

THE **11th** ASIA-PACIFIC
TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING FORUM

APTIF11 Conference, 2025

CONFERENCE HANDBOOK



**Culture, Connectivity and Technology:
Translating Communities,
Transforming Perspectives**

**Hong Kong Baptist University
Hong Kong
21-23 May 2025**

Exhibitors:

Beijing NewClass Digital Technology Co. Ltd.



iFLYTEK Co., Ltd.



Shanghai Yizhe Info Tech Co. Ltd. (Tmxmall)



Timekettle



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Book of Abstracts



Campus Map



Practical Information
(with the locations of water dispensers indicated)

Welcoming Remarks



In the words of the renowned philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein, “*The limits of my language mean the limits of my world*”. This insightful statement reminds us of the profound power of language and translation in expanding our horizons, connecting cultures, and breaking down barriers in an increasingly interconnected world.

Wittgenstein’s words resonate deeply with the mission of this forum. Translation and interpreting do far more than bridge linguistic divides—they enrich our understanding of diverse perspectives, foster meaningful connections, and empower communities. In today’s era of rapid technological advancements, while artificial intelligence and automated tools have revolutionised our field, they have also underscored the irreplaceable role of human expertise in navigating cultural nuances and preserving the integrity of meaning.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 11th Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum (APTIF11), hosted at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU). This year’s theme, “*Culture, Connectivity and Technology: Translating Communities, Transforming Perspectives*”, calls upon us to explore how traditional practices in translation and interpreting are being reshaped by technological innovation, and how our collective efforts can drive forward the progression of the profession.

This conference has been made possible through the exceptional partnership and dedicated efforts of multiple organisers: the International Federation of Translators (FIT), the Asian Regional Centre of the International Federation of Translators (FIT Asia), the Hong Kong Translation Society (HKTS), and the Academy of Language and Culture at Hong Kong Baptist University, including its Centre for Translation and Department of Translation, Interpreting, and Intercultural Studies. This collaboration and dedication have fostered remarkable dialogue and exchange across disciplines.

This year’s programme promises to be both enriching and inspiring. We are honoured to host four keynote speakers, including Professor Mona Baker, Professor Satoshi Nakamura, Professor Jemina Napier, and President Alison Rodriguez (FIT). The four pre-conference workshops, led by industry pioneers from NVIDIA, Amazon Web Services, and Microsoft as well as experts within the field, will explore the transformative impact of AI on translation and interpreting. Our exhibitors, the Beijing NewClass Digital Technology Co. Ltd., iFLYTEK Co., Ltd., Shanghai Yizhe Info Tech Co. Ltd. (Tmxmall), and Timekettle, will showcase cutting-edge innovations shaping the future of our field.

A highlight of this year’s forum is the Honorary Fellow Conferment Ceremony of HKTS. This milestone celebrates distinguished luminaries who have made significant contributions to translation and interpreting, both in Hong Kong and globally. We are privileged to honour Professor Mona Baker, Professor Sin-Wai Chan, Professor Yifeng Sun, and Professor Zaixi Tan, joining a distinguished legacy of past laureates.

We are also delighted to include Hong Kong Sign Language services throughout the conference, supported by BrainFood, the Association of Hong Kong Sign Language Interpreters, and AccessWus Ltd., ensuring greater inclusivity and accessibility for all participants.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to FIT, FIT Asia, our organising committee, and the steadfast support of the members of HKBU, HKTS, and all conference participants. Your dedication and trust have been instrumental in bringing this event to life.

I hope the next three days inspire lively discussions, foster new collaborations, and deepen our understanding of the intricate connections between culture, connectivity, and technology. Thank you once again for your support and participation.

Janice Jun PAN
Chair, Organising Committee
APTIF11



About the Conference

The 11th Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum (APTIF11), organised under the aegis of the International Federation of Translators (FIT) is scheduled to be held at the Hong Kong Baptist University from 21 to 23 May 2025.

APTIF (formerly known as the Asian Translators Forum) is a triennial event launched in 1995 to provide a platform for exchanges and cooperation within the translation and interpreting community in the Asia-Pacific region.

Aims and Goals

Understanding the complex dynamics between culture, connectivity, technology, translation and intercultural communication is essential in a rapidly changing world. We invite researchers, educators and practitioners to submit their original contributions that explore any combination of these domains. By shedding light on their interconnectedness and transformative implications, we aim to deepen our understanding of their intricate relationships. We seek to promote fruitful discussions, knowledge exchange and networking opportunities by creating a platform for participants to share their research findings, case studies, theoretical perspectives and practical insights.

Organisers

International Federation of Translators (FIT)

Asian Regional Center of the International Federation of Translators (FIT Asia)

Hong Kong Translation Society (HKTS)

Academy of Language and Culture - Centre for Translation, Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU)

Academy of Language and Culture - Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies, HKBU

Organising Committee

Janice Jun PAN, Hong Kong Baptist University & Hong Kong Translation Society

Wai Ping YAU (Vice-Chair), Hong Kong Baptist University

Luis Damián MORENO GARCÍA (Secretary), Hong Kong Baptist University

Bo LI, Hong Kong Translation Society

Dechao LI, Hong Kong Translation Society

Anson Honghua WANG, Hong Kong Translation Society

Anming GAO, Translators Association of China, FIT Council Member

Hasuria Che OMAR, Malaysian Translators Association, FIT Council Member

Victoria Lai Cheng LEI, Federation of Translators and Interpreters of Macau, FIT Council Member

Yutang XING, Translators Association of China, FIT Asia Chair

Conference Programme Summary

Time	TUESDAY 20 May 2025
	Pre-conference Workshops
14:00	Workshop 1: Dance with Tech: A Conference Interpreting Perspective Workshop 2: AI Journey: From Generative AI to Agentic AI Workshop 3: Elastic Translation Agent on AWS: MCP Implementation for Low-Latency Cross-lingual Services Workshop 4: Large Language Models for Language Translation: Opportunities and Challenges
	WEDNESDAY 21 May 2025
08:00	Registration
09:00	Opening Ceremony
09:30	Hong Kong Translation Society Honorary Fellowship Conferment Ceremony
09:55	Vote of Thanks
10:10	Master Lecture I
10:50	Coffee Break
11:20	Master Lecture II
12:00	Master Lecture III
12:40	Lunch
13:40	Parallel Sessions
15:45	Coffee Break
16:15	Parallel Sessions
18:00	Welcome Reception
	THURSDAY 22 May 2025
09:00	Keynote Speech I
09:50	Coffee Break
10:20	Parallel Sessions
12:50	Lunch
13:50	Parallel Sessions
16:20	Coffee Break
16:50	Keynote Speech II
17:50	Conference Dinner – Coach Pick-up at Conference Venue
	FRIDAY 23 May 2025
09:00	Keynote Speech III
09:50	Coffee Break
10:20	Parallel Sessions
12:50	Lunch
13:50	Keynote Speech IV
14:40	Coffee Break
15:10	Parallel Sessions
18:05	Closing Ceremony

Keynote Speeches

Keynote Speech I

22 May 2025 09:00

Activism and Volunteerism in Translation: A Critical Reappraisal

Mona BAKER

University of Oslo



Much has been written about activist and volunteer groups of translators and interpreters who have played an important role in promoting a variety of political agendas, at least since the rise of the global justice movement at the beginning of this century. But we are now witnessing an explosion in the number of such groups, with many focusing on specific issues, most notably the environment, migration, and violent conflict, which are the big issues of our time. With the proliferation of such initiatives, and the increasing number of volunteers they attract, it is vital that we look more closely at the nature of their practices, and in particular on whether and how they might wittingly or unwittingly be entrenching epistemic territorial practices typical of colonial and neoliberal approaches to knowledge.

Translation has the potential to play a transformative role in reconfiguring social and political relations by articulating new forms of knowledge through the responsible confrontation of diverse epistemologies and cultural experiences. At the same time, translational encounters, even when well intentioned, can be exploitative, manipulative, and can reinforce rather than challenge structures of power. I will argue that this latter pattern of encounter through translation is increasingly and worryingly evident in the work of a growing number of "activist" groups that claim to offer volunteer translation to spread purportedly progressive ideas and support marginalised communities. Some of these groups adopt discourses of globalisation, development, human rights, diversity and mutual understanding that mask aggressive processes of homogenisation, exclusion and co-optation. Building on earlier studies of activist communities of translation and interpreting, by myself and others, I will offer an updated critical analysis of the political positioning and language policies of a number of recently founded groups of volunteer translators and interpreters. With some exceptions, much of the work of these (often well intentioned) groups will be shown to perpetuate epistemic injustice and reinforce existing social and political inequalities.

About the Speaker

Mona Baker is Affiliate Professor at the Centre for Sustainable Health Education (SHE), University of Oslo, where she is responsible for developing the Sustainability & Health Corpus, co-coordinator of the Genealogies of Knowledge Research Network and Honorary Dean of the Graduate School of Translation & Interpreting at Beijing Foreign Studies University. Prof. Baker established the Jiao Tong Baker Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies (Shanghai Jiao Tong University), later known as the SISU Baker Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies, and directed it until 2025. She is author of *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation* and *Translation and Conflict: A Narrative Account*, co-author (with Eivind Engebretsen) of *Rethinking Evidence in the Time of Pandemics*, editor of *Translating Dissent: Voices from and with the Egyptian Revolution* (winner of the 2016 Intranews Linguist of the Year Award) and *Unsettling Translation: Studies in Honour of Theo Hermans*, and co-editor of the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies* and the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Citizen Media*. She is also founding co-editor of the new Diamond Open Access journal *Encounters in Translation*. Her articles have appeared in a wide range of international journals, including *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*, *Social Movement Studies*, *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, *Social Semiotics*, *Translation Studies* and *The Translator*. She posts on translation, citizen media and Palestine on her personal website and tweets at @MonaBaker11.

Keynote Speech II

22 May 2025 16:50

Breaking Down Barriers in Automatic Speech Translation and interpretation: Achievements and Remaining Challenges

Satoshi NAKAMURA

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen



Automatic speech-to-speech translation has long been a dream technology for humanity. Through numerous breakthroughs from years of research, we have now reached the stage where this service can be used on smartphones. However, there are still many challenges remaining before we can achieve translation quality comparable to that of a trained simultaneous interpreter. Key issues include how to translate across languages with different word orders, such as between English and Japanese, without waiting for the end of a sentence or utterance; how to balance latency and content fidelity in translation; and how to extract the speaker's intent from their intonation. Having conducted research on speech translation over an extended period, I would like to reflect on some of the past progress and introduce ongoing research addressing these challenges.

About the Speaker

Dr. Satoshi Nakamura is a full professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen. He is also a professor emeritus at Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST) and honorary professor of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany. He received his B.S. from Kyoto Institute of Technology in 1981 and Ph.D. from Kyoto University in 1992. He was an Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Information Science at NAIST from 1994-2000. He was Department head and Director of ATR Spoken Language Communication Research Laboratories in 2000-2004, and 2005-2008, respectively, and Vice president of ATR in 2007-2008. He was Director General of Keihanna Research Laboratories and the Executive Director of Knowledge Creating Communication Research Center, National Institute of Information and Communications Technology, Japan 2009-2010. He moved to Nara Institute of Science and Technology as a full professor in 2011. He is currently a full professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, China. His research interests include modeling and systems of spoken language processing, speech processing, spoken language translation, spoken dialog systems, natural language processing, and data science. He is one of the world leaders in speech-to-speech translation research. He has been serving various speech-to-speech translation research projects, including C-Star, A-Star, and the International Workshop on Spoken Language Translation IWSLT. He is currently the chairperson of ISCA SIG SLT (Spoken Language Translation). He was a committee member of IEEE SLTC 2016-2018. He was an Elected Board Member of the International Speech Communication Association, ISCA, from 2012 to 2019. He received the Antonio Zampolli Prize in 2012 and retained the title of IEEE Fellow, ISCA Fellow, IPSJ Fellow, and ATR Fellow.

Keynote Speech III

23 May 2025 09:00

Transformations of Sign Language Intercultural Mediation over Time

Jemina NAPIER

Heriot Watt University



Aligning with several themes of the conference, and drawing on several research project findings, this keynote presentation will walk the audience through various threshold concepts in relation to sign language intercultural mediation, what it means for deaf signers to connect with hearing non-signers through and with interpreters and the implications for future research and education, both for sign language interpreting and translation and the wider translation and interpreting field. In particular, the presentation will focus on connections between sign language intercultural mediation and children, justice, health, gender and technologies. The presentation will chart the transformations that have taken place in evidence-based understanding and provision of sign language intercultural provision through the advent of policies and technologies, and raise questions about the potential for the future.

About the Speaker

Professor Jemina Napier has been Chair of Intercultural Communication in the Department of Languages & Intercultural Studies in the School of Social Sciences (SoSS) at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, UK since 2013, and has served as Head of Department as well as the Director of the Centre for Translation & Interpreting Studies in Scotland (CTISS), and the Director of Research for SoSS. She is an interpreter researcher, educator and practitioner and has practiced as a sign language interpreter since 1989, accredited to work between English and British Sign Language (BSL), Australian Sign Language (Auslan) and International Sign. After completing an MA in BSL/English Interpreting at Durham University in the UK, Jemina moved to Australia to undertake her PhD studies in Linguistics at Macquarie University in 1998. She established the first Australian university programme for sign language interpreters (Postgraduate Diploma/MA in Auslan/English Interpreting) at Macquarie University in 2002 and was head of the suite of Translation and Interpreting programmes from 2007-2012, where she is now an Adjunct Professor. She is also a Visiting Professor at the Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College Dublin. Jemina is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences UK, Corresponding Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities, Fellow of the Association of Sign Language Interpreters UK, Honorary Life Member of the Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association (ASLIA) and was an inaugural board member of the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI).

Jemina's expertise in intercultural communication focuses on sign languages, linguistic access, professional and non-professional mediated communication, interpreting and translation, linguistic and social inclusion. She conducts interdisciplinary linguistic, social and ethnographic explorations of direct and mediated communication in sign languages to inform interpreting studies, applied linguistics, and deaf studies, with a strong focus on access to public services. She has over 150 publications and is the sole author of the 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-author of three other books: *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 has also co-edited 6 books on interpreting research and interpreter education. Jemina is a member of several journal editorial boards as well as a research grant assessor for several national and international funding bodies. Jemina has won several awards for her research work, including: the Police Scotland Chief Constable's Excellence Award for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for collaborative work on research and training on domestic abuse and deaf women's access to communication and information 2024 (with Lucy Clark, Stephanie Rose, Sarah Winters and Stephanie Torrance); the Australian Journal of Human Rights Andrea Durbach Award for best article in human rights scholarship 2017 (with Sandra Hale, David Spencer and Mehera San Roque); the 2017 Guardian University Award for Research Social & Community Impact (with other members of the British Sign Language team at Heriot-Watt University); and the Royal Australasian College of General Practitioners Award for best GP research article featured in the Australian Family Physician Journal in 2013 (with Michael Kidd).

Keynote Speech IV

23 May 2025 13:50

Finding the Balance: Building a Sustainable Future in the Face of Global Challenges

Alison RODRIGUEZ

International Federation of Translators



Added to the rising expectations and tensions around the growing adoption and integration of AI technology in the translation industry, there is now an added layer of political and social volatility. These factors further complicate the challenges and opportunities translators face in navigating the complexities of diverse cultures, languages, and communication styles. In today's digital age, translation plays a critical role in connecting communities and nations, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and building empathy. While it is hard to imagine a future without this essential, transformative work, and despite media hype suggesting that technology can replace it, we know the reality is that high-stakes translation cannot be outsourced entirely to machines. This presentation explores recent challenges as both the profession and the world around it evolve and a sustainable future for the translation profession hinges on the ability to balance technological innovation with cultural sensitivity and relevance, balancing human and technology in order to solve real-world problems that humans care about.

About the Speaker

Alison Rodriguez is President of the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs (FIT). A linguist and translator in legal, human rights and technical fields, she has diverse experience in strategy, policy and promotion of the arts. She is known for her strong advocacy of multilingualism, multilateralism, and cultural and linguistic diversity and, with particular focus on indigenous language revitalisation, association development and building a sustainable profession. Alison also has an interest in the ethics of AI, and in promoting International Translation Day, each 30 September, the Feast of St Jerome, as the premier day to celebrate the work of translators, interpreters and terminologists.

Citations for Honorary Fellows of the Hong Kong Translation Society 2025



Prof. Mona BAKER

Writer and orator: Dr. Luis Damián MORENO GARCÍA

Professor Mona Baker is a towering figure in the field of Translation Studies, whose transformative scholarship, visionary leadership, and unwavering commitment to the discipline have left an indelible mark on academia and professional practice worldwide. She has not only advanced the theoretical foundations of Translation Studies but also redefined its practical and ethical dimensions, making her one of the most influential scholars in the field.

Prof. Baker has had a distinguished and impactful career marked by several key milestones that have significantly shaped the field of Translation Studies. In 1995, she established *The Translator*, a leading peer-reviewed journal that publishes cutting-edge research on translation theory, ethics, and practice. In 1998, she launched *Translation Studies Abstracts (TSA)*, which provided summaries of key research and later evolved into the *Translation Studies Bibliography (TSB)*, an essential online resource for scholars. In addition, she founded and served as the Editorial Director of St. Jerome Publishing from 1995 to 2013, a pioneering press that became a cornerstone for scholarly work in translation and intercultural studies. She is also a founding co-editor of *Encounters in Translation*, an interdisciplinary, diamond open access and peer-reviewed journal which explores translation as a “transdisciplinary object of enquiry encompassing highly interconnected, diverse and elusive processes of mediation”. Prof. Baker also played a pivotal role in establishing the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS), serving as its Founding Vice President from 2004 to 2015.

From 2001 to 2015, she held the position of Professor of Translation Studies at the University of Manchester, where she further advanced research and education in the discipline. At the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) and later at the University of Manchester with which it merged, Prof. Baker established and directed the Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies from 1997 to 2015, reflecting her unwavering commitment to advancing Translation Studies and promoting intercultural understanding. Later on, in 2017, she established the Jiao Tong Baker Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies (Shanghai Jiao Tong University), which moved to Shanghai International Studies University in 2019 and became known as the SISU Baker Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies, and directed it until 2025.

Currently, Prof. Baker remains actively engaged in advancing the field through her ongoing roles, including Affiliate Professor with the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare Education (SHE) at the University of Oslo, co-coordinator of the Genealogies of Knowledge Research Network, and Honorary Dean of the Graduate School of Translation and Interpreting at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Prof. Baker's contributions to Translation Studies, vast and profound, have been duly recognised by different organisations. She was honoree of the 2011 Fifth Session of Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Award for Translation, for contributions to the field of translation, as well as the recipient of the 2015 Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences Award in the field of Arts and Languages, Studies in Foreign Languages and Literatures.

She is widely regarded as a pioneer in Corpus-based Translation Studies, a methodological approach that has revolutionised the analysis of translation-specific patterns, norms, and strategies. Her groundbreaking work in this area has provided researchers with powerful tools to examine large-scale translational phenomena, uncovering patterns and regularities that have deepened our understanding of how translation functions as a linguistic and cultural practice. This methodology has now been further developed through the Genealogies of Knowledge project to support conceptual analysis and used to investigate the role played by translation in the evolution and contestation of key concepts in society across time and space.



Prof. Baker's articles have appeared in a wide range of international journals, including *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, *Social Movement Studies*, *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, *Social Semiotics*, *The Translator*, *Translation Studies*, *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*, *International Journal of Health Policy and Management*, *The Interpreter and Translator Trainer*, *Babel* and *Target*. Moreover, her seminal publications, including *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation* (1992), a cornerstone text in translation pedagogy, and *Translation and Conflict: A Narrative Account* (2006), which explores the role of translation in shaping narratives of political and social conflict, have become essential readings for students and scholars alike.

Her most recent book, *Rethinking Evidence in the Time of Pandemics* (2022), co-written along with Eivind Engebretsen, critically examines the role of evidence in shaping public health responses during global health crises, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic. This interdisciplinary work challenges traditional notions of evidence-based practice by exploring how different forms of knowledge—ranging from scientific data to lived experiences and narrative accounts—intersect and influence decision-making in times of uncertainty (such as the ones we are currently living).

In addition to her research, Prof. Mona Baker has made extraordinary contributions to the field of Translation Studies through her extensive editorial work, which has not only provided invaluable resources for researchers and students but has also advanced the theoretical, methodological, and ethical foundations of Translation Studies.

She is well known for her role as the editor of *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*, a landmark reference work, widely regarded as one of the most comprehensive and authoritative resources in the field, covering a vast range of topics from theoretical frameworks to practical applications. In addition to this, Prof. Baker edited the four-volume series *Critical Concepts: Translation Studies* (2009), which compiles foundational texts and key works, offering an essential overview of the discipline's evolution and major debates.

Her editorial portfolio also includes influential books such as *Translating Dissent: Voices from and with the Egyptian Revolution* (2016), which examines the role of translation in political activism, particularly during the Arab Spring. More recently, she edited *Unsettling Translation: Studies in Honour of Theo Hermans*, a volume that brings together contributions by key scholars in the field to celebrate the work of one of its most influential founders. Beyond books, Prof. Baker has guest-edited numerous special issues of academic journals, including *The Translator*, *The Interpreter and Translator Trainer* and *the Journal of Pragmatics*, focusing on themes such as translation and activism, narrative theory, translation and context, and Corpus-based Translation Studies.

Prof. Baker's work is characterised by a deep engagement with the ethical and political dimensions of translation. Her research on narrative theory has highlighted the ways in which translators and interpreters mediate narratives in contexts of conflict, inequality, and social justice. By framing translation as a form of activism, she has challenged traditional notions of neutrality in translation and underscored the transformative potential of the translator's role. This perspective has had a profound impact on the field, inspiring scholars and practitioners to critically examine the social and political implications of their work, and to (re)discover the power of translation.

Prof. Baker's contributions resonate deeply with the mission of the Hong Kong Translation Society, which seeks to promote excellence in translation and intercultural communication. Her work aligns closely with the Society's commitment to advancing both the theoretical and practical dimensions of translation. Moreover, her emphasis on the role of translation in bridging cultural divides and fostering mutual understanding reflects the Society's vision of translation as a vital tool for global dialogue and cooperation.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the field of Translation Studies and her far-reaching influence on scholars, practitioners, and educators worldwide, the Hong Kong Translation Society is deeply honoured to confer upon Professor Mona Baker an Honorary Fellowship. Her pioneering scholarship and steadfast dedication to the advancement of the discipline exemplify the highest ideals of the Society, continuing to inspire generations of translation researchers and professionals around the world.



Prof. Sin-Wai CHAN

Writer and orator: Dr. Sai Cheong SIU

Professor Sin-Wai Chan is widely recognised as a leading figure in translation studies. He is a scholar, educator, and practitioner, whose diverse contributions have significantly shaped the discipline, particularly through his pioneering work in translation technology and the developing field of techno-humanities. Currently Professor Chan serves as Professor-cum-Dean of the Ip Ying To Lee Yu Yee School of Humanities and Languages at Saint Francis University. His career shows exceptional productivity, innovative teaching leadership, and a strong commitment. He consistently works to advance translation theory and practice in our technological age, and his clear influence across research, education, and professional service has left a lasting impact on how translation is understood, taught, and applied.

His academic journey began at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He first studied Philosophy before transferring to History, where he earned his BA. This early humanities work provided a strong foundation for later interdisciplinary efforts, with doctoral studies following at the prestigious School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. His time in the UK revealed varied interests. He undertook historical research as well as significant translation work, including an early English version of Tan Sitong's *Renxue* (*An Exposition of Benevolence*). Returning to Hong Kong in the late 1970s, he joined the Institute of Chinese Studies at the Chinese University. There, his work involved major historical and editorial projects. He notably co-edited the large collection *Letters of Prominent Figures in Modern China*. He also compiled works on late Qing figures like Tan Sitong and Tang Caichang. This deep engagement sharpened his analytical skills and cross-cultural understanding and paved the way for his move into translation studies.

Professor Chan's subsequent career has been marked by exceptional productivity and impressive breadth, covering many areas both within and beyond translation studies. His publication list, including over 110 volumes, showcases this diverse expertise. His background in historical studies continued to inform publications such as *Buddhism in Late Ch'ing Political Thought* and the detailed *A Chronological Biography of Tang Caichang*. Within translation studies itself, he produced key resources including *A Glossary of Translation Terms*, *A Topical Bibliography of Translation and Interpretation: Chinese-English, English-Chinese*, *An Encyclopaedia of Translation: Chinese-English, English-Chinese* (co-edited with David E. Pollard), and the landmark *A Chronology of Translation in China and the West*. His work in bilingual lexicography is also highly important. Notable examples are *A New Comprehensive Cantonese-Putonghua-English Dictionary*, which was named one of Hong Kong's "Ten Good Books" by the Sino United Publishing in 2019, the three-volume *A New Comprehensive Chinese-English Dictionary*, and *A Chinese-English Dictionary of the Human Body*. These dictionaries reflect his keen interest in user-focused dictionary compilation, further evidenced by funded research projects.

Promoting Chinese culture through translation and encyclopedias has been a key focus for Professor Chan. He created important resources: *The Routledge Encyclopedia of the Chinese Language*, *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Traditional Chinese Culture*, and *A Dictionary of Chinese Popular Sayings and Famous Quotes*. He also translated major cultural works. Examples include *An Illustrated History of Printing in Ancient China*, *Famous Chinese Sayings Quoted by Wen Jiabao*, volumes from *The Palace Museum's Essential Collections* (covering furniture, jade, bronzes, and paintings), plus works by Jao Tsung-i and Gao Yang. His commitment to cultural exchange is also clear from his Chinese translation of *My Son Yo-Yo* and his editing of the multi-volume *Selected World Classic Short Stories* series for Chinese readers. Furthermore, he led the important Hong Kong Literature Translation Project. His research also explores cultural studies, examining topics like Hong Kong cyberculture and comparing science fiction and fantasy traditions.



Some of Professor Chan's most pioneering work lies in translation technology and techno-humanities. Foreseeing the potential of technology to transform the field years ago, he became a leading global authority. His key publications include *A Dictionary of Translation Technology*, *A Topical Bibliography of Computer (-aided) Translation*, *The Future of Translation Technology: Towards a World without Babel*, *The Human Factor in Machine Translation*, *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Technology and the Humanities*, *Applying Technology to Language and Translation*, and two editions of *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Technology*. His leadership in research is demonstrated through numerous substantial grants, investigating areas such as visual translation systems for cookbooks (VisualRecipe), user-centric dictionary design, and cutting-edge projects like an automatic football commentary system integrating image recognition and Cantonese voice output. This deep involvement led him to champion "Techno-Humanities", an interdisciplinary field exploring the integration of technology with humanistic study.

Beyond his prolific research, Professor Chan has been an influential leader in translation education and professional service. His long tenure at the Chinese University saw him serve as Professor and Head of the Department of Translation, Director of the Centre for Translation Technology, and Director of the Master of Arts in Computer-aided Translation—one of the first of its kind globally, which he established. He continued this innovative work at Saint Francis University, establishing the BA (Honours) in Translation Technology—another Hong Kong first. There, he also guided the setup of the Techno-Humanities Research Centre, promoting technology use in humanities research. His expertise is valued beyond academia. He serves as President of the Association for Translation Technology, a Specialist for the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications, as well as an external advisor for various institutions, and through numerous keynotes and conference presentations – in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Taiwan, and worldwide – he has actively shared his knowledge.

There is a clear and deep resonance between Professor Chan's impressive body of work and the core mission of the Hong Kong Translation Society (HKTS). For decades, he has dedicated himself to improving the quality and status of translation through exacting research and the promotion of high standards—efforts that directly reflect the Society's own goals. His ground-breaking work in translation technology—vital for the profession today—is one clear example. Another is his substantial contribution to bilingual lexicography focused on Chinese. Both areas strongly align with the Society's commitment to research and publication involving the Chinese language. As Hong Kong's leading body for translation professionals and scholars, HKTS also recognises how Professor Chan fosters international exchange, much like the Society builds its own global connections. Furthermore, the Society holds Professor Chan's direct engagement over the years in high regard. Many members will remember, for instance, his perceptive 2010 luncheon talk on translation technology. His featured address on "Technology and the Profession of Translation" was also a highlight of the Society's major 2016 Symposium—an event celebrating both its 45th anniversary and the *Translation Quarterly's* 20th. Professor Chan's career truly exemplifies the dedication to scholarly rigour, professional advancement, and—critically—the nurturing of future translators and researchers that the Hong Kong Translation Society champions.

In recognition of his exceptional and sustained contributions to translation studies, his pioneering work in translation technology and techno-humanities, his vast and wide-ranging scholarship, his forward-thinking leadership in education, and his dedicated professional service locally and internationally, the Hong Kong Translation Society is pleased to present Professor Sin-Wai Chan with an Honorary Fellowship. His career genuinely blends humanistic depth with technological foresight. This combination has significantly pushed the boundaries of translation research, education, and practice, offering benefits for generations to come.



Master Lecture I

21 May 2025 10:10

Technology for Translating, Visualising, and Generating Chinese Recipes

Sin-Wai CHAN

St. Francis University, Hong Kong



This talk discusses issues relating to the construction of a textual system that automatically renders Chinese recipes into English (TransRecipe), a visual system that translates recipes into pictures and videos (VisualRecipe), and a generative system that produces recipes from videos (GenRecipe).

About the Speaker

Sin-Wai Chan is Professor-cum-Dean of Ip Ying To Lee Yu Yee School of Humanities and Languages, Saint Francis University, Hong Kong. He was formerly Professor of the School of Humanities and Social Science, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and Professor at the Department of Translation, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He was also Director of the Master of Arts in the Computer-aided Translation Programme and Director of the Centre for Translation Technology. His teaching and research interests lie mainly in the areas of translation studies, translation technology, and bilingual lexicography. He is the Chief Editor of *Journal of Translation Technology*, published by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Editor of *International Journal of Techno-Humanities*. He has published more than 95 academic books in 116 volumes to date, mainly scholarly monographs, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and translated works in different fields.



Prof. Yifeng SUN

Writer and orator: Prof. Dechao LI

Professor Yifeng Sun stands as a towering figure in the field of Translation Studies, whose distinguished career spanning several decades has profoundly shaped and advanced the discipline both regionally and globally. His remarkable scholarly achievements, extensive publications, and unwavering dedication to the field make him an exemplary recipient of the Honorary Fellowship of the Hong Kong Translation Society.

Currently serving as Chair Professor of Translation Studies in the Department of English at the University of Macau, Professor Sun brings extraordinary credentials and international recognition to his role. His academic journey reveals the breadth and depth of his scholarly preparation, having been educated or undertaken research at prestigious institutions including the Universities of Nanjing, Cardiff, Westminster, Cambridge, Leiden, and Oxford. This diverse international background has equipped him with a distinctive multicultural perspective that deeply informs and enriches his scholarly work.

Professor Sun's current position represents the culmination of an illustrious academic career. Prior to his appointment at the University of Macau, he served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Director of the Centre for Humanities Research at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, where his visionary leadership elevated the institution's academic standing. His expertise has been recognised internationally through appointments as Honorary Professor and Distinguished Visitor at the University of Queensland, as well as through his former role as Vice President of the International Association of Translation and Intercultural Studies.

The body of Professor Sun's scholarly contributions is both wide-ranging and influential. He has authored seven monographs that have become seminal works in the field, including the forthcoming *Chinese-Western Translation Theories* (with D. Li), *Translational Spaces: Towards a Chinese-Western Convergence* (2021), *Translating Foreign Otherness: Cross-Cultural Anxiety in Modern China* (2018), *Cultural Translation* (2016), *Perspective, Interpretation and Culture: Theorizing Literary Translation* (2nd Ed., 2006), *Cultural Exile and Homeward Journey* (2005), and *Fragmentation and Dramatic Moments* (2002). These works have systematically developed innovative theoretical frameworks that bridge Eastern and Western translation traditions while addressing contemporary challenges in cross-cultural communication.

Equally impressive are his edited and co-edited volumes, including *Transcultural Poetics: Chinese Literature in English Translation* (2023), *Translating Chinese Art and Modern Literature* (2019), *Translation and Academic Journals: The Evolving Landscape of Scholarly Publishing* (2015), and *Translation, Globalisation and Localisation: A Chinese Perspective* (2008). These collections have brought together diverse scholarly voices and significantly expanded the horizons of translation discourse.

The impact of Professor Sun's scholarship extends far beyond his monographs. He has published over 100 articles and book chapters in prestigious journals and collections, with his most recent works including "Unveiling the Enchanting Tapestry: Modern Chinese Literature in English Translation" and "Translational Reconfigurations: Interdisciplinary Dialogues in Modern Chinese Literary Scholarship" (both forthcoming in 2025), in which he champions the excavation of the textual substratum—those deep layers of meaning, style, and cultural resonance that elude direct translation. His articles have appeared in leading scholarly journals including *Target*, *Babel*, *Perspectives*, *Modern Language Quarterly*, *ARIEL*, *Translation Review*, *META*, *Across Languages and Cultures*, *Corpus Linguistics*, *Comparative Literature Studies*, *Neohelicon*, *Derrida Today*, *European Review*, *Telos*, *Yearbook for Translational Hermeneutics*, *Journal of Multicultural Discourses* and *Contemporary French & Francophone Studies*, among many others.



This impressive body of work demonstrates Professor Sun's sustained engagement with cutting-edge theoretical developments and his ability to bridge different cultural and theoretical traditions within the field of translation studies. His research interests span a wide array of fields—including translation theory, translation criticism, intercultural studies, comparative literature, English and American literature, and literary theory, showcasing the profoundly interdisciplinary nature of his scholarly pursuits.

Professor Sun's influence in the international academic community is further evidenced by his prestigious editorial roles. As Editor-in-Chief of *Babel: Revue internationale de la traduction / International Journal of Translation* (John Benjamins), he shapes critical discourse in translation studies on a global scale. He also serves on the editorial boards of *Asia Pacific Translation and Intercultural Studies* (Routledge), *Asia Pacific Interdisciplinary Translation Studies* (Tsinghua UP), *Journal of Translation Studies* (Fudan UP) and *Chinese Translators Journal* (Translators Association of China), extending his scholarly impact across multiple publication platforms.

His professional leadership extends across numerous prestigious academic and professional organisations. He is a member of the Executive Council of the Translators Association of China and Deputy Director of its Committee on Translation Theory and Teaching. He also serves on the academic committee of a major national project entitled *Key Concepts in Chinese Thought and Culture*, overseeing and facilitating the dissemination of Chinese cultural tradition and heritage to the rest of the world. His extensive international network is reflected in the academic talks he has delivered at renowned institutions such as the Universities of Oxford, London, Queensland, Leuven, Newcastle, and Hong Kong.

As an educator, Professor Sun has made significant contributions to the development of Translation Studies as a recognised academic discipline. He has led workshops on translation theory for postdoctoral researchers and faculty members, provided mentorship to numerous students, and actively contributed to curriculum development in universities across Asia. His pedagogical approaches have influenced how translation is taught and understood, fostering a new generation of translation scholars and practitioners.

Professor Sun's intellectual reach extends across linguistic and cultural boundaries. His comparative work on Chinese-Western translation theories has been particularly instrumental in fostering dialogue between Eastern and Western translation traditions. By examining the complexities of translating across cultural divides, his research has illuminated the challenges and possibilities of intercultural communication in an increasingly globalised world.

In recognition of his phenomenal contributions to the field of Translation Studies, his tremendous scholarly impact, and his leadership in translation education and professional associations, the Hong Kong Translation Society is honoured to present Professor Yifeng Sun with an Honorary Fellowship. His work exemplifies the highest standards of academic excellence and has significantly advanced our understanding of translation as both a practice and a field of inquiry. Professor Sun's unwavering dedication to the discipline ensures that his influence will be felt for generations to come.

Master Lecture II

21 May 2025 11:20

Mapping Translation: Context and Connectivity

Yifeng SUN

The University of Macau



Translation is an act of mapping meaning through the identification and linkage of semantic dots—keywords, motifs, and symbols that anchor interpretation across linguistic divides. Like coordinates on a complex map, these dots demand rigorous interpretation and strategic connection, forming intricate networks that reshape how texts move between languages and cultures. This paper draws on Walter Benjamin's metaphors of the "tangent" and the "echo" to frame the translator's role, and reinterprets these metaphors to theorise translation as a relational practice—one that negotiates proximity and distance, presence and absence, in the movement of meaning across linguistic and cultural boundaries. The tangent marks the translator's necessary divergence—touching the original at a single point before following a trajectory shaped by the target context. The echo evokes the source's lingering presence as fragmented yet resonant traces, which must be reinterpreted through subtle patterns and affective nuance. Semantic dots mediate between these two forces: they are the points of contact that give the tangent direction and the traces through which the echo reverberates. Through mapping these dots, the translator engages in an act of relational fidelity—not replicating fixed content, but reconstructing meaning through dynamic, context-sensitive interpretation. Linking Walter Benjamin's philosophical insights with a practical model of translational strategy, this paper proposes a comprehensive framework for understanding translation as a rigorous, intellectually engaged, and creatively adaptive negotiation. Challenging residual assumptions that position translation as a direct transmission of meaning from one language to another, this approach emphasizes the translator's active role in shaping meaning, navigating between fidelity and transformation, and responding sensitively to the nuances of both source and target contexts. Through the strategic reconstruction of meaning, translation emerges as a dynamic, ethically charged practice, offering translators a heuristic for balancing innovation with heritage.

About the Speaker

Yifeng Sun is Chair Professor of Translation Studies at the University of Macau and Editor-in-Chief of *Babel: International Journal of Translation*. He has held positions as an Academic Visitor at Oxford University and as an Honorary Professor (two terms) and Distinguished Visitor at the University of Queensland. Previously, he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Director of the Centre for Humanities Research at Lingnan University, Hong Kong. He is author of *Translational Spaces* (2021), *Translating Foreign Otherness* (2018), *Cultural Translation* (in Chinese, 2016), *Cultural Exile and Homeward Journey* (2005), *Perspective, Interpretation and Culture* (in Chinese, 2004; 2nd Ed., 2006), and *Fragmentation and Dramatic Moments* (2002). He has edited or co-edited volumes such as *Transcultural Poetics* (2023), *Translating Chinese Art and Modern Literature* (2019), *Translation and Academic Journals* (2015), and *Translation, Globalisation and Localisation* (2008). He has published over 100 articles and chapters in prominent scholarly journals and edited volumes, including *Modern Language Quarterly*, *ARIEL*, *Translation Review*, *Babel*, *Perspectives*, *META*, *Target*, *Across Languages and Cultures*, *Comparative Literature Studies*, *Neohelicon*, *Derrida Today*, *European Review*, *Telos*, *Yearbook for Translational Hermeneutics* and *Contemporary French & Francophone Studies*, among others.



