a lecturer in Interpreting Studies. After completing her PhD in 2022, she became a Research Fellow at CTS, contributing to the European-funded EU-WEBPSI project, which aims to improve communication with refugees by enhancing access to interpreters through video communication technology. As a researcher, she is particularly interested in exploring different aspects of remote interpreting, with a focus on AI-enhanced computer-assisted interpreting, its effects on the interpreting process, and the implications for interpreter training. She is also a Chartered Linguist for Romanian and joined the management committee of CIOL's Interpreting Division in the summer of 2014. She currently serves as the Chair of the Steering Group of the CIOL Interpreting Division, actively engaging with interpreters (both members and non-members) through events that offer networking and professional development opportunities.

Dr Fang Wang

Fang Wang is lecturer working at the Centre for Translation Studies, University of Surrey. She is the program leader of MA Interpreting Chinese Pathway and MA Translation Chinese Pathway. She studied English Language and Literature for her undergraduate degree and Applied Linguistics for her MA at Henan Normal University in China. She then obtained her MPhil and PhD in Corpus Linguistics from the University of Birmingham, UK. Her main research interests include Corpus Linguistics, Translation Studies, Discourse Analysis, Second Language Teaching and Learning, Complexity Theory. Specifically, she focuses on the following research fields: using corpus linguistics technologies for terminology extraction, enabling translators and interpreters to work on highly specialised translation and interpreting tasks; interpreting in cross-cultural mental healthcare settings; using ASR in English-Chinese legal interpreting settings; Her expertise also includes discourse analysis. Wang is interested in looking at how medicine and medical constructs are represented in media and specialist discourses in cross-cultural settings and how such representations inform translation and interpreting. She is the principle investigator of the research project "Media use of pharmaceutical promotional literature" funded by British Academy. The project investigates how pharmaceutical promotional texts, newspaper texts and medical journal articles represent the most commonly prescribed antidepressants in Britain and China by making use of large-scale datasets. Research findings will inform the interprofessional education and training of translators and interpreters working in mental health settings.

Prof Constantin Orasan

Constantin Orasan is Professor of Language and Translation Technologies at the Centre of Translation Studies, University of Surrey, UK and a Fellow of the Surrey Institute for People-Centred Artificial Intelligence. Before starting this role, he was Reader in Computational Linguistics at the University of Wolverhampton, UK, and the deputy head of the Research Group in Computational Linguistics at the same university. He has over 25 years of experience in the fields of Natural Language Processing (NLP), Translation Technologies, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for language processing. His recent research focuses on the use of Generative AI as a support tool for translators and the use of Automatic Speech Recognition for interpreters. His research is well known in these fields as a result of over 130 peer-reviewed articles in journals, books and international conferences. More information about him can be found at https://dinel.org.uk/

Prof Sabine Braun

Sabine Braun is Professor of Translation Studies and Director of the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Surrey, UK, a Research-England funded Centre of Excellence. She also serves as a Co-Director of Surrey's Institute for People-Centred AI. She specialises in human-machine integration in translation and interpreting to improve access to information, digital content and public services. For over a decade, she spearheaded a European-funded research programme investigating video-mediated interpreting in legal proceedings to improve language access in the justice sector (AVIDICUS 1-3; 2008-16), while contributing her expertise in video interpreting to other justice sector projects (e.g. QUALITAS, 2012-14; Understanding Justice, 2013-16; VEJ Evaluation, 2018-20). Subsequently she advised justice sector institutions on the use and risks of video-mediated interpreting, delivered training, developed European guidelines, and co-authored a DIN standard. She has also explored the use of video and virtual reality platforms for training interpreters and users of interpreting services (IVY, 2011-3; EVIVA, 2014-15; SHIFT, 2015-18; EU-WEBPSI, 2021-24) and is currently involved in projects investigating the application of communication technologies and AI-enabled language technologies to multilingual health communication (MHealth4All, 2021-24; Interpret-X, 2021-24). Furthermore, she conducts research on audio description and other translation modalities related to accessible communication. In the Horizon 2020 project MeMAD (2018-21), she explored the potential for (semi-)automating audio description to enhance digital media inclusion. In 2024, she launched a Leverhulme Trust-funded Doctoral Training Network on AI-Enabled Digital Accessibility (ADA). Her overarching interest centres on fairness, transparency, and quality in the use of technology in language mediation.