Prof. Zaixi TAN

Writer and orator: Prof. Janice Jun PAN

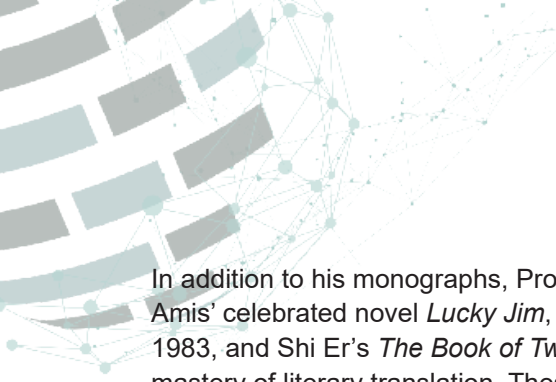
Professor Tan Zaixi is a distinguished scholar, translation theorist, translator, and educator whose illustrious career has significantly shaped the field of translation studies and cross-cultural communication. With a career spanning over four decades, Professor Tan has contributed extensively to academia, publishing, and the development of translation as both a discipline and a profession.

Currently Emeritus Professor at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU), Professor Tan's academic trajectory reflects his unwavering commitment to excellence. He began his higher education at Hunan Normal University in China, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language and Literature. He later pursued advanced studies in the United Kingdom, completing both his Master of Arts and PhD in Translation Studies at the University of Exeter. These achievements laid the foundation for his subsequent academic and professional contributions as a leader in translation studies.

Professor Tan's exemplary academic career includes tenure at some of the most prestigious institutions. He served as Distinguished Professor at Shenzhen University and Chair Professor at Beijing Foreign Studies University from 2018 to 2021. His association with Hong Kong Baptist University began in 2000, where he held various positions, including Professor of Translation in the Department of English Language and Literature and Head of the Translation Programme (2009–2011). He also served as Associate Director of the MA in Translation and Bilingual Communication Programme from 2016 to 2018. Before his tenure at HKBU, he was Professor of English and Translation and Chair of the Foreign Languages Department at Shenzhen University (1991–2000), where he also served as Dean (International) from 1994 to 1997. Earlier in his career, he was a Research Fellow at the City University of Hong Kong (1996–1998) and taught at Hunan Normal University (1975–1988), where he held roles as Associate Professor, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Languages Department, and Lecturer. These positions reflect his steady rise as a respected academic and leader in his field.

Beyond his teaching and administrative roles, Professor Tan has made an indelible mark as a researcher and author. Ranked by the China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) in 2024 as one of the Top 1% of the “Highly Cited Chinese Researchers”, he has published about 20 books and more than 200 academic papers, including over 30 in English, in leading national and international journals such as *Chinese Translators Journal* (Chi.), *Foreign Language Teaching and Research* (Chi.), *Foreign Languages* (Chi.), *Translation and Interpreting Studies*, *Babel*, *Meta*, *Neohelicon*, *The Translator*, *Perspectives*, *Across Languages and Cultures*, and *Asia Pacific Translation and Intercultural Studies*. His scholarship is widely recognised for its depth, rigour, and contribution to advancing translation theory and practice. His research interests span a wide range of areas, including translation theory, the historiography of translation, the cultural politics of translation, literary and media translation, the comparative study of Chinese and Western translation traditions, and contrastive Chinese and English language and cultural studies.

The depth of Professor Tan's contributions to translation studies is reflected in his extensive and widely acclaimed monographs. His book *A History of Translation in the West: Revised Edition* (2004; 11th reprint, 2022) is widely used as a postgraduate research coursebook in Chinese universities and has been recommended by the Chinese Ministry of Education. Another notable work, *Researching the Historiography of Translation in the West* (2021), offers a ground-breaking perspective on how the history of translation has been studied in Western contexts and has been awarded the Third Prize in the Ninth Humanities and Social Sciences Research Awards by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China. His influential work *The Science of Translation* (2000; reprinted 2005) has won the First Prize in the inaugural Liang Zongdai Translation Award (2023) and is set to be released in a revised new edition in 2025. These achievements underscore the lasting impact of his scholarship on translation studies in both China and the global academic community.



In addition to his monographs, Professor Tan is an accomplished translator. His translations include Kingsley Amis' celebrated novel *Lucky Jim*, which has been published in multiple editions since its first release in 1983, and Shi Er's *The Book of Twin Worlds* (2019), a Chinese-English translation that exemplifies his mastery of literary translation. These works highlight his ability to bridge linguistic and cultural divides, bringing significant literary texts to new audiences while maintaining the integrity and nuance of the original works.

Professor Tan's recent scholarly contributions include a series of influential articles that reflect his ongoing engagement with contemporary issues in translation studies. These include "Censorship and Translation in China" (2025), "Communicating via mother-tongue to foreign-language translating: Meaning, imagology and context" (Chi., 2024), "On the Chineseness and the universalness of the Chinese school of translation theory" (Chi., 2023), "Communication via translation: Disciplinary positioning and features of application, with special reference to the March 2021 translation events at Anchorage" (Chi., 2023), and "A cross-boundary approach to the generative nature of translation" (2021). Other notable publications include "Chinese translation discourse—Traditional and contemporary features of development" (2020), "The fuzzy interface between censorship and self-censorship in translation" (2019), "The role of national interests in media production and translation" (2019), "Gender and the Chinese tradition of translation" (2019), and "Translation Studies as a discipline in the Chinese academia" (2017). His articles have addressed critical topics such as the cultural and political dimensions of translation, the evolving role of translators, and the intersection of translation and national identity.

Throughout his career, Professor Tan has been a tireless advocate for the advancement of translation studies as an academic discipline. His research has not only contributed to the theoretical foundations of the field but also provided practical insights for translation practitioners. His work on the history and historiography of translation has opened new avenues for understanding the development of translation as a cultural and intellectual endeavour, while his studies on the cultural politics of translation have shed light on the complex interplay between language, power, and identity.

Professor Tan's influence extends beyond his publications and research. As an educator, he has inspired countless students and mentored emerging scholars who have gone on to make their own contributions to translation studies. His dedication to teaching and his ability to communicate complex ideas with clarity and passion have left a lasting impression on his students and colleagues alike. In 2009, he was invited to serve as Chair Professor of the year for the Eugene A. Nida School for Translation Studies, Misano (Rimini), Italy. In 2016, he was elected Executive Council Member of the Joint Committee of the 8th Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum (APTIF; 2016-2019). Through the years, he has concurrently served as Adjunct and Honorary Professor as well as External Examiner and Academic Advisor for many universities in the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia.

Professor Tan's remarkable career has earned him numerous accolades, including the prestigious Liang Zongdai Translation Award and the Chinese Ministry of Education Humanities and Social Sciences Research Award. These honours reflect the profound respect his work commands within academic and professional communities, underscoring his enduring influence and the transformative impact of his scholarship.

A visionary scholar, Professor Tan has dedicated his life to bridging cultures and fostering understanding through translation. His work has not only deepened our appreciation of translation as both an art and a science but also underscored its crucial role in promoting cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding. His contributions have advanced the field of translation studies, not only in China but also on a global scale, earning him widespread recognition as a respected figure in the international academic community.

Today, we celebrate not only Professor Tan's extraordinary achievements as a scholar and translator but also his unwavering commitment to advancing the discipline of translation studies. It is in this spirit of recognition and gratitude that the Hong Kong Translation Society is proud to present Professor Zaixi Tan with an Honorary Fellowship.

Master Lecture III

21 May 2025 12:00

The Dialectics of Translation in the AI Era: Balancing Technological Enthusiasm with Fundamental Inquiry

Zaixi TAN


Hong Kong Baptist University



Artificial intelligence is drastically revolutionising the world around us today and the acronym of the term, AI, has fast become such a catchy buzzword that it almost seems a ubiquitous presence in conference themes not only in the field of technology but also in non-technological fields, that of translation and translation studies included. Indeed, in talking about translation at the present time, it would often not seem correct, in the professional and even political sense, not to relate to the topic of AI in one way or another. However, whilst the whole world is so enthusiastic, quite rightly, about the contributions and changes that applications of AI or AI-powered tools bring to what is happening in the field, one may well wonder if it also pays for us to pause a bit on our way forward and ponder whether there are issues or what issues there are behind this AI-in-translation enthusiasm that may remain truly fundamental and require the constant attention of the TS researcher. In the context of such translational quests, this paper proposes to offer a discussion on how we may correlate our appreciation of AI's role in effecting and enhancing translation on the one hand to our understanding on the other of the fundamentals of translation. The main point that the paper hopes to deliver is that, in this era of AI, we should neither underestimate nor overestimate the power and impact of AI technology on translation by humans and that, as far as I see it, the most fitting stance to take on the nature of translation may perhaps be arguing dialectically about what features there are that remain constant and resist change, and what features that may change with the AI revolution. The purpose of my argumentation is to try and ensure that there is no losing one's sense of direction on the part of the conventional translator and translation scholar when faced with such advancements in AI and AI-powered translation technology as keep emerging in the world they live.

About the Speaker

Zaixi Tan is an Emeritus Professor of Hong Kong Baptist University, and was a Distinguished Professor of Shenzhen University and Chair Professor of Beijing Foreign Studies University. He obtained his BA in English Language and Literature from Hunan Normal University (China), and his MA (by research) and PhD in Translation Studies, both from the University of Exeter (UK). Ranked by CNKI as one of the Top 1% of the "Highly Cited Chinese Researchers", Professor Tan is the author of some 20 books including *The Science of Translation [New Edition]* (Chi., 2025; first edition in 2000; twice prize winner), *Researching the Historiography of Translation in the West* (Chi., 2021; prize winner), *Translation Studies: The Making and Evolution of an Independent Discipline* (Chi., 2017), *Translation and Translation Studies: Perceptions, Perspectives and Methodology* (Chi., 2012), *A History of Translation in the West [Revised Edition]* (Chi., 2004; 11th reprint in 2022; first edition in 1991), and *Nida on Translation* (Chi., 1984; Top One of the 10 Bestsellers for the 1985 Winter Season at the Hong Kong Commercial Press Bookstores). His major published translations include *The Book of Twin Worlds* (tr. from the Chinese, 2019), *A Dictionary of Translation Studies* (tr. of Mark Shuttleworth and Moira Cowie's English version, 2005) and a translation of Kingsley Amis' *Lucky Jim* (1983; 2008/2013).



He has also published more than 200 papers in major national and international TS journals including *Chinese Translators Journal* (Chi.), *Foreign Language Teaching and Research* (Chi.), *Foreign Languages* (Chi.), *Babel*, *Translation and Interpreting Studies*, *Meta*, *Neohelicon*, *The Translator*, *Perspectives*, *Across Languages and Cultures*, *Asia Pacific Translation and Intercultural Studies*, etc.

Some of Professor Tan's recent paper publications include "Censorship and translation in China" (2025), "Communicating via mother-tongue to foreign-language translating: Meaning, imagology and context" (Chi., 2024), "On the Chineseness and the universalness of the Chinese school of translation theory" (Chi., 2023), "Communication via translation: Disciplinary positioning and features of application: With special reference to the March 2021 translation events at Anchorage" (Chi., 2023), "A cross-boundary approach to the generative nature of translation" (2021), "Historiography of translation in the West and its relevance to current TS research in the Chinese context" (Chi., 2021), "Chinese translation discourse—Traditional and contemporary features of development" (2020), "The fuzzy interface between censorship and self-censorship in translation" (2019), "The role of national interests in media production and translation" (2019), "Gender and the Chinese tradition of translation" (2019), "Chinese discourse on translation: Views and issues" (2019), "40 years of contemporary translation studies in China: From opening-up to development to future directions" (Chi., 2018), "Translation and national image reconstruction: The case of China narratives and cultural back-translation" (Chi., 2018), "Translation Studies as a discipline in the Chinese academia" (2017), and "Censorship in translation: The dynamics of non-, partial and full translations in the Chinese context" (2017).

Professor Tan's research interests focus on the theories and philosophies of translation, the historiography of translation, the cultural-politics of translation, literary and media translation, contrastive English and Chinese language-cultural studies.

About the Organisers

International Federation of Translators (FIT)

<https://en.fit-ift.org/>

FIT is the federation of professional associations of interpreters, translators, and terminologists working in areas as diverse as literary, scientific and technical spheres, the public service, court and legal settings, conference interpreting, media and diplomatic fields and academia.

The goal of the Federation is to promote professionalism in the disciplines it represents. It seeks constantly to improve conditions for the profession in all countries and to uphold translators' rights and freedom of expression. FIT supports members and the profession at an international level, building community, visibility and a sustainable future for the profession.



Asian Regional Center of the International Federation of Translators (FIT Asia)

<https://www.facebook.com/people/FIT-Asia/61562373330603/?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

As the voice of associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists around the world, FIT sets up regional centres as its representation to meet the needs of professional associations in specific regions.

Among FIT's five regional centres, FIT Asia was the most recent one launched on 20 January 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This new establishment is built on the solid foundation of the Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum (APTIF) with the APTIF Joint Committee leading the creation of FIT Asia. The objectives of FIT Asia are strictly professional, cultural and academic, and they align with the provisions of FIT's Bylaws and Rules of Procedure. It aims to cater to the needs of professional associations within the Asian region.

FIT Asia works to foster collaboration among professional associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists in the region across diverse areas such as skill training, sustainable practice and future development, while raising the profile of the profession both regionally and internationally.

As a flagship event of FIT Asia, APTIF is a triennial event first organised in 1995 to provide a platform for exchanges and cooperation within the translation and interpreting community in the Asia-Pacific region.



Hong Kong Translation Society (HKTS)

<https://www.hkts.org.hk/>

Incorporated in October 1971, the Hong Kong Translation Society is a non-profit professional body with the object of enhancing the standard and professionalism of translation (both oral and written) in Hong Kong. It became a registered charitable organisation with the Hong Kong Government in 1991. The Society has joined as a member association of the Translators Association of China since 1986 and of the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs since 1988.

The Society has been active in the cultural circles, organising diverse activities to promote translation. These include featured seminars, public talks in collaboration with Hong Kong Public Libraries, regional and international translation conferences with local and overseas institutions, co-organising an annual translation competition, and administering a scholarship scheme established in 1991.

The Society regularly publishes a Bulletin and a refereed journal *Translation Quarterly* and has released a dozen translation anthologies, monographs and conference proceedings.





Hong Kong Baptist University

Academy of Language and Culture - Centre for Translation

<https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk>



The Centre for Translation was established in 1994 as a university research unit and is currently under the Academy of Language and Culture. Committed to both academic research and fostering links with the translation profession and the community, the Centre aims to serve as a focal point for research in Translation and Interpreting Studies and to promote knowledge transfer through various consultancy projects.

The Centre actively engages in research activities, including academic publishing, seminars, conferences and research projects led by its fellows. In 2001, the Centre launched the “Translation Seminar Series”, which has been available online since 2020, to provide a platform for facilitating dialogue among scholars. To date, over 210 seminars have been organized, featuring more than 150 speakers. Over the years, the Centre has hosted research summer schools and various international conferences, such as the 6th IATIS Conference in 2018, the International Conference “Understanding Wikipedia’s Dark Matter” in 2021 and the HKBU International Conference on Interpreting series in 2017, 2021, and 2022.

The Centre is also dedicated to the translation profession and collaborates closely with the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies to provide students with valuable experience in professional translation.

Academy of Language and Culture - Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies

<https://tiis.hkbu.edu.hk/en/>

The Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies, currently under the Academy of Language and Culture, was established in 1990 as the “Translation Programme” and was granted full departmental status in September 2019.

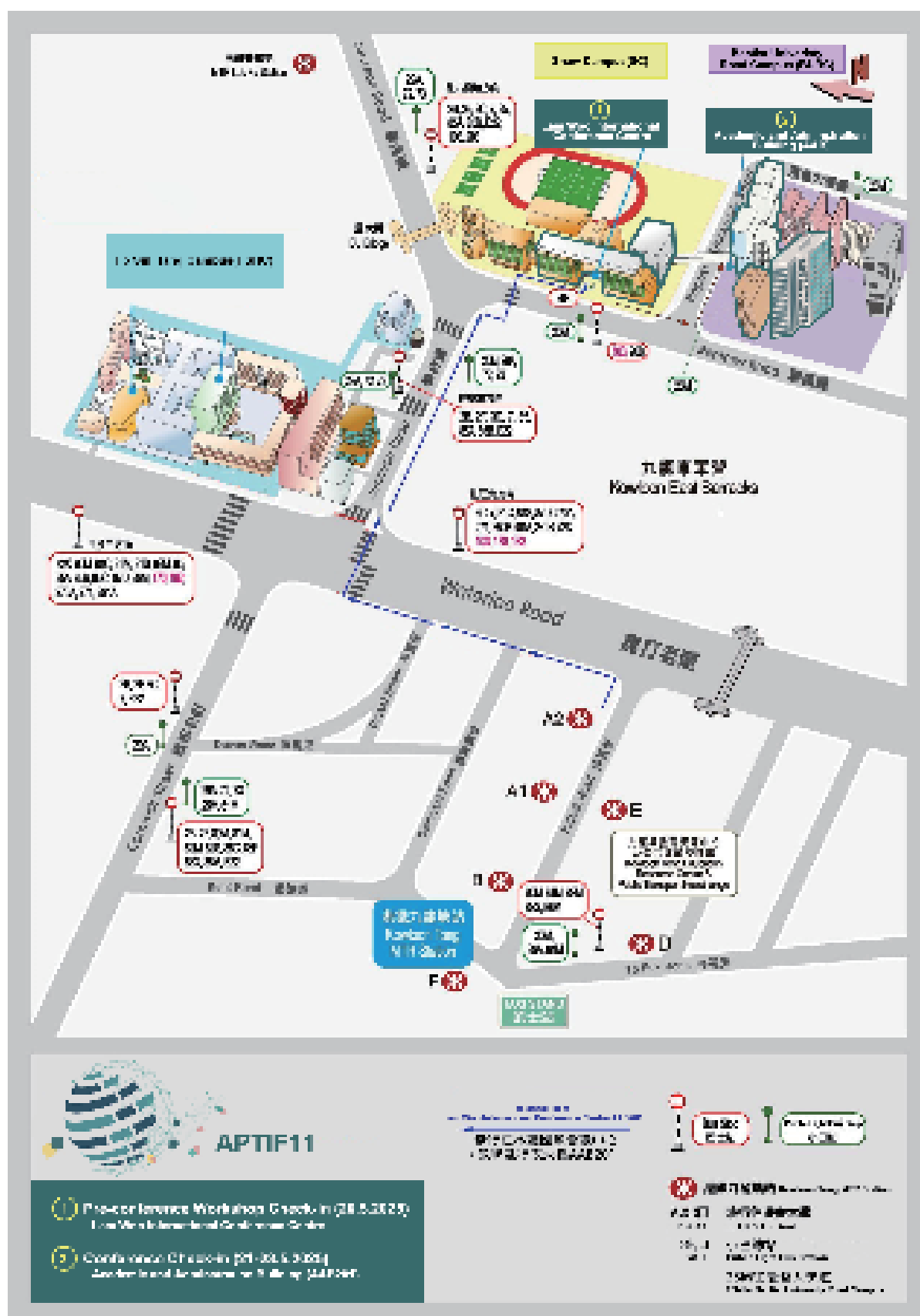


Since its inception, the Department has offered a B.A. (Hons.) in Translation and an M.Phil./Ph.D. postgraduate research programme in the field of translation studies. It also launched a self-funded taught M.A. Programme in Translation and Bilingual Communication in 2008, adding an Interpreting Stream in 2016 and a Technology Stream in 2021. The Department’s curriculum is designed to train bilingual and bicultural communicators to operate in local, national and international markets in the 21st century.

The Department has eleven academic staff members and closely follows Hong Kong Baptist University’s general mission of “commitment to academic excellence in teaching, research and service”, and to the development of “whole person” education. More specifically, it is committed to providing professional training in translation and interpreting through a liberal arts university education. Students are prepared to meet the cultural, socio-political and economic needs of the local community, as well as those of a rapidly developing China.

Maps

Public Transport to Hong Kong Baptist University



Campus Map

CAMPUS MAP

- 16 偉倫體育中心 Wai Hang Sports Centre (WHS)
17 紀邦樓 Shiu Pong Hall (SPH)
18 延斯中心 Franki Centre (FRC)

*A common room code AST is adopted to all the rooms in these two buildings
此兩座大樓的房間編號或文字皆均為AST

SHAW CAMPUS (SHAW) 逸夫校園

- 19 逸夫行政樓 Shaw Tower (SWT)
20 區樹洪紀念圖書館 Au Shue Hung Memorial Library (AML)
21 永隆銀行商業大樓 The Wing Lung Bank Building for Business Studies (WLB)
22 林護國際會議中心 Lam Woo International Conference Centre
23 惠賓樓 David C. Lam Building (DLB)
24 郭羅賓芬女士 Madam Kwok Chung Bo Fun Sports and Cultural Centre (SCC)
25 聯校運動中心 Joint Sports Centre (JSC)

BAPTIST UNIVERSITY ROAD CAMPUS (BURC) 浸會大學道校園

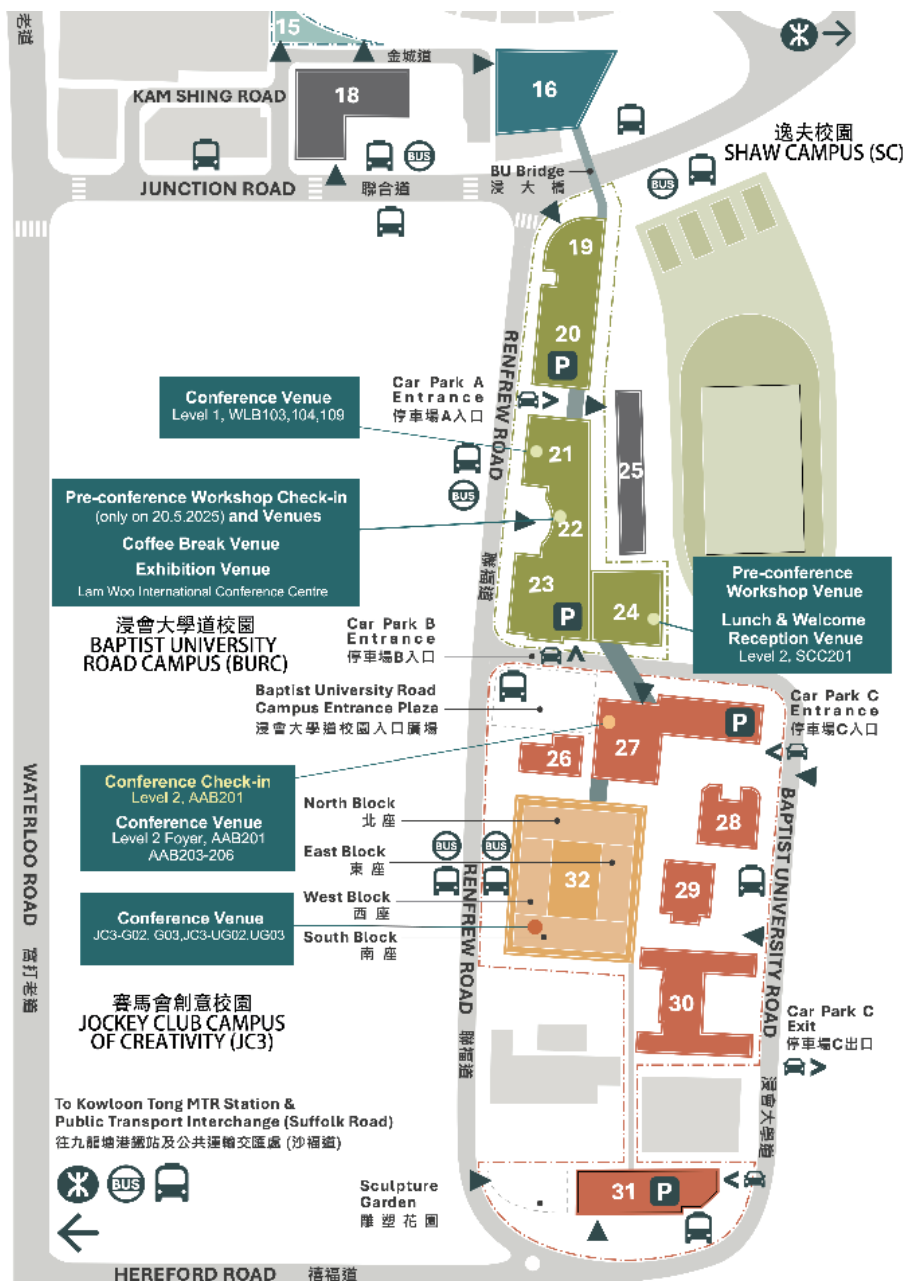
- 26 吳多泰博士國際中心 Dr. Ng Tor Tai International House (NTT)
27 教學及行政大樓 Academic and Administration Building (AAB)
28 裘馬會師生生活中心/ 陳瑞梅夫人胡尹桂 Madam Chan Wu Wan Kwai School of Continuing Education Tower (SCE)
29 裘馬會中醫藥學院大樓 Jockey Club School of Chinese Medicine Building (SCM)
30 學生宿舍 Student Residence Halls (SRH)
31 李兆基傳訊電視樓/ 停車場 Lee Shau Kee Communication and Visual Arts Building (CVA)/ Car Park

JOCKEY CLUB CAMPUS OF CREATIVITY (JC³) 賽馬會創意校園

- 32 賽馬會創意校園/ 舍翠村 Jockey Club Campus of Creativity (JC³)/ Village Care (VC)

LEGEND 圖例

- ▶ 行人出入口 Pedestrian Entrance/ Exit
▶ 車輛出入口 Vehicular Entrance/ Exit
BUS 公共巴士站 Bus Stop
P 公共小巴站 Public Light Bus Stop
MTR 地鐵站 MTR Station
P 停車場 Car Park



THE **11th** ASIA-PACIFIC
TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING FORUM

APTIF11 Conference, 2025

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



Culture, Connectivity and Technology: Translating Communities, Transforming Perspectives

Hong Kong Baptist University
Hong Kong
21-23 May 2025

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APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 1A.1

Translation, film and literature

Session 1A.1

Translation and/as Mutual Hospitality: Collaborative Networks of *Renditions* in the 1980s Under the Editorship of Stephen C. Soong and John Minford

Shuang Xiao (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

The era of the 1980s witnessed radical changes both in China and overseas: the final years of Cold War (1947-1991), China's early recovery from Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, Taiwan's end of martial law (1949-1987), and the 1989 Tiananmen Square Incident. These social and political upheavals gave rise to an explosion of artistic and literary creativity in mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, which inspired *Renditions* (1973-2024) to introduce an increasing number of pioneering, experimental Chinese writings with far-reaching influence. *Renditions'* translation of modern Chinese literature under the editorship of Stephen C. Soong (1919-1996) and John Minford (1946) in many ways mirrors that momentous Chinese literary era, during which English translators and Chinese authors also engaged in various hospitable interactions. This paper attempts to examine collaborative translation networks from the perspective of Jacques Derrida's hospitality theory, highlighting the role of mutual hospitality between editors, translators and authors in translation projects. In the case of hospitality, an encounter between the host and the guest should not just happen and unfold, but consist in the acceptance of the other, the new, and the impossible. Likewise, an effective interaction between the translator and the translatee requires openness and inclusiveness on both sides, which exposes the two parties to new phenomena and experiences. This study conducts detailed case analyses of three publications of *Renditions* in this period, examines the collaborative networks of these translations, situates relevant texts in their socio-historical context, and weighs their cultural and literary impact. With the aid of first-hand materials provided by John Minford himself, it contributes behind-the-scene information otherwise unattainable. It will be observed that, for a fruitful translation collaboration to take place, mutual hospitality between the translator and the author is required: the host gives the gift of trust and generosity, invites the other to come in, and allows the other to change him. Depending on the context, the translator and the author can play either the role of the host or the guest. *Renditions* in the 1980s is a special historical milieu for such productive and hospitable translations to take place. After the saddening closing down of *Renditions* in 2024, this act of looking back and reflecting is of more relevance and significance.

Keywords

Hospitality
Collaborative networks
Translation
Renditions

Session 1A.1

When Bisexuality Becomes a Heteronormative Fantasy: Gender Bias in the English-Thai Translation of *The Trials of Apollo 1: The Hidden Oracle*

Krissakorn Winnarong (Prince of Songkla University)

While an ideal translation would be unbiased, achieving this is not always possible, as translations can reflect various biases held by translators, whether positive or negative. Translation is not a neutral process; it involves subjective choices made by translators, who may be influenced by their personal biases. Such biases, whether related to race, age, gender, or ethnicity, can appear in different forms, from subtle stereotypes and assumptions to explicit discrimination, affecting fairness and equity in both personal interactions and broader societal contexts. Against this backdrop, this article examines the gender bias present in the Thai translation of *The Trials of Apollo 1: The Hidden Oracle*, which centers on the main character depicted as bisexual. Through textual analysis, it will demonstrate how the main character's bisexuality is straightwashed to align with heteronormativity in the target text. The focus will be on how the translator's biased choices impact the portrayal of the character's bisexuality in the Thai translation, as well as possible reasons behind this straightwashing.

Keywords

Translation

Gender bias

Bisexuality

Straightwashing

Heteronormativity



Session 1A.1

From Poet's Pen to AI's Algorithms: Can ChatGPT's Translation Parallel Yu Kwang-chung's Self-translation of *Evening*?

Jiaxing Hu (Lingnan University) and **Wenkang Zhang** (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen)

The rapid evolution of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) has raised concerns regarding its potential to replace human translators. Recent scholarship has demonstrated the competency of GenAI such as ChatGPT in literary translation, arguing that GenAI can generate high-quality translations of poems and classics with proper prompts (Guan 2024; Farghal and Haider 2024; Hu and Li 2023). However, the ability of GenAI to fully capture the intricacies of languages and cultures remains questionable. GenAI may lack the cultural understanding, creativity, and personal experiences that human translators bring to their work.

To explore this issue, it would be insightful to compare GenAI translation with self-translation. Self-translation, understood as a process of rewriting (Bassnett 2013) or a hybrid of translation and rewriting (Cordingley 2019), demonstrates how authors/translators modulate their creative projects across different linguistic and cultural systems (Cordingley 2022). Self-translators are often considered to have great liberty and freedom compared to non-authorial translators (Santoyo 2013), allowing them to make deliberate choices to fulfill their translation motivations or purposes. To examine GenAI's capabilities in handling the complexities of translating across linguistic and cultural boundaries as creatively as human translators, this study attempts to use translations generated by ChatGPT 4o to compare against Yu Kwang-chung's self-translation of poem *Evening*. ChatGPT 4o's translations are generated with three different prompts: a basic translation prompt, a prompt framing ChatGPT as the poetry translator, and a prompt framing ChatGPT as a self-translator.

The comparative reading and textual analysis reveal that while ChatGPT can generate acceptable translations, it cannot render and adjust the poem in a similar manner as the self-translator, even when prompted to do so. The findings underscore the unique characteristics of self-translation and the current limitations of GenAI in capturing the full depth and nuance involved in translating poetry across cultural and linguistic boundaries.

The study demonstrates that despite their impressive capabilities in literary translation, GenAI such as ChatGPT may still lack the cultural understanding, creativity, and personal experiences that human translators, particularly self-translators, bring to their work. The human translator's ability to modulate and manipulate the translation process, drawing from their intimate knowledge of both languages and cultures, remains a distinct advantage over GenAI's translations.

Keywords

GenAI

ChatGPT

Self-translation

Poem Translation

Yu Kwang-Chung

Session 1A.1

On Xiao Qian's Self-translator Behavior: A Case Study of "Selected Master Pieces by Xiao Qian"

Zhu Haoran (Xi'an International Studies University)

Self-translation is often regarded as a marginal phenomenon in translation studies. Research on self-translation predominantly focuses on internationally renowned bilingual authors, lacking attention to Chinese self-translators. Xiao Qian is a famous writer, journalist, translator, and one of the few Chinese self-translators. This paper examines Xiao's self-translator behavior in "Selected Master Pieces by Xiao Qian". It is found that Xiao's self-translator behavior exhibits a high degree of rationality. However, some of his self-translator behavior transcends the conventional constraints of a translator's role, exhibiting characteristics of "intentional mistranslation" and "textless trans-writing". These behaviors stem from his considerations for the reader's understanding and needs for self-expression. In self-translation, the translator identity transforms into the self-translator identity, in which his role-set of author, translator, writer, reader, and journalist achieve a dialectical unity. The study of Xiao's self- translator behavior tends to expand the research fields of self-translation studies and explore the relationship between self-translation and translation.

Keywords

Self-translation

Translator behavior

Xiao Qian

"Selected Master Pieces by Xiao Qian"



Session 1A.1

The Spiritual-Material Translation of Poetry: Transcreating Two Chinese Poems in English

Belen Bilin Liu (University of Hong Kong)

Poetry translation occupies a distinctive position within literary translation, characterized by its inherent challenges. Poetry's open-ended meaning (Furniss and Bath 2007: 269–71) and “resistance to facile communication” (Shepherd 2007: 71) render the concept of “fidelity” elusive, thus making poetry “a difficult job” (Jones 2011: 1). Aligning with these views, Chinese translator-literati and scholars assert that translating poetry involves recreating its spirit—its poetic effects (cf. Gutt 2000)—often through imitation or what Roman Jakobson (1959) termed “creative transposition.” However, this approach tends to undervalue the poem's form as a “body” that accommodates the spirit. To represent the rapport between the spirit and the body of the source poem in a target one so as to attenuate the untranslatability of poetry, I propose an approach of spiritual-material translation. This method entails identifying the determining memes—redefined by Lee (2023)—that encapsulate both the spirit and form of the original poem. The translation process then synthesizes these memes to create a spiritually and materially cohesive target text, leveraging linguistic, semiotic, media, and technological resources as metamorphic aids. Using a participative-reflexive mode of case study research (Lee and Chan 2018), I demonstrate this approach through the translation of an English *jueju* and a Chinese concrete poem. These cases illustrate the application of spiritual-material translation while underscoring the indispensable role of technologies, such as Microsoft PowerPoint and ChatGPT-4o, in facilitating the process.

Keywords

Spiritual-material translation

Poetry translation

Memes

Technology

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 1A.2

Translation, film and literature (English and PTH)



Session 1A.2

The Construction of Cosmopolitanism and Paths of Canonization in the English Translation of *Decoded* by Mai Jia from the Perspective of “World Literature”

Yu Jingliang (Huazhong University of Science and Technology)

Since Goethe’s formal proposition of the concept of “world literature,” Chinese literature has endeavored to establish its modern identity through translation, influenced by Western cultural and literary trends, thereby transforming into a component of world literature. However, contemporary Chinese literature has received scant attention regarding the process of constructing world literature. Consequently, this study investigates the construction of cosmopolitanism and the pathways toward canonization in the English translation of Mai Jia’s *Decoded* within the context of contemporary literature from the perspective of world literature. The findings reveal that the translation achieves the construction of cosmopolitanism by reflecting on the nationality of the source text and reproducing its cosmopolitanism. Furthermore, the historicization of the translation from the perspective of canonization theory of essentialism and the internationalization of the translation from the perspective of canonization theory of constructivism, constitute the sole viable means to attain the canonization of the translation. Ultimately, this study offers methodological insights for the canonization of world literature in Chinese literature and even the formation of the world literature paradigm from three facets: literary creation, translation quality and world literature construction.

Keywords

World literature

Decoded

English translation

Cosmopolitanism

Canonization

Session 1A.2

How Can Hakka Children's Literature Go Global: A Discussion on Translation Categories, Approaches, and Significance

Fei Huang (The Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)

With the continuous enhancement of integral strength and the upgrade of international status, China strongly promotes the soft power enhancement and international influence in external development. Introduce the Chinese excellent traditional culture to the world is an important path to facilitate the world's comprehensive and in-depth understanding of China. The Hakka are one of the world's most widespread Han Chinese clans. The Hakka people are all over the world. As a culture with strong local characteristics and famous hometown for overseas Hakka, it possesses the excellent traditional Chinese culture. Hakka culture is a vital nexus between overseas Hakka and China for maintaining the Hakka community identity, Chinese culture attachment and national cohesion. However, the spread of Hakka culture is threatened by multicultural convergence, internal fading inherit, and insufficient introduction and promotion in the globalization. Hakka children's literature is an important part of Hakka literature. It interprets Hakka culture in children-view. By exploring Hakka children's literature translation, we can reflect on how Hakka culture has been inherited and spread abroad. Taking the social background of Chinese outstanding culture dissemination, This paper first attempts to construct a Hakka literature framework in a broad sense. Within this framework, five major advantages are proposed to show that the Hakka children's literature served as a useful starting point for the discussion of Hakka literature translation. The article finally concludes that Hakka children's literature translation research is both an output study of Hakka traditional culture and an input study of Hakka people overseas. It finds that Conducting Hakka children's literature with regional comparative research methods from a sociological perspective can help to get a more accurate understanding of the needs of target groups in the external dissemination of Hakka culture. The accumulation of Hakka children's literature translation will finally serve for the construction of multilingual learning corpora, the development and utilization of dialect language resources, and global language education.

Keywords

Chinese excellent traditional culture

"Go global"

Hakka Literature

Hakka Children's Literature

Translation



Session 1A.2

The Art of “Framing” in Du Fu’s *Jueju* and Its Cultural Cognition in Translation

Yuan Deng (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen)

Due to the lack of vibrant emotional variation in the third line, Du Fu’s poem *Jueju* has long been criticized for contradicting the aesthetic principle of “seven words, none to be omitted” and thus failing to be recognized as a masterpiece. Although the poem neither recounts events nor expresses emotions, the “frame” (*Chuang*) serves as an essential life detail, connecting emotions implicitly and generating a sense of time and dreamlike space within Heidegger’s *Dasein*. This paper aims to explore the following questions: How did Du Fu meticulously select life details to present them as textual evidence and hint readers at appreciating what kind of textual world landscape? From the perspectives of knowledge structure and frame semantics, how does this world view evoke semantic cognitive skeletons in local contexts and establish a continuity between language and cultural experience? How does “frame” leverage the tension between time and space to mutually open up people and the world in the interplay between eternity and the instant? How do continuity relations manifest differently across various cultural contexts through the process of translation? How can we set aside the shadow of “equivalence” and approach the difficulty of translation from a cultural perspective? The “frame” strives to reveal, express and encapsulate, while also enticing and inviting the reader into imagination, memory and dreams through an artistic lens; also, its permeable nature turns it from object to event, contributing to the construction of life’s deeper values. These insights are crucial for the English translation of this poem.

Keywords

English translation of Du Fu’s *Jueju*

Frame

Frame semantics

Memory

Cultural cognition

Session 1A.2

English Translation of Chinese Classics in the context of Artificial Intelligence — A Case Study of *A New Account of Tales of the World*

Yang Dan and **Lan Mei** (Southwest University of Science and Technology)

Translating and introducing classical works is an important means of promoting Chinese traditional culture worldwide. In today's world, artificial intelligence (AI) technology is widely applied in the field of translation, greatly enhancing both its speed and accuracy of the process. One pressing challenge is how to effectively utilize AI tools to support the translation of Chinese ancient classics. This paper presents a comparative study of the translation of the Chinese classics—*A New Account of the Tales of the World*, using two representative AI tools at home and abroad, Doubao and Chat GPT. The findings reveal that AI excels in tasks such as information retrieval, data integration, and translation refinement. However, when it comes to directly translating ancient texts, especially in the translation of culture-bound terms and allusions rich in Chinese cultural imagery, AI often falls short, leading to the loss of cultural images or even misinterpretations. Moreover, due to differences in the primary languages they are trained on, the two AI tools exhibit varying levels of proficiency in both understanding ancient Chinese and generating accurate English translations. The paper advocates for a new model of human-AI collaboration, where human translators, with their profound cultural insights and contextual awareness, combine forces with AI's efficiency to produce high-quality translations.

Keywords

Artificial intelligence

Translation

Chinese Classics

Human-AI collaboration

Session 1A.2

Translating Singlish: A Case Study of Subtitles in *Ah Boys to Men* and Its Sequel

Lim Jasline (Singapore Centre for Chinese Language)

As global integration deepens, cross-cultural communication has become more frequent, fostering understanding among diverse societies. Film has gradually become a part of daily entertainment in our lives, and it is also an important channel for the cultural transmission. Singlish reflects the cosmopolitan nature of Singaporean culture. It is a colloquial variant of standard English that blends elements of Malay, Mandarin, Hokkien, and other local dialects. Though not an official language, Singlish's prominent presence in daily life has earned it the title of Singapore's "informal fifth language." To accentuate the distinctive nature of the film's localization, Singlish is often integrated to make it more captivating and authentic for local audiences.

In commemoration of Singapore's 45th national service anniversary, the military comedy *Ah Boys to Men* became an instant hit after release, by illustrating the typical challenges encountered by soldiers in a witty manner. Its sequel, *Ah Boys to Men 2*, maintained its status as a box-office favourite., becoming the highest-grossing local film in Singapore's history.

This study employs a qualitative case study approach to analyse the translated subtitles of *Ah Boys to Men* and its sequel. The primary data for this study consists of the English and Chinese subtitles of *Ah Boys to Men* and *Ah Boys to Men 2*, which provide direct insight into the translation strategies used in real-world settings. The focus would be to analyse the subtitles, identifying how Singlish expressions were translated as well as investigating the challenges faced by translators in conveying the nuances of Singlish to a wider audience. Skopos theory, which emphasizes the purpose and function of translation, serves as the theoretical framework 1 for this study. According to Skopos theory, translation should be guided by the intended function of the target text, considering both cultural context and the expectations of the target audience. This approach could provide a better understanding of the appropriate adaptation of Singlish expressions in the translated subtitles across different linguistic and cultural contexts. Results indicate that translation strategies such as paraphrasing, transliteration, and transcription are employed to translate Singlish into Chinese and English, and despite the use of various translation strategies, the distinct nature of Singlish poses considerable challenges in fully conveying its meaning to audiences unfamiliar with it.

Keywords

Skopos Theory

Singlish

Translation strategies

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 1A.3

AI's impact on translation and interpreting research and practice (English and PTH)

Session 1A.3

The Impact of Pre-editing and Post-editing on Machine Translation Quality: An Empirical Study Based on Multivariate Correlation Analysis

Yi Liu (Guangdong Baiyun University), **Muhammad Alif Redzuan bin Abdullah** (Universiti Putra Malaysia) and **Syed Nurulakla bin Syed Abdullah** (Universiti Putra Malaysia)

This study investigates the impact of pre-editing and post-editing on the quality of Chinese-to-English machine translation (MT) in the specialized domain of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), using the *Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon* as the source text. Given the significant linguistic and cultural differences between Chinese and English, particularly in the context of medical translation, machine translation tools such as Google Translate often struggle with the nuanced terminologies and concepts unique to TCM. This research explores how pre-editing (simplifying and standardizing the source text) and post-editing (improving the machine-translated output) can enhance translation accuracy and cultural fidelity in medical texts.

Participants included 4 professional translators with expertise in medical translation, 4 general users of machine translation, and 2 TCM practitioners who acted as expert raters. The study employed a multistage process: pre-editing of source texts by professional translators, machine translation using Google Translate, followed by post-editing to improve the final output.

The final translations were evaluated for accuracy, fluency, and cultural appropriateness by the TCM experts.

Results are expected to show that pre-editing significantly reduces the post-editing workload by addressing ambiguities and standardizing terminology, leading to a 30-50% decrease in necessary post-editing interventions. Pre-edited texts are also anticipated to yield higher machine translation quality, with improvements of 20-30% in terminology accuracy compared to raw texts. Post-editing is predicted to further enhance translation quality, improving overall accuracy and cultural fidelity by 40-60%. The findings will underscore the critical role of both pre-editing and post-editing in specialized domains, where machine translation alone is insufficient to handle complex and culturally embedded content.

This research highlights the synergy between pre-editing, machine translation, and post-editing, contributing to both translation theory and practice by offering a practical framework for improving translation quality in specialized fields such as TCM. The study's implications extend to the broader context of AI-driven translation workflows, suggesting that strategic human intervention is essential for achieving professional-level translation quality in culturally and terminologically complex texts.

Keywords

Pre-editing; Post-editing; Machine translation; TCM

Session 1A.3

Assessing the Overall Quality of an LLM-Translated Textbook on Financial Crises — From The Final Readers' Perspective

Hongmei Yao and Peiyun Zheng (Shanghai Polytechnic University)

Current research on the quality assessment of translations generated by large language models (LLMs) predominantly relies on excerpts from translated texts, with evaluation results primarily based on the opinions of experienced translators or metrics produced by automated systems. There is a notable lack of research focusing on the perceptions of end readers regarding the translated text in its entirety. To address this gap, the present study investigates the overall quality of a university textbook on financial crises (comprising 200,000 words) that was translated solely by various LLMs without any human editing. The findings reveal that all end readers rated the translation as largely incomprehensible. This study offers a supplementary perspective on LLM translation quality assessment and LLM post-editing practices.

Keywords

Translation quality assessment

Large language models (LLMs)

Readers' perspective

Session 1A.3

Evaluating the Quality of Google Neural Machine Translation: A Comparative Study of Technical and Literary Texts

Zhang Zhongming, Syed Nurulakla Syed Adbullah and Muhammad Alif Redzuan Adbullah (Universiti Putra Malaysia)

Research background: As global translation demands surge, machine translation (MT) has substantially improved translation efficiency, fostering information dissemination and cross- cultural communication. Despite these advancements, MT quality remains limited by inherent constraints, with pronounced variations in output quality and error types across different text genres. Among these, technical and literary texts differ in their linguistic characteristics, with technical texts exhibiting a more structured language, while literary texts involve complex expressions. These disparities lead to distinct strengths and weaknesses in MT systems when applied to each text type, which constitutes the central gap and focus of this study. Research aim: This study evaluates the performance of Google Neural Machine Translation (GNMT) in translating literary and technical texts, analysing translation quality disparities and identifying MT's limitations and potential in diverse linguistic contexts. Research methodology: Focusing on the English-to-Simplified Chinese language pair, the study applies rigorous human and automatic evaluation tools for assessing translation quality and validating results. This study selected five excerpts from each text type, ensuring they reflect the linguistic features and thematic content of the whole text. Each excerpt contained 80-100 words for balanced comparison and was chosen for its linguistic complexity and ability to highlight common translation errors. Research results: (1) the predominant error types vary notably between the two genres. Literary texts exhibit zero terminology error, while technical texts show fewer stylistic issues. However, errors in literary texts tend to be more severe in nature; (2) The human evaluation scores reveal a significant discrepancy, with technical texts outperforming literary texts by 18.57%; and (3) automatic evaluation results align with above findings, confirming the observed trends. While GNMT excels in translating technical texts, it struggles with literary texts, particularly in handling nuanced language and context-sensitive meanings. Conclusion: This study underscores critical variations in MT output quality across text types, offering empirical insights for optimizing translation performance. Findings advocate for refining GNMT algorithms, particularly for literary texts, to enhance accuracy and address the unique demands of diverse genres. Future research should prioritize developing specialized MT models capable of addressing contextually complex language, emphasizing the need for genre-specific improvements in MT algorithms.

Keywords

Google Translate

Translation quality evaluation

Text type difference

Technical and literary genre

Session 1A.3

Human-AI Collaborated Translation: A New and Competitive Transformation for Human Translators in the Age of AI

Yuxin Sun (The University of Melbourne)

Human translators have faced great challenges brought by advanced AI tools in the process of translation. Many voices come out with worries about replacement by gradually maturing machine translation. Machine translation nowadays advances in the automation of translation processes can grab similar expressions from the source text in the Parallel Corpora and produce the target text faster and more accurately. However, as shown in various researches, machine translation does not always perform better in many fields, such as literary translation, legal translation, and tourism translation. The advantage of human translators lies in rich cultural backgrounds, and professional techniques on language usage. Human translators with specialized training can manage to convey meanings in source texts faithfully, smoothly, elegantly, compared with advanced AI tools. Human-AI collaboration emerges as a new trend in the translation practice, which combine both strengths from machine translation and human translators' editing, and it can be a new and competitive transformation for human translators in the process of translation under the age of AI. The source texts in the study ranges from health issues, legal, economics and tourism text. Ten certificated translators are required to edit machine translation produced by Chatgpt, ERNIE Bot and Google. Empirical data from experiments with these machine translation samples and certificated Chinese translators' participation show awareness of an emerging trend in Human-AI translation in the process of translation. Through making comparison in different translated versions by machine and professional human-AI collaboration, the paper shows that roles of human translators in the age of AI have transformed into collaboration with AI, and human translators still shoulder their responsibilities in translation practice.

Keywords

Machine translation

Human-AI collaboration

Translation process

Role transformation



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 1A.4

AI's impact on translation and interpreting research and practice (English and PTH)



Session 1A.4

Quality Assessment of AI Dubbing Based on the FARS Model (Modification of the FAR Model): A Case Study of Chinese TV drama 甄嬛傳 (*Empresses in the Palace*)

Yu Zhou and Yingfan Hou (Lingnan University)

With the advent of generative AI, recent years have witnessed rapid growth in AI applications within the field of audiovisual translation (AVT). Scholars have explored various topics in this area, as highlighted in the 2023 special issue of *Linguistica Antverpiensia, New Series – Themes in Translation Studies*. These topics include major challenges in AI dubbing, human-machine cooperation, machine translation and subtitling, post-editing, and quality evaluation. However, further efforts are needed to provide a deeper understanding of current and future trends. Among these topics, the quality assessment of subtitling and dubbing has garnered the most attention. A commonly used framework is the FAR model (functional equivalence, acceptability, readability) introduced by Jan Pedersen for evaluating subtitling. This model can also be applied to the assessment of dubbing quality, with the addition of another critical factor: synchrony (S). While most scholars focus on isochrony, lip sync, and kinesic synchrony, we argue that the synchrony of acoustic factors—such as voice and tempo—is equally vital for an optimal audiovisual experience. In this study, we employed two AI dubbing applications, ElevenLabs and Heygen, to generate English-dubbed clips of the Chinese TV drama 甄嬛傳 (*Empresses in the Palace*). Both platforms integrate automatic speech recognition, machine translation, and text-to-speech synthesis. ElevenLabs offers the ability to dub by cloning the original voice, while Heygen modifies the speaker's lip movements to align with English speech. Using the FARS model, we evaluated the initial clips without post-editing. Our findings reveal that both AI applications produced moderately accurate translations of the source speech, though errors—primarily stemming from incorrect source speech recognition—persist. In terms of synchrony of acoustic factors, ElevenLabs cannot achieve lip synchronization, but it can generate target speech that closely resemble the source voice; however, several main characters' voices sound unnatural, and the tempo of some utterances is faster than the original due to lengthy direct translations. Conversely, Heygen performs better in maintaining appropriate tempo; however, it struggles to replicate the original Chinese voices, and its lip synchronization is unstable. Notably, in scenes where the speaker is off-screen, the lips of other actors who are not speaking are occasionally alter incorrectly. Overall, this study demonstrates the potential of human-machine collaboration to produce high-quality audiovisual content effectively.

Keywords

AI dubbing

Quality assessment

FAR model

Audiovisual translation



Session 1A.4

Enhancing Translation Readability through Human-Centered AI: A Comparative Analysis of Machine and Human-Refined Translations

Ben Zhao and Rong Chen (Xi'an University of Posts and Telecommunications)

This study investigates the potential of Human-Centered AI (HCAI) in improving the readability of machine-generated translations. The concept of HCAI highlights the crucial role of human users in AI-driven processes, ensuring that technological tools support human needs rather than replace them. In this research, an original source text is first translated using Google Machine Translation. The output is then refined using iFLYTEK Spark, an AI tool, which applies specific prompts for improvement. Following this, the study employs an embedded intelligent agent within iFLYTEK Spark to analyze the number of lexical chunks present in three distinct versions of the text: the initial machine translation, the AI-modified translation, and the final published translation. To assess the readability of these texts, two widely recognized readability metrics are utilized: the Flesch Reading Ease Formula and the Gunning Fog Index. These metrics allow for a quantitative evaluation of how easy or difficult each version is to read, providing a basis for comparison. The results are visually represented through bar charts to highlight the differences in readability between the versions. Additionally, the study measures the edit distance between two pairs of translations: first, between the initial machine translation and the final published version; and second, between the AI-modified translation, which includes human intervention, and the final published translation. This analysis is crucial in understanding the extent of changes made by human editors and the role of AI in facilitating these revisions. The findings reveal that readability improves significantly after human revision, indicating that HCAI is more effective in enhancing translation quality than machine translation alone. These results suggest that while AI tools such as iFLYTEK Spark can streamline the translation process, human expertise remains indispensable for ensuring high readability and overall translation accuracy. This study supports the growing consensus that AI technologies should complement, rather than replace, human skills in translation tasks.

Keywords

HCAI

Readability

Flesch Reading Ease Formula

Gunning Fog Index

Session 1A.4

Enhancing Translation Quality through Human-Centered AI: A Case Study on Popular Science Book Translation

Meichen Liu and Rong Chen (Xi'an University of Posts and Telecommunications)

This study investigates the application of the Human-Centered AI (HCAI) translation paradigm, which highlights the indispensable role of human translators while incorporating AI tools as supportive elements in the translation process. Using the English-to-Chinese translation of a popular science book as a case study, the research demonstrates the effectiveness of the HCAI approach in enhancing translation quality. The translation team employed various AI tools throughout the process, including the intelligent assistant Kimi for retrieving background information, Google's Neural Machine Translation (NMT) engine for generating the initial translations, and a Large Language Model (LLM) such as GPT to assist in understanding, conveying, and adapting the text to accommodate cross-cultural differences. All AI tools, however, were closely monitored, operated, and modified by human translators to ensure accuracy and fidelity to the original text. To evaluate the impact of the HCAI translation paradigm on the quality of popular science book translations, a comparative analysis was conducted. The final translation produced by the human-AI collaborative process was used as the experimental group, while a fully machine-translated version, without any human intervention, was selected as the control group. Two evaluation methods were employed to assess the quality of the translations. First, professional evaluators conducted a manual assessment, focusing on three key criteria: fidelity, fluency, and overall accuracy. This manual evaluation aimed to measure the extent to which the translation accurately reflected the original content while maintaining natural flow and readability. Second, an automatic evaluation was performed using the ROUGE model, which provided a quantitative analysis of vocabulary usage, semantics, and grammar in both versions of the text. The results from both evaluation methods revealed that the HCAI approach led to a significantly higher quality translation compared to the fully AI-generated text. The human-AI collaboration produced translations that were more accurate, coherent, and culturally adapted. These findings underscore the importance of human intervention in the translation process and suggest that while AI can significantly assist in translation tasks, human oversight is crucial for ensuring quality. The study concludes that the HCAI translation paradigm offers a robust and effective model for translating complex texts, particularly in specialized fields like popular science, where precision and readability are paramount.

Keywords

Human-centered AI

Machine translation

Translation quality

Human-AI collaboration



Session 1A.4

Exploring Human-AI Collaboration in Subtitling of Impoliteness across Dominant and Less Dominant Languages

Yean Fun Chow (Universiti Sains Malaysia)

The advent of ChatGPT has reshaped long-standing machine translation research, expanding the focus to AI applications in translation and sparking both enthusiasm and concern. Scholars in translation studies are investigating ChatGPT's potential to enhance workflows and its implications for human translators. Calvo-Ferrer (2023) explores audience perceptions of subtitles created by ChatGPT versus human translators, identifying factors influencing detection. Moreno García and Mangiron (2024) examine GPT-4's role in creative transcreation for game localisation, focusing on fictional naming conventions such as Pokémon names. Tian (2023) analyses the challenges of using ChatGPT, DeepL, and Youdao Translation for Chinese–English subtitling, emphasising cultural, textual, and technical constraints. Collectively, these studies provide insights into AI's current capabilities and limitations, laying the groundwork for innovative research and applications in translation studies. They underscore the importance of exploring AI's role in translation workflows, particularly in collaboration with human expertise.

This study applies the Human-Centred Artificial Intelligence (HCAI) framework to examine the use of ChatGPT in subtitling impoliteness from Chinese into a dominant language (English) and a less dominant language (Malay). Using a Chinese film as a case study, the research highlights both the challenges and opportunities of employing ChatGPT in this context. By analysing instances where ChatGPT retains, tones down, omits, or intensifies impoliteness compared to official subtitles, the study demonstrates the indispensable role of human translators in human-AI collaboration. These findings contribute to the growing discourse on optimising translation workflows with AI tools.

Keywords

Human-AI collaboration

Subtitling

Impoliteness

ChatGPT

Malay

Session 1A.4

Aligning Academic Curriculum with the Evolving Digital Media Landscape: An Examination of Professional Competences for Trans-editors

Wan Hu and Yuxin Deng (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)

Trans-editors play a critical role in the translating and editing process of international news content. Given the dynamic nature of the translation and media sectors, it is imperative to develop a sophisticated understanding of the competences that trans-editors must possess. This research seeks to narrow the gap between the skills sought by media outlets and the preparation provided by universities through scrutinizing job advertisements to delineate the profiles of trans-editors.

In disciplines such as accounting and business analytics, job advertisements have served as a valuable resource for identifying the skills required in the workforce and for enhancing the employability of young professionals (Moore & Khan, 2020). Within the realm of translation studies, there has been a modest attempt to interpret the qualifications and competences necessary for the translation and interpreting professions (Li, 2022; Schlager & Risku, 2024). Collectively, these studies underscore the significance of soft skills or employability skills and their implications for curriculum development. Despite the existing research progress, other aspects of translation competence have yet to be thoroughly explored. The criteria for quality in specialized translation domains and the distinction between core competences and emerging skill sets required to navigate market shifts remain vague.

Therefore, guided by employability theory and translation competence models, this research aims to investigate the most sought-after competences in the specialized field of trans-editing. Additionally, it seeks to identify how the market-driven trans-editing competences are mirrored in university curricula. The nexus between market requirements and curriculum updates will be a focal point of this research.

To address these new objectives, this research will implement a two-pronged strategy, utilizing thematic analysis and case study methodologies. To begin with, thematic analysis will be applied to synthesize approximately 200 job advertisements for trans-editors, sourced from renowned recruitment platforms such as LinkedIn, official websites of leading media outlets, and social media channels. The thematic analysis aims to uncover patterns and recurring themes regarding the profiles of trans-editors as portrayed in job advertisements. Subsequently, following the thematic analysis, this research will map the professional needs with the curricula of translation programs in China's mainland, Macau, and Hong Kong, with a particular focus on programs offering news translation or media translation courses.

Findings of this research indicate the must-to-command skills of trans-editors in line with the shifting demands of the digital media landscape. The study also identifies a discrepancy between existing university curricula and the needs of the media industry.

Keywords

Trans-editing; Digital media; Market-oriented competence; News translation; Curriculum design



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 1A.5

Translation, interpreting and inclusivity



Session 1A.5

Towards an Accreditation System for Sign Language Interpreters in Hong Kong: A Collaborative Approach Centering Deaf Community Perspectives

Chan Yi Hin, Anita Yu On Lam, Cat H.-M. Fung (Hong Kong Sign Language Interpreters) and **Felix Sze** (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

This presentation reports on an ongoing research project at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), in collaboration with the Association of Hong Kong Sign Language Interpreters, that seeks to develop a research-based accreditation system for Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL) interpreters. As users of one of the marginalized languages of Hong Kong, Deaf HKSL signers often face communication barriers when interacting with hearing individuals. The challenge of information access is often exacerbated by the lack of adequate quality monitoring and accreditation within HKSL interpretation service provision. This project marks the first significant attempt to address this critical gap.

The project adopts a collaborative methodology that emphasizes the involvement of Deaf signers in all stages of development, recognizing their lived experiences and linguistic expertise as essential to creating a reliable and equitable accreditation system. To inform the project's direction, a survey was conducted in Spring 2024, gathering data from 185 HKSL interpreters, significantly exceeding the number of interpreters (55) currently listed in the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) registry. Preliminary findings reveal a pressing need for city-wide accreditation and professional development opportunities within the field, with over 70% of respondents having provided interpreting services on a voluntary basis and nearly 70% expressing a desire for formal training.

This presentation will discuss the importance of community engagement, outline the project's design and work progress including key survey results, and consider the potential impact of a comprehensive accreditation system on the professionalization of HKSL interpreting in Hong Kong.

Keywords

Hong Kong Sign Language
Deaf
Assessment
Community-based research



Session 1A.5

Exploring Audio Description Pedagogy: A Comparative Study of Three Training Programs in Europe and in Hong Kong

Kangte Luo (Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University)

Audio description (AD) is an important language service that enables people with visual impairments to access audiovisual content and enhances the experiences of sighted audiences. As it is recognized as a form of intersemiotic translation and interpreting, AD is increasingly being offered at universities and by professional organizations. However, the specifics of how and which aspects of AD should be taught remain elusive. While there are sporadic reports on AD teaching in individual areas, a comparative perspective on AD pedagogy is still lacking. Such a study could identify best practices, facilitate mutual learning, and help to address disparities in the quality and availability of AD education across different regions or institutions. Ethnography was employed in this study to examine three distinct AD training programs in Europe and in Hong Kong, in which the researcher participated in person. These included a higher education institution in the UK, a professional organization in Hong Kong, and a joint project that included seven European countries. I first provide an overview of these programs, followed by a comparative analysis based on their course structure, the trainers' backgrounds, the target learners, and the assessment methods. I will then discuss the similarities and differences among these training programs based on my reflections. It is believed that the convergences demonstrate a consensus about AD training, while the divergences may be partially attributed to the different natures of the organizing entities and the teaching arrangements. The aim of the study is to contribute valuable insights to facilitate more well-informed, scientific AD curricula designs in the future.

Keywords

Audio description

Audio describer training

Audiovisual translation

Translation education

Session 1A.5

HKSL Literature: Its Challenges of Translating Visual Phonetic Rhymes and Simultaneous Constructions into Spoken Language Subtitles

Cat H.-M. FUNG (Hong Kong Baptist University)

Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL) literature, poetry or short stories, has been understudied or unknown to most second-language learners of this visual-gestural language. Similar to any poetry of any other spoken or signed languages (Sutton-Spence, 2014), HKSL poetry and stories are known to play with its phonetic rules. The “number poetry” aligns a limited set of phonemic handshapes sequentially to relay a short scene while short stories are rhymed with a constrained set of handshapes, often one to three of them out of the whole set of 60+ handshapes found in HKSL (Tang, 2007). With these visual phonetic rules hardly translatable into any spoken languages, these rhymes had to be dropped when these videos were translated and subtitled into Chinese and/or English. Non-signer audiences might hardly be able to appreciate the value of literature value by reading these plain descriptions in Chinese or English. With HKSL’s visual nature, poets have displayed their playfulness and creativity by stacking up morphemes in simultaneous constructions. While written forms of Chinese and English are always sequentially aligned, these polymorphemic phrases challenge the subtitlers to squeeze several sentences within one to two seconds for faithful translation but end up with unreadable subtitles to any readers. This paper (i) conducts a structural linguistic analysis of 26 online HKSL videos (length from 5 seconds to about 3 minutes) in terms of their rhyming rules identified in poems and short stories, and (ii) suggests the translation practicality in Chinese/English subtitling in its balance of faithfulness and accessibility.

Keywords

HKSL literature

Translation practicality

Subtitling

Simultaneous constructions

Signing poetry



Session 1A.5

Leveraging AI and Language Models for Social Impact: Supporting Marginalised Communities through Data-Driven Solutions

Janice Jun Pan (Hong Kong Baptist University), **George Zhiming Li** (Enter-Link Limited) and **Zhilu Tu** (Hong Kong Baptist University)

This research explores the implementation of artificial intelligence and large language models to empower marginalised communities while optimising policy implementation through enhanced named entity recognition in large-scale databases. Using Enter-link's digital platform as the primary testing environment and incorporating data from the the Chinese/English Political Interpreting Corpus (CEPIC, <https://digital.lib.hkbu.edu.hk/cep/c/>), the study investigates how digital solutions can overcome barriers to inclusion and adapt to local needs and capabilities. Through action research methodology, the research employs iterative cycles of planning, action, observation, and reflection, with community action groups over a one-year period. Each three-month cycle begins with community engagement and needs assessment, progresses through AI implementation with continuous feedback on the Enter-link platform, and concludes with participatory monitoring and collective analysis. The methodology leverages databases to enhance pattern recognition and community-specific insights, while emphasising democratic validity through inclusive decision-making and maintaining ethical considerations through community ownership, data sovereignty, and sustainable empowerment. Success is measured through community adoption rates, service accessibility improvements, and community-defined impact metrics, all tracked through Enter-link's analytics dashboard. This approach ensures both technological solutions and research processes contribute to lasting social change while maintaining scientific rigour and adaptability to emerging community needs, with Enter-Link serving as both a testing ground and implementation platform, enriched by CEPIC's comprehensive database.

Keywords

Artificial intelligence

Community empowerment

Named entity recognition

Large language models

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 1A.6

Cross-disciplinary approaches to translation and interpreting studies (PTH)

Session 1A.6

How Do Multiple Translations of the Same Original Interrelate? A Corpus-Based Stylometric Investigation into Four Chinese Versions of *The Moon and Sixpence*

Bihao Li (Shanghai International Studies University)

Multiple translations generated from the same original text are interrelated and constitute a retranslation phenomenon. This article investigates how multiple (≥ 3 texts) literary translations rendered from the same original interrelate, using four Chinese versions of *The Moon and Sixpence* as a representative case study. To this end, the study employs a corpus-based stylometric approach integrating multifactorial cluster analysis, cosine similarity analysis, and multidimensional factor analysis as a window for examining the stylistic similarities and differences among the four translations, complemented by a qualitative analysis of the extra-stylometric factors directly relating to the stylometric quantitative discoveries. The results reveal that Fu's first translation is similar to Yao's later translation, while another two later retranslations, the Li's and the Xu's, resemble. Such similarities and differences are reflected in the three style dimensions of textual cohesion, source language shining-through effect, and readability. Specifically, the style of Fu's and Yao's versions are characterized by hypotactic textual cohesion, strong source language shining-through effect, and low readability, whereas the other two translations are the opposite. The extra-stylometric factor of a teacher-student interpersonal relationship between Fu and Li contributes to explaining the stylistic similarities between Fu's and Yao's versions, thus proving that Yao's version, though born in the 2010s, is a variation among the three retranslations. The first translation by Fu is closer to the original text than Li's and Xu's later translations, which does not fit into the retranslation hypothesis. The extra-stylometric factor of socio-cultural contexts contributes to explaining the stylistic differences between Fu's version, born in the 1980s, and Li's and Xu's versions, born in the 2010s. This indicates that the hypothesis excludes one retranslation phenomenon, i.e., from respecting foreign cultures to adapting to local cultures. Based on the findings, this paper argues that the hypothesis simplifies the complexity of socio-historical contexts behind translations and neglects the interpersonal relationship factor's impact on retranslation. The study provides interdisciplinary methodological innovation for exploring retranslation.

Keywords

Retranslation

Stylometry

Translational style

Corpus

The Moon and Sixpence

Session 1A.6

Translation and the Development of Civil Law Knowledge in Modern China: A Study on Legal Terminology in the *Civil Code* of PRC

Yujing Jiang (Ningxia University)

This study explores the impact of translation on the formation and development of civil law knowledge in modern China by examining the emergence of new legal terms in the civil law system since the modern period. Employing both diachronic and synchronic analytical methods, the research highlights how translation activities during the late Qing Dynasty, as part of the historical practice of introducing Western legal systems into China, enriched and expanded the Chinese civil law lexicon. These translation efforts facilitated the transfer of Western modern civil law knowledge to China and laid the foundation for the construction of China's modern civil law system. Specifically, the Chinese translations of foreign civil law terms were significantly influenced by Japanese-translated legal vocabulary, reflecting Japan's earlier assimilation of Western civil law concepts. However, due to differences in linguistic context and institutional frameworks, China's adoption of these Japanese-translated terms evolved from "unconditional acceptance" to "selective adaptation," retaining only those terms that aligned with Chinese linguistic conventions. As a result, only those adapted Japanese legal terms acquired independent meaning and stable status within China's civil legislative framework, marking the gradual formation of China's modern civil law terminology system. Moreover, the English translations of the terms featured in China's Civil Code largely draw upon the translations established in Japanese-English renderings of Western civil law terminology. However, these were modified to reflect the specific conceptual reinterpretations within the context of Chinese civil law. This reinterpetative process underscores the innovative nature of Chinese civil law knowledge, which emerges from a process of critical adaptation and integration of the civil law traditions and advanced legislative concepts from both the civil law system and the common law system. Through this approach, the Civil Code embodies China's distinctive synthesis of foreign civil law experience and indigenous legal development.

Keywords

Translation

Civil Law knowledge

Legal terminology

Civil Code of PRC



Session 1A.6

The Cross-art Discourse on Translation: Development, Representation and Category

Jianping Chen (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies)

The interaction between translation and art runs a long history and advances with the times, passing through the three phases of bonding, marrying and developing, and producing the three kinds of cross-art discourse on translation, namely metaphorical discourse between art and translation, associative discourse from art to translation and critical discourse on translation by art, which respectively have their own context, connotation, mode and purpose. As the translation interacts with art more profoundly, the connotation of cross-art translation gets more extensive, whereby the research category of cross-art discourse on translation includes the three dimensions of translation practice between different arts, translation in artistic research and artistic elements in translation practice. By sorting out and interpreting systemically the development, representation and category of the cross-art discourse on translation, we can figure out the dynamic relationship between translation and art, reinterpret the connotation of art of translation, reveal the functional significance of cross-art paradigm of literary translation studies, promote the artistic turn of literary translation studies, lay a solid foundation and expand domains of practice and research of cross-art translation.

Keywords

Translation

Cross-art

Art of translation

Discourse research

Session 1A.6

Expanding the Gravitational Pull Hypothesis: Conditional Non-Periphrastic Gerunds in Chinese-Spanish and Portuguese-Spanish Translations

Yu Zeng (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies South China Business College), **Yiyang Cheng** (Fudan University) and **Fengying Yu** (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies South China Business College)

This study, grounded in Halverson's (2017) Gravitational Pull Hypothesis (GPH) and the "connective strength effect", which applies cognitive linguistics to explain translation phenomena, investigates the use of Spanish conditional non-periphrastic gerunds in translations across various language pairs. The research draws on data from two parallel corpora of political texts: translations from Chinese to Spanish and Portuguese to Spanish. The study centers on two core hypotheses. First, within closely related language pairs like Portuguese and Spanish, we expect stable structural isomorphism in translations due to their syntactic similarity, resulting in minimal cases of over- or underrepresentation. Second, given the significant syntactic differences between Chinese and Spanish, we hypothesize that underrepresentation may persist in translations from Chinese to Spanish. Empirical findings support both hypotheses. Building on this, we propose an expansion of the GPH by incorporating three dimensions: dynamic shifts in connective strength, syntactic isomorphism characteristics across language pairs, and the choice of translation strategies. This expansion enhances the hypothesis's explanatory power and extends its applicability to a broader range of translation phenomena.

Keywords

Gravitational Pull Hypothesis

Political text translation

Non-periphrastic gerund

Conditional clauses

Chinese-Spanish translation

Portuguese-Spanish translation

Session 1A.6

On the Chinese Translation of “Phenomenal”-- *Xian Xiang Ji*

Jiaju Ji (Shanghai International Studies University)

Xian xiang ji (現象級), a frequently used expression on the Chinese Internet, is considered as the translation of “phenomenal”, originating from *xian xiang* (現象), the Chinese version of “The Phenomenon”, the nickname of the Brazilian football player Ronaldo Luiz Nazario De Lima. While previous studies have analyzed the concept of *xian xiang* (現象) from the philosophical perspective, there has been less focus on understanding *xian xiang ji* (現象級) and the connotation of *xian xiang* (現象) in it. Based on methods of historical semantics, philology, and conceptual history, this paper tries to explore how the translation of “phenomenal”—*xian xiang ji* (現象級) emerged, discuss the different translation versions of “The Phenomenon” in the Chinese context and how they are related, and trace how *xian xiang* (現象級) evolved in the interlinguistic and intercultural travel: *xian xiang* (現象) originally emerged in Chinese classics, later it was introduced into Japanese as the translation of “phenomenon” by Nishi Amane (西周), a Japanese philosopher and translator who was deeply influenced by Chinese classics, then it came back to Chinese with its new meaning by the adoption of some scholars such as Liang Qichao in the Japanese-Chinese translation. Drawing on the investigation, this paper shows the emergence and evolution of the concept of *xian xiang* (現象) involved in the interlinguistic and intercultural travel, demonstrates that *xian xiang* (現象) from *xian xiang ji* (現象級) reinforces the semantic dimension of “an exceptional, unusual, or abnormal person, thing, or occurrence”, and illustrates the mechanisms of semantic aggregation and pragmatic enhancement in the combination of *xian xiang* (現象) and *ji* (級), which reflects the adaptability of modern Chinese to the fast-paced communication needs of society.

Keywords

Phenomenal

The Phenomenon

Nishi Amane

Liang Qichao

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 1A.7

Innovative practices in translation and intercultural communication



Session 1A.7

Language Contact and Development of Akan Lexicon

Baba Haruna and Clara Asare-Nyarko (University of Cape Coast)

Language contact usually comes as a subset of contact of cultures and civilisations. It engenders transfer of artifacts, but also of ideas, attitudes, behaviours, among others. These transfers and contacts usually create new realities for which the recipient language has no direct equivalent terms (Baker, 1992; Sankoff, 2001; Thomason, 2012) thus, was the situation after the arrival of the Portuguese in the latter half of the 15th century, subsequently followed by the Dutch, the Swedes, the English, etc. The Akan language of the southern half of Ghana came into contact with novel realities which had no descriptive terms. We intend to examine the development of the Akan lexicon from this period to the present day. Here, we intend to consider the various word formation processes as well as translation strategies and the resultant lexical products. Further, this study will delve into the current state of affairs in the light of migrations of Akan speakers principally to and from Europe and North America. The study, situated at the nexus between multilingualism and interlinguistic transfer (Kropp Dakubu, 2012; Munday, 2008; Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995) will adopt a duo of phenomenological and historical-comparative approaches. We will consider mainly artifacts, flora and fauna, but we will also involve other aspects such as ideas and academic subjects. The languages under consideration will be Portuguese, the attested first European language in contact with Akan, Dutch, which probably was the second and the longest lasting English, which has been an enduring presence in Ghana. The study focuses on the Mfantse variant, examples will be taken from Asante-Twi and Akuapem. The study should reveal not only the products, but also the processes of the development of the lexicon of the Akan languages.

Keywords

Language contact

Lexicon

Multilingualism

Interlinguistic transfer

Session 1A.7

Towards a Theoretical Account of Visual Integration in Simultaneous Interpreting

Xu Xu (Shanghai International Study University)

Simultaneous Interpreting (SI) researchers rarely discuss how interpreters coordinate attention for visual integration. This study reviews the literature to understand what enables and constrains divided and visual attention in SI. It suggests that a high workload of overlapping listening and production unavoidably renders interpreters' visuospatial attention less sensitive, probably only being able to capture relevant information whose representation is categorical and does not compete for central control. Adopting Relevance Theory, it taxonomizes audiovisual relationships in SI into *descriptive* (the exact text), *highly interpretive* (one attributed thought), and *partial interpretive* (one attributed meaning unit). It argues that interpreters' decision to engage visually at one moment is to leverage visual information for better comprehension and word retrieval. It then posits that when the audiovisual relationship coincides with *partial interpretive*, visual integration will be achieved, given the low visual perceptual load. However, when the relationship moves towards *highly interpretive* or *descriptive* with high visual load, integration is achieved by selectively attending to the most relevant information to prevent central control from being pulled to over-process the visual modality. The theoretical account we have proposed here is supposed to be applicable for SI with visual information, including but not limited to SI with slides, SI with text, and SI with AI-translated script.

Keywords

Multimodality
Divided attention
Visual attention
Relevance theory
Visual relevance

Session 1A.7

Interaction Between Transcreation and Advertising (2000-2024): A Systematic Literature Review

Lina Zhou, Muhammad Alif Redzuan Abdullah and Syed Nurulakla bin Syed Abdullah (Universiti Putra Malaysia)

Previous studies have often provided fragmented insights into transcreation practices, lacking a thorough examination of transcreation in advertising contexts. This paper intends to examine the interactions between transcreation and advertising. The main goals of this endeavor are to gain a thorough understanding of the current state of research, research methodologies, emerging research trends, research areas of focus. It consolidates these insights to pinpoint potential areas for future research. This study incorporated the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (2020). This review comprises 44 journal papers over the years 2000 to 2024, sourced from Web of Science (WoS), Scopus, ProQuest and Google Scholar databases. The findings indicate that the first article on the interplay between transcreation and advertising was published in 2008. Subsequently, there was a significant increase in publications on this topic, especially, since 2019. The publications were associated with 19 different author nationalities. Spain is the foremost nation in disseminating scientific knowledge regarding transcreation, with Italy and The United States following closely behind. Besides, three types of study were identified: theoretical discussion, qualitative analysis, and mixed-methods analysis. And there was no works that conduct by means of purely quantitative approach. In addition, academics dedicated nearly a decade (from 2008-2019) to examining the relationship between transcreation and translation. In 2019, researchers began a new endeavor to explore different facets of transcreation. The synthesis identifies five main topics from the previous studies regarding transcreation in the advertising context: (a) definition of transcreation; (b) perception on transcreation; (c) skills needed for transcreation; (d) key factors involved in transcreation; (e) proximity of transcreation. This review includes recommendations for further research on the topic and may have implications for interdisciplinary translation studies.