Abstract

While video remote interpreting (VRI) offers convenience and flexibility for interpreters, it also poses challenges, including early onset of fatigue (Braun 2013), poor sound quality (Mouzourakis, 2006), and difficulty in managing fast speech (Singureanu et al., 2023). In legal interpreting, which is the focus of this presentation, VRI problems are often exacerbated by problems arising from interpreting complex legal jargon, lack of training and pre-task briefing. Evolving language technology such as Automatic speech recognition (ASR) may be able to assist legal interpreters in coping with these challenges and maintaining high performance quality in VRI. Research has uncovered benefits of using ASR in simultaneous conference interpreting, such as enhancing accuracy (e .g., Fantinuoli, 2018) and providing support in environments with poor audio quality (He et al., 2021), including in settings of remote simultaneous conference interpreting (Fritella, 2023; Gonzalez, 2024). Our study tests the usability of ASR in video remote interpreting in legal settings, both in consecutive and simultaneous modes, with a specific focus on its potential to address the aforementioned challenges arising in legal settings. Through a comparative analysis of VRI quality delivered by professional court interpreters (n=12) in simulated court hearings with and without ASR support, complemented by eye-tracking analysis and reflective follow-up interviews with the interpreters, we examine the impact of ASR on the quality of legal VRI and the strategies interpreters develop to use ASR effectively in this setting. Our presentation will first give a brief outline of the study's objectives and methodological details, and then present initial findings relating to interpreting quality . Our study extends the current scope of research on ASR integration into various interpreting workflows. By developing a detailed understanding of the usability of ASR in VRI in the legal context, the study will help interpreters to adapt to, and benefit from, this emerging technology.

Keywords

Video-Mediated Interpreting, Remote Interpreting Technology and AI, Human Computer Interaction

Exploring the impact of task complexity on automatic interpreter assessment

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Ms. Yao Zhang

Yao Zhang is a PhD fellow at the University of Copenhagen, where her current project focuses on investigating interpreters' problem sources through the analysis of disfluency as the indicator in second language production during consecutive interpreting. Yao Zhang's research interests primarily lie in interpreting, translation, applied linguistics, and psycholinguistics. As a freelance interpreter and translator proficient in Chinese, English, and Danish, she brings extensive industrial experience to enrich and support her research. Yao Zhang holds an M.A. in English from the University of Copenhagen, a B.A. in Translation Practice from Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, and a B.Mgmt. in International Business from Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. She is actively engaged in teaching language-related courses at both bachelor's and master's levels, such as Foreign Language Acquisition. She is also committed to knowledge dissemination through her involvement in a collaborative open science project. Looking ahead, Yao Zhang has received the Spin-outs postdoc grant from the Villum Foundation and will continue her research in interpreter assessment and training. She can be contacted via email at yao.zhang@hum.ku.dk.

Abstract

As artificial intelligence develops, automatic assessment has become a key area of interpreting research, prompting studies from various perspectives (Ginther et al., 2010; Ouyang et al., 2021). While most studies emphasize comparing interpreting output with the original text, the present study takes the perspective of task design and explores the feasibility of controlling complexity levels as a part of the automatic assessment process. This study explores the impact of task complexity on interpreters' cognitive process holistically by drawing on theoretical frameworks for speech production (Levelt, 1989, 1995; Kormos, 2014), problem sources (Dörnyei & Kormos, 1998; Dörnyei & Scott, 1997), and disfluency as manifestation of problems in language production (Bosker et al., 2012; Clark, 2006; de Jong, 2017; Segalowitz, 2010). Using natural language processing methods (Dowell et al., 2016; Graesser et al., 2004), two Chinese-to-English consecutive interpreting tasks with different levels of complexity are designed to compare interpreters' disfluency patterns and problem sources during the interpreting process. Data consist of audio recordings of 55 interpreters' performances for both tasks with transcribed output, timestamped identification of disfluencies, and self-reported identification of problem sources. Descriptive and inferential statistics are used to analyze frequency distribution and correlations and to identify patterns related to task complexity. Results indicate a positive correlation between task complexity and the occurrence of problem and disfluency, which suggests that as task complexity increases, interpreters are more likely to encounter problems and experience disfluencies, and certain types of problems are more likely to cause disfluencies than others. By investigating the difference in interpreters' performances at the two levels of task complexity, this study aims to improve the understanding of the construct of interpreting and provide empirical references for standardized automatic assessment methods. Ultimately, it contributes to more effective interpreter assessment and training.

Keywords

automatic assessment, consecutive interpreting, task complexity