Keywords

Transcreation

Systematic literature review

Advertising translation

Trends and foci

Session 1A.7

Study on English Translation of Porcelain Exhibit Names from the Perspective of Medio-Translatology

Lyuyang Wang and Jing Li (Shandong University of Technology)

Porcelain is a vital part of Chinese culture, embodying unique historical and cultural significance. Grounded in the theory of Medio-Translatology and viewed through a cultural lens, this article examines the English translations of porcelain exhibit names, drawing on corpus data from a provincial museum and a ceramics museum. By classifying these names based on glaze, shape, and emblazonry, the study identifies issues such as cultural omissions, inaccuracies, and inconsistencies in translation, which often stem from unclear references, cognitive biases, habitual expressions, and cultural misinterpretations. The article further analyzes the cultural connotations underlying exhibit names, explores factors contributing to mistranslations, and proposes translation strategies and suggestions to effectively enhance the international communication of porcelain culture.

Keywords

Medio-Translatology

Porcelain exhibition

English translation

Cross-cultural communication



Session 1A.7

How Do *Journalators* Recontextualize and Reframe an Interlingual Press Conference? A Case Study on News Production Following a Simultaneous Interpreting-Assisted Press Conference

Binyu Yang (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen)

Journalistic translation has attracted scholarly attention in recent years (Valdeón, 2015; Van Doorslaer, 2022). But previous studies on news translation have primarily focused on those with established news sources, where the source and target language journalists are distinct groups. They are separated by spatial and temporal differences and potentially holding different ideological and institutional perspectives. This paper departs from that approach to examine news produced by ‘journalators’ (Van Doorslaer, 2012), whose roles of being a journalist and translator are unified in on when creating cross-lingual news stories. Specifically, it analyses how Chinese and foreign journalists recontextualized the 2024 Chinese Foreign Minister’s press conference, the first following the cancelation of China’s Premier’s press conference. It examines 54 English news reports produced by domestic and foreign media by employing Baker’s (2006) narrative theory and critical discourse analysis. The findings reveal that on a macro-level, foreign journalators emphasize contentious and negative themes, while Chinese journalists focus on peaceful and positive aspects. On a micro-level, foreign journalators rely on interpreted discourse but often deviate to reframe narratives for negative China-US relations, a negative image of China, and a pro-Israel stance. By contrast, Chinese journalators predominantly adhere to the interpreted discourse provided by in-house government interpreters. The study argues that the personal narratives of journalators contribute to shaping varied reporting, in addition to institutional ideology. The study contributes to the field by moving beyond traditional newspaper translation genres to investigate news coverage in the aftermath of a cross-lingual political event. It is also one of few that investigates the interconnection between interpreting and news translation.

Keywords

Journalistic/news translation

Narrative theory

Recontextualization

Critical discourse analysis

Political press conference

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 1B.1

Translation, film and literature

Session 1B.1

Translating the Spirit: Correlative Thinking in Burton Watson's Translation of Zhuangzi's *Xiao Yao You* 逍遙遊

Xinran Yuan (The University of Hong Kong)

Burton Watson's translation of *Chuang Tzu* has a significant impact on introducing Zhuangzi's philosophy to the West. While his translated works are widely recognized, research related to his translation strategies in philosophical translation is still limited in scope. As Jonathan Rée argues that the tricking point of translating philosophy is because of the obscurity of philosophical writings, as well as being explicitly dialogical, which present problems for translation. Furthermore, appropriate translation of Chinese philosophical classics into English context remains much to be engaged. Ames Roger T. and Rosemont Henry note that formalist interpretations of key Chinese notions often ignore the philosophical significance of traditional Chinese thinking, even misleading the reader into assuming that traditional Chinese worldview is "an inferior variation on a Western theme" without real philosophy of its own. Therefore, more innovative research is expected in translating Chinese philosophy. Previous studies have already called for interdisciplinary research, and integrated discussions including hermeneutics, Sinology, and comparative philosophy have been raised.

In light of these considerations, this paper aims to examine Burton Watson's translation of the text *Xiao Yao You* from his translated book *The Complete Works of Chuang Tzu*. This particular text is instrumental for comprehending the central spiritual themes inherent in Zhuangzi's philosophy. The idea of correlative thinking, an explanatory concept of traditional Chinese thinking mode in philosophy, will be used to explore his translation strategies in this text.

The analysis will begin by highlighting Watson's attempt to convey metaphysical meanings in translating Zhuangzi's ideology, followed by a discussion on some of the inaccurate renditions or unintended misinterpretations found in Watson's translation. Through the application of philosophical hermeneutics and textual analysis, this paper aims to emphasize the importance of reproducing spiritual images in translating philosophical texts and aspires to contribute to the broader discourse on translating Chinese philosophical classics, with particular attention to the works of Zhuangzi in an English context.

Keywords

Philosophical translation

Translate Chinese philosophy

Burton Watson

Zhuangzi

Session 1B.1

Writing and Translating the Female Body: A Case Study of Xiao Hong's Works in English

Yixuan Deng (Newcastle University)

The early twentieth century witnessed an unprecedented flourishing of Chinese women's writing, challenging the monolithic images of Chinese women shaped by male writers and editors while advocating for women's empowerment through their own narratives. Under traditional Confucian ethics, open discussions and portrayal of women's bodies and sexuality were long deemed inappropriate, limiting how women writers could articulate their embodied experiences. However, this period marked a turning point as topics including women's physicality, desires, and sexuality, began to surface in literature. Xiao Hong (1911-42), a prominent woman writer of the 1930s, distinguished herself through vivid depictions of women's pain and suffering, focusing on bodily experiences such as childbirth, illness, abuses, and the cultural suppression of sexuality.

This study selects Xiao Hong's two representative works, *Sheng Si Chang* (Xiao, 1935) and *Hulanhe Zhuan* (Xiao, 1940), as the case to analyse how Chinese women's bodily experiences were portrayed in the early twentieth-century literature and how these experiences were translated into an English context. Following Halliday and Matthiessen's study on the transitivity system in language (2004; 2014), the analysis compares the transitivity use in the original texts and their English translations to explore how female characters linguistically embody their bodily and sexual experiences, their understanding of these processes and their roles as participants. This study also aims to uncover how these experiences reflect broader societal and personal meanings, including women's agency and empowerment, identity, and social expectations, and evaluate whether these dimensions are preserved in the English translations.

Additionally, this study investigates the influence of paratextual elements on the translation process, including the translator's familiarity with Chinese literature and culture and the impact of shifting governmental policies. Through examining the translation of women's bodies and sexuality, the study highlights how these portrayals are reinterpreted and reshaped within distinct cultural and political landscapes. It offers valuable insights for future research on the writing and translation of Chinese women's literature.

Keywords

Chinese women's writing and translation

Body

Sexuality

Transitivity and experience reproduction



Session 1B.1

From *Suburbia* to China: Reshaping Shaun Tan's Hybrid Narratives Through Translation

Shiqi Ren (Victoria University of Wellington/New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters)

Shaun Tan's *Tales from Outer Suburbia* is an acclaimed anthology of illustrated short stories that blends text and imagery across diverse genres to explore themes of belonging, community, and imagination. Its translation into simplified Chinese, published in 2013 and revised in 2021, offers a compelling case study of how illustrated literature is reshaped for new cultural and linguistic contexts. This presentation investigates the translation and editorial processes behind these two Chinese editions, focusing on the interplay between verbal and visual systems central to Tan's work. Drawing on Nida's equivalence theory, Oittinen's insights into picturebook translation, and Genette's concept of paratexts, the analysis identifies three key areas of transformation. First, the translator's emphasis on dynamic equivalence prioritised meaning over form, leading to subtle shifts in textual rhythm, tone, and motifs. Second, reproducing Tan's intricate iconotext posed challenges in preserving layout-sensitive features, such as poetic structures and embedded text within illustrations. Third, cultural and sociopolitical considerations significantly influenced editorial decisions, with the 2021 edition demonstrating heightened sensitivity to censorship through adjustments to textual content, graphic design, and framing elements. This study explores the intersemiotic and intercultural negotiations involved in translating hybrid narratives. It highlights interventions that reshape the reading experience and raises critical questions about the ethics of translation, as well as the editors' roles as co-creators in the process. Situated within the broader framework of intercultural communication, the presentation aims to contribute to ongoing discussions on the complexities of translating multimodal texts. It invites scholars and practitioners to reflect on the transformative potential of literary translation in mediating artistic hybridity and fostering intercultural understanding.

Keywords

Multimodal translation
Cultural mediation
Translation ethics
Illustrated literature
Shaun Tan

Session 1B.1

Framing China through Translation: The Cultural Politics of Yan Lianke's *Literary Afterlife*

Zhiwei Chen (Southwestern University of Finance and Economics)

Yan Lianke is one of the most renowned Chinese writers in the world, celebrated for his profound and controversial literary achievements. Previous studies have already demonstrated that China is represented as a “repressive, dystopic other” in the translated literature by Yan Lianke (Lee, 2015, p. 251). However, there remains a significant gap in delineating the political motivations behind the translation of Yan’s literature into Anglophone world. To address the research gap, this study aims to explore various agents involved in literary translation and how they render Yan’s works for Anglophone audience. Drawing on the postcolonial translation theory by Susan Bassnett and Andre Lefevere (1992) and Lawrence Venuti (1995), the paper examines how policies and ideological orientation motivate agents in translating Yan’s Literature, further slandering China through selective appropriation, rewriting and deletion among translators, publisher, and other stakeholders. A content analysis of the translators’ notes of the translated literature, online interviews with the translators (Julia Lovell, Cindy Carter, and Carlos Rojas), mission statements and histories of the publisher (Grove Atlantic), and government reports has been conducted to ascertain their respective and collective roles in the literary translation. The findings reveal that left-wing political philosophies significantly inform the translation of Yan’s works, which constitutes a wider program of American cultural diplomacy. The translated literature serves as a medium for the United States to gain insight into Chinese society while laying the groundwork for exerting cultural and political influence over China and the wider region. This study offers theoretical insights into the reciprocal influence of ideology and translation agents within the context of literary translation projects.

Keywords

Translated Chinese literature

Ideology

Cultural politics

Yan Lianke



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 1B.2

Translation, film and literature



Session 1B.2

The Reproducing of Female Discourse Style in Women Translators' Renditions of Feminine Novels

Mengyun Zhao (Shanghai International Studies University)

Translation is a choice-making process. From selecting the original text to deciding on word usage, every act of translation involves the determination of multiple choices. In terms of style, translators must decide whether to have the style of translation of the same character of the original and what strategies to achieve their intended outcome. Previous research indicates that gender significantly influences translators' choices, with female translators often tending to translate literary works by female writers who typically explore female experiences from a unique female perspective, and whose discourse styles generally show delicate features different from those of male writers.

With a corpus-based comparative approach, this study explores the features of female discourse style and examines the choices made by the female English translator Gladys Yang in comparison to her male American counterpart, Howard Goldblatt, in translating the contemporary Chinese novel *Chen Zhong De Chi Bang*. The reception of Gladys Yang's translation is evaluated by reviewing the comments from professional and ordinary readers, media coverage, OCLC library collections, and so on. The study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What are the features of the female discourse style, and how are they manifested in the novel *Chen Zhong De Chi Bang*?
2. What strategies does Gladys Yang choose in transferring the female discourse style in *Leaden Wings* in comparison to Howard Goldblatt's *Heavy Wings*?
3. Do their translations either diminish or enhance the female discourse style in the novel?
4. How well is Gladys Yang's *Leaden Wings* received?

By exploring these questions, this research endeavors to deepen our comprehension of distinctive female discourse styles, the subjectivity of women in their translation choices, and the contributions of women translators in making themselves visible, both as translators and as women.

Keywords

Female discourse style

Translation strategies

Corpus-based comparative study

Gender

Chen Zhong De Chi Bang



Session 1B.2

Translating Chinese Identity Crisis in and Beyond *Jianghu*: A Case Study of *Legends of the Condor Heroes*

Xiaodi Ni and Nor Shahila Mansor (University of Malaya)

With its own institutional and cultural heterogeneity, the Chinese identity crisis has long been regarded as a major motif in *wuxia* novels but received little attention from translation scholars in its journey to the Anglophone world. This paper examines the challenges of translating identity-related concepts in *wuxia* and identifies hybridity theory as a framework for bridging the labyrinthine Chinese identity and Western notion of identity crisis. Focusing on a qualitative descriptive case study of the English translation of *Shediao Yingxiong Zhuan* (射雕英雄傳), a *wuxia* novel by Jin Yong, this study analyses how translation strategies manage identity crisis across two levels: within and beyond *jianghu*. Findings reveal that while maintaining the pace and excitement of the original text, the translators address identity crisis by focalizing protagonists' flow state, distinguishing types of femininity and downplaying Han chauvinism to navigate national, gender and ethnic identity issues. They also manage to render the emotional resonances experienced by the Chinese in diaspora beyond the *jianghu* context through geographical imaginary. All these approaches have helped promote the development of plotting and propel this novel to a wider readership.

Keywords

Legends of the Condor Heroes

Identity crisis

Wuxia novel

Hybridity

Diaspora

Session 1B.2

Intersemiotic Translation in Intracultural and Intercultural Contexts: A Case Study of *Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio*

Ye Junfei (Shanghai International Studies University)

This article argues that intersemiotic translation may differ at the intracultural and intercultural level, and thus should be treated separately. It takes *Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio*, an illustrated English translation of *Liaozhai Zhiyi*, as an example for its inclusion of semiotic transformation within and across cultures. This paper examines the ways in which intersemiotic translation is carried out drawing on cultural semiotics, translation studies, transitivity system, and visual grammar. The study explores two distinctive ways of scene juxtaposition and their respective meaning-making mechanisms when *Liaozhai Zhiyi* is rendered into illustrations within the same culture. These visual artworks have later been incorporated by the translator and editor of the English translation, John Minford, who employs explicitation to inform foreign readers of artistic conventions and higher orders of experience embedded to complement the cultural and narrative information loss. Two forms of juxtaposition used in verbal-visual intracultural translation are examined. On the one hand, by placing diegetic scenes, both unreal and real ones, side by side in one illustration, more narrative information is stacked. On the other hand, this typical structural means of Chinese illustrations involves a complex meaning-making mechanism, which leads to difficulties in semiotic communication. Accordingly, when incorporating these visual paratexts into interlingual translation, the translator adopts explicitation in illustration-to-caption rendition. Artistic conventions as well as higher orders of experience are accounted for in captions to enhance the pictorial meaning-making and bridge the gaps in cross-cultural understanding in the translated work. It should be noted that further research is necessary to find out whether these differences in translation strategies are also relevant in translations of other genres and what strategies other than explicitation are used for additional information.

Keywords

Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio

Intersemiotic translation

Intracultural and intercultural contexts

Session 1B.2

Queer Motherhood Across Cultures: A Study of the Chinese Translation of *The Argonauts*

Chenxi Ma and Ying Zhang (Shanghai International Studies University)

In recent years, “queer motherhood” has emerged as a prominent perspective in Western maternal studies. Maggie Nelson’s literary work *The Argonauts* exemplifies the practice of queer motherhood and was introduced to China through translation in 2023. Based on a comparative analysis of the source and target texts, this study identifies shifts in both content and form, highlighting the positive significance of introducing queer motherhood to China while acknowledging inevitable limitations of translation.

In terms of content, the original text of *The Argonauts* explores the queerness of pregnancy, philosophical reflections on the process of childbirth, and the limitations of motherhood, while directly addressing the suppressed sexual desires of mothers. By contrast, the translation emphasizes the heteronormativity and hardships of pregnancy, advocates striving to fulfill a “good enough” maternal practice, and significantly downplays maternal sexuality by omitting radical terms related to sex. These shifts reflect the essentialist perception of motherhood as an innate duty in Chinese maternal studies, the motif of motherhood in Chinese literary traditions, and prevailing attitudes toward sexuality in China’s cultural and ideological context.

In terms of form, the original text, as a representative work of autotheory, employs a nonlinear, fragmented structure, complemented by marginal notes that place the referenced theorists in a position of parity with the author, creating an impression of open and dynamic intellectual exchange. The translation, however, integrates scattered paragraphs and uses footnotes which provide additional information. This adaptation caters to Chinese readers who are unfamiliar with autotheory and queer issues in the West, while enhancing the credibility through a more conventional autobiographical structure featuring temporal clues, thematic organization and formal theoretical references. Yet, this perceived credibility frames the narrative in ways that contradict the authentic lived experiences, emotions and self-reflection that autotheory inherently values.

Despite these alterations, the Chinese translation holds pioneering significance in introducing foreign maternal practices, addressing institutionalized constraints on maternal roles, and facilitating the dissemination of queer and gender knowledge in China. Given the sociocultural acceptability, the weakening and conventionalization of certain elements, along with the sacrifice of the original’s unique literary form, are perhaps unavoidable. From the perspective of translation studies, these compromises underscore the importance of recognizing the progressive insights of queer motherhood while remaining cautious of the overly academic interpretations that may detract from its practical application.

Keywords

Queer translation; Queer motherhood; *The Argonauts*; Autotheory

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 1B.3

EXHIBITORS' PANEL: Industry sharing and insights



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 1B.4

AI, video games and translation (English and PTH)



Session 1B.4

AI + Localisation: Accelerating the Development of New Quality Productive Forces to Turn Challenges into Opportunities

Lisa Chen (GienTech Technology Co., Ltd)

As AI technology continues to advance, its application in language services is expanding, emerging as a pivotal force behind industry growth and evolution. It's essential to maintain systematic thinking amid the hype. We must improve the top-level design around the GenAI ecosystem, focusing strategic efforts on fine-tuning algorithms, building robust computing platforms, enriching and optimizing linguistic assets, and nurturing talents to address emerging needs. AI will help us reshape the industry, meet the demands of the new era, and elevate the competitive edge of language services to new heights.

I will share GienTech's journey and ongoing efforts in this industrial revolution, including how we are integrating AI into our established translation management platform, how we are building an AI-driven, intelligent multi-language service platform, and how we are reengineering our business processes with the new tech. These initiatives have been instrumental in boosting translation quality and efficiency, which helps us turn challenges into opportunities and successfully innovate our business model.

Keywords

Artificial intelligence

Translation management platform

Localisation

Machine translation

Translation of multimodal content



Session 1B.4

I Should Be the Person Who Does It! : The Agency Role of Users in Gamer Localization

Hui Wang (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)

Current research on translation audiences mainly focuses on their preferences, opinions or perceptions of translation (e.g. Di Giovanni & Gambier, 2018; Kuscu-Ozbudak, 2022), as well as user interaction and creativity in cross-platform translation initiatives, but the agency role of users in translation is only rarely touched upon in recent translation studies. This paper examines the perception of users about their agency role in the digital translation environment especially when AI is increasingly engaged in the transnational mediascapes. The research object of the paper is game players, who are encouraged to interact and create in and outside game localization and have developed a sense of agency.

Drawing upon Jenkins' (1992, 2006) theory of Participatory Culture and the theoretical concept of user agency, this article explores how the agency role of users is exerted in translation by examining gamers' online comments from multiple perspectives. It adopts a blend of research methods, including a survey among gamers, an interview with a localization team and a simple observation of the online comments, to provide a comprehensive picture of how gamers exert agency by "interpret(ing) and manipul(ing) the meaning of the video through posting translational meta-texts on screen"(Yang 2023: 415). The three methods complement each other in addressing four research questions, i.e. demographics of these gamers, gamers' feedback ratio and channel, how their feedback is responded, and how online comments to game localization is valued. It is expected that the research findings and the subsequent discussion will uncover how gamers exercise their agency in posting online comments and shed light on the significance of these comments in game localization.

Keywords

User agency

Gamer

Game localization

Online comments

Participatory culture

Session 1B.4

Generative AI in English-Chinese Video Game Localization Training: Perceived Benefits and Limitations from its Preliminary Integration into BA and MA Localization Courses

Luis Damián Moreno García (Hong Kong Baptist University) and **Carme Mangiron** (Autonomous University of Barcelona)

The present study explores the integration of Generative AI (GenAI) tools in the training of future video game localizers at BA and MA levels in Hong Kong. The research focuses on how GenAI technologies, specifically the generative pre-trained transformer GPT-4o developed by OpenAI, may support students attending localization courses in understanding the linguistic and cultural complexities of video game textual content, as well as in localizing these entertainment products from English into Chinese. Taking advantage of the complete access that Hong Kong Baptist University students have to GPT-4o, students were involved in several GenAI workshops, which combined both conceptual and practical components. After quantitative and qualitative analysis of workshop and questionnaire data gathered during the academic year 2024-25, this study reports perceived benefits and limitations derived from such an integration. Preliminary findings reveal that GenAI was generally considered a positive addition as a tool during several video game localization tasks, providing students with a centralised venue for consultation and machine translation. However, students also noticed certain limitations when GenAI was involved in their workflows, such as over-reliance on AI-generated content and the need for critical evaluation skills from part of human localizers to ensure output quality and appropriateness. Insights from this study seek to inform pedagogical strategies for leveraging GenAI in localization education. By integrating these and similar tools into translation curricula, graduates may be better equipped with both technological and linguistic expertise to meet the evolving demands of the localization industry and the current trend towards machine translation, GenAI translation and related post-editing tasks.

Keywords

Video game localization

Generative AI

Translator training

GenAI for translation training



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 1B.5

Translation, interpreting and justice



Session 1B.5

Interpreting for Jurors: Safeguarding or Compromising Defendants' Right to a Fair Trial?

Eva Ng (University of Hong Kong)

One of the key safeguards of the right to a fair trial, as specified in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) is the provision of free interpreting services for defendants who do not speak the language used in criminal proceedings. Interpreting is therefore by and large a standard service provided for defendants facing criminal charges in jurisdictions which have ratified the ICCPR. This ensures defendants' linguistic presence and meaningful participation in the judicial process, thereby protecting their right to a fair trial.

However, interpreting for jurors, who determine defendants' guilt or innocence in jury trials, is rare and has been limited primarily to sign language interpreting to enable deaf individuals to serve on juries. Even in ICCPR compliant jurisdictions, equivalent interpretation services are not available for jurors who lack proficiency in the language of the proceedings. In the United States, allowing deaf jurors to serve on juries whilst denying non-English-speaking (NES) people or those with limited English proficiency (LEP) the same right has been criticised as inconsistent with the promotion of equality and justice (Chávez 2008; Chávez 2012; Duffy 2017; Gonzales-Rose 2011, 2014, 2020; Johnson 2016). It is argued that interpreting services should be provided for NES/LEP individuals to facilitate their participation in jury service.

Contextualised within the unique linguistic landscape of Hong Kong, this paper contributes the debate by exploring the extension of interpreting services to Chinese jurors English-medium trials. It examines two appellate courts' conflicting views and rulings about an appeal (*HKSAR v. Chan Hon Wing* 2020, 2021) that contested the trial judge's permission for jurors to access interpretation services intended for the defendant (*HKSAR v. Chan Hon Wing* 2015). Drawing on the larger research project examining judicial opinions about appeals advanced on interpretation-related grounds, this single-case study seeks to demonstrate that interpreting for jurors in Hong Kong not only enhances equal participation and upholds the principle of trial by one's peers, but also addresses a practical need to improve jurors' comprehension, thereby ensuring defendants' right to a fair trial.

Keywords

Trial by jury

Right to interpreting

Defendant

Juror



Session 1B.5

Challenges of Translating Sociolects

Kristina Yakovleva (Freelance translator, member BDÜ)

Translating sociolects, the specialized language forms used by particular social groups, presents unique challenges for both human translators and AI-powered translation systems. Sociolects encompass slang, jargon, and idiomatic expressions that are deeply rooted in cultural and social contexts. Unlike standard language, sociolects are often dynamic, evolving rapidly in response to shifting social environments. These characteristics make them resistant to literal or automated translation, requiring both linguistic expertise and cultural sensitivity to ensure accurate communication.

One illustrative example is the Russian phrase “Dieb im Gesetz” (“thief in law”), a term originating in Soviet-era criminal culture that denotes a high-ranking member of a criminal elite who abides by a strict moral code. Its cultural resonance and specific social significance make direct translation into other languages nearly impossible without contextual adaptation. Similarly, the German expression “jemand hat die weiße Weste” (“someone has a white vest”), used to describe someone with an unblemished reputation, risks losing its metaphorical impact in machine translation. These examples highlight the challenge of preserving cultural and social nuances when translating sociolects. Artificial intelligence, while increasingly effective in translating structured and standardized texts, struggles with sociolects. Machine translation tools often lack the contextual understanding necessary to interpret evolving slang or culturally specific terms accurately. As sociolects are inherently tied to social identity, their successful translation requires not only linguistic expertise but also a deep understanding of the social and historical contexts in which these expressions emerge.

This challenge underscores the ongoing need for human expertise in the age of AI. While AI tools can assist translators by providing initial drafts or identifying patterns in standardized language, they remain limited when confronted with the fluid and context-dependent nature of sociolects. Translators must intervene to ensure cultural authenticity and adapt terms meaningfully for target audiences.

This paper examines the complex interplay between sociolects, human translation, and AI-powered systems. Using examples from Russian and German, it explores how sociolects challenge existing AI capabilities and highlights the indispensable role of human translators in preserving the richness of social and cultural meaning. In doing so, it calls for greater collaboration between linguists and technologists to enhance AI tools for complex linguistic phenomena.

Keywords

Sociolects; Cultural nuance in translation; Machine translation challenges; Human-AI collaboration in translation; Dynamic language and AI; Linguistic expertise; Cultural sensitivity in translation; Russian sociolects; German sociolects; Artificial Intelligence in translation; Idiomatic expression translation; Contextual adaptation; Human expertise vs. AI limitations; Evolving language and technology; Translation in social contexts

Session 1B.5

Advocating Legal Rights of Deaf Citizens with Sign Interpretation and Awareness-Raising Workshops

Kimberly Lake-Yan Wu (Deaf Classroom Hong Kong), **Cat H.-M. Fung** (Hong Kong Baptist University) and **Man Him Chu** (Deaf Classroom Hong Kong)

Access to justice of Deaf citizens required signed interpreting services between HKSL and Cantonese while hard-of-hearing individuals preferred live captioning of courtroom transcripts. This paper discusses whether there are violations of the right to equality and non-discrimination of Deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) people in Hong Kong in the accessibilities at the courthouse. After the ratification of *The Convention on The Rights of Persons with Disabilities* of the United Nations (UNCRPD) by the Chinese Government in 2008, the Hong Kong Government has the obligation to protect and ensure the rights of People with Disabilities (PwD). Our case studies showed that Deaf individuals are excluded in the court because of their disabilities. Without a comprehensive system to identify the individual needs of PwD, DHH defendants and their lawyers often have to advocate for reasonable accommodations. Not until 15 November 2022, the Equal Opportunities Commission published the practical guide *Equal Access to Justice for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing*. This guide describes the possible accommodation options of the DHH individuals, and good practices of legal practitioners and sign language interpreters. However, the guide is only a soft guide that is not legally binding to courts. Our case studies show that courts often fail to provide appropriate accommodations to DHH defendants because of judicial officers' lack of awareness. The Coroner's Court in March 2023 had an inquest to determine the cause of death of a deaf patient who committed suicide one day after being released from the psychiatric hospital. The jurors were composed of hearing individuals who had no prior knowledge of Deaf culture and language barriers faced by the Deaf patient. The inquest did not consider perspectives on Deaf culture and barriers faced by any DHH patients in the healthcare system. Justice is not only delayed. The current gap is a lack of a system to ensure suitable and reasonable accommodation, high-quality and appropriate interpretation services, and guidelines for medical professionals. In response to the injustice faced by the DHH community, Deaf Classroom HK dedicated the past two years to organizing awareness-raising workshops for the Deaf community, legal practitioners, and law students. Our activities raise the awareness of diversity among professionals and equip deaf participants with the knowledge to advocate for their human rights.

Keywords

Access to justice
Sign interpretation
Advocacy
Minority language
Accessibility



Session 1B.5

Legal Translation in Practice: Recognizing and Enforcing MTS in the China-Australia Context

Qing Cao (Hunan Institute of Science and Technology)

Legal terminology translation extends beyond the literal translation of terms to encompass the interplay between distinct legal systems. The recognition and enforcement of Minshi Tiaojie Shu (MTS), a Chinese civil mediation statement, pose unique challenges in jurisdictions like Australia where such instruments are not traditionally equated with judgments. In *Bank of China Limited v. Chen [2022] NSWSC 749*, the first Australian case addressing MTS recognition, the plaintiff and defendant presented conflicting translations and interpretations. The court ultimately ruled in favor of the plaintiff, accepting the MTS as a judgment under Australian common law. This article examines the discourse surrounding MTS translation, compares the competing translations, analyzes the court's reasoning, and discusses its implications for establishing translator training standards. The findings highlight the critical role of accurate and context-sensitive legal translation in bridging divergent legal frameworks.

Keywords

Legal translation

MTS

Foreign judgment

Recognition and enforcement

China-Australia

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 1B.6

Translation, interpreting and the anthropocene



Session 1B.6

(Dis)enchancing Nonhuman Agencies? A Post-anthropocentric Approach to Translating Children's Literature

Chengcheng You (University of Macau)

Agency, traditionally reserved for humans, refers to the capacity of an entity to act or exert influence. In children's literature, however, nonhuman characters—such as animals, plants, and AI characters—are often endowed with the ability to speak, act, and feel like humans. Such nonhuman agencies, while universal, are also culturally specific and play a crucial role in shaping children's growth as they explore self-self, self-other, and self-world relationships through more-than-human narratives.

Within the context of ethics and translation, the translation of nonhuman agency in children's literature, albeit a neglected topic, presents a critical juncture for discussing complex negotiations between cultural and ecological paradigms for young readers, particularly in English-to-Chinese translations where philosophical traditions and educational goals diverge. While Western perspectives often emphasize individual and neo-liberal agency, Chinese philosophical traditions rooted in Confucianism and Daoism conceptualize humannature relationships differently, the pre-modern divergence and contemporary confluence of the two influences how nonhuman characters are presented, translated, and adapted for young readers in different cultural contexts.

This study examines the translation strategies employed in rendering nonhuman agency from English to Chinese, focusing on linguistic choices (pronouns, honorifics, verb choices attributing consciousness), cultural parameters (acceptable degrees of anthropomorphism), and environmental ethics (ecocentrism, speciesism, instrumental and intrinsic values). Through analysis of Chinese translations of selected texts featuring nonhumans, such as *Charlotte's Web*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *A Monster Calls*, it demonstrates how translations can relay, rethink, and reframe—thereby disenchanting or enchanting—the original nonhuman agency for Chinese readers. Adopting a post-anthropocentric lens (Cronin 2020, Braidotti 2019), the study aims to illustrate the complexities of translating nonhuman agencies and illuminate the cultural and ethical implications for achieving a postanthropocentric approach in literary translation.

Keywords

Anthropomorphism

Nonhuman agency

Anthropocentrism

Translation

Environmental ethics

Session 1B.6

Eco-AI Multi-level Indirect Translation Dynamic Model: Protecting Minority Languages and Marginalized Cultures in a Globalized World

Xiong Li (Universiti Putra Malaysia)

The Anthropocene is profoundly impacting natural and cultural ecosystems, pushing minority languages and their cultural heritage toward extinction. This crisis threatens cultural diversity and weakens the transmission of ecological wisdom and traditional knowledge. Meanwhile, artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping the translation industry, offering potential solutions. While AI enhances translation efficiency, it still lacks adequate support for cultural context and semantic adaptation, especially for culturally distinctive and resource-scarce minority languages. The high cost and barriers of direct translation exacerbate their marginalization.

In a globalized world, dominant cultures increasingly suppress marginalized ones. Indirect translation, relying on intermediary languages, provides a practical alternative under resource constraints, enabling minority languages to participate in global networks. However, it is often criticized for semantic loss and cultural distortion, limiting its broader application. This study introduces “Eco-AI,” a novel concept combining Eco-translatology’s cultural adaptation principles with AI-driven dynamic optimization. The proposed “Eco-AI Multi-level Indirect Translation Dynamic Model” explores mechanisms to optimize translation processes, balancing cultural preservation and economic feasibility.

This research investigates how the Eco-AI model could address traditional limitations of indirect translation, particularly in resource-constrained environments. Additionally, it outlines potential applications in large-scale translation platforms to support underrepresented languages. By enhancing accessibility and reducing barriers, the Eco-AI model provides a pathway for preserving minority languages and cultures in globalization. This study expands the theoretical boundaries of Eco-translatology while advancing the integration of technology and cultural preservation.

Keywords

Eco-AI

Eco-translatology

Indirect translation

AI-Driven optimization

Minority languages

Marginalized cultural preservation



Session 1B.6

Anthropocene-Era Ecotranslation as Environmental Education in Sinophone Cities such as Hong Kong

Darryl Cameron Sterk (Lingnan University)

Hong Kong and other Sinophone cities have been sites of “ecotranslation,” at first in the print era but, for the past two and a half decades, in the digital era. By ecotranslation, a term I have borrowed from Michael Cronin, I mean the translation of local environmental knowledge; it may be for scientific communication, but based on my observation it is mainly a form of environmental education. The website Plant Babies (<https://hkwww.org/hkplant/index.htm>) in Hong Kong, for instance, is an *intermedial* and *interlingual* translation of scientific plant knowledge for the purpose of plant identification; there are similar sites for snakes, turtles, frogs, salamanders, moths, butterflies, dragonflies, and fireflies. These sites have been done for free by volunteers who are concerned about widespread natural scientific illiteracy in the face of growing threats to biodiversity. Ordinary people, especially young people, cannot identify the commonest species that inhabit the urban space around them, let alone comment on traditional use or scientific understanding thereof. Through online fieldwork and in-person interviews, I will be looking at how public and private ecotranslators in Hong Kong and two other Sinophone cities (Singapore and Taipei) have been trying to educate people about these matters in different jurisdictions, each with its own environmental, political, cultural, and linguistic history, in order to inform more sustainable decisions individually and societally.

Keywords

Ecotranslation

Anthropocene

Environmental education

Volunteer translation

Science translation

Hong Kong

Session 1B.6

Intersemiotic Translation as a Space for Gender Equity and Environmental Protection: An Ecofeminist Analysis of the 'Green Snake' Exhibition

Zhongli Yu and Qiyao Zhang (the University of Nottingham Ningbo China)

Curated by Kathryn Weir and Xue Tan, the group exhibition 'Green Snake: Women-centred Ecologies' (2023-2024) demonstrates the connections between gender, art and the larger themes of ecology in the context of rising temperatures and extreme weather events (Sharma 2024, d'Arenberg 2024). Accompanying the exhibition was an official booklet giving detailed verbal interpretations of ecofeminism in the visual arts of the exhibition. The official booklet is a joint endeavour between arts educators, museographers, disseminators, and editors. In the booklet, the verbal descriptions, as an intersemiotic translation of the visual arts, help a large number of visitors capture ecofeminism in the visual arts of the exhibition. Such intersemiotic translation provides a niche for feminist scrutinization. Despite the richness and diversity of research topics in the intersection of ecofeminism and translation studies, there is still a lack of research on the discussion of intersemiotic translation from ecofeminist perspective. This study intends to contribute to this area, examining the intersemiotic translation of 'Green Snake' with Gorrée's concept of intersemiotic translation from ecofeminist perspective. Conceptualizing translation as an interpretation of a visual sign with the help of a verbal sign system for specific target readers, this study investigates how ecofeminism is foregrounded in the verbal translation of the visual arts in 'Green Snake' and what strategies are adopted in the translations. Our ecofeminist approach to the intersemiotic translation is informed by ecofeminist scholarship that understands ecofeminist approach as inclusive and intersectional (cf. Sturgeon 1997, Swanson in Susam-Saraeva 2022). We use this approach to analyse how the intersemiotic translation exposes the ways in which gender discrimination and environmental degradation intersect with other systems of oppression (such as racism, classism and colonialism). In this study, the source text includes 15 pieces of the visual arts of the exhibition, and the target text includes the corresponding verbal interpretations of the visual arts. A comparative analysis of the source and target texts from ecofeminist perspective will explicate that the intersemiotic translation underscores the system of oppression, exposing environmental injustices and gender inequality through the reconstruction and supplementation of the visual source text. Thereby, it argues that intersemiotic translation is an inclusive and intersectional space for paying attention to both gender equity and environmental protection. By investigating the intersemiotic translation practices, this study contributes to an understanding of ecofeminist discourse in the Asian context.

Keywords

Intersemiotic translation

Gender equity

Environmental protection

Ecofeminist

'Green Snake'



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 1B.7

Translation, interpreting and religion (English and PTH)



Session 1B.7

The Translation of Buddhist Scriptures under the Discourse of Power: A Case Study of the Mahāmegha Sūtra

Jie Zhu (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

In recent years, the study of scripture translation through the lens of contemporary translation theories has gained momentum, with increasing focus on Buddhist sutra translations. Buddhism wielded significant influence during the Tang Dynasty, reaching its peak under the reign of Wu Zetian, China's first and only female emperor, whose sponsorship of Buddhist activities had profound implications. Wu Zhao (Wu Zetian), as a symbol of authority, exercised ideological, economic, and political control over the propagation of Buddhism, thereby playing a pivotal role in shaping Buddhist activities in the Tang era. Her patronage extended beyond mere support, shaping the relationships among various participants in the translation process, each step of which was imbued with an interplay of power and discourse.

The translation of the Mahāmegha Sūtra (Dayun Jing) stands as a testament to the empress's authority, symbolizing the fusion of Buddhist sacred texts with the discourse of imperial power. This translation activity served as a tool through which Wu Zhao constructed her own discourse of legitimacy and reinforced her political ideology. By drawing on Michel Foucault's theory of "discourse and power," this study examines how Wu Zhao leveraged Buddhist scripture translation to establish a discourse that buttressed her authority. The analysis seeks to uncover the mechanisms by which power structures shape individual subjectivities and social relationships, thereby elucidating the broader implications of translating Buddhist texts under the influence of political power in the Tang Dynasty.

Keywords

Translation and authority

Wu Zetian/Wu Zhao

Buddhist scripture translation

Patronage system

Session 1B.7

Retrospecting “New Translation” in Chinese Buddhist Translation History: A Corpus-Based Analysis of Two Translations of *Vimalakīrti Sutra*

Yanfei Zhao (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

“New translation” (*xinyi* 新譯) and “old translation” (*jiuyi* 舊譯) constitute a pair of important conceptual categories in the Chinese Buddhist translation history. Xuanzang 玄奘 (602?-664), who advocates strict literal translation, is deemed as the pioneer of “new translation”, while Kumārajīva 鳩摩羅什 (343-413) is a representative of school of “old translation”. However, in both traditional and modern discourse, “old/new translation” not only implies the time order of sutra translation but also carries evaluative connotations, and it is a common narrative that “the new translation is superior to the old translation”. To address above debates, this paper aims to retrospect “new translation” in the ancient Chinese Buddhist translation history on both theoretical and textual level. It first examines the meaning of “new translation” in the ancient Buddhist literature. Then, adopting a corpus-based analysis of two Chinese translations of *Vimalakīrti Sutra* by Xuanzang and Kumārajīva, it aims to find possible intertextual similarities between two versions by identifying all instances of n-grams that occur in both translation corpuses. It finds that in ancient Chinese Buddhist literature, “new translation” primarily served as a verb for “retranslate” or as a noun for “newly-translated texts”, embodying elements of both old and new. Besides, in the case of *Vimalakīrti Sutra*, Xuanzang’s new translation in fact borrowed a lot from Kumārajīva’s old translation, with its continuity outweighing innovation. Finally, the paper briefly discusses the possible factors shaping the authoritative status of “new translation”. It is hoped that this study could shed new light on the understanding of “old/new translation” in the Chinese Buddhist translation history.

Keywords

Chinese Buddhist translation history

New translation

Vimalakīrti Sutra

Xuanzang

Kumārajīva

Session 1B.7

Translation as a Skilful Means (*upaya*) to the Discovery of the Profundity of Pure Land Buddhism

Anthea Cheung (City University of Hong Kong)

Translation has been, throughout history, so easily and violently classified as inferior and subordinate to the original text that its enormous contribution to human society, and to the system of human knowledge in particular, has been largely under-evaluated. This paper aims to highlight the biggest reward to its author, a sinologist-translator via recounting the serious challenges facing her between 2019-2024, when she worked actively as the second translator of a collaborative project of 6 members on Pure Land sutra translating (from Chinese into English) under the strong initiative and lead of Wonderful Voice, a lay Buddhist and male disciple from Hong Kong of the late, venerable Master Chin Kung (1927-2022). The biggest reward, put simply, is the joy of selflearning, the discovery of Buddhist knowledge, and an in-depth understanding of the growth of Mahāyāna Buddhism in China with Pure Land Buddhism as a great vehicle, a skilful means. In addition, a thorough understanding of key Buddhist teachings of Pure Land recorded and delivered in Chinese is a prerequisite for a proper understanding of Chinese Buddhism's cultural appropriation of the indigenous philosophical schools of Confucianism and Daoism during its first implant in the Chinese soil around Eastern Han (25-220) but shortly afterwards, how it turned fullfledged and curiously, became a source of inspiration for the advancement of Daoist Metaphysics before and during the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and the flourishing of Neo-Confucianism during the Song (960-1279) and Ming (1368-1644) dynasties.

The Pure Land path, commonly known as the “easy path”, is currently the most popular and widely practised form of Buddhism in China, Taiwan, Japan, Vietnam and other East Asian countries. According to the paper's author, it is also a most accessible path or gate open to non-Buddhists interested in Buddhist wisdom. Given her professional training (translator) and academic background (sinologist), she could help the translation team secure a faithful reading of the Chinese original, which is essential to religious translation. Meanwhile, she could make use of the opportunity to acquire Buddhist knowledge, to empower her ability in conducting truly constructive dialogues across Daoism, Confucianism and Buddhism, the three pillars of traditional Chinese culture.

In this paper, the recurring Daoist notion *wuwei* 無為 that we can find easily in Daoist classics such as the *Laozi*, *Zhuangzi*, and *Huainanzi* has been selected as the frame of reference, to facilitate a systematic investigation into how Pure Land masters reformulated, as reflected lucidly in the *Infinite Life Sutra* compiled by Upasaka Xia Lianjuxia 夏蓮居 (1884-1965), such a typical Chinese philosophical term alongside with the long development of Buddhism in China.

Keywords

Wuwei

Buddhist translation

Buddhist studies

Daoism

Pure Land Buddhism



Session 1B.7

The Image of Ancient Translators in Biographies and Prefaces: An Exploration Based on Translation Studies Concepts and Theories

Tianran Wang (LMU Munich)

As one of the most significant translation movements in Chinese history, the translation of Buddhist scriptures spanned from the 2nd century CE to its gradual decline in the 11th century. This period produced an extensive body of discussions by translators about translation as well as rich materials documenting later scholars' portrayals of earlier translators. However, compared to the study of their translated works, the research on these translators as a collective group has not received sufficient attention. Since the cultural turn in Western translation studies, the exploration of the translator as a subject has gained increasing prominence. Nevertheless, in-depth studies of translator images outside the Western cultural sphere remain notably underdeveloped.

In response to this gap, this study examines biographies of medieval translators and the prefaces to Buddhist scriptures in *Chu Sanzang Jiji* 出三藏記集 [A Compilation of Notes on the Translation of the Tripitaka] and *Gaoseng Zhuan* 高僧傳 [Biographies of Eminent Monks] to uncover the unique images of Chinese translators and the multifaceted connotations embedded in the term “translator/ 譯人” hidden between the lines in the historiography of imagery narratives. Research on translator images not only deepens our understanding of the narrative construction of ancient translators but also enriches the conceptual scope of *translator* in modern contexts—a notion that is so entrenched in a modern milieu that its cultural connotation is narrowly understood and constructed, thereby expanding the foundational concepts of Translation Studies.

Keywords

Image of translator

Premodern Buddhist scriptural translation

Biography

Preface

TS Concepts

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 2A.1

Translation, film and literature

Session 2A.1

Zhang Ailing as a Translator: A Corpus-based Study of the Metaphorical Expressions in a Literary Writer's English Self-translation of *The Golden Cangue*

Luo Lin (Hong Kong Baptist University) and **Mark Shuttleworth** (Hang Seng University of Hong Kong)

Contemporary metaphor studies have realised a shift from rhetorical studies to cognitive linguistics studies since Lakoff and Johnson (1980) proposed that metaphor is not only a linguistic phenomenon but also influences people's cognitive make-up. Besides this, with the development of corpus linguistics, corpus approaches have been widely employed within the field of metaphor studies, enabling the quantitative analysis of metaphors. Similarly, there has also been a widespread application of corpus approaches to translation studies, exploring translator style and translators' use of different linguistic features, to name but two topics. As one of the greatest modern Chinese female writers, Zhang Ailing is renowned in the history of modern Chinese literature not only for her significant literary works, but also for her literary translation works. Various types of metaphor can be found in one of her best known short stories *The Golden Cangue* (金鎖記), which has seldom been the focus of previous studies. This study will therefore focus on literary metaphors written and translated by Zhang Ailing in this short story as its topic. A mixed approach of qualitative and quantitative analysis is employed within the study. Close reading and the Metaphor Identification Procedure Vrije Universiteit (MIPVU) (Steen et al. 2010) are applied to qualitatively identify metaphor-related words and their English translations as the empirical data of the study. A statistical analysis of the richness and frequency of metaphor-related words and their English translations is being undertaken within a self-built parallel corpus named "The Golden Cangue and Zhang Ailing's English Self-translation". Conceptual blending theory (CBT) is being employed to analyse the function of these literary metaphors in interacting with the readers. The research approach is interdisciplinary, combining the insights of translation studies with a cognitive linguistics perspective (Shuttleworth 2014); it aims to uncover the characteristics of Zhang Ailing's metaphorical language use as a literary writer and a literary translator, thus seeking to provide a new perspective for the study of this self-translator.

Keywords

Metaphor studies

Metaphor in translation

Literary translation

Corpus-based translation studies

Session 2A.1

Beyond Time and Space: Case Study of Three Chinese Translations of The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis from Cross-Cultural Translingual Perspectives

Liu Xuejing Sophie (Nanyang Technological University Singapore)

The history of translation is closely related to religious materials. Yet the translation of religious materials pose some of the greatest challenges. While significant amount of translation studies have been done for the translation of religious scripts such as The Holy Bible and Buddhist canons, religious literary translation might have been understudied. Accurate translation of literary works is vital not only for people of particular faith, but also serves as outreach channels for outsiders to know more about that faith, that in turn promotes harmony. The author of this paper aims to establish a systematic approach to analyse the translation of religious literature from cross-cultural perspectives, and chooses Christian literature as its case study. By proposing CIPP (Cultural Distance/Awareness, Ideology, Poetics, Patronage) model and analysing three successful Chinese translations of *The Screwtape Letters* from different eras and regions under the CIPP model, this paper seeks to shed light on how such considerations contribute to the cross-cultural translation of Christian literature and provide guidance for translators. With soaring demand for Christian literature across Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and other overseas Chinese communities, the study of Chinese translation of Christian literature is both timely and important. The author also proposes extended CIPP model for literature works of other religions and non-religious literature, hoping that all three CIPP models could help translators to be more aware of the cultural context and differences that arise from the change of time and space, so as to translate the source text for the target text readers appropriately, sensitively and adequately. In today's multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religions global dynamics, the study of cross-cultural translations for religious and non-religious literary work are meaningful for both academic studies and social advocacies to promote racial harmony.

Keywords

Christian literature translation
Cross-cultural translation
Ideology
Patronage
Poetics

Session 2A.1

Reconstructing the Female in Pre-reform China: Eva Hung's Feminist Translation of Gender Discourse in *Love in A Small Town*

Shiting Lu (Queen's University Belfast)

Written at a time when sex was still a taboo subject in Chinese literature, Wang Anyi's 1986 novel *Love in A Small Town* explores the raw sexual desire and its consequences in the life of two youngsters with very little education and culture. The novella provides a realistic account of pre-reform China where undereducated women are marginalised by gender, class and socio-historical complexities. When these females are translated from Chinese into English, their reconstruction in the western context becomes a more complex process during which the social climate and translator's feminist subjectivity play a significant role.

This paper sets out to examine Eva Hung's English translation of *Love in A Small Town*. It investigates the ways in which Hung (re)constructs the female in her translation, especially those parts where translation challenges the gender discourse represented in the Chinese source text. Considering the English translation as part of transcultural flow of ideas between feminisms in West and China, this paper enquires into Hung's feminist translation strategies, showing how her feminist concern impacts upon and is revealed through her textual and paratextual manipulation of the novella.

Drawing upon Foucault's conceptualisation of discourse and power to engage with feminist post-structuralism and feminist translation theories, this paper aims to inspect how the female subjects are discursively reconstructed in literary translation. It will first look at how the translator reveals her gender consciousness through paratextual features (e.g. preface, book covers). Then an in-depth textual analysis of gender discourse will be conducted to identify how a feminist translator adopts feminist translation strategies to navigate the female voices and reframe the female subject. Finally, the gain and loss of meanings in translation will be discussed at the textual and paratextual level, with an emphasis on how particular feminist insights inform the construction of the female in English translation, and why gender discourses get reinforced or reduced when they are reconstructed for the western audience.

Keywords

Gender discourse
Female subject
Feminist translation

Session 2A.1

An Analysis of the ‘Thick Translation’ of Ni Peimin’s English Translation of The Analects of Confucius

Xu Xing (Shanghai International Studies University)

Ni Peimin's new translation of the Analects of Confucius, *Understanding the Analects Confucius—A New Translation of Lunyu with Annotations*, was published by New York Press in 2017. The book has been a huge success since its release, winning the 2020 Scarlet Letter Book Award from the Modern Language Association of America (MLA). The main issues that the translation of this book seeks to address are primarily the correction of errors and the separation of translation and interpretation as far as possible. To achieve this, the book adopts the strategy of ‘thick translation’. ‘Thick translation’ was first proposed by Kwame Appiah, an American scholar, who argued that ‘thick translation’ places the text in a culturally and linguistically rich context through exegesis and accompanying commentary. Hermans T first introduced ‘thick translation’ into cross-cultural research, arguing that ‘thick translation’, as a tool for cross-cultural translation research, can avoid the terminological tedium and reduction of formatting in translation research, and promote the generation of diversified vocabularies. Ni Peimin's new translation and commentary on the Analects of Confucius adopts the strategy of ‘thick translation’. Yet his specific way of using this strategy may be different from that used by others. Ni Peimin has his own principles in his new translation and annotation text, that is, to keep the original text as much as possible in the translation text, and to explain his translation as well as take into account other possible different interpretations in the annotation text. In fact, throughout the book, there are a number of other elements besides the annotated section that can be viewed as ‘thick translation’ strategy. In this paper, the author analyses and explains the ‘thick translation’ strategy used in Ni Peimin's new translation of The Analects, in terms of the long introduction, the rich notes, the cross-referenced index, the references both in Chinese and English, and the supplementary readings. The study of the ‘thick translation’ strategy of this book in this paper can help us apply his successful experience to the translation of other outstanding traditional Chinese literary works, so as to provide inspiration for the construction of the methodology of ‘Chinese Culture Going Global’.

Keywords

Ni Peimin

The Analects of Confucius

Thick translation

Chinese Culture Going Global



Session 2A.1

Cantonese Translations of *Doraemon* in Hong Kong: Domestication Between Vegetal, Animal, and Human Agencies

Li Xueyi (Shenzhen University)

The Japanese manga *Doraemon* has occupied a seminal position in Hong Kong's cultural milieu since the 1970s, yet scholarly inquiry into its domesticated Cantonese version within the local context remains limited. This oversight is regrettable given the lack of attention to how the translation articulates the spirit of equality, a core ethos of the original work. Through its extensive use of anthropomorphism, phytomorphism, and zoomorphism, literary devices grounded in an ethic of multi-species care, *Doraemon* engenders profound compassion for otherness. This study examines its first and most influential Chinese translation, serialized in a children's magazine during the 1970s in Hong Kong. Focusing on the domestication approach, this paper investigates how the Cantonese-based translation amplifies or reconfigures juxtapositions among vegetality, animality, and humanity to address relationships between human and non-human entities. The Cantonese translations, featuring domesticated cultural elements from their Japanese counterparts, cultivate sensitivity to and care for otherness in ways that further appeal to local audiences. In doing so, the translation secures *Doraemon*'s enduring, cross-generational popularity in Hong Kong.

Keywords

Translation of children's literature

Anthropomorphism

Phytomorphism

Zoomorphism

Domestication

Doraemon

Session 2A.1

Retranslation as an Intertextual Space: Textual and Paratextual Analysis of Two Chinese Translations of E. B. White's *The Trumpet of the Swan*

Xuemei Chen (Lingnan University)

Two translations of a given text normally tend to be textually related when the retranslator consults the previous version. Such is the case in the Chinese retranslations of E. B. White's *The Trumpet of the Swan*. One translation is printed, and the other is posted online. The retranslator's paratexts, including the preface, postscript, notes, comments, and mailing list posts reference the prior translation, yet there are also covert intertextual relations only revealed by close comparative analysis. This article shows that paratexts bring to light intertextual connections between the two translations but fail to reveal the whole picture of intertextuality as cross-checked against translated texts. It argues that retranslation is not an isolated textual container of meaning but rather an intertextual space in which pre-existing translations are absorbed, transformed, and challenged, and multiple voices are co-present and heard, thereby affording new insights into the conceptualization of retranslation.

Keywords

Retranslation
Intertextuality
Paratext
Children



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 2A.2

Translation, film and literature (PTH)



Session 2A.2

From the Showcase of Worldly Affairs to Shared Aesthetics in Poetry: A Study on the Retranslation of Classical Chinese Novel *Iu-Kiao-Li* in the Ming and Qing Dynasties from the Perspective of Multiple Causation—With a Focus on Poetry Analysis

Chen Jingyi (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

As a representative of the Ming and Qing literati romance novels, *Iu-Kiao-Li* has been celebrating both wide popularity and sinological significance in Europe since its Western translations dating back to the 17th century, with versions in French, English, German, Italian, Russian, and Latin prevailed. Existing studies mainly focus on the overview of its Western translations, centering on general introductions and critical examinations of translated versions or highlighting the translational features and translators' motivations of one targeted piece. The interactions between multiple relay translations and retranslations during *Iu-Kiao-Li*'s dissemination have not yet received sufficient attention, nor have the translated texts undergone systematic textual analysis. This paper focuses on poetry, the prominent narrative form in the source text and takes the English relay translation of Jean-Pierre Abel-Rémusat and selected retranslation by Alfred Lister as research objects to analyze and compare the linguistic features of the two versions. Drawing on Pym's theory of multiple causation, it moves on to examine underlying motivations and potential impacts of retranslations with reference to other relevant literature. It is found that differences exist between the two versions in terms of grammar and syntax, semantic expression, and translation style, reflecting varied literary cognitions, poetic aesthetics, translational strategies and considerations of the two translators. These differences arise from the interplay of material, final, formal, and efficient causes in certain social, historical and cultural contexts, and are highly relevant to personal trajectories. The diversified presentation of the same piece may encourage a more cautious examination of the genetic nature of Chinese literary translations in the 19th century.

Keywords

Iu-Kiao-Li

Retranslation

Multiple causation

Poetry translation



Session 2A.2

“Female Constancy Illustrated by the Three Ladies”: Samuel Wells Williams’s Reconstruction of the Image of Qing Dynasty Women

Jiahui Niu and Jing Jiang (Minzu University of China)

Samuel Wells Williams, a pioneering American sinologist, maintained a consistent focus on the moral condition of women in Qing China throughout his academic career. On one hand, he recognized the moral and spiritual excellence of Chinese women; on the other, constrained by his missionary agenda, he posited that Chinese women’s social standing was inferior to that of their Christian counterparts. Williams’s translation of “Female Constancy Illustrated by the Three Ladies” in 1838 in the Chinese Repository marked the inception of his engagement with women’s studies and translation. Through mistranslations of the original text and omissions of the paratext, “Female Constancy Illustrated by the Three Ladies” somewhat obscured the traditional Qing views on female chastity, instead foregrounding women’s moral aspirations and independent spiritual qualities. This reinterpretation of female identity is deeply entwined with Williams’s complex views on women. Guided by these perspectives, the translation reflects an “Other” view on the image of Chinese women while also highlighting the marked differences between Williams’s conceptualization of moral ideals and the traditional moral teachings of Qing China. “Female Constancy Illustrated by the Three Ladies” sought to present a more nuanced image of Chinese women to the West, one that transcended prevailing stereotypes, thereby laying the groundwork for Williams’s later, more extensive investigations into women’s roles in Chinese society.

Keywords

Samuel Wells Williams

“Female Constancy Illustrated by the Three Ladies”

Women's studies

Female image

Session 2A.2

Macro-Descriptive Study on Co-translation of Contemporary Chinese Fictions into English since China's Reform and Opening-up in 1978

Hou Yu (Yanshan University)

This article conducts a macro-level descriptive study on the English co-translation of contemporary Chinese fictions since China's reform and opening-up in 1978. Based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, the study has the four main findings. The co-translated fictions feature a rich and diverse range of themes, with distinctive characteristics in different periods of the time, and primarily focusing on fictions by mainland Chinese authors. The modes of co-translation are flexible and varied, encompassing four distinct approaches. One such mode involves one translator taking on a primary translation work and the other refining and polishing the text. The relationships among co-translators are also complex and diverse, including partnerships like the husband-and-wife team, along with three other types. A portion of co-translated fictions have achieved good dissemination results and have been accepted by Western readers. To promote the practice of co-translation in the context of Chinese literature "going global", this article suggests increasing the output of projects of co-translation between postgraduate students in translation programs and their supervisors and enhancing the overseas promotion of co-translated works.

Keywords

Contemporary Chinese fiction

English co-translation

Macro description



Session 2A.2

A Study of C-E Translation of *Guan Zi* by W. Allyn Rickett from the Perspective of Transknowletology

Wang Ya'nan and Fan Lixia (Shandong University of Technology)

Guan Zi is a pre-Qin cultural classic that integrates a variety of thoughts on politics, economy, law, military theories and so on. In today's context of Chinese culture going global, translators shoulder the responsibility of projecting China's image and writing Chinese history. Therefore, the study of the English translation of *Guan Zi* holds significant practical importance. The American sinologist W. Allyn Rickett is recognized as an authoritative English translator of *Guan Zi*. From the perspective of Transknowletology, the essay selects typical chapters from W. Allyn Rickett's English translation of *Guan Zi* and deeply analyzes the translation patterns through which the translator achieves knowledge transformation and production. It is found that W. Allyn Rickett's translation differs from traditional classic translations, specifically manifesting in: constructing the background of the classics through prefaces, introductions, illustrations, appendices, and other paratexts; reconstructing the layout of chapters by creating secondary headings and rearranging the order of chapters; employing translation strategies such as literal translation with annotations, free translation, and amplification to elucidate the connotations of words, phrases and sentences. W. Allyn Rickett's translation pattern of knowledge production aligns with the translation principles of Transknowletology, which includes three aspects "seeking truth for knowledge, establishing goodness for righteousness, and practicing beauty in writing." While respecting the meaning of the original text, the translator also takes into account English readers' perspective. His translation works not only vividly recreate the ideological content and cultural characteristics of the original text, but also effectively achieve the global dissemination of the local knowledge of Qi culture in pre-Qin period.

Keywords

Transknowletology

English translation of *Guan Zi*

Knowledge production

Truth, goodness, and beauty

Session 2A.2

Cross-Cultural Communication to Audiences: A Research on the Translation of *Romeo and Juliet* by Cao Yu in 1943

Wang Geng and Jiang Yaoxin (Zhejiang Yuexiu University)

In 1943, Cao Yu translated “*Romeo and Juliet*” at the invitation of Zhang Junxiang, who was planning to direct this play in Chengdu. Zhang Junxiang, in order to make the performance suit both refined and popular taste, invited good friends who were proficient in English and familiar with theatre specially to help. Cao Yu had set a translation strategy of “connecting with the audience”.

1. For the convenience of the local audience to understand at that time and for the sake of theatrical effects, he pursued earthliness: he sinicized or routinized some characters' name, didn't avoid of the sexual jokes in the original, and even used the Chinese context to naturally and wildly amplify the metaphorical meaning, to seek the faithfulness and expressiveness of the translated work with the demotic element above.
2. To cultivate and enhance the taste of the audience, he pursued elegance: he translated the protagonists' name into “Rou Miou” and “You Liye”, gave them the charm of “sugary love” “indecisiveness” “elegance and beauty” and “a secret meeting of lovers” in the Chinese context. And he shortened the long sentences, restored the rhymes, and referred to the folk doggerel, mitigated the contradiction between colloquialism and poetry.
3. Actors are an important medium for the play to connect with the audience. In order to facilitate their performance, Cao Yu inserted a large number of prompts about actions and scenes, and annotated the allusions in the text.

Connecting with the audience off stage, not the readers in the study, guided the translation of Shakespeare's play as a cross-cultural communication, and ultimately led to the success of the performance. The only work by Cao Yu in the translated plays of Shakespeare in China, has a distinct theatricality, which is significantly different from the literality in the translations by Zhu Shenghao, Liang Shiqiu, Bian Zhilin, and others. It made the translation suit both refined and popular taste, and also alleviated the common contradictions between ancient and modern as well as foreign and local in the cross-cultural communication of Shakespeare's plays. It has also inspired the concept of translating and introducing overseas plays with performance as the purpose in the perspective of sinicization of theater.

Keywords

Romeo and Juliet

Cao Yu

Translation of Shakespeare's plays

Theatricality



Session 2A.2

The Way of Translation: A Study on the Methodology in Chinese Native Translation Discourse

Yan Jiang (Sichuan International Studies University)

Throughout the history of translation, the study of methodology has been the focus of translation studies. Since the new century, the research on methods in Chinese native translation discourse has presented a differentiation of macro-level, meso-level and micro-level: The macro-level methods embody the symbiotic relationship between translation, culture and knowledge; the interdependence among translation thought, translation strategies and translation methods, as well as the interaction between translation theory and practice. The meso-level methods focuses on “Wen(language, culture and knowledge)”, “Ren(translator and translation researchers)” and “Jian(interaction between the subject and object of translation)”, namely, “the way of Wen”, “the way of Ren ” and “the way of Jian”. The micro-level methods rely on the “Dao (laws)-Fa (principles)-Shu (strategy)-Qi (tools)-Shi (trend)” system of Chinese philosophy, emphasizing that when solving translation problems, it is necessary to follow the basic laws, adhere to certain principles, make use of scientific research tools, apply specific strategies, evaluate the situation, and conform to the development trend of the country and the world, so as to achieve the goals of understanding the world, transforming the world and creating the world through translation. “The way of Translation” contains rich Chinese philosophical thoughts and cultural characteristics. From the macroscopic philosophical thoughts to the meso-level perspective of “Wen–Ren–Jian”, and then to the microscopic elements of “Dao-Fa-Shu-Qi–Shi”, it constructs a top-down framework system of Chinese native translation method system, highlighting the demeanor of Chinese translation studies that integrates the world and embraces diverse perspectives.

Keywords

Chinese native translation discourse

The way of translation

Methodology

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 2A.3

**AI's impact on translation and
interpreting research and practice**



Session 2A.3

Mirror on the Wall: The “Looking-Glass Self” of Translators and Technology in the Era of AIGC

Bei Zhu and Ying Li (Shanghai International Studies University)

Who am I? This timeless question has driven the tireless efforts of generations of humans. What is inscribed in our humanity is the Delphic maxim “Know thyself”, underscoring the pursuit of clear self-knowledge. At the beginning of the 20th century, the “looking-glass self” theory was proposed to suggest that individuals can gain self-knowledge by understanding how others perceive them. Despite its limitations, this theory stands as a cornerstone of self-related theories, accurately revealing the role of others in shaping the self. In the field of translation, the era of AIGC witnesses AI becoming one of the primary interactional “others” of translators (including translation students and professional translators). Thus, it is reasonable to assume that AI plays a significant role in constructing the selves of translators. Against this backdrop, this research responds to the question—“Who are translators?”—from the perspective of translator–AI interaction. Specifically, the study explores what translators believe about themselves and technology and how technology reflects the selves of translators.

Considering how individuals perceive themselves falls within self-concept research, this study draws on self-concept as its theoretical foundation. Self-concept consists of two parts: content and structure. The content refers to people’s beliefs and evaluations of themselves, while the structure pertains to how the content is represented in memory. Currently, the primary methods for assessing self-concept are interviews and self-report questionnaires, which have inherent limitations (e.g., social desirability bias). To address the methodological shortcomings, this research makes two innovations: First, besides typical interviews and questionnaires, this research adopts a graphic elicitation method to elicit text descriptions through visual presentations. It is expected to gain more explicit and implicit self-knowledge and obtain directly visible images of translators themselves and technology. Second, this research collects the communication data between translators and AI to reveal and construct part of the translators’ selves through discourse analysis. Such data offers a relatively objective way of compensating with subjective reports.

In sum, this study is of theoretical and methodological significance. The interface between translators and AI is like the mirror on the wall, with AI inside the mirror and translators outside the mirror. It is through this mirror that the images of self and technology can be presented from the translators’ perspective, and so can the translators’ images from the perspective of AI.

Keywords

Translator–AI interaction

Self-concept

AIGC

Session 2A.3

Research on the Merits, Risks, and Countermeasures of AI Empowering the Dissemination of National Literature

Yanlin Guo (Xi'an International Studies University)

Folk culture not only enriches the background and plot of national literary works, but also helps to promote cultural communication and understanding. The translation not only helps to promote the inheritance and development of folk culture, but also provides important reference and inspiration for cross-cultural communication and literary image shaping. Analyzing the translation rules and principles of folk culture in literary works is the key to "national literature" transferring towards "world literature". The paper compares several versions from AI translation, machine translation, and human translation, finding that the advantages of artificial intelligence in the dissemination of folk culture include imitation, populism, and cooperativeness, which accelerate the flow and integration of knowledge. However, there are also many risks involved, such as ignoring the context, simplifying the content, and cutting down the ethnic features. Therefore, this article proposes to refine the model for translating national literary works including the algorithm optimization, context improvement, and semantic mapping to ensure the rational application of technology and provide useful references for the effective dissemination of Chinese folk culture.

Keywords

Chinese folk culture

Dissemination of national literature

AI translation

Human translation

Machine translation



Session 2A.3

Exploring Human-AI Interactions in Post-Editing for Professional Chinese-Japanese Translation

Kai Shan and Reiko Sato (Institute of Science Tokyo)

With the application of conversational AI based on large-scale language models, the collaborative post-editing model between human translators and AI has been introduced in various professional translation domains, including tourism translation, localization, business translation. However, systematic research on the specific applications, strengths, and limitations of conversational AI in professional translation remains insufficient until now.

From August to November 2024, we conducted semi-structured interviews, each lasting two hours, with five native Chinese professional translators, covering seven key topics. Then we used MAXQDA for qualitative analysis, including coding, classifying and visualising the main topics according to grounded theory analysis. The analysis results indicate that translator interactions during the post-editing phase can be categorized into three types: text processing prompts, format check prompts, and feedback prompts. Among these, text processing prompts are identified as the most prominent, based on they were frequently mentioned and actively discussed by translators during interviews, with MAXQDA analysis indicating the highest coding frequency in this category. In terms of text processing, translators can not only utilize conversational AI to enhance the accuracy of translated text, but also can refine the naturalness and fluency of translations through clear derivations, such as clarifying their intended use and background native language proofreading. These interactions enhance the efficiency and quality control capabilities of translators during post-editing. Format check prompts play a more supportive role of standardizing text formats to improve readability. Feedback prompts represent mutual learning between humans and AI. The findings highlight the role of conversational AI in enhancing efficiency and quality during post-editing. It is therefore crucial to explore the evolving role of translators in AI-assisted environments and propose practical strategies to optimize human-AI collaboration.

We also identify key issues that need to be addressed for conversational AI to achieve further development and broader application in translation. The translators, who engaged in localization, emphasized that the limitations of AI in dealing with unique cultural differences, contextual adjustments and sensitive information in Chinese-Japanese translation. Further, all translators noted difficulties in seamlessly integrating AI-generated suggestions into their workflow. These findings highlight the importance of refining human-AI collaboration models to address these challenges, underscoring the irreplaceable role of human expertise in managing the intricacies of linguistic and cultural translation tasks.

In summary, this abstract uses qualitative analysis to classify human-AI interaction types in post-editing, uncovering bottlenecks such as cultural differences and contextual adjustments, and provides constructive suggestions for optimizing human-AI collaboration models.

Keywords

Post-editing; Conversational artificial intelligence; Professional translation; Qualitative analysis

Session 2A.3

Enhancing English-to-Chinese Translation through AI-Powered Multi-Agent Workflows

Wei Shen (Central China Normal University) and **Zhisheng (Edward) Wen** (University of Macau)

This paper presents a conceptual framework for AI-powered translation, focusing on the English-to-Chinese translation of diverse genres, including both literary and professional texts. By replicating Andrew Ng's multi-agent reflective workflow framework, the study aims to enhance translation quality and efficiency through the integration of artificial intelligence and human expertise.

In this study, 100 literary excerpts were translated using a multi-agent translation workflow, involving human translators and ChatGPT 4.0 for direct translation. Each excerpt was grouped, numbered, shuffled, and then evaluated by professional translators across five dimensions: accuracy, fluency, stylistic consistency, cultural adaptation, and emotional conveyance. Statistical analyses, including one-way ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis tests, were conducted for each dimension and the overall average score.

The results indicate that the multi-agent translation workflow significantly outperforms traditional methods in terms of accuracy, fluency, stylistic consistency, cultural adaptation, emotional conveyance, and overall translation quality. These findings validate the effectiveness of the multi-agent approach in translating literary works and highlight its potential for broader applications in the field of translation.

Keywords

AI

Machine translation

LLM-based

Multi-Agent workflow process

Literary texts

Translation quality



Session 2A.3

Does ChatGPT Explicitate Like Professional Interpreters? AI Versus Human Interpreters' Explicitation in Consecutive Interpreting

Xinyue Wu (Hong Kong Polytechnic University) and **Guanji Li** (Shanghai International Studies University)

Explicitation, one of the central issues in translation studies (Gumul 2017), has garnered increasing research attention in interpreting studies (e.g. Wang 2012, 2013; Gumul 2006; 2017; 2021, 2022; Li & Dong 2022). One important line of studies on this topic is the comparative analysis of explicitation patterns between trainee and professional interpreters (e.g. Tang & Li 2016, 2017). However, there remains a notable gap in the literature regarding the similarities in explicitation patterns between AI and human interpreters, despite the growing indispensability of generative AI in interpreting. This exploratory study thus aims to address this gap by comparing the explicitation features of AI and human interpreters using the Speech Corpus of Interpreted Premier Press Conferences (SCIPPC) (Liu 2023). In this study, the AI interpreter utilized is the large language model (LLM), ChatGPT-4o, which can provide real-time audio output. The human interpreters are professional interpreters from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We select ten pairs of source speech segments and corresponding human output texts from the SCIPPC corpus. We collect corresponding AI output texts by playing the audio recordings of the ten source speech segments to ChatGPT-4o and recording its real-time output. Three types of AI output texts are collected: texts after basic zero-shot prompting, texts after specific zero-shot prompting, and texts after few-shot prompting. We then code the AI and human output texts using Tang's (2018) framework of explicitations. Our comparative analysis seeks to elucidate whether LLMs, represented by ChatGPT-4o, exhibit an increasingly similar propensity for explicitation as human interpreters when provided with more specific prompts. The findings of this study may contribute to interpreter training and the advancement of LLM-based interpreting.

Keywords

Explicitation

AI interpreter

ChatGPT

Consecutive interpreting

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 2A.4

AI's impact on translation and interpreting research and practice (PTH)



Session 2A.4

Streamlining Translation Quality Management through Human-Centered AI: A PDCA-Based Analytical Framework

Yurui Zhang and Rong Chen (Xi'an University of Posts and Telecommunications)

The application of Human-Centered AI (HCAI) technology has extended into various fields, including translation. This paper presents an analytical framework grounded in the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle, a fundamental principle of Total Quality Management (TQM), to explore the integration of HCAI in translation quality management. The proposed framework consists of four key stages. In the Plan phase, a detailed translation plan is devised based on client-provided guidelines, specifying the use of HCAI technologies. During the Do phase, Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology is utilized under human supervision to convert the source text into an editable format. Following this, Microsoft's Copilot automatically identifies and extracts terminology prior to translation. An AI-powered translation management system, YiCAT, is then employed to monitor and control translation quality, facilitating machine translation post-editing (MTPE) by human translators, while updating the term bank and translation memory in real-time. AI search engines and large language models, such as Metaso.cn, Bing, and ChatGPT, are also used to assist translators when faced with comprehension challenges in the source text. In the Check phase, GPT is utilized to generate Python code for quality assessment models, such as METEOR, which are further fine-tuned to quantify translation quality. The final Act phase involves standardizing best practices by organizing language assets through Tmxmall, addressing remaining challenges through reflective project analysis and client feedback, and continuously improving the process, which feeds into future PDCA cycles. Through an examination of these stages, this study identifies key factors in enhancing translation quality management through HCAI technology. By reviewing a real-world translation project, the framework's effectiveness is validated, and potential avenues for future research and optimization in the integration of HCAI are proposed.

Keywords

Human-centered AI
Translation quality management
Total quality management
PDCA Cycle

Session 2A.4

Principles, Methods, Strategies, and Types of ChatGPT Post-Editing Prompts Design

Chunlan Wu (Xiangtan University)

This paper explores how to improve the application effects of ChatGPT in post-editing by designing effective instructions. The study shows that techniques such as structured prompting, abductive reasoning, temperature parameter setting, and iterative prompting can significantly improve the accuracy of the GPT-4 model in translation tasks. Meanwhile, techniques like thought chain prompting, logical reasoning, few-shot prompting, and GPT participation in prompt design can effectively enhance the fluency of translations. Additionally, providing cultural background information, role and target audience prompting, zero-shot prompting, and translator role prompting are crucial for enhancing the cultural adaptability of translations. This study emphasizes the importance of human-computer collaboration in post-editing and provides new perspectives and tools for the translation field to optimize the application of GPT-4 in post-editing and promote human-computer collaboration, laying the foundation for future translation practice and research.

Keywords

Post-editing
Prompt design
ChatGPT



Session 2A.4

The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Dialect Translation and Global Linguistic Ecology

Baowen Lai (Yunnan University)

This paper explores how artificial intelligence (AI) technology can break through the talent bottleneck in dialect translation, the impact on the survival of minority languages and dialects, and the role it plays in the global linguistic ecology. By analyzing the latest advancements in AI technology and practical application cases, this paper aims to provide new perspectives for the field of translation studies and discuss how AI technology can promote the protection of linguistic diversity and international communication.

Keywords

Artificial intelligence

Dialect translation

Global linguistic ecology

Language preservation

Session 2A.4

The Convergence of Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in the Translation Industry: Technological Advances, Ethical Challenges, and Future Developments

Jiahuan Yan (Lanzhou City University)

This paper deeply analyzes the multi-faceted changes caused by the integration of artificial intelligence and big data in the translation industry. Elaborate on the technological innovations brought about by this, including the leap in the accuracy of machine translation and the intelligent reshaping of the translation process; Deeply explore the risk of data privacy leakage, the dilemma of defining the responsibility of translation, and the hidden concern of cultural bias in the ethical dimension. A comprehensive analysis of the two-way impact on cross-cultural communication, covering the subtle changes in convenience and cultural identity; Carefully sort out the positive effects on the protection of endangered languages, such as digital retention and learning and dissemination; It also makes forward-looking predictions on future development trends, involving the in-depth optimization of human-machine collaboration, the expansion and integration of multi-field and multilingual translation technologies, the promotion of intelligent autonomy, and the construction and improvement of industry norms and standards. It aims to provide systematic and in-depth knowledge for practitioners, researchers and related personnel in the field of translation, help them accurately position themselves and make scientific decisions in this wave of technology integration, and promote the steady and sustainable development of the translation industry.

Keywords

Artificial intelligence

The translation industry

Technological advancements

Ethical challenges



Session 2A.4

Unveiling the Silent Crisis: Conceptualizing Translation-Specific Technophobia in the AI Era

Song Jiangwen and **Hu Jiasheng** (Shanghai International Studies University)

The digital transformation of translation practice represents a pivotal shift in modern translation studies, marking an industry-driven paradigm change that has fundamentally reshaped the epistemological foundations of the discipline. This technological revolution, emerging organically from practitioner communities, has sparked profound epistemological reflections and methodological innovations, positioning translation studies at the forefront of human-machine interaction research in the AI era. While scholarly discourse has long engaged with computational translation systems, the rapid advancement of AI has further enhanced existing translation technologies, redefined contemporary translation practices, and revealed far-reaching implications.

Paradoxically, this technological ascendancy has given rise to a latent yet pervasive technophobia within global translation ecosystems—translation-specific technophobia (TST), as introduced in this article. Despite being largely overlooked in translation discourse, this psychological phenomenon has evolved into a silent crisis, challenging the translation community's adaptation to technological shifts. TST manifests as a complex interplay of affective responses, including epistemic anxiety, ontological insecurity, and professional identity crises, potentially leading to both psychological and physical resistance to translation technologies.

Beyond individual psychology, the ramifications of TST extend to institutional dimensions. Educators struggling with technological ambivalence risk undermining pedagogical effectiveness, perpetuating cyclical apprehensions among translation trainees. Professionally, collective anxiety may hinder necessary translator-AI collaboration, ultimately impairing the translation industry's adaptability in the era of machine learning.

This article seeks to unveil the silent crisis of TST, which now demands scholarly attention. It provides foundational academic insights into its conceptualization, manifestations, and implications, fostering deeper reflections on the evolving relationship between translators and translation technology in the AI era.

Keywords

Translation-specific technophobia
Translation technology
Technophobia
Artificial intelligence

Session 2A.4

Innovative Practices in Translation and Cross-Cultural Communication

Qianru Xu (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)

This article focuses on innovative practices in translation and cross-cultural communication, aiming to explore how innovative translation methods can facilitate effective communication and understanding between different cultures in today's increasingly globalized world.

The article first outlines the core role of translation in cross-cultural communication, pointing out that translation is not only a conversion of languages but also a transmission and interpretation of cultures. Based on this, the article delves into innovative strategies in translation practice, including the application of technological means, innovation in translation theory, and diversification of translation models.

On the technological level, the article discusses the application of modern technologies such as computer-assisted translation, machine translation, and artificial intelligence in translation. These technologies have not only improved translation efficiency but also enhanced the accuracy and readability of translations. At the same time, the article points out the challenges these technologies face, such as context understanding and cultural adaptability, and proposes corresponding solutions.

On the level of translation theory, the article introduces modern translation theories such as functional equivalence and cultural equivalence, which emphasize preserving the original meaning while also considering the cultural background of the target language and the needs of the readers. Through case analysis, the article demonstrates the application effects of these theories in translation practice.

In addition, the article also focuses on the diversification of translation models, such as the combination of interpretation and translation, and interactive translation, which adapt to the translation needs in different scenarios and improve the flexibility and practicality of translation. In terms of cross-cultural communication, the article emphasizes the important role of translation in promoting cultural exchange and enhancing international understanding. Through translation, people from different cultural backgrounds can better understand each other, eliminate misunderstandings and prejudices, and promote world peace and development. At the same time, the article also points out the challenges in cross-cultural communication, such as cultural differences and language barriers, and proposes strategies to address these challenges through translation innovation.

Finally, this article summarizes the significance of innovative practices in translation and cross-cultural communication for promoting the process of globalization and cultural diversity. Through innovative practices in translation, we can better connect different cultures and promote mutual understanding and respect on a global scale. In the future, with the continuous advancement of technology and the in-depth development of translation theory, innovative practices in translation and cross-cultural communication will play an increasingly important role.

Keywords

Translation innovation; Cross-cultural communication; Technological means; Innovation in translation theory



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 2A.5

The translator's roles and identities



Session 2A.5

Who Am I? Non-expert Translators' Extra-translator Identity in China: Perspectives and Implications

Liu Wen (Southeast University)

There are numerous non-expert translators in China whose contribution is indispensable to society but unknown to the public. The identity of these ordinary translators as a group is given scant attention by academic circles. By taking translator posts (both written and oral ones) on a popular Chinese recruiting website as the research material, this paper finds that non-expert translators show a prominent sign of extra-translator identity and then expounds its perspectives and implications to society. The non-expert translators' extra-translator identity is strongly linked with characteristics such as obscurity and symbiosis. Moreover, given the applicability of translation, these characteristics can be explained by Actor Network Theory (ANT). In terms of implications, the opportunities and challenges brought by the extra-translator identity both exist.

Keywords

Non-expert translators
Extra-translation identity
Obscurity
Symbiosis
ANT



Session 2A.5

Reconstructing the Translator's Role in the Digital Era

Zhao Boying (Wuhan University of Technology)

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI), machine translation (MT), and big data technologies has led to significant transformations in traditional translation paradigms, necessitating a reassessment of the translator's role within this evolving framework. This paper investigates how translators can adapt their roles in the digital age, particularly in the context of AI-assisted translation, by navigating the integration of advanced technologies with the imperatives of quality control. It examines how translators can effectively balance the application of these technologies while safeguarding translation accuracy and cultural appropriateness.

Through a detailed literature review and case study analysis, this study outlines the evolution of the translator's role, charting its progression from a traditional "tool" function to a more complex role as a tool user (e.g., post-editor), and ultimately to that of an advanced reviewer. The paper also delves into the underlying causes of these shifts and explores their practical implications for translation practice. The findings underscore that while technological advancements have enhanced the efficiency of translation processes, the inherent limitations and standardization in machine translation models may result in a reduction in translation quality. Translators remain indispensable in ensuring the precision of translations, addressing cultural nuances, and conducting thorough quality assessments. The translator's role has thus evolved from a passive intermediary to an active participant—emerging as both a user and an optimizer of technological tools, as well as the ultimate guardian of translation quality.

As such, the digital era compels translators to continually redefine their professional identity, enhancing both their translation and review competencies. Moreover, translators must proactively engage with emerging technologies, such as RAG models, to refine their technical expertise, uphold rigorous oversight in the translation process, and ensure the cultural and linguistic fidelity of their work. This ongoing professional development is critical to sustaining the quality and relevance of the translation industry in an increasingly technology-driven environment.

Keywords

Translator's role
AI-assisted translation
RAG model

Session 2A.5

The Translator's Safe Zone: A Foucaultian Perspective on the Translator's Role and Subjectivity

Zhang Le (Shandong Normal University)

The study of translator identity and subjectivity has been a recurring focus in translation studies. Historically, translators were viewed as “invisible,” serving merely as neutral conduits for conveying meaning. However, since the 1970s, debates have intensified, with translators criticized both for their perceived passivity and, conversely, as “dangerous appropriators” of the source text. This tension between invisibility and agency underscores a longstanding debate on the translator's role and ethical responsibilities.

Drawing on Michel Foucault's discussions of authorship and subjectivity, this paper introduces the concept of the “threefold self” as a theoretical framework for re-evaluating the translator's role. Foucault's theories, originally applied to the nature of authorship, explore the complex dynamics between the author's identity, their textual representation, and the external forces shaping their work. Adapting this framework to translation, this paper further develops the concept of the “translator's safe zone,” which seeks to reconcile the translator's responsibilities bridging the original to the target and justify translator's involvement in the text as the third self of the author.

This research ultimately aims to advance the discourse on translator subjectivity, offering practical strategies to redefine the translator's role in ways that foster ethical and effective cross-cultural communication.

Keywords

Translator subjectivity
Translation theory
Michel Foucault



Session 2A.5

Post-War Situation and Protection of Interpreters: A Social Identity Theory-Based Analysis

Wang Zequan (Hong Kong Baptist University)

Initiated by the United States, the Afghanistan War and the Iraq War had witnessed tremendous sufferings on soldiers, civilians, and the often-invisible interpreters. Since these two conflicts, many scholars have started to put the spotlight on interpreters' roles and the diverse factors affecting interpreters' jobs in wartime. Yet, few studies investigate the post-war situations and post-war protection of interpreters from a sociopsychological perspective. Drawing on the social identity theory of Henri Tajfel and John C. Turner (1979) as the theoretical framework, the current study aims to further theoretical background to studies on interpreters' protection and status in post-war setting. It investigates the social phenomenon of interpreters being regarded as "traitor" by their home country and distanced by the country employing them, and the protection made by the international organization Red T in post-war setting. Through an extensive collection of materials related to interpreters involved in these two wars and the Red T organization, such as interpreters' memoirs, *Special Forces Interpreter* by Eddie Idrees and *Code Name Johnny Walker* by Johnny Walker and Jim DeFelice, interviews made by journalists with Vice News, official documents, and news reports with Red T, the data are analyzed and coded in terms of three aspects of social identity theory, namely social categorization, social comparison, and positive distinctiveness. The data are expected to show that grouping makes a huge difference in the attitudes and views of opposite parties. Also, it is anticipated that by strengthening the distinctiveness of groups, more actions can be ushered into the protection of interpreters. As a result, this study attempts to reveal the social mechanisms behind this complex phenomenon, provide a new perspective to understand interpreters' situation in a post-war setting, and offer theoretical references for the post-war protection of interpreters.

Keywords

Post-war protection
Social identity theory
Red T

Session 2A.5

Impact of Machine Translation and Post-Editing on Translators' Work Satisfaction and Motivation: A Statistical Analysis

Akiko Sakamoto (Kansai University), **Darren Van Laar** (University of Portsmouth), **Joss Moorkens** (Dublin City University), and **Félix do Carmo** (University of Surrey)

As translation increasingly gets assisted by technologies such as NMT and LLMs, new work practices inevitably impact translators' work processes and working conditions, and consequently, the quality of their working lives and work motivation. It is important to investigate the relationship between technology and the translators' work satisfaction and motivation, because an unhealthy and unproductive relationship between them may cause a skills drain of translators in the future. As it normally takes a long time to develop a translator's professional skills (typically first through language and translation education and then through professional experiences), the issue of the sustainability of the translator workforce should concern all stakeholders with a long-term perspective.

In this presentation we will report a section of the results of our Translator Work- Related Quality of Life (T-WRQoL) project. In this cross-disciplinary project (at the intersection of translation studies and organisational psychology), we collected data from 495 translators in the UK through a purposefully-built psychometrically-strong questionnaire in 2024, of which 398 returned full data. The questionnaire measured 12 factors related to translators' working lives. These include their overall work satisfaction, their work motivation, their attitude to MT and post-editing work, the ratio of post-editing work to overall translation work, and their general wellbeing, amongst others. These measurements allowed us to statistically examine the relationships between these factors. Our results show that the amount of post-editing work translators do (as opposed to from-scratch translation) is negatively associated with their general wellbeing, their relationship with their work providers, their feelings of control at work, and their work enjoyment. The findings also demonstrate that translators' positive attitudes to post-editing work are not related to their long-term motivation to work in the industry or overall satisfaction with their work. On the back of these findings, we argue that current post-editing practices do not enhance translators' work satisfaction and motivation and, as such, effective measures should be taken urgently to improve the way translation technologies are being implemented so that translators can have a healthy and productive relationship with technologies.

Keywords

Translators

Work satisfaction

Questionnaire

Machine translation (MT)

Post-editing (PE)

Session 2A.5

Breaking Alienation: The Image of Female Interpreters in China

Shuzhen Jiang (Shanghai International Studies University)

Women have been the subject of research across different periods and groups: from the Daoist fragile women in the Tang Dynasty to the healthy and strong women in the Kuomintang Period, from foot-binding women in modern China to Maoist “iron women” in the early period of Communist China, and from chaste women in the Qing Dynasty to women with matrimonial freedom in the May 4th Movement (Chen & Wang 2005; Deng et al., 2011). However, studies on career women, particularly female interpreters, have been rare. This may be due to unfamiliarity with the profession and interpreters’ invisibility. Nonetheless, interpreting, as a profession, is gaining increasing importance in more diverse social settings. Interpreters, especially those in diplomatic interactions, are witnessing increasing visibility with the help of emerging media and the influence of big events (Diriker, 2003, 2005, 2009). At present, studies on female interpreters have become possible, and this is a requisite for revealing the progress and restrictions of the professionals in different social conditions, by both quantitative and qualitative analysis.

This study focuses on the image of female interpreters in Chinese media. Using multimodal discourse analysis, the study explores how traditional media and self-media portray female interpreters, and what are similarities and differences between their portrayals as well as the reasons behind the different ways of presentation between traditional and self-media. This study collects 4580 news articles from Factiva News Corpus (traditional media) and 68 episodes of podcasts from the Xiaoyuzhou platform (self-media) for further analysis. Results show that traditional media is inclined to present the image of female interpreters in an alienated manner: the graceful beauty, the political accessory, and the loyal mouthpiece. In contrast, self-media tends to emphasize female interpreters’ self-awareness, including professional consciousness, subjectivity, and awareness of crisis. Female interpreters’ self-awareness, as expressed through self-media, serves as a form of resistance against the alienation found in traditional media. Additionally, the study draws on Marxist philosophical theories of alienation, specifically regarding alienation from the product of labor, alienation from the labor process, alienation from species essence, and alienation from others or social alienation, to explore how female interpreters resist alienation (traditional media) through self-awareness (self-media). This study aims to sort out the dilemmas and breakthroughs of female interpreters in the patriarchal culture, and attempt to reconstruct the professionalism of female interpreters from a more comprehensive point of view.

Keywords

Female interpreters

Traditional media

Self-media

Alienation and reconstruction

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 2A.6

Cross-disciplinary approaches to translation and interpreting studies



Session 2A.6

Does Language Prestige Hypothesis Work Across Typologically Distant Languages? A Corpus-Based Study Comparing Shining-Through Effect in Chinese-English Bi-directional Translations

Jia Li (Southwest University)

The influence of language prestige on the source language shining-through effect has been well-documented in studies involving typologically similar languages. However, its impact on typologically distant language pairs remains underexplored. This study examines the interplay between language prestige and typological differences in shaping the shining-through effect, extending the analysis to Chinese-English bi-directional translations. Based on a bi-directional parallel corpus, the study investigates the shining-through effect in both Chinese-to-English and English-to-Chinese translations through the application of principal component analysis and flexible discriminant analysis. The findings reveal that the shining-through effect is present in both translation directions but is more pronounced in English-to-Chinese translations. Additionally, the effect varies across registers, with general and fictional texts showing a stronger tendency than academic and journalistic texts. These results provide further evidence supporting the hypotheses of language prestige and risk aversion. Crucially, the study identifies a competitive interaction between language prestige and typological distance, particularly in translations from a dominant to a less dominant language.

Keywords

Source language shining through
Competition effect
Language status
Typological difference
Register variation
Machine learning

Session 2A.6

Translation Ethics from a Metadisciplinary Perspective: Shaping Translation Studies in the 21st Century

Aurelia Klimkiewicz (York University/Glendon College)

This paper examines translation ethics from a metadisciplinary perspective, highlighting ethical considerations as an increasingly significant dimension of Translation Studies. The discussion begins by tracing the emergence of ethics in the field and the subsequent development of its discourse, drawing on Michel Foucault's concept of discourse formation. As Barbara Godard (2001) observes, Antoine Berman's seminal work, *L'Épreuve de l'étranger* (The Trials of the Foreign, 1984), marked an "ethical turn" that brought ethical concerns to the forefront of Translation Studies. Since then, ethics has played a crucial role in shaping the discipline's responses to contemporary challenges, including globalization, technological advancements, linguistic and cultural representation, and professionalization.

A metadisciplinary perspective on translation ethics reveals that, since the ethical turn of the 1980s, the driving force of ethics has primarily originated from practice. This influence has contributed to both (1) inter- and (2) intradisciplinary dialogues within Translation Studies.

1. **Interdisciplinary Dialogue:** Ethics has enriched the exchange of ideas with related fields, particularly Interpreting Studies and Audiovisual Translation, fostering crosspollination that has advanced approaches transcending individual disciplines. For instance, Berman's ethics—rooted in literary translation and emphasizing the ethical relationship between the self and the other (the foreigner)—has influenced diverse translation and interpreting practices, particularly by promoting respectful representations of foreign languages and cultures. Similarly, feminist translation, also originating in literary translation, has impacted Community Interpreting, especially on issues related to women's rights. A further example can be found in Audiovisual Translation, where ethical considerations from Interpreting Studies, such as sensitivity to body language and tone of voice, play a key role in translating documentaries on gender-based violence.

2. **Intradisciplinary Dialogue:** Within Translation Studies itself, ethics has catalyzed a shift in focus, challenging the translator's traditional habitus, which has been characterized by invisibility, adherence to norms, and submission to codes of conduct. Instead, ethical considerations have brought attention to the translator's agency, the potential for transgression, and the negotiation of meaning. This shift has not only spread ethical awareness within the discipline but has also prompted theoretical developments.

Moving from practice to theory, translation ethics has ultimately led to a paradigmatic shift: translation is increasingly understood as a tertiary relationship rather than a binary one, recognizing the complex interplay between translator, source, and target contexts. This reframing underscores the evolving role of ethics as a cornerstone of contemporary Translation Studies.

Keywords

Translation ethics; Metadisciplinary perspective; Inter- and intradisciplinary dialogue; Binary versus tertiary dynamics; Turn versus paradigmatic shift



Session 2A.6

AI-Enhanced Microhistorical Analysis of Isaac Taylor Headland: Uncovering the Translator Identity of a Chinese Expert and Missionary

Weiyan Li and Wenjie Li (Beijing Normal University)

This manuscript employs a novel archival method augmented by AI tools to delve into the relatively understudied translator and missionary, Isaac Taylor Headland's history. Headland, a pioneer in introducing *Chinese Mother Goose Rhymes* to the West, significantly impacted both Chinese and American history. Despite his significant role in translation and dissemination of Chinese texts into English, his translator identity often gets overshadowed.

The study aims to identify and delineate Headland's translator identity within the sociocultural and political context of his time. To accomplish this, a tailored five-step archival method for translator studies is introduced, grounded in a three-dimensional framework that encompasses literature, history, and text. This framework integrates three key elements: archival mining and cataloging, the bridging of macro and micro historical contexts, and text analysis guided by comparative cultural theory. LLMs facilitate cross-language archival mining and cataloging, while GPT-4 aids in analyzing the stylistic and tonal nuances of Headland's translations. Guided by this framework, the study delves into Headland's family background and life, discussing his early translation and authoring practices against the backdrop of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It suggests that Headland adopted a pro-China stance in his work. Furthermore, the study examines Headland's translator identity through illustrative examples, demonstrating the influence of his multi-faceted roles on shaping China's image and introducing Chinese children's literature to the world. This exemplifies the potential of AI tools in deepening our understanding of translators' identities and contributions in their historical and cultural contexts.

Keywords

Isaac Taylor Headland
AI-assisted archival methodology
Microhistory
Chinese Mother Goose Rhymes

Session 2A.6

Utilizing Sentiment Analysis for Evaluating Interpretation Accuracy: A Corpus-Assisted Computational Linguistics Approach

Jessy Yujie Huang, Kay Fan Andrew Cheung, Kanglong Liu and Han Xu
(Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

This study explores whether sentiment analysis, a natural language processing technique, can help to assess the accuracy of learners' interpreting outputs. 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 used as a reference. The sentiment scores of learners' output was calculated using two lexicon-based sentiment tools (Liu & Hu and Vader) and compared to the reference. The results revealed that learners have limited ability to convey the speaker's sentiment, which mainly resulted from their omission and distortion of key sentiment words and their intensity. To provide a nuances perspective into learners' performance in transferring the sentiment of original speeches, several examples are extracted and analyzed. Additionally, statistically moderate significant correlations were found between the professional-learner sentiment gap of a given rendition and its accuracy level as perceived by the human raters, which validates the use of the two sentiment analysis tools to evaluate the accuracy of interpreting. However, the predictive power of sentiment as a standalone indicator of accuracy is only limited. Overall, inter-disciplinary in nature, this study provides a valuable indicator for future design of automated quality assessment tools. Its findings also have practical implications for interpreting training.

Keywords

Accuracy

Sentiment analysis

Quality assessment

Interpreting

Computational linguistics



Session 2A.6

The Impact of Text Type on Chinese-English Translation Effort: An Eyetracking and Keylogging Study with Reference to Translation Entropy

Xiao Liu (Shandong University) and **Ying Cui** (China Guangdong University of Foreign Studies)

Various factors affect translation effort. This research aims to explore the impact of source text type on Chinese-English translation effort with reference to translation entropy. An eye-tracking and key-logging experiment was conducted. Thirty-one student translators translated four text types in the experiment, namely legal, advertising, news, and poetic texts. The length and difficulty of the four texts were controlled, and they were randomly assigned to participants. We analyzed both the procedure-based measures and product-based measures in this study. The translation time, fixation, pause, and edits data reflect participants' effort in the translation process. Data analyses show that there is significant difference in participants' effort of translating the four texts, which can be seen in such indicators as subjective ratings, fixation, pause, translation time, and edits. The phrasal and syntactic variations made in participants' output are also related to their effort. We further studied participants' translations and calculated the translation entropy for each text type, which is a measure of uncertainty in translation. Analyses show that there is significant difference in translation entropy among the four text types, which provides evidence that source text features affect translation uncertainty and hence translation effort to search for appropriate options. Analyses of the procedure-based measures and product-based measures suggest that text type has a significant impact on translators' effort. The discussions are intended to provide further insight into the impact of text type on translation process and translation products, and the result confirms the reliability of translation entropy as a predictor of translation effort.

Keywords

Effort

Entropy

Text type

Translation

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 2A.7

Translation, interpreting and commerce (English and PTH)



Session 2A.7

The Integrated Development of Livestreaming E-commerce and Interpretation Education

Huimin Ai (Fuzhou Software Technology Vocational College) and **Jianning Zhang** (Dalian University)

In the context of the rapid development of globalization and Internet technology, cross-border e-commerce and live broadcasts have gradually become a new driving force for global trade. This article explores the interpretation education of cross-border e-commerce anchors, and cultivates live interpreter talents with high-level language skills and professional literacy to cope with the growing demand for cross-border e-commerce and international live broadcast markets. Through the analysis of the existing education model, the article has established a new strategy of “Livestreaming e-commerce and interpretation education”. This study is of great significance for understanding and promoting the modernization of live broadcast e-commerce and interpretation education, and aims to provide more effective language support and cultural adaptation for global e-commerce exchanges.

Keywords

Livestreaming e-commerce
Interpretation education
Integration strategy

Session 2A.7

Consumer Responses to Transliterated IKEA Product Names in Chinese: Persuasive Effects and Influencing Factors

Yi Dong (Individual Researcher)

According to Rogers et al (2020, 181), commercial translation refers to consumer-oriented translation of persuasive texts to promote products or services. Translation of product names, a type of commercial texts, is believed to have significant impacts on audience's perception of product quality, purchase intentions and sales of products (Hong et al, 2002). However, direct and immediate consumer responses of commercial translation are lacking (Valdes 2000, 2), compared to translation of other genres, such as literary translation, which can access feedback directly through online review platforms (e.g. Egdom and Kotze, 2024). Thus, it is highly necessary to reveal actual translation effects of persuasive texts based on empirical evidence.

Regarding commercial translation strategies, it is widely acknowledged that reader/consumer-oriented translation approach, which achieve functional/communicative equivalence by modifying translation in accordance with target contexts, is the most effective (Toressi 2021, 23). In contrast, source-text oriented translation means, such as transliteration which converts texts phonetically by preserving source-text pronunciation (Al-Jarf, 2022, 81), have been rarely adopted, because they generate foreignness and a sense of distance. However, influenced by globalization and cultural fusion, foreign concepts or forms of expression may not be deemed as exotic or distant, with consumers' increasing exposure to outside world (Zhong, 2014). Instead, source-text oriented translation may produce engaging effects as functional equivalence.

This study aims to reveal responses to source-text oriented translation approaches. It takes Chinese transliterated product names of IKEA, a Swedish furnishing brand with global popularity, as research materials. Through consumers' responses, this research also expects to uncover influencing factors for persuasive effects. Thus, the following questions are formulated:

(1) Whether and how does transliteration have impacts on recipients' purchase willingness? (2) For which reasons do recipients consider transliteration of product names as persuasive?

This study will compile a research corpus to present transliterated IKEA product names in Chinese and Chinese literal translation with product pictures included. Then, a questionnaire will be designed to include 15 corpus items, and propose questions on whether transliteration adopted by IKEA has impacts on purchasing intentions. Open-ended questions will be included to gather reasons for which recipients consider transliterated product names to be persuasive, non-persuasive or irrelevant. The questionnaire will be distributed online and the expected sample size is between 200 to 300. Quantitative and qualitative data will be collected and analyzed respectively and consecutively in an attempt to answer research questions.

Keywords

Commercial translation; Translation reception; Transliteration; Foreignization



Session 2A.7

Chinese-Portuguese Business Consecutive Challenges in Macau: A Case Study at the MIF

Chan Sio Kuan and Júlio Reis Jatoba (University of Macau)

This paper explores the role and challenges of consecutive interpretation in business communication between Portuguese-speaking countries and China, particularly during the Macao International Trade & Investment Fair (MIF). Although studies on interpreting in China are booming, considering Macau's historical role as a point where East meets West, there are still few studies that focus on the training of Chinese-Portuguese interpreters in Macau (Han & Sun, 2024; Jatobá & Ho, 2020) or on the issues of Chinese-Portuguese interpreting in mainland China (Han & Sun, 2024; Jatobá, 2013, 2019a, 2019b; Zhou, 2019).

Considering that linguistic and cultural challenges can lead to misunderstandings and eventually undermine collaboration and negotiation effectiveness, this research aims to analyze how consecutive interpretation can be optimized to improve communication among business people from Portuguese-speaking countries and China, particularly during the MIF, by exploring the perceptions of both entrepreneurs and interpreters that participated in the MIF. Therefore, our objectives include evaluating the significance of consecutive interpretation at the MIF, understanding entrepreneurs' views on its effectiveness, and identifying challenges and best practices. Data collection involved direct interactions with business representatives, interpreters, and surveys.

By examining the role of interpreters and communication dynamics in multicultural contexts, this study aims to enhance interpretation practices and strengthen business and cultural ties between Portuguese-speaking countries and China. Ultimately, it seeks to provide insights and recommendations that benefit both entrepreneurs and interpretation professionals, underscoring consecutive interpretation as a key element in facilitating international business communication.

Keywords

Interpreting training

Consecutive interpreting

Macau

Portuguese-speaking countries

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 2B.1

Translation, film and literature



Session 2B.1

Behind the Discrepancy in Understanding the Underground by Dostoyevsky: Creative Treason in Disguise of Faithfulness

Zhiyi Fu and Ying Zhang (Shanghai International Studies University)

Understandable as diverse understanding over one image is, the fact that while some scholars, such as Wu Qiong (2014), consider the man in *the Notes from the Underground* courageous and determined, some academics, such as Liu Defei (2024) deem him inconsistent, self-contradictory and constantly changing in both opinions and actions can't be explained by their different perspectives alone. Thus, this study attempts to find out what's behind the discrepancy in the interpretations of the protagonist in Dostoyevsky's novel. Given that different scholars have based their studies over the Underground on different translations, this paper examines and contrasts two main translations used by the scholars above and one popular version today with analysis from the perspective of Derrida's Deconstruction, Gadamer's Hermeneutics, and Xie Tianzhen's Creative Treason. Findings of the analysis indicates that the researchers' interpretations of the man living underground are influenced by the expressions of the translations they had read respectively, which are decided by the translator's comprehensive understanding of the character, the translation skopos and the assumed target readers' expectation exclusive to their times. Therefore, distinguishing translations from the original cannot be over stressed for an accurate and thorough understanding.

Keywords

Contradictory understanding over one image
The Notes from the Underground
Creative Treason

Session 2B.1

Voices of “The Lighthouse Keeper”: The Chinese Translations of Sienkiewicz’s Work and the Ideologies of the Translators

Hesha Cheng (Shanghai International Studies University)

“Latarnik” (The Lighthouse Keeper) is a short story by Polish novelist Henryk Sienkiewicz, translated into Chinese by three translators—Wu Tao (吳濤), Zhou Zuoren (周作人), and Shi Zhecun (施蛰存)—in the early 20th century. Despite Sienkiewicz’s numerous works, all three translators chose to translate this particular story. Notably, none of them translated from the original Polish. Wu Tao translated it from Katai Tayama’s Japanese version, publishing it in 1907. Zhou Zuoren’s translation, derived from Jeremiah Curtin’s English version, appeared in “The Collected Works of Foreign Fiction” (《域外小說集》) in 1909. In 1935, Shi Zhecun also translated the story from Curtin’s version, publishing it in “Short Stories of Poland.”

This article examines the characteristics of these translations and the translators themselves. While all three employ literary translation methods, they each have distinct approaches. Wu Tao utilized vernacular Chinese, often translating literally but occasionally omitting content and incorporating elements of folk Daoism, reflecting a traditional Chinese storytelling style. Zhou Zuoren adhered strictly to literary translation techniques, employing classical Chinese. Shi Zhecun’s use of vernacular Chinese was common for his time, though his literary translation style was somewhat rigid yet elegant.

The choice of this work by the translators may reflect ideological concerns, perhaps subconsciously. Wu Tao translated works from the Japanese periodical *Taiyo* (The Sun), which, in response to the government’s call for nationalism and ethnic nationalism, published works from authors like Henryk Sienkiewicz, who was generally regarded as a patriotic novelist. The general anxiety of “national doom and ethnic extinction” that swept among people with lofty ideals in China influenced individuals like Zhou Zuoren, leading him to pay attention to “the literature of small and weak nations.” The term “weak and small nations” literature has become a conspicuous vocabulary, with more people paying attention to figures like Sienkiewicz, and Shi Zhecun was also caught up in such a tide of the times.

Overall, the trend towards literal translation stems from dissatisfaction with previous translators’ liberties, a desire to restore the literary essence of works, and a clarification of translation principles, which can lead to excesses. Nonetheless, the selection of works by these translators is closely linked to the spirit of their times, reflecting contemporary thought patterns and the historical relationship between Chinese and foreign literature.

Keywords

The Lighthouse Keeper

Wu Tao

Zhou Zuoren

Shi Zhecun



Session 2B.1

Mythorealism through Figurative Mind Style: Negotiating “Inner Causality” in Translating Yan Lianke’s *The Years, Months, Days*

Minhui Xu and Qiyue Zhou (University of Macau)

The Years, Months, Days (YMD) by Yan Lianke manifests Yan’s “mythorealist” mind style, characterised by the unconventional use of figurative language to evoke surreal fictional settings. However, its English translation by Carlos Rojas is regarded as having standardised the original rhetorical embellishment. This study explores how figurative language as external linguistic behaviour manifests the author’s ‘inner truth’, or perception and cognition, during his creative process. Specifically, it investigates the extent to which the translator’s mind style converges with or diverges from that of the author in representing synaesthesia, onomatopoeia and anthropomorphism, the most frequently used figurative language in Yan’s works. Through textual comparison, it suggests that Rojas is aware of Yan’s particular mind style and retains the anthropomorphised portrayal of non-humans that underpins the mythoreal feature in YMD, but his normalisation of synaesthetic and onomatopoeic expressions diverges from Yan’s nauseatingly vivid style. This study introduces an approach to tracing a particular author’s mind style, distinguishing it from that of the characters, and examines the convergence and divergence between the author’s and the translator’s mind style. It points out the translator’s effort to balance the poetics of source and target languages and adjust to the specialist-cum-commercial publishing climate.

Keywords

Literary translation
Mind style
Mythorealism
Figurative language
Yan Lianke

Session 2B.1

Route of Spreading and Influence of Ci-Poetry in the Song Dynasty in the English-Speaking World

Yuan Longzhen (Gansu Agricultural University)

As a unique literary form in classical Chinese poetry, Ci-Poetry (known variously as Tz'u, metrical meters, lyrics, song lyrics) in the Song Dynasty (960-1279) is a late starter in being translated to the English-speaking world. In the past century, a wide variety of English anthologies and collections about Ci-Poetry have been published continuously in the English-speaking world, including various anthologies of Ci-Poetry concerning a particular composer, co-collections compiled with Chinese poetry, and works devoted to researching Ci-Poetry, promoting its wide spreading and influence. However, there is little research on its route of transmission in the English-speaking world. In response to the above-mentioned situation, the present study, through tracing its spreading trajectory in the English world over the past century, based on the statistics collected from the books, anthologies and collections published in England and America concerning Ci-Poetry in the Song Dynasty, puts forward its transmission routes in which it is transmitted, including prestigious publishers, translation reviews and key journals. It's well mentioning that translations of Ci-Poetry have been included in authoritative selected collection of literature, which is an indication of its influence in the world. Therefore, it is of significance that the study can be used to mirror its spreading traditional culture unique to China globally.

Keywords

English translation of Ci-poetry in the Song Dynasty
Route of spreading
International influence

Session 2B.1

Translation Strategies of Queer Fansubbers in China: A Case Study

Kesi Chen (The University of Manchester)

Despite the global growth of queer culture, China's governmental restrictions limit the portrayal of non-heteronormative sexualities in local audiovisual works. Fansub groups play a crucial role in bridging the gap by translating such content, making audiovisual translation a crucial site for shaping attitudes toward queer communities. The identity of fansubbers plays a significant role in shaping translations, yet this aspect remains underresearched. This paper investigates how queer fansubbers' identity influences translation strategies in China, focusing on a QAF, a prominent queer fansub group. Unlike general fansub groups, QAF is composed of individuals who identify as queer fans, and their identity profoundly impacts their translation strategies. By analysing QAF's translation of *Beautiful Thing*, a British film about a love story between two teenage boys, this paper explores how translation can function as a form of activism, highlighting the ways in which translation choices reflect and support identity.

The study highlights two key aspects of their translation approach shaped by their identity: their handling of culture-specific items and their manipulation of the source text to align with the group's advocacy for queer rights. In addressing culture-specific items, QAF fansubbers often embraced explanatory strategies by providing in-text clarifications or adding explanations in brackets at the end of a line. In this way, culturally specific references become more accessible to Chinese audiences, and they can get deeper insights into Western queer culture. This strategy is in stark contrast to mainstream subtitlers, who typically reduce such elements to improve readability and clarity. In addition to the explanatory strategies, the study also examines the manipulation of the source text as a deliberate strategy to promote queer representation and challenge heteronormative assumptions. For example, the fansubbers' translation choices may emphasise positive portrayals of queer characters, or alter dialogue to avoid reinforcing harmful stereotypes about queer individuals. While these manipulations serve to support the queer community, they also raise questions about fidelity to the original text and the potential risks of distorting the creators' intent.

By analysing QAF's practices, the paper bridges queer studies and audiovisual translation, offering insights into how identity shapes the translation process and transforms translation into cultural advocacy within a highly regulated environment.

Keywords

Audiovisual translation

Fansubbing

Identity

Queer translation

Translation strategy

Session 2B.1

Shifting Gender and Racial Politics in *Lady Precious Stream* and Its Multimodal Adaptations, 1934–Present

Zhinan Ji (Soochow University)

Lady Precious Stream (1934), trans-created by Hsiung Shih-I from the Beijing opera *Red-Maned Fiery Horse*, holds the distinction of being the first play by a Chinese playwright to be staged in London's West End. It emerged at a critical juncture in British cultural history, where elite intellectual interest in Chinese artistry intersected with the broader public consumption of oriental exotica. This romantic and comedic domestic drama, set in the Tang Dynasty (618–907), later reached Broadway and has undergone numerous re-adaptations, including a televised version in 1950s Hong Kong and ongoing performances by both professional and amateur groups. Its evolving interpretations reflect shifting discourses on gender, race, and cultural representation. The characterisation of the heroine, Precious Stream, has transformed over time—from a feminine, elegant noblewoman embodying wifely fidelity to a cheekily independent, bold, and somewhat rebellious figure—mirroring changing perceptions of gender roles. Similarly, Britain's racial and colonial attitudes toward the Chinese, as reflected in the play's reception, have also shifted. From early colonial-era productions featuring “yellow-face” performances to recent stagings by all-Asian creative teams, the play serves as a lens through which to examine transformations in perceptions of gender equality, critiques of imperialist hierarchies in the UK, and the enduring allure of chinoiserie fantasies about China. This article explores how successive multimodal reinterpretations of *Lady Precious Stream* chart a trajectory from the sexist and orientalist frameworks of its initial reception toward more inclusive and critical approaches to gender, ethnicity, and identity in contemporary theatre.

Keywords

Transcreation

Adaptation

Gender

Orientalism

Lady Precious Stream



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 2B.2

Translation, film and literature (PTH)



Session 2B.2

Navigating Cultural Hybridity: Ku Hung-Ming's Diasporic Experience and His Transcultural Translation of Confucian Classics

Wang Juanfei and Yu Hou (Yanshan University)

Ku Hung-Ming, acclaimed as the “Eccentric Scholar of the Late Qing Dynasty” in China, was born in Southeast Asia and educated in the West before returning to serve in the Qing court. Distinguished as the first Chinese scholar to render the Confucian classics into English, he dedicated himself to “eliminating cultural boundaries between East and West,” maintaining that initiatives fostering mutual exchange and connection between these civilizations warranted universal support. His diasporic experiences profoundly shaped his cosmopolitan ideology, which subsequently significantly influenced his translation of the Chinese classics.

This study examines two key aspects of Ku's intellectual journey and contributions. First, it explores how Ku's cosmopolitanism emerged from his cultural diasporic experiences. During his initial diaspora, his ethnic consciousness and patriotic sentiments gradually awakened, compelling him to transition from an “Anglo-Saxon Chinese” identity to a distinctly Chinese one. His second cultural diaspora, marked by his return to China, precipitated an intense collision between his Western intellectual foundation and traditional Chinese Confucian values. Rather than viewing these as antagonistic forces, Ku discovered common ground between them, particularly in how transcendentalist moral values and Confucian ethical principles opposed modern materialistic culture. This synthesis led to his development of “Rooted Cosmopolitanism,” an innovative framework integrating Western romanticism, transcendentalism, and Confucian thought to bridge East-West cultural divides.

Second, the study analyzes how “Cosmopolitanism” functioned as the guiding principle in Ku's cultural translation practice. This ideology represents the integration of Eastern and Western philosophical traditions. In translating Confucian classics, Ku employed an aggressive domestication strategy, utilizing Western philosophical concepts and culturally resonant vocabulary to establish meaningful parallels between Chinese and Western traditions. This approach created a unique “third space” of cultural convergence within translation, enhancing Western readers' reception of the original texts' cultural heterogeneity while fostering conditions for creative innovation in translation practice. Furthermore, synthesizing his interpretation of Confucian thought with cosmopolitan moral universalism, Ku conceived an “earthly religion” based on Confucian ethics, which he termed the “Religion of Good Citizenship.”

Keywords

Ku Hung-Ming
Cultural translation
Cosmopolitanism
Diasporic experience



Session 2B.2

Dissecting Readers' Reception and Needs of the English Translations of Chinese Literature with *Hong Lou Meng* as an Example: A Digital Intelligence Driven Study

Chaoyong Zhao and **Shi Li** (East China Normal University)

The development of digital reading and real-time feedback foster the integration of the chain of translation reception and the construction of a new path for translation reception study. Meanwhile, the iterative upgrade of generative AI provides technical support for exploring readers' emotional responses and their reception. Driven by digital and intelligent technology and supplemented by Attractive Quality Theory, this study examines the readers' feedback on the English translations of *Hou Lou Meng*, explores the reception preference and interaction between common readers and professional readers, and then analyzes the hierarchy and types of English readers' needs. The needs of English readers of *Hou Lou Meng* encompass the pragmatic, textual, emotional and cultural layers, touching on ten core indicators. Therefore, based on the realistic assessment of the reception effect of the English translations of *Hou Lou Meng*, prioritizing the readers' needs to offer foresight and address the gaps, can contribute to promoting the sustainable development and transformative innovation of the international dissemination of Chinese classical novels.

Keywords

Digital Intelligence
Hong Lou Meng
Translation reception
Readers' needs

Session 2B.2

Key Elements Affecting the Communication Effect of Chinese Genre Web Novels in the English World: Translation and Aesthetics

Zhou Man (Shanghai Jiao Tong University)

Although the international communication of Chinese Internet literature has attracted wide attention in recent years, there are few research results on the communication effect, especially the lack of empirical studies on the communication effect of genre web novels in the English world. Taking *Desolate Era* from the immortal cultivation genre, *Joy of Life* from the historical genre, and *Lord of Mysteries* from the western fantasy genre as typical cases, this paper analyzes their English readers' reviews, explains the key factors affecting their communication effects, and reveals their communication patterns in the English world. The study finds that translation and aesthetics are the key elements influencing the communication effect of Chinese genre web novels in the English world: translation horizon directly determines English readers' affection, while aesthetic emotion "jouissance" and dynamic aesthetic experience are the most unique aesthetic enjoyment that Chinese genre web novels bring to English readers. The communication effect of genre web novels reflects the current communication status of Chinese culture in the English world; thus, this paper has implications for the international communication of Chinese culture.

Keywords

Genre web novels
Communication effect
Translation
Aesthetics



Session 2B.2

How Does Translation Style Affect Reader Reception? An Empirical Study on Three Translations of *Ying Ning* from *Liaozhai Zhiyi*

Zhao Liang (Guangzhou City University of Technology)

Research on translation styles (including translator style) and reception studies, has matured; however, the influence of translation style on reader reception remains underexplored. This study examines the translation styles of *Yingning* in *Liaozhai Zhiyi* (*Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio*) translated by Herbert A. Giles, John Minford and Sidney L. Sondergard through the lens of corpus-based translation studies. It investigates whether and how translation style affects reader reception using questionnaire survey and thematic analysis. The findings reveal significant stylistic differences among the three translations in terms of average sentence and paragraph length, various expressions of the verb “to laugh” and “to say”, sexual depictions, and the use of peritexts. Aside from sexual depictions, the other aforementioned stylistic factors influence the majority of readers’ evaluations of the three translations. Overall, readers preferred Minford’s translation, followed by Sondergard’s. The favored translations were characterized by moderate sentence and paragraph length, simple and comprehensible syntax, diverse vocabulary, and appropriate use of peritexts.

Keywords

Translation style

Reader reception

Thematic analysis

Yingning

Session 2B.2

A Parallel-corpus Based Study on the Cross-language Simplification of *Frog*

Zhou Yuanling (Freelance) and **Gong Xiaohui** (Aba Teachers University)

Many scholars now study Mo Yan's novel *Frog (Wa)* from the perspective of literary criticism by theoretical or qualitative analysis. There are few in-depth translation studies on its English version, especially quantitative studies. This paper creates a Chinese-English parallel corpus via Sketch Engine, an online platform for managing and analyzing corpora. After finishing the construction of Chinese-English parallel corpus, the paper uses such three indicators as the lexical density, average sentence length, and word frequency to analyze the linguistic features among the Chinese-English language pairs via data searched from the parallel corpus, thus to verify cross-language simplification features in the English version.

Keywords

Frog

Chinese-English parallel corpus
cross-language simplification

Session 2B.2

The Musicality of Literary Language in Chinese Translation: An Analysis of Liu Xiangyu's Rendition of Chapter 11 of *Ulysses*

Wang Ruohan (Zhejiang University)

The organic combination of literature and music is the most prominent feature of Chapter 11 “Sirens” in *Ulysses*. Joyce draws on the structural characteristics of the fugue, capturing the musicality of language to depict the protagonist Bloom’s experiences at the “Ormond Hotel”. This paper, focusing on the primary issue of linguistic musicality, further explores and expands the pathways and multiple possibilities for translating the musicality of literary language into Chinese. Ultimately, the musicality of literary works is always inseparable from “language” as an essential medium. Specifically, for “Sirens”, where the musical structure is relatively clear, the major components of the fugue cannot be overlooked by the translator. In this chapter, Joyce essentially constructs three movements (prelude, exposition, and coda), each with its distinct characteristics. The prelude primarily sets the overall tone of the text’s musical style, showcasing its musical features. This section contains numerous character motifs and primary

action motifs. Hence, the translator must first grasp the structural features of the “prelude”, forming a style akin to accompaniment or musical recitative, necessitating the addition of certain musical elements. At the same time, intertextual transformation of local songs should be considered to correspond to the original songs. For the “exposition”, the main body of the text, the inclusion of lengthy narratives means that translation cannot merely focus on the rhythm of individual phrases. Instead, it requires an overall analysis of the styles of different musical sections. Additionally, on the basis of ensuring semantic accuracy, techniques such as tonal variation, metrical shifts, and repetition should be employed to address the formal features of different musical sections. In the final “coda”, Joyce concludes with a large number of onomatopoeic words. Therefore, recognizing their onomatopoeic function and connecting them to sound effects will be a key focus in translation.

In summary, the musicality of literary language is closely related to the poetics and linguistic characteristics of the target culture. Chinese itself possesses rich phonological beauty, such as tonal patterns, antithesis, and rhyme, which provides translators with the possibility of reconstructing the musicality of the original text in Chinese. Thus, emphasizing the reproduction of literary language’s musicality in translation not only honors the original text but also advances the development of Chinese literary translation. In this way, the musicality of language can be fully explored, and Joyce’s musical artistry continues to shine brilliantly in translation.

Keywords

Ulysses

“Sirens”

Musicality

Fugue

Literary translation

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 2B.3

AI's impact on translation and interpreting research and practice

Session 2B.3

Adoption of Computer-Assisted Interpreting Technologies and the Influence of Cognitive Factors among Professional Interpreters

Nan Zhao (Hong Kong Baptist University)

The field of conference interpreting has witnessed significant technological advancements, leading to the development of various computer-assisted interpreting (CAI) tools designed to support and enhance the interpreting process. This study investigates the adoption rate of process-oriented CAI technologies, such as live prompted numerals and terminologies, automatic speech recognition, and live prompted machine interpreting, among professional interpreters. The research also explores the influence of individual cognitive factors, specifically working memory, anxiety, and language proficiency, on the use of these tools.

A comprehensive survey was conducted among 153 professional interpreters from the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC) to gather data on their usage of CAI technologies. The survey results provide insights into the current state of CAI technology adoption within the professional interpreting community, revealing the percentage of interpreters utilizing these tools in their work. Moreover, the study examines the relationship between working memory capacity, anxiety levels, and language proficiency on the likelihood of adopting CAI technologies.

By investigating the impact of working memory on CAI adoption, the study sheds light on how individual difference may influence their willingness to incorporate these tools into interpreters' interpreting process. The research also explores the role of anxiety, considering how stress and emotional factors may affect an interpreter's decision to use CAI technologies. Furthermore, the study analyzes the relationship between language proficiency and CAI adoption, examining whether interpreters with higher language proficiency levels are more likely to embrace these technological aids.

The findings of this study contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing CAI technology adoption among professional interpreters. The insights gained can inform the development of targeted training programs and support strategies that consider individual cognitive differences, ultimately facilitating the effective integration of CAI technologies in the interpreting profession. By addressing working memory, anxiety, and language proficiency, this research paves the way for optimizing the use of CAI tools and enhancing the quality and efficiency of interpreting services in various settings.

Keywords

Computer assisted interpreting
Professional interpreters
Individual differences

Session 2B.3

The Role of Technology in the Translation of Street Names: A Preliminary Study

Anson Honghua Wang (The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong)

Ever since the thought-provoking question “Can machines think?” put forward by Turing (1950), artificial intelligence (AI) has been developing at a very fast speed and influencing many aspects of our lives, if not all. The year of 2022 witnessed the growth of large language models (LLMs) with ChatGPT from OpenAI being a noticeable example. These developments and advances in technology have undoubtedly exerted profound influence on translation industry and translator education alike. Moreover, educators started to investigate the necessity and future of translation profession. There has also been a surge of research interests in the application of technology such as ChatGPT in translation practice and teaching in the past two years. Researchers looked into the role of AI in different fields of translation including literary translation, subtitle translation, science and technology translation and legal translation. However, few studies have examined the usefulness of technology in the translation of street names. Under this backdrop, the current study was designed to compare the official Chinese street names in Kowloon City District of Hong Kong with translations from Google Translate, ChatGPT 4.0 and DeepL. The initial findings indicate the usefulness of technology in translating straightforward street names such as Anhui Street and Broadcast Drive. However, human translators are indispensable in translating names with historical background. This provided food for thought for the usage and refinement of technology in practical translation.

Turing, A. M. (1950). Computing Machinery and Intelligence. *Mind* 49: 433-460.

Keywords

Technology
Translation
Street names



Session 2B.3

The Art of Translation in the Age of A(AI)-Yi (譯 /translate)

Chung-An Chang (Soochow University)

George Steiner conceptualizes translation as an artistic activity that demands a comprehensive understanding of the historical context, cultural backdrop, and linguistic features of the period from which the source text originates. Translators must interpret and compensate for the semantic shifts and textual invasion and appropriation caused by the act of translation. They should also restore balance to the original work and ensure that its essence is preserved amid the transformation. However, this hermeneutic perspective on translation faces significant challenges in the era of machine translation. Translation has increasingly become a fragmented, profit-driven, and speed-oriented operation rather than a dialogic engagement between translator and text. This essay seeks to reexamine the concept of translation as an "art" in the age of machine translation, prompting a reflection on the intricate relationship between technique and artistry against the advancements in artificial intelligence. By drawing upon the rich, organic, and interactive theoretical resources of Chinese translation theories, this paper explores potential insights that emerge from the dynamic interplay between Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the traditional Chinese concept of Yi (譯 /translate) and emphasizes the importance of preserving the artistry in translation while encountering the technological advancements that continue to reshape the field.

Keywords

Hermeneutics

Artificial intelligence

Yi/translate

Machine translation

Session 2B.3

How Close Are LLMs to Human Parity in Assessing Translation Quality?

Zhenhai Li, Xindi Hao, and Shuyin Zhang (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen)

Automatic evaluation (AE) has been widely adopted for assessing machine translation (MT) due to its ability to deliver immediate results at negligible cost. However, human evaluation (HE) remains the gold standard, offering more detailed and nuanced assessments of MT quality, though it is time-consuming, resource-intensive, and reliant on evaluator expertise. While earlier AE metrics—whether string-based or pre-trained models—exhibit notable limitations and remain the subject of debate, recent systems based on large language models (LLMs) have demonstrated improved performance in machine translation evaluation (MTE). Nevertheless, existing studies focusing on leveraging LLMs in MTE often lack systematic exploration of available LLMs and sufficient rationale for model selection. This study aims to address these gaps by exploring the potential of LLMs to approximate human assessment in MTE. Specifically, it compared MT quality scores generated by the top 15 LLMs ranked on Chatbot Arena against HE scores to identify the most robust model capable of achieving human-like assessments. The evaluation used the English-Chinese test data from WMT20, which consisted of 1,000 source and machine-translated sentence pairs. All LLMs were prompted with the same instructions provided to human evaluators, and their performance was measured using Pearson R to quantify alignment with human assessments. Using a zero-shot prompt, the highest Pearson R achieved was 0.507. Based on their performance, the top-ranking LLMs were selected for further testing with the proposed engineered prompts. Results indicate that LLMs, with prompt engineering, perform better in approaching human parity in MTE. This improvement underscores the potential of human-centered AI, where carefully designed prompts enable LLMs to better emulate human judgment in MTE tasks. The study identifies the best-performing LLM in AE, offers a set of ready-to-use prompts designed for AE with demonstrated effectiveness, and lays the groundwork for future development of LLMs tailored specifically to Chinese-English translation tasks.

Keywords

Automatic evaluation

Machine translation evaluation

Large language model

Session 2B.3

Study on MTPE under the Thick Translation Framework: A Case Study of English Translation of *Stories of Chang'an City*

Hongmei Ruan (Northwestern Polytechnical University) and **Shijie Liu** (Shanghai Maritime University)

The advancement of Large Language Models (LLMs) brings vast potential to AI translation field, and boosts the evaluation of Machine Translation Post-Editing (MTPE) to a research focus, which has enhanced the traditional translation into a novel paradigm. This study intends to examine the implementation and effectiveness of MTPE under the framework of thick translation theory, using the English translation of *Stories of Chang'an City* as a case study. The notion of thick translation was put forward in 1993 by Kwame Anthony Appiah, deriving from the concept of thick description in cultural anthropology. Appiah proposes that annotations and commentaries can be added to cover all cultural details, thus to locate target readers in a rich cultural and linguistic context. With an explanatory power, thick translation strategy endeavors to create the historical and cultural context for target readers by interpreting and restoring source culture. Thick translation is highlighted to promote cultural dissemination and enrich the world's cultural diversities. Due to the richness of Chang'an city's historical and cultural connotations, the translation of *Stories of Chang'an City*, has generated substantial paratextual annotations and interpretations in its human translation practice, making it an exemplary case of thick translation. This research proceeds in three stages: first, employing LLMs to translate the source text while examining the capability in comprehending and rendering historical-cultural elements; second, conducting a multi-dimensional comparison between the LLMs-generated translation and human deep translation version, specifically analyzing their differences in interpreting cultural imagery, explicating historical context, and elucidating cultural allusions; and third, exploring optimization strategies for MTPE in translating cultural classics. This study not only investigates MTPE's potential and limitations in meeting thick translation requirements but also aims to establish a new paradigm for cultural classics translation in the era of GenAI, exploring the innovative development of traditional thick translation theory through technological empowerment, thereby providing new theoretical insights and methodological references for classics translation in cross-cultural communication.

Keywords

Large Language Models

Thick translation

MTPE

Stories of Chang'an City

Session 2B.3

Exploring LLM-based Methods for Addressing Non-Standard Input in English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) Interpreting

Guanda Xue and **Cheng Zhan** (Sun Yat-sen University)

As information technology continues to evolve, its influence on the field of language services has become increasingly profound. However, many interpreter-oriented technological solutions continue to face critical limitations when processing non-standard, ad hoc input. Although some speakers rely on prepared scripts or speak in a relatively standardized manner, interpreters frequently encounter real-time spoken discourse marked by unpredictable linguistic structures, errors, and unconventional usage. These challenges are particularly evident in English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) contexts, which are becoming increasingly prevalent in international conferences. In such settings, participants' diverse linguistic backgrounds can introduce cross-linguistic transfer and spontaneous, locally negotiated expressions, thereby intensifying the complexity of interpretation. Meanwhile, conventional tools designed to assist interpreters—such as computer-assisted interpreting (CAI) systems—often struggle under these conditions, generating substandard outputs that may distract rather than assist interpreters.

Large Language Models (LLMs) have recently emerged as promising alternatives due to their advanced capabilities in contextual processing and inference, enabling them to derive coherent meaning from less-than-ideal or fragmented input with a relatively high degree of accuracy. This research explores the potential of LLMs to recognize, process, reorganize, and infer meaning from non-standard ELF input as a means to support interpreters and facilitate multilingual communication.

Preliminary findings suggest that LLM-supported approaches can mitigate some of the cognitive burden on interpreters, especially when dealing with fragmented or erroneous source language. Furthermore, these capabilities may encourage interpreters to adopt a more proactive role in shaping communicative outcomes by flexibly adapting to cultural and contextual nuances. By examining how LLMs respond to these interpretive challenges, this study not only underscores the significance of ELF as a dynamic environment for exploring advanced technology-assisted interpreting strategies but also illustrates the potential of LLMs in managing non-standard, real-time discourse.

Keywords

Conference interpreting
Computer-assisted interpreting
Large Language Models (LLMs)
English as a Lingua Franca (ELF)
Cognitive load management



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 2B.4

Innovations in translation and interpreting education



Session 2B.4

Training Student Interpreters' Pre-task Self-assessment of Strategy Use

Jing Liu and Wei Su (Xiamen University)

Student interpreters have long reported difficulties in their post-task assessment as they lack the ability to review and revise their performance. This is due to the unique burden associated with interpreting, as it requires students to constantly monitor and identify different aspects of performance simultaneously (fidelity, language quality, fluency, etc.). Compared to post-task assessment, pre-task assessment allows students to predict and speculate subsequent interpretation, so as to facilitate actual performance. In particular, pre-task assessment of interpreting strategies can help identify the difficulties encountered by students, thus orienting future training and learning. Hence, student pre-task assessment of interpreting strategies merits closer investigation. But one obstacle is related to capturing their pre-task assessment processes, as it is most implicit. One feasible solution is screen-cast, since it can record the online information processing of students preparing for interpreting tasks. Accordingly, this study employed a screen-cast tool to record whether and how, after five weeks' training, student interpreters developed their pre-task assessment ability of interpreting strategies. It also explored how their self-assessment differed across the three strategies of lexical conversion, syntactical conversion, and discourse expansion. Data were collected from screen-cast of students' pre-task assessment of interpreting strategies, their sight interpreting recordings, and self-assessment self-reports. Based on the coding of screen-casts, interpreting recordings, and self-reports, it was found that, after training, students became generally more competent in predicting their subsequent strategy choices, as they learnt to regulate their attention and detect possible interpreting difficulties. Although they claimed improvement of assessment ability across all three strategies, their actual performance displayed progress only in the lexical and syntactical conversion strategies but not in the discourse expansion strategy. These findings highlighted the predictive value of pre-task self-assessment for students' assessment ability as well as the promising role of screen-cast in facilitating the self-assessment process. They also stressed the risks of students' inflated confidence in their pre-task assessment of the discourse strategy. In addition, the study attested to the potential and feasibility of adopting screen-cast in self-assessment research, since it provides increased levels of substantive information on those complex, relatively abstract skills or strategies, such as those in interpreting. Also, the application of screen-cast can generate substantial data on students' cognitive and meta-cognitive activities, thus allowing us to better understand self-assessment as a dynamic process.

Keywords

Pre-task self-assessment
Self-assessment training
Interpreting strategy
Screen-cast

Session 2B.4

Which Computer-Assisted Tool Works Better for Student Interpreters? An Exploratory Study on CASI

Wenkang Zhang (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen) and **Rui Xie** (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

The rapid advancement of technology has significantly impacted the interpreting profession, with interpreters now facing an increasingly technology-driven workplace. While extensive research has been conducted on the effects of various technologies on the interpreting process and output quality compared with interpreting without computer assistance, the ergonomic needs of interpreting learners and professionals when utilizing these tools have received less scholarly attention. This is particularly evident in the context of computer-assisted simultaneous interpreting (CASI), where the successful interaction between human interpreters and technology is crucial for the optimization of interpreting performance.

Therefore, this study investigates the impact of two CASI tools, YouTube Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) and iFLYTEK Machine Interpreting, on the performance of student interpreters during English-to-Chinese simultaneous interpreting (SI) tasks. The research aims to compare the effectiveness of these tools and identify the potential benefits and challenges associated with their use. Eighteen second-year postgraduate students from a competitive interpreting program in the Chinese mainland participated in the study, and their interpreting performance was assessed under two conditions: with the assistance either from YouTube ASR or iFLYTEK Machine Interpreting.

Three raters with an average five-year interpreting experience evaluated the accuracy, fluency, and delivery of the participants' interpreting outputs to ensure a comprehensive assessment. The findings suggest that both YouTube ASR and iFLYTEK Machine Interpreting have the potential to enhance certain aspects of student interpreters' performance. However, the use of these tools also introduces new challenges.

The study highlights the importance of considering users' perceptions of CASI tools and providing comprehensive training to student interpreters on effectively integrating these tools into their English-to-Chinese SI process. The findings have implications for the design and development of CASI tools and the training of future interpreters. By addressing the ergonomic factors associated with the use of these tools, developers can create more user-friendly and efficient interfaces that minimize cognitive overload and physical discomfort. Similarly, interpreter training programs can incorporate ergonomic considerations into their technology modules, equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively manage the demands of CASI tools in professional settings.

This research contributes to the growing body of literature on the application of technology in interpreting education and practice, emphasizing the importance of considering ergonomic aspects in the design and implementation of CASI tools. Further studies are needed to explore the long-term effects of these tools on interpreters' performance and well-being, as well as to develop best practices for their integration into interpreter training curricula.

Keywords

Computer-assisted simultaneous interpreting (CASI), Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), Machine Interpreting; Ergonomics; Interpreting education

Session 2B.4

Modelling Error Types in Consecutive Interpreting

Rong Lu (Tianshui Normal University), **Muhammad Alif Redzuan Abdullah** (Universiti Putra Malaysia), and **Lay Hoon Ang** (Universiti Putra Malaysia)

In interpreting studies, errors not only serve as a quality assessment tool because clearly defined errors help the evaluation of interpreting fidelity but also benefit the understanding of problem triggers of student interpreters' processing capacity. However, the vexing nature of errors prohibited much effort in the study of errors. This study aims to construct a model for error types in consecutive interpreting (CI) done by student interpreters. Based on Falbo's two-level error analysis model, this research investigates the verbatim transcriptions of audio recordings of a summative test of the interpreting course taken by 32 undergraduate students in a Chinese university. On the first level, twelve subcategories of errors (subject-verb disagreement, illogical sentences, incomplete sentences, wrong use of sentence constituents, tense errors, repetitions, pauses, fillers, self-repairs, stuttering, coinages, and inaccurate pronunciation) were identified when the interpreted text was treated as an independent text. On the second level, the interpreted text was evaluated by comparing it with the source text, and three subcategories (omissions, additions, and distortions) were identified accordingly. These fifteen subcategories of errors were further classified into three major types: comprehension errors (CE), grammatical errors (GE), and disfluency errors (DE) in terms of the features they denote and share. The constructed model of three error types not only provides an easier way to identify and classify interpreters' errors but reveals reasons for the errors by student interpreters in CI.

Keywords

Classification

Consecutive interpreting

Error types

Model

Student interpreters



Session 2B.4

Translation Technology and Expertise Acquisition in Professional Interpreters

Yinying Wang and Ailing Zhang (Shanghai International Studies University)

Technology literacy has been recognized as an integral part of interpreter competence, especially in the era of AI. At the same time, translation technology has been reshaping the cognitive eco- system around interpreters. While many projects have focused on the definition of technology literacy as a sub-competence and the latest development and applications of interpreting technology, few have been done on the impact of translation technology on competence development. This article draws on the understanding of expertise studies, summarises five socio- cognitive conditions of expertise acquisition, and analyses with NVivo nine in-depth interviews of full-time in-house professional conference interpreters. It has been found that the most used forms of translation technology are information retrieval applications, remote conference tools and online collaborative software. 428 references are coded into 28 concepts showing 8 aspects of the impact of translation technology on expertise acquisition in environmental, organisational and cognitive dimensions. Results show that while technology helps competence development by facilitating professional interpreters to plan, adapt, learn, prepare and reflect better both before and after interpreting, it seems to play a negative role during interpreting, as it hampers feedback and cooperation, strategy activation and adjustment, knowledge and terminology management, among other things, diluting interpreters' efforts to become an expert. The article ends with a discussion on curriculum development for professional interpreter education.

Keywords

Translation technology
Interpreter competence
Expertise
Interpreter training

Session 2B.4

Naturalness and Creativity in Machine-Translated Literary Texts

Qian Wang (Western Sydney University)

When professional translators and interpreters hear claims like “Machine translation or ChatGPT has achieved near-human-level quality,” questions arise: Who makes such judgments? What constitutes “near-human” standards? Can machine translations of novels provide readers with experiences comparable to those of native speakers? My research investigates how machines handle literary translation by focusing on the naturalness and creativity in machine-generated texts compared to human translations.

Literary translation is inherently subjective and creative, deeply rooted in social and cultural practices. Achieving the author’s intent to evoke emotions and appeal to readers’ senses requires both artistic skill and the translator’s ingenuity. While accurate meaning is vital in any translation, how that meaning is conveyed is often equally or more critical in literary texts. Subtle implications, wordplay, and cultural nuances pose significant challenges, as they often lack direct equivalents in other languages.

This study examines how machines perform literary translation tasks using neural machine translation (NMT) models like Google Translate and generative models like ChatGPT. Excerpts from the Chinese science fiction novel *The Three-Body Problem* were translated into English by machines and compared to the published human-translated version. Employing descriptive translation studies, the analysis evaluates machine performance in terms of naturalness and creativity.

This research provides insights into assessing machine-generated literary translations and highlights the creative potential of automated translations. Additionally, it offers pedagogical implications for post-editing machine translations, guiding Translation and Interpreting (T&I) practitioners in navigating the evolving landscape of machine-assisted translation.

Keywords

Machine translation
Neural Machine Translation
ChatGPT
Literary translation
Naturalness and creativity in literary translation
Equivalence in literary translation
Natural language



Session 2B.4

Mentoring as an Essential Subject to Train Future-to-be-Translators

Ana Sofia Saldanha (Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa)

The translation world is constantly changing and developing. Every day, new technologies, new practices, new methods and new approaches are developed all over the world to help translators in their daily work/projects.

The University Programmes, either BA, MA or Post-Graduation levels, are not being able to follow these new trends and are not capable of helping the students to reach their maximum goal: to start a career in translation as freelancers.

Mentoring can change this. Mentoring, when properly delivered, is a very powerful and effective tool to help students who have recently graduated (in Translation and in other areas of studies) and interested people to start a career in translation.

Mentoring, if used in universities as support for a decision towards a career in translation, can be a precious instrument for students to know where to go, what to do, where to start, which path to follow. Mentoring can help them to choose if they really want to be translators, or if they are prepared to be translators, or if they want to be scholars, pursuing a Ph.D. in Translation/Translation Studies, or even if they are in the wrong place.

If universities had this choice, Translation would become a prolific area of studies, since students would know what they wanted since year one of their studies.

Universities in which Translation is taught are still closed in their own world and are not able to accept new ideas such as Mentoring for Translators. Theory, and only theory, continues to rule the world of Translation.

Mentoring is becoming a trend, at least in Europe, therefore, it should be spread and should be properly and widely used since the results are almost 100% positive and the students, after hearing the advice of more experienced translators, will know where to start.

Mentoring is sharing, Mentoring is orientation, Mentoring is passion, Mentoring is real advice from professionals who work daily in translation.

Keywords

Translation
Mentoring
Training
CPD
Career

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 2B.5

Innovations in translation and interpreting education (PTH)



Session 2B.5

A Terminator or Facilitator?: Reflections on the Role of AI in Translator Education

Jian Wang (Southwest University of Political Science and Law)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has seen a surge in its application across various societal sectors, leaving industries pondering over their evolving fates amidst this technological revolution. For instance, the integration of AI technology in translation not only redefines operational paradigms but also stirs worries or anxiety among translation professionals or practitioners that they may ultimately be replaced by AI.

In response to the legitimate concern, we conducted a research to verify whether AI may displace human translators. The source texts are translation tests (E-C and C-E translation) in a specialized translation course for MTI students, including translation of passages and sentences that represent certain legal provisions in Chinese or English law. Drawing on an evaluation methodology grounded in explicit and implicit error analysis, partly based on the Multidimensional Quality Metrics (MQM) framework, and focusing on the differences between English and Chinese languages, we compared the translations produced by three prominent translation software tools that have garnered significant attention thus far, i.e. ChatGPT, wen xin yi yan, and DeepL, and by the student who had the highest score in the final examination, respectively. Analysis of the resulting data extensively and intensively reveals, among other, a substantial similarities in the error patterns among the three AI tools, namely, semantic loss, improper vocabulary selection, and/or other forms of word mistranslation permeate at lexical level, disregard to particularized syntactic properties of the target language is also prevalent at syntactic level, while at discursive level, the logic structure of legal norms of the source text is not well represented in the target language, and poor T-R progression is also prominent. Comparatively, the highest-scoring student did much better in these respects.

This study exposes the prevalent issues, especially the error types, that may arise in artificial intelligence-driven translations, and compels us to rethink the roles AI tools play in translation process, thus may provide significant pedagogical insights or curricular implications for the training of MTI students in the future.

Keywords

AI translation

Error types

Role

Pedagogical implication

Session 2B.5

Common Expressions and Translation Strategies of Covert Negative Structures in Chinese Diplomatic Discourse—A Case Study of Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Chujun Wang and **Wuqiu Fan** (Central South University)

As a frequently used form of Chinese diplomatic discourse, Chinese covert negative structure enjoys the dual functions of precision and fuzziness. It can not only be employed to emphasize our attitude and position, refute misstatements from foreign media, but also evade language traps and maintain faces. From the perspective of nationality psychological archetype, the present paper analyzes the differences between Chinese and English thinking modes, and discusses the causes, classifications, and using motivations of the Chinese covert negative structure. It holds that translators should reconstruct the context of the target text, bridge up spots of indeterminacy, figure out original tones, integrate logical relationships, and reorganize the tension of the language, in an effort to ensure the accurate transfer of implications behind Chinese covert negative structures. By doing so, international audience can better understand Chinese stories and will be more willing to hear Chinese voices, in which China's cultural soft power and international competitiveness will be enhanced.

Keywords

Chinese covert negative structures

Diplomatic discourse

Nationality psychological archetype

Translation strategies



Session 2B.5

Comparative Study and Future Prospects of the Employability Among Translation and Interpreting Students in China and Abroad: A VOSviewer-based Visualization Analysis

Qiuju Huang (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

This paper examines the study of employability of interpreting students in China and abroad by analyzing relevant literature. The China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) database was used as the Chinese data source, while the Web of Science (WOS) Core Collection served as the international data source. The search terms included “ 口 譯 * 就業力 ” (interpreting* employability) OR “ 翻譯 * 就業力 ” (translation* employability) OR “ 筆譯 * 就業力 ” (translation* employability) OR “ MTI * 就業力 ” (MTI* employability) OR “ 翻譯碩士 * 就業力 ” (master of translation and interpretation* employability) , as well as “interpreting,” “interpreter,” “interpret,” “interpretation,” “translation,” “translate,” “translator,” combined with “employability,” “employment ability,” “employment competence,” and “employment force.” After excluding irrelevant literature, 7 Chinese-language papers and 31 English-language papers were obtained, all exported in text format. Based on this data, a bibliometric analysis was conducted using the VOSviewer software as the analytical tool. The analysis focused on keywords, authors, countries, and emerging trends, and provided reflections and suggestions for future research. The aim is to offer useful insights for further exploration of employability research concerning translation students in China.

Keywords

T&I major
Interpreting
Translation
Employability
VOSviewer

Session 2B.5

Constructing an Innovative Practice Model to Enhance College Students' Intercultural Communication Skills by "Telling China's Stories Well" in the Short Video Dissemination Environment

Peiqi Li (Hezhou University)

The purpose of this paper is to discuss how to improve the cross-cultural communication ability of college students by “telling Chinese stories well” in the context of short video communication, and to construct the corresponding innovative practice mode. Under the background of increasingly frequent global cultural exchanges and collision, the limitations of traditional education mode are obvious. Therefore, it is urgent to explore an education mode with both times and effectiveness.

As the main carrier of information dissemination in today's society, short videos fast, extensive and interactive features provide an unprecedented opportunity for “telling Chinese stories well”. Through the analysis of the production ideas and content composition of the short video makers and the audience, the cultural identity of both sides will be enhanced, the national spirit will be spread and the national image will be strengthened. Through case studies, this paper first explains the connotation and extension of “telling Chinese stories well”, reveals the specific elements of successful Chinese stories in the international communication, and discusses how to enhance their attraction and influence through narrative skills, visual effects, emotional resonance and other ways. Combined with the interpretation of classical communication theory, the practice of short video operation. Based on the needs of cross-cultural communication in the short video environment and the dual goal of “telling Chinese stories well”, this paper proposes a set of innovative practical teaching mode. The model takes project-based learning as the core, emphasizes students practice and reflection in real situations, and improves their comprehensive quality through teamwork, interdisciplinary integration, international communication and other ways. Through multi-dimensional and multi-channel practical activities, to cultivate students cross-cultural communication ability and global vision.

This paper will be “speak good Chinese story” and college students cross-cultural communication ability, through a short video the modern communication tools, explore a both time characteristics and meet the demand of education innovation path, improve college students cross-cultural communication ability play a more important role, to build human destiny community contribute more wisdom and strength.

Keywords

Short video

Cross-cultural communication ability

Innovation and practice mode



Session 2B.5

Integrating Chinese Fine Culture into College English Translation Teaching

Haimei Wang (Hainan Tropical Ocean University)

With the progress of Chinese culture “going global”, “translating China” has become an important means of cultivating University students’ translation competence. However, previous studies mainly discuss which Chinese cultures are appropriate to be integrated into college English translation teaching , but few studies focus on how to evaluate these practices. To respond to these challenges, cultural representations in the English textbooks are analyzed and how and why some parallel texts are integrated into College English Translation Teaching are discussed.

Keywords

Translating China
College English Translation Teaching
Chinese excellent cultures
Parallel texts

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 2B.6

Translation, interpreting and health (English and PTH)

Session 2B.6

Pruning Translation of Logical and Accidental Polysemy in Traditional Chinese Medicine Terminology

Yuehui Hou (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies)

Excessive and arbitrary polysemy within traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) terminology presents a notable challenge to both the intralingual standardization of TCM terms and the interlingual development of a TCM knowledge system. This article categorizes polysemy in TCM based on the origins and relationships of the various senses of a polysemous term: Inherent polysemy, where terms retain their ordinary senses; logical polysemy, which includes both ordinary and technical senses; and accidental polysemy, characterized by exclusively technical senses. For addressing logical and accidental polysemy, this article proposes “pruning translation,” a methodology in terminology translation that refines and aligns a term closely with its original form by reducing multiple senses to its most essential meanings for enhanced clarity and precision. Three approaches, namely “centralization” for an underspecification account, “aggregation” for an overspecification account, and “literal translation” for literalism, are employed to demonstrate the application of pruning translation. This is exemplified through an analysis of five polysemous TCM terms: mào (冒), qīng (清), mài (脈), guǐ tāi (鬼胎), and xià xiè (下泄). The rationale for pruning translation stems from two key aspects: Firstly, the generation of polysemy, highlighting the need to eliminate context-dependent, unrecognized, or superficial senses for accurate cross-lingual translation; secondly, the representation of polysemy, supported by psycholinguistic evidence indicating that multiple senses in one language can often be effectively represented by a single lexical form in another, facilitating the consolidation of senses into a unified translation. This proposed methodology of pruning translation represents an innovative approach in the translation of polysemous TCM terminology, contributing to the field of terminology translation.

Keywords

pruning translation

TCM terminology

Polysemy classification

Terminology translation method

Session 2B.6

Unveiling Hybrid Culinary Cultures in Macao: A Corpus-Assisted Multimodal Approach to the Translation of Macanese Cuisine

Chen Xi (Macau University of Science and Technology)

Macao is a famous international tourist city where Chinese and Western cultures blend, while the local cuisines in Macao represent the characteristics of such cultural integration. More than 400 years of Portuguese colonial history in Macao has exerted significant influence on the development of Macanese gastronomy. Macanese cuisine (澳門土生葡菜) is an indispensable part of Macao's diverse food culture, which refers to the cuisine created by local Portuguese people in Macao under the influences from Southeast Asia and the Lusophone world. Previous studies on Macanese food mainly focus on food and tourism, food consumption and culinary history in Macao, whereas the translation of Macanese cuisine is still a research gap without enough in-depth exploration.

This study aims to investigate the special foodscape and hybrid cultural cultures in Macao through the translation of Macanese cuisine. It employs the multimodal theories and Jakobson's concept of intersemiotic translation as the theoretical basis for analysis and discussion. The data under investigation is a self-built multimodal database of Macanese cuisine translations. Firstly, this study examines the interlingual translation of Macanese cuisine to investigate the translation strategies and methods used in the translations between Chinese, English and Portuguese, with a special focus on the dish names containing culture-loaded elements. Secondly, a multimodal analysis is conducted to explore the intersemiotic translation between the verbal texts and visual images of Macanese cuisine. The research results show that hybrid culinary features are represented in the ingredients, cooking methods and translations of Macanese cuisine, constituting an inclusive, integrated and diversified foodscape in Macao. Moreover, the intersemiotic translation between the verbal and the visual could highlight particular ingredients and cooking methods, showcase the enticing appearance of the dishes, and convey the hybrid culinary cultures in Macanese cuisine.

Keywords

Macanese cuisine
Interlingual translation
Intersemiotic translation
Multimodal analysis
Hybrid culinary cultures



Session 2B.6

Research on the Variations in Thinking Patterns in the Translation of Traditional Chinese Medicine Terminology

Ping Zhang (Southwest Jiaotong University)

Existing translations of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) terminology have largely remained at the linguistic level, neglecting the underlying philosophical thought rooted in Chinese culture. This study takes the translation of TCM terms that embody “holistic concepts” as an example, analyzing the formation of such terms on the linguistic level and their pathological implications in medicine. It finds that these terms exhibit characteristics of correlation and integration, while their translations tend to show fragmentation and univocality. This disparity in thinking patterns manifested in translation is both a root of cultural differences between the East and West and a challenge in translating TCM terminology. To accurately convey the local cultural essence of TCM while ensuring effective comprehension by foreign readers, this study proposes a translation approach that balances domestication and foreignization. The aim is to maintain a global perspective while also respecting local cultural considerations. This exploration not only provides a reference for the field of TCM translation but also hopes to offer insights for cultural exchanges between Eastern and Western medicine.

Keywords

Thinking patterns

Translation variations

Cultural exchanges

Session 2B.6

Exploring the Healing Effect of Translation Work: A Psychological Perspective

Qing Tang (Dianchi College of Yunnan University)

In 2015, all member states of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the hope to build a planet for peace and prosperity. At the heart of the agenda is the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in which to ensure healthy lives and to promote the well-being for all at all ages was emphasized along with other efforts. According to World Health Organization (2007), well-being is defined as “a state of complete physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. As 21st century is marked by uncertainty, insecurity and instability, translators are not immune to these external stressors. They have to work and live with constant stress, burnout, anxiety and more psychological challenges. While understandably, most existing literature discuss negative effects of translation work on translators’ well-being, the positive sides of the translation work are, to my knowledge, insufficiently examined from the angle of psychology. This paper employs concepts from the psychology of sustainability and sustainable development (Di Fabio, 2016a, 2017), a flourishing research area that emphasizes optimize and regenerate personal resources so as to construct a meaningful lives and careers (Di Fabio, 2017), with the hope to find out how translation can produce an attenuation of human stress response and even serve as a therapy for translators’ well-being and health. The concept of psychological capital (PsyCap) is also borrowed from the field of psychology to study what might usefully constitutes the psychological capital needed for translators in this century (Hubscher-Davidson, 2021) and possible barriers to the development of the psychological capitals. The proposed framework has the following implications: it can engage new paradigm to the scope of translation studies that haven’t attracted many attention so far, and by exploring how can translators find healing power through translation, it can contribute to construct emotional intelligence, resilience and even identify of translators and further promote their well-being and career performance. It also makes effort to offer a possible way to achieve the United Nations’ SDGs from the lenses of translation studies and psychology.

Keywords

Translation psychology
Psychology of sustainability
Translation studies



Session 2B.6

Ethical and Professional Healthcare Interpreting: From Challenges to Informed Practice

Yunduan Gao (Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University)

Healthcare interpreting is crucial for limited English proficiency immigrants' access to quality healthcare, yet the complexities of interpreting practice present considerable challenges to effective healthcare communication. This paper presents findings from a qualitative study exploring healthcare interpreting services for Chinese immigrants in a large hospital in New Zealand. Through participant observations and one-to-one interviews, the study examines current practices of interpreter-mediated healthcare interactions and the perspectives of interpreters, patients, and health professionals. Data were thematically analysed, with Dean and Pollard's (2013) demand control schema and the New Zealand Society of Translators & Interpreters Code of Ethics (NZSTI, 2013) guiding the code and theme development.

The findings reveal the demanding nature of healthcare interpreting work, where interpreters encounter interpersonal, environmental, paralinguistic, and intrapersonal demands (challenges), requiring appropriate controls (strategies) for successful communication. Focusing on interpersonal demands, the paper presents real-life scenarios to analyse ethical dilemmas and critically discuss interpreters' coping strategies in relation to their ethical and practical outcomes.

Unlike previous studies involving untrained interpreters or those with varying training backgrounds, this study examines the practice of interpreters with formal university-level interpreter training backgrounds. The scenarios discussed, particularly the interpreters' responses to typical workplace challenges, serve as valuable material for interpreting courses. This paper concludes with practical recommendations for training not only interpreters, but also health professionals and patients who, while dependent on interpreters, share responsibility for effective healthcare communication.

Keywords

Healthcare interpreting

Interpreter education

Professional ethics

Ethical decision-making

Chinese immigrants

Session 2B.6

Reconstructing the Female Body through Embodied Medical Translation in Late Qing China—The Case of *Fuying Xinshuo* (1858)

Ding Jie (Chongqing Medical University/Huazhong University of Science and Technology)

This study integrates the notion of embodied translating with feminist perspective on the body in medicine, offering a close examination of *Fuying Xinshuo* (*Treatise on Midwifery and Diseases of Children*, 1858), the first gynecological and obstetrical text translated to China by the British missionary-physician Benjamin Hobson and his Chinese co-translator Guan Sifu. The study first situates Hobson's medical career in China within the context of late Qing traditional Chinese *fuke* theories and practices. Then the study examines mainly Hobson's embodied experiences with Chinese female patients, as documented in his reports. It reveals that Hobson, as a male doctor, perceived female patients both as directly touchable objects and as mothers and wives. The study also delves into how the experiences of the two translators during the translation process were shaped by the impact of the Second Opium War. This study then identifies four distinct ways in which *Fuying Xinshuo* reconfigured the female body: as a Chinese traditional *fuke*-oriented body, a medically desexualized body, a domestic body of shifting moral dynamics, and a reductionist body. I argue that translators' embodied experiences are reflected in the conceptual female body the translation presents. Finally, based on an analysis of the reception of *Fuying Xinshuo* in late Qing China, this study proposes that the translation transformed the female body in Chinese traditional medicine and paved the way for women to serve as doctors for other women. This study underscores the complex interplay between embodied experience, translation, and the conceptual reconstruction of female body in the formation of gynecological and obstetrical knowledge and practice in late Qing China.

Keywords

The female body
Translation of gynecological and obstetrical texts
Benjamin Hobson
Late Qing China
Fuying Xinshuo
Embodied translating



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 2B.7

Innovative practices in translation and intercultural communication (English and PTH)



Session 2B.7

Insights from the Tripartite Model of Translation on Narrating Chinese Stories: A Case Study of the Bilingual Documentary “Seasons of China”

Yilin Ran (Sichuan Normal University)

In the context of globalization, foreign documentaries that tell the story of China have become an important means for international audiences to understand contemporary China. How to effectively narrate Chinese stories through these documentaries has become a significant topic of research in domestic academia. This paper uses Roman Jakobson’s theory of translation, particularly his three types of translation—intralingual, interlingual, and intersemiotic—as a theoretical framework. By examining the bilingual subtitles and visual imagery of the documentary “Seasons of China,” the analysis explores how documentaries can effectively convey Chinese narratives in cultural communication. The aim is to draw insights from this successful case to serve as a reference for the production of similar documentaries that promote and disseminate China’s excellent traditional culture.

Keywords

Division of three types of translation

Seasons of China

Roman Jakobson

Documentary



Session 2B.7

The Reproduction of Trauma by “Successors of History”: Translated Texts in 1942: The Great Famine in Henan

Wang Guanchi (Shanghai International Studies University)

The Great Famine in Henan in 1942 was a major natural disaster event in modern Chinese history, and has become an indelible collective trauma memory in the history of Henan Province. This article takes trauma as the starting point, and takes 1942: The Great Famine in Henan as the research object, to examine Song Zhixin’s work on collating historical materials on the famine, as well as her brother Zhao Zhizhen’s translation work on the related articles of American journalist Theodore White. The study found that the two had never personally experienced droughts, but their father was one of the main recorders of the famine. Therefore, the two have the identity of “Successors of History”, and are committed to inheriting this collective trauma history. In the book, they reproduce objective and true trauma memories through various sub-textual means, and strengthen trauma memories through translation, expressing sympathy for the victims and reprimanding the Chongqing National Government.

Keywords

Trauma

1942: The Great Famine in Henan

Successors of History

Session 2B.7

The Limit of Interpretation in Abductive Translation Studies

Wu Wanwei (Wuhan University of Science and Technology)

Abductive translation studies is an interaction between the semiotic and the hermeneutic approach towards the problem of understanding and interpretation of text and world. Its task is to figure out the relationship between explicit interpretation and implicit intuition. Attempting to alloy the semiotic line of interpretation with the hermeneutic tradition, translators are expected to keep a dialectical link between the “intention of the text” and the reader’s “interpretive freedom”. Every successful detective attempts to follow at least three “guiding principles”: relevance of observation, coherence of argumentation and economy of interpretation. The interpreter should draw a line between “use” and “interpretation”, make a distinction between the “intersubjective validity” and the “mere subjective validity” and the interpreter can choose between two interpretive attitudes: either that of a hermeneutic detective or that of a hermetic spy. Interpretation is a way of adopting hypotheses, and careful hermeneutic abduction while overinterpretation is another way of adopting hypotheses and the daring hermetism abduction strategy. The critical point for the translator is to think the limit of one’s own horizon while enjoying his interpretive freedom. In order to illustrate the objectivity of an interpretation and its historical self-consciousness and acknowledge the force of the tradition to which the translator belongs, the author finally talks about George Bernard Shaw’s treacheries as a translator, including the structural transformations, mistranslations, reinterpretations, straightforward misunderstandings, alternative understandings and blunders at micro levels. A translator capable of error is to be considered an honor.

Keywords

Abductive translation studies

Semiotics

Hermeneutics

Hermetism

Self-consciousness

Alternative understanding



Session 2B.7

Study on the Overseas Reception of *Black Myth: Wukong* under the Synergy of Technology, Narrative, and Culture

Wang Xiaoli and Deng Xuyang (Hefei University of Technology)

In the context of digitalization of culture, digital games have become an important medium for cultural dissemination. This paper takes the Chinese AAA game *Black Myth: Wukong* as a typical case and systematically examines the overseas media and player reception using Python-based sentiment analysis, word cloud visualization, and semantic co-occurrence network analysis, from the integrated perspective of “technology, narrative and culture.” It is found that despite differences between media and player feedback, the overall evaluations are predominantly positive, which are largely attributed to the successful integration of technology, narrative, and culture. However, specific feedback also points to technical flaws and challenges in cross-cultural understanding, revealing the difficulties in technical iteration and cultural interpretation. Consequently, this study proposes a pathway characterized by “technology as the foundation, narrative as the framework, and culture as the soul,” advocating for optimizing user experience through seamless design, enhancing engagement through multi-threaded narratives, and transcending mere cultural symbolism through profound cultural immersion. This methodology offers insights for the global dissemination of Chinese cultural-themed games. By integrating data-driven approaches with theoretical perspectives, this paper expands the research paradigm for cross-cultural dissemination of Chinese cultural-themed digital games, infusing new momentum into the overseas practice of “Chinese stories.”

Keywords

Black Myth: Wukong

“Technology-narrative-culture”

Cross-cultural dissemination

Digital games

Reception studies

Session 2B.7

A Study on the English Abstract Translation of *Dunhuang Research*

Lili Zhang (Shanghai International Studies University)

Dunhuang has been an important center for cultural exchanges that have connected different cultures for thousands of years. The exploration of Dunhuang arts and its academic exchanges has seen increasing growth in recent centuries. Especially in the last half-century, Chinese Dunhuang studies have achieved many groundbreaking accomplishments in their respective fields, receiving wide attention within China and growing global interest. However, little attention has been paid to the worldwide reception of these academic achievements via translation. This study focuses on the translation and dissemination of academic research related to Dunhuang studies by Chinese scholars, taking the leading journal *Dunhuang Research* as the subject of investigation. By examining the statistics of global citations of academic papers from *Dunhuang Research* drawn from the Web of Science, this study sees fewer citations from foreign scholars than from Chinese scholars. Through further case analysis of the translation and writing quality of English abstracts in *Dunhuang Research*, it is observed that the translation of Dunhuang-related terminology is accurate, and the abstract writing is well structured and logically organized, but with a number of errors in academic translations. This paper suggests that while Chinese Dunhuang scholars focus on their own and domestic academic development, they also need to pay more attention to disseminating these valuable research results in the English-speaking academic world, especially the accuracy and standardization of the translation and writing of English abstracts. Since experts and scholars with significant academic achievements in Dunhuang studies are not only authors of papers but also translators, they would wish to disseminate their research findings to a broader academic field, thereby facilitating effective communication of Dunhuang studies worldwide. In light of this, this paper advises authors to raise awareness and emphasize the translation and writing of English abstracts. By receiving academic writing training, collaborating with global experts, and employing various methods to eliminate inaccuracy of academic writings and refine their language to align with academic standards, Chinese scholars can improve the quality of their English abstracts and progress in achieving wider dissemination and better exchange of Chinese Dunhuang research in the English-speaking world. Hopefully, the findings in this study can help Chinese Dunhuang studies better disseminate overseas, promoting interaction and dialogue between Chinese and global Dunhuang studies research.

Keywords

Dunhuang Research
English abstract translation
Reception
Translation quality

Session 2B.7

An Empirical Study on the Function of Non-native Language Writing in Cross-cultural Communication: A Case Study of *The Eight Broken: Chinese Bapo Painting*

Fan Lixia (Shandong University of Technology)

Non-native language writing refers to the writing of a foreign culture by a native or non-native speaker in one language. *The Eight Broken: Chinese Bapo Painting* is one such work. The author, Nancy Berliner, also known as Bai Ling'an in Chinese, is an American cultural scholar who has published a monograph in English to introduce one of the Chinese painting forms "Bapo" to readers in the English-speaking world. Bapo, or Juihuidui, uses realistic methods to combine and superimpose broken and burned objects to form a picture. It is a unique art form that incorporates stone carving, calligraphy, painting, engraving, etc.. From the perspective of cross-cultural communication, this kind of non-native language writing, which introduces (translates) the history, characteristics, and representative works of Bapo painting in English, is essentially equivalent to translation and should be included in the scope of translation studies. Firstly, this writing standardizes the English expression of terms related to the Bapo painting, which helps to establish a bilingual corpus in Chinese and English and provides normative guidance for the translation practice of the art form. Secondly, the author writes in her native language (English) to introduce the Chinese traditional paintings to English readers. The discourse system constructed can be used by domestic scholars for research and reference, so as to better spread Chinese traditional culture in the English-speaking world. Thirdly, the back-translation of this monograph into Chinese not only helps to understand the collection and current research status of Bapo pictures abroad, but also enriches relevant research in China, achieving cultural restoration and cultural feedback.

Keywords

Non-native language writing

Bapo paintings

Cross-cultural communication

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 3A.1

Translation, film and literature



Session 3A.1

Liang Qichao's Renarrating of Chinese Females through Translating Conceptual Metaphors of Females in Madame Roland

Ye Haiping (Southwestern University of Finance and Economics)

Although Liang, as a scholar and philosopher, never used the term “women’s rights” in any of his writings, yet his arguments for improving women’s lot, including particularly abolishing the practice of foot-binding and providing women with education, attracted popular attention, exerting great influence on later scholars. Being considered as the pioneer of China’s feminist movement, Liang imagined a modern European way of life as the exemplar for China by translating Western feminist works, calling for gender equality, freedom of marriage, and education for women. In particular, his translation of Madame Roland, as a primary narrative method, exercised the greatest influence on the masses’ narrative of females. The most inspiring part of Liang’s Madame Roland is his translation of conceptual metaphors, especially those that are related to females. His narrative of “Woman is the mother of the whole nation” in part reflected his personal attitude towards Chinese women. It helped, in part, to shape Chinese women’s identity by way of calling for women’s right. Therefore, it is worthwhile to examine how Liang narrated the characteristics of Madame Roland in his translation, which gave rise to Chinese feminism, with specific reference to his Chinese translation of female conceptual metaphors in Madame Roland.

Drawing on narrative theory, this study will examine the female conceptual metaphors in the original novel and the translated version, as well as the translation strategies adopted by Liang. It attempts to reveal some patterns followed by Liang, as these conceptual translations not only conditioned the way people challenged the traditional women identity in the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1912), but also evoked and consolidated the newer and broader public narratives of women circulating in China.

Keywords

Feminist movement

Liang Qichao

Conceptual metaphor

Madame Roland

Session 3A.1

The Translation and Reception of Can Xue's Works in Germany

Ninghui Yuan (University of Cologne)

As a prominent figure of the “avant-garde”, Can Xue is one of the few writers whose influence extends both domestically and internationally. Her distinctive literary style and narrative techniques have drawn significant attention from Sinologists and critics worldwide. While her works have been studied in the United States and Japan, research on their translation and reception in German-speaking countries remains scarce. This article addresses that gap by examining the translation and reception of Can Xue's works in Germany.

The translation history of Can Xue's works into German has experienced phases of sporadic interest, stagnation, and rediscovery. The first German translation, *Die Hütte auf dem Berg* (The Hut on the Hill), appeared in *Chinablätter* in 1986, a year after its original publication in Chinese in 1985. This early translation marked the first Western language rendering of her work, reflecting Germany's interest in China's avant-garde writers. Over the next decade, Can Xue's novellas, *Dialogues in Paradise* (1996), and numerous short stories were published in Sinology and East Asian studies journals. Translators, primarily Sinologists like Wolf Baus and Wolfgang Kubin, introduced her work through specialized journals such as *Drachenboot*, *Das neue China*, *Minima Sinica* and *Heft für Ostasiatische Literatur*. Despite this academic interest, Can Xue's works remained relatively obscure to the broader German audience, as Sinology is often considered a niche or “orchid” field. By the late 1990s, translations of her works had largely ceased.

In the 21st century, Can Xue gained renewed attention as a contender for the Booker Prize and Nobel Prize in Literature, especially with the publication of English translations. This resurgence led to two new German translations: *Liebe im neuen Jahrtausend* (Love in the New Millennium) in 2021 and *Schattenvolk* (I Live in the Slums) in 2024. These translations have expanded her influence in Germany, drawing interest not only from Sinologists but also from prominent media outlets like *Tagesspiegel*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Zeit Online*, ect.

Commentaries on Can Xue's works in Germany often focus on political ideology, her personal background, and her unique narrative techniques, such as surrealism, automatic writing, and Kafkaesque influences. The study reveals that the translation and reception of Can Xue's works in Germany are jointly influenced by the author's style, the historical context, and the publishing environment.

Keywords

Can Xue

Germany

Literary translation

Reception



Session 3A.1

Iconicity and Metaphor Twined: Translating *Chu Ci*

Shiqi Zhang (Wuhan University)

This study explores the intricate process of metaphor translation in poetry through the lens of Peircean semiotics, particularly focusing on the concept of “iconicity”. With a specific emphasis on the *Chu Ci* (*Songs of the South*), one of the two major sources of the classical Chinese literature, we aim to uncover similarities and differences that arise in its translations. Before embarking on our analysis, it is essential to delineate the scope and define the key concepts pertinent to this research. In the realm of poetic discourse, iconicity emerges as a more salient feature compared to other forms of writing. The metaphor referred to in this research is not the traditional rhetorical metaphor, but the conceptual metaphor. The study of cognitive approaches to poetry elucidates that poetic texts, such as the *Chu Ci*, can be analyzed at both the level of local metaphors and global metaphors, allowing for a metaphorical interpretation of a poem as a cohesive whole, and also a sub-semiosystem of a poetry collection.

Through an examination of how intrinsic properties of iconicity and metaphor are intertwined in the translation process, we argue that in interlingual translation, the relationship between the translated text and the original text is fundamentally governed by a principle of iconicity, wherein they are regarded as “the same other”. Under this framework, both the translation and the original texts are characterized by their respective autonomy and similarity. However, this similarity does not preclude the translated text’s capacity for independent innovation relative to the original. The *Chu Ci* --- with its rich metaphors, layered meanings, and cultural references --- serves as an ideal case study for illustrating how translations can embrace diverse interpretations, reflecting the translator’s approach and the target audience’s cultural context.

In different target language and cultural contexts, and for various purposes, translations of the *Chu Ci* can espouse distinct claims and conceptualizations, presenting them in diverse manners. Consequently, translations may be influenced by sociocultural factors beyond the text itself at different levels. This research not only enhances our understanding of the translation of the *Chu Ci*, but also contributes to the broader discourse on the interplay among iconicity, metaphor, and translation in poetry.

Keywords

Iconicity

Metaphor

Chu Ci

Translation

Poetic discourse

Session 3A.1

Reconstruction of Knowledge through Translations

Cheng Rujia (Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen)

Translation is defined as “the act of reproducing what is already known in a fresh context that creates the conditions for new knowledge to be constructed, and translation goes beyond questing for verbal equivalents across geographies and cultures. Instead, it has been a dynamic concept potentially explaining how things change through the modeling of the new upon the old. And therefore, translation plays a crucial role in bridging knowledge across different social, political, and cultural backgrounds. Beyond facilitating the dissemination of knowledge, translational processes are also essential in shaping our understanding of what knowledge truly is. During the initial encounter between China and the West, all forms of knowledge were integrated into the Confucian worldview. Chinese scholars sought to incorporate Western science into Confucian systems without disrupting their foundational principles. Thus, the missionary-converts translations in late Ming and early Qing dynasty were passive self-saving practices which were stopped after the prohibition of religion in Qing court. The western knowledge was then reconstructed by missionaries who knew some Chinese and Chinese literati who didn't know any European languages. The Chinese discourse then was closer to the Old Classics guided by Confucianism. The translation practices were resumed over one hundred years later after the First Opium War, when the mindsets of both missionaries and Chinese intellectuals, as well as the political and social contexts in China had changed. The western knowledge was reconstructed based on new Chinese discourses closer to the western learning. This paper aims to examine how knowledge is constructed and disseminated in a new context through the lens of knowledge translation, by analyzing various social, economic, and political contexts, as well as the translators' intentions, mindsets, and purposes.

Keywords

Knowledge translation

Reconstruction of knowledge

Chinese discourse

Late Ming and early Qing dynasty

Modern China

Session 3A.1

Multimodal Translation of the *White Snake* Cinematic Universe in the Perspective of Post-translation

Jiang Jintong (Lingnan University)

With Jakobson's (1959) division of translation into intralingual, interlingual, and intersemiotic types, and referring to interlingual translation as "translation proper", translation studies have traditionally been text-centric and heavily influenced by European models. However, in recent decades, scholars like Gentzler have argued that translation is inherently multidisciplinary, calling for expanding its scope and urging the field to reflect on translation beyond its conventional boundaries. This need has become particularly pressing with the acceleration of cultural dissemination, the emergence of novel media forms, and rapid technological advancements. Cases once considered peripheral, involving not only linguistic texts but also visual and auditory elements, now offer deeper insights into the nature of translation.

Proposed by Nergaard and Arduini (2011) and refined by Gentzler (2017), the post-translation perspective challenges traditional approaches by focusing not only on translation as a completed act, but on the conditions preceding translation, the process itself, and its immediate and long-term impacts. Here, "post" signifies new ways of conceptualizing translation.

This paper argues that the post-translation perspective is particularly suitable for studying modern forms of translation, as it broadens the discipline's scope while maintaining its core focus. Then, by examining the most culturally and economically influential form of multimodal translation — film, this study demonstrates how this perspective, supported by visual grammar, sound grammar, and multimodal critical discourse analysis (MCDA), transcends concerns over fidelity and accuracy. It employs interdisciplinary tools to examine how verbal and non-verbal semiotic systems interact, resulting in an overall effect surpassing the sum of their parts. Additionally, by addressing historical, cultural, political, and technological dimensions, it provides a comprehensive analysis of the conditions that give rise to a translation, as well as the reception and dissemination that follows.

The main research material is Light Chaser Animation Studios' *White Snake* trilogy, which redefined Chinese fantasy films from "box-office poison" to "box-office miracles". The Chinese cinematic universe featuring traditional myths and legends has attracted a large and loyal fanbase, generated substantial economic benefits, and received domestic and international awards. Beyond innovative storytelling skills and high-quality special effects, its success is driven by the cultural movement of "New Mythicism" in China and state endorsement. These films have inspired similar productions, influenced other art forms like video games and theatre, promoted global dissemination of Chinese culture, and through the evocation of the collective memory of the Chinese nation, strengthened personal and national identity.

Keywords

Multimodal translation; Intersemiotic translation; Chinese cinematic universe; *White Snake*

Session 3A.1

Reinterpreting Neutrality: Feminised Representation, Positionality and the Power of the Interpreter in International Relations

Felix Brender (London School of Economics)

In an era where *Global English* dominates international relations, conference interpreters remain indispensable yet understudied figures in International Relations (IR) scholarship. This paper examines Sydney Pollack's 2005 film *The Interpreter* (widely celebrated by the CI community in the way it depicts the interpreter played by Nicole Kidman) as a case study of popular media's construction of interpreters' identities, with a focus on the feminised portrayal of the main character, Silvia Broome, and its implications for IR and CI practice through an interdisciplinary lens.

Drawing on feminist perspectives in IR, particularly Cynthia Enloe's analysis of feminised professions, this study analyses the film's depiction of Broome as a figure of hybrid identity, simultaneously empowered as a linguistic gatekeeper and constrained by gendered stereotypes. The research highlights how Broome's representation oscillates between invisibility within the professional space and a desexualised neutrality in her personal sphere. It also interrogates the cyclical process through which such cultural imaginaries inform professional norms, impacting interpreters' self-perception and the broader perception of their role in international settings.

This analysis challenges the presumed neutrality of interpreters, demonstrating how their personal histories, professional environments, and the cultural narratives surrounding their work undermine this ideal. The presentation concludes by advocating for IR scholarship to integrate interpreters as central subjects of study, recognising their dual roles as facilitators of communication and active participants in global political dynamics. By extension and reviewing recent interpreting studies research on neutrality and positionality of interpreters, it explores how depictions of Broome have been received by the CI community and the implications this has had on the (perceived or actual) positionality of the conference interpreter.

By engaging with themes of hybridity, power, and gendered binaries, this paper not only critiques the idealised image of the neutral interpreter but also proposes a rethinking of their position within the institutional frameworks of international relations practice.

Keywords

Positionality
Cultural depiction
International relations
Diplomacy
Film studies



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 3A.2

Translation, film and literature (PTH)



Session 3A.2

On Style of Zhou Zuoren's Translation and its Relevance to the Current Practice

Sun Mengxin (Member, Translator's Association of China)

As an outstanding man of letters, Zhou Zuoren (1885-1967) excels in both prose writing and literary translation. Actually, writing and translating could be viewed as two wings of him, which are equally strong, equally competent. Zhou's remarkable translation career lasted for nearly 62 years, starting in 1904 when he was barely 20, and concluding with 2 heavy-weight works before his death in 1967 when he was already 82. As an author, his fame is well established; as a translator, however, the value and merit of his translations are yet to be fully recognized.

What distinguishes Zhou from many other translators is the style of his translation. He himself is a believer of the "direct translation" approach. No matter from which language he translates, he was able to create a style which affords the original style a rebirth on one hand, and maintains high readability in Chinese on the other, to the extent that the readers would sometimes forget that it is the translated version that they are reading. Many believe that his translation works could simply be regarded as classics in their own right.

In my view, the following could be said about the style of Zhou's translation: 1. Being in remarkable harmony with the original; 2. Accurate and graceful expressions in Chinese; 3. Gaining its own spirit in the process of translation, which is out of the original, but shifted to and embodied in a new outlook, ready to be appreciated by the readers. It should be noted that only those who have felt rhythm of the original work could they possibly convert the original compositional style to the target language; and only those who have experienced an echoing of heart with the original author could they possibly rejuvenate spirit of the original.

Given the vastness of Zhou's translations, the current presentation chooses from among them a few samples, including a passage from an ancient Greek classics, two short poems and one small section of a comic novel from Japan, and a passage of an academic work from English, with an aim to explore his translation style, and facilitate the audience with a flavor of his exceptional work. The presentation also discusses the relevance of Zhou's translation theory with the current practice. Simply put it, his translation bears influence to the translators after him, it also bears significance to the future.

Keywords

Zhou Zuoren

Translation style

Translation theory

Current Relevance



Session 3A.2

The Reproduction of Style Reproduction in Literary Translation — with Goldblatt's version of “Sandalwood Death” as an Example

Panan Chen (Shaanxi Normal University)

“Sandalwood Death” is a novel composed by prestigious Chinese novelist Mo Yan, which is famous both home and abroad for its profound characterization. It is popular in English-speaking countries mainly because its translator (Goldblatt) with solid literature and translation knowledge. Being a prominent Chinese literature researcher in American, Goldblatt is the one who has translated the largest number of Chinese novels. This short thesis is aimed at analyzing the Chinese version and English version of “Sandalwood Death” from the perspective of the reproduction of style in literature translation, to find out how the translator’s represent the style of the original text, so that can offer certain references for latter translators.

Keywords

"Sadalwood Death"
Reproduction of style
Literary translation
Analyzing method

Session 3A.2

Navigating Beyond Linguistic and National Boundaries: Poetic Creativity in Mo Yan's French Translations

Yihan Xiong (Université Paris Cité)

Contemporary French translation studies remain deeply rooted in their philosophical, ethical, and aesthetic traditions, particularly under the influence of the poetic tradition. As Antoine Berman suggested, a translation should “fait texte” or “fait œuvre”. In other words, a good translation can be likened to a process of artistic creation, characterized by the poeticity of translated text in the target language. This presentation focuses on Mo Yan, the most translated mainland Chinese author in France, and the transfer of his writing style, which blends hallucinatory realism and folk tradition. His principal French translators serve as key sources for analysis, helping to reveal the translator's creativity in maintaining the experience of foreign in Chinese literature.

The presentation will explore the diverse strategies employed by these translators, emphasizing their inventive approaches to preserving the immanent consistency (consistance immanente) of the original text while adapting it creatively into French. By cross-referencing the translated texts with their Chinese source material, the presentation will examine the translators' professional paths and their potential impact on translation decisions. This investigation aims to reconstruct the “horizon” (Gadamer, Berman & Ricoeur) of the translators, which shapes their interpretations and creative choices, — distinct from those of Mo Yan's English-language translators — throughout the translation process.

Several key questions will be addressed during the presentation: If translators tend to recreate the literariness of Mo Yan's works in French, how can we interpret the aesthetic characteristics of translated texts from the perspective of the French language and its audience? Considering the constraints of fidelity and the challenges of linguistic and cultural untranslatability, how can the foreignization, emphasized by many French and European translation theorists, be understood as a poetic way to convey the sense of otherness to French readers? The presentation will illustrate, through translators' diverse backgrounds and their choices in translation, how foreignization is implemented creatively in the French translations of Mo Yan's works.

The presentation aims to uncover the sensibility of French translators, both in their own language and culture of others. It questions the translators' responsibilities and how their engagement in the translation process impacts the reception of other ideologies. Furthermore, it examines how their literary background and positions shape their approach to another literature and its political context, particularly in relation to traditional Eurocentric theories, which have historically influenced the perception and representation of non-European cultures.

Keywords

French translation theories; Poetics of translation; Chinese literature; Mo Yan



Session 3A.2

Translating comprehensively and extensively—A study on cross-cultural exegesis interpretation of Wing-Tsit Chan's *Instructions for Practical Living and Other Neo-Confucian Writings*

Hu Meixin and Cai Xinjie (Zhejiang Normal University)

The Chinese-American philosopher Wing-Tsit Chan is one of the important promoters of American sinology research after World War II. His rigorous and detailed English translation of Chinese philosophical masterpiece *Chuanxi Lu* (namely, *Instructions for Practical Living and Other Neo-Confucian Writings*), rich in annotations and commentaries, is accepted as an excellent example of cross-cultural interpretation in the transmission of Chinese learning to the West. By exploring cross-cultural communicative effects of his translation's annotations from the perspective of philosophical hermeneutics, it is found that Chan employed a variety of interpretative methods such as meaning explanation, textual extension, retrospective research, inter-textual reference, and attached commentaries to convey both Wang Yangming's philosophical thoughts and traditional Chinese exegetical discursive paradigm to western readers. The underpinning reasons for such interpretive approaches can be explained from the historical setting, Chan's fusion horizon of both Chinese and Western cultures, the expectations of sponsors and the target readers.

Keywords

Wing-Tsit Chan

Exegesis of *Instructions for Practical Living and Other Neo-Confucian Writings*

Cross-cultural interpretation

Session 3A.2

A Discourse Study on the Evaluative Notes in James Legge's Commentaries on Confucian Analects

Hu Meixin and Yang Lidong (Zhejiang Normal University)

James Legge has provided a good number of evaluative notes in his cross-cultural commentaries on his English translation of Confucian Analects. Taking them as the core data, this study employs the attitude system of Martin's appraisal theory as the analysis framework to interpret how James Legge presents his personal opinions in the cross-cultural commentaries. Findings show that James Legge's notes consist mainly of four types: the extraction of the chapter theme, the evaluation of traditional commentaries, the appraisal of translation strategies, and the suggestions for the understanding of difficult words or phrases. High-value modal verbs are used in the extraction of chapter theme to indicate James Legge's meaning choice; a comparative grade is used to give his own evaluation of traditional commentaries; in the face of words difficult to translate, different translation strategies are comparatively appraised and the reasons are given for James Legge's own translation; the imperative, suggestive and comparative sentences are employed to highlight James Legge's suggested understanding of ambiguous words. These notes have presented the openness of canonic meaning construction in traditional Chinese commentaries, and also help to resolve the possible confusions of western readers.

Keywords

James Legge
Confucian Analects
Evaluative notes



Session 3A.2

The Production Mechanisms and Characteristics of Chinese Literary Criticism in Anglo-American Contexts

Lu Shao (Sun Yat-sen University)

Overseas Chinese literary criticism has undergone a remarkable evolution, marked by its initial ‘springing up’ phase, a rapid expansion in the early twenty-first century, and a subsequent flourishing in today’s digital era. This paper investigates the mechanisms and characteristics that underpin these transformations, highlighting the pivotal roles played by critics, translators, editors, publishers, policy-makers, and readers in shaping the transnational flow of Chinese literary discourse. By examining how these stakeholders collaborate, negotiate, and respond to shifting market demands and cultural expectations, the study illuminates the rich tapestry of cross- cultural engagement fostered by overseas Chinese literary criticism.

Central to this investigation is the argument that these dynamic processes not only deepen scholarly understanding of Chinese literature but also refine perceptions of Chinese culture on the international stage. Crucially, this evolution underscores the transition from Chinese literature ‘going out’ to truly ‘going in’, as it becomes an integral part of global literary dialogues. Employing a combined macro–micro analytical framework, the research identifies key patterns of development, tracing how different countries and critical traditions influence the modes of reception and the creation of new interpretations.

Moreover, the article addresses the significance of multimodal resources, especially in the digital era, which amplify the accessibility and reach of Chinese literary works. These resources facilitate a more multifaceted depiction of China’s literary image, constructed and negotiated through the ‘perspective of the other’, thereby moving beyond a self-contained, domestically framed narrative. By reinforcing the global influence of Chinese literature, overseas critics and translators simultaneously broaden the diversity of world literature.

In conclusion, it posits that a nuanced understanding of the mechanisms governing overseas Chinese literary criticism, combined with the strategic mobilisation of digital and multimodal channels, can substantially enhance cross- cultural dialogue and intercultural literacy. Such insights offer valuable pathways for future research, translation practice, and policy formulation, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive global discourse on Chinese literature and culture.

Keywords

Chinese literature
Anglophone world
Literary criticism
Production mechanism
Overseas dissemination

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 3A.3

AI's impact on translation and interpreting research and practice



Session 3A.3

Using AI and Corpus-based Tools for Terminological Collocation Extraction in Aerospace Engineering: Implications for Translation and Interpreting

Andrey S. Korzin, Elena F. Shaleeva and Svetlana VI. Dmitrichenkova
(RUDN University)

Terminological collocations—combinations of words that frequently co-occur within specialised fields—are essential for precise translation and interpretation, particularly in technical domains such as aerospace engineering. This study investigates the efficacy of artificial intelligence and corpus-based tools, specifically Sketch Engine and OpenAI GPT-4, in extracting such collocations from aerospace engineering literature.

The research methodology employs a dual approach: firstly, conducting individual analyses of selected aerospace engineering papers to identify terminological collocations; secondly, compiling a mini-corpus comprising ten papers for comparative analysis. This twofold strategy facilitates a comprehensive evaluation of each tool's performance in both isolated and aggregated contexts.

Sketch Engine, a corpus query system, employs statistical methodologies to identify word patterns and collocations within extensive text corpora. OpenAI GPT-4 utilises deep learning techniques to comprehend and generate human-like text, offering an alternative approach to collocation extraction. Through the application of both tools, the study aims to compare their respective outputs, evaluating precision, recall, and the relevance of extracted collocations.

Initial findings indicate that both tools offer valuable insights, each with distinct advantages. Sketch Engine demonstrates superiority in statistical analysis of large datasets, efficiently identifying frequent collocations. Conversely, GPT-4 exhibits a nuanced comprehension of context, capturing less frequent but contextually significant collocations. The mini-corpus analysis functions as a validation mechanism, ensuring the reliability of results across diverse data samples.

The extracted collocations possess significant applications in enhancing translation and interpretation quality within the aerospace sector. Accurate identification of domain-specific collocations assists translators and interpreters in maintaining terminological consistency and achieving precise communication. This research contributes to the development of more efficacious terminological resources, thereby facilitating communication and comprehension in specialised domains.

Keywords

Terminological collocations; AI tools; Corpus-based tools; Sketch Engine; OpenAI GPT-4, Aerospace engineering; Translation; Interpretation; Mini-corpus analysis



Session 3A.3

Metaphors in Literary Machine Translation: Evaluating the Performance of LLMs and MTs

Ruiqi Zhou (Hong Kong Baptist University) and **Ruslan Mitkov** (Lancaster University)

Metaphors occupy a unique position in literary translation. As a significant linguistic feature, their rendering critically influences both the figurative expression and the recreation of the source text, closely tied to its meaning and literary essence. Grounded in conceptual theories and supported by empirical evidence, metaphors serve as powerful reflections of psychological development, cultural contexts, and ideological constructions within literary works. Given their importance, metaphors have garnered considerable attention in literary translation and have become a major concern in Machine Translation (MT). With the rapid development of Large Language Models (LLMs) and their employment in automatic translation, the treatment of metaphors in translation has also gained increasing attention.

This study conducts a comparative analysis to examine the capability of MT systems and LLMs in translating literary metaphors. Using metaphors from *Jane Eyre* as a case study, it compares the Chinese translations of metaphors rendered by four state-of-the-art MT systems (Google Translate, DeepL Translator, Baidu Translate, and NiuTran) with those provided by two leading LLMs (GPT-4.0 and Gemini). The outputs are evaluated using three major automatic MT metrics (BLEU, ROUGE, and BERTS) as well as human ratings. The dataset consists of 940 metaphor-related sentences, including 768 metaphor-related words extracted from a manually annotated corpus in which all metaphor-related words (MRWs) and their mappings in the story have been identified.

As a canonical work of Victorian women's literature renowned for its poetic language, *Jane Eyre* (1847) offers a rich array of linguistic metaphors, making it an ideal testing ground for assessing the translation capabilities of MT systems and LLMs in this regard. In addition to comparing their metaphor translation performance, this study investigates the correlation between automated evaluation metrics and human assessments of translated literary metaphors, using Pearson's r . The results of this study shed light on the performance of MT systems and LLMs in terms of translating literary metaphors; they also indicate which evaluation metrics are more appropriate for assessing metaphor translation quality in both MT systems and LLMs.

Keywords

Machine translation
Metaphor translation
Large Language Model
Literary translation.

Session 3A.3

Evaluating Machine Translation Systems in Literary Contexts: A Comparative Study on a Bilingual BWB Corpus of Web Novels

Zhang Xing (Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

The need to maintain stylistic nuances, cultural context, and emotions is a unique challenge in the translation of literary works. In this study, a chapter from a bilingual BWB corpus—a collection of 80 annotated Chinese-English parallel web novels—is translated to assess the performance of four machine translation (MT) systems: GPT4o, Google Translate, NLLB (No Language Left Behind), and Facebook m2m100.

The selected corpus contains a variety of narrative elements in both Chinese and English, which serve as practical datasets for evaluating the capabilities of each translation engine. We utilized four established evaluation metrics: BLEU (Bilingual Evaluation Understudy), COMET (Cross-lingual Optimized Metric for Evaluation of Translation), TER (Translation Edit Rate), and ChrF (Character F-score). By emphasizing lexical precision, fluency, and contextual meaning, these metrics evaluate translation quality from the perspective of cultural fidelity to determine how well the translation conveys cultural references and subtleties from the original text, attempting to assess the translation of style, tone, and emotional resonance to ensure effective audience engagement.

The assessment of the four MT systems reveals substantial differences in the translation quality. Google outperforms the baseline with a COMET score of 76.8, when the baseline shows a satisfactory COMET score of 76.3. Google achieves a BLEU score of 37.7, indicating superior fluency and contextual accuracy in translations, whereas the baseline scores 29.8. The m2m100 and NLLB exhibit inferior performance across all metrics. The m2m100 system's BLEU score of 22.0 and TER of 67.3 signify considerable deficiencies in translation adequacy and fluency. NLLB's BLEU score of 18.5 and high TER of 79.2 indicate an increased likelihood for errors, rendering it less appropriate for literary works where nuance and style are critical.

In conjunction with qualitative study, these findings suggest that Google Translate offers comparatively better translations, as other MT systems might have issues with the complexity inherent in literary writing, including idiomatic expressions and character development. This highlights the necessity for more refinement in MT systems to improve their capacity to convey the nuances of literary translation, ensuring that readers perceive the intended tone and style to promote cross-cultural comprehension and communication, when these technologies progressively impact literary translation. This study provides significant insights into the comparative efficacy of MT systems in rendering literary texts by comparing their strengths and drawbacks, informing future developments in MT technology as understanding the functionalities of different platforms is crucial for improving the quality of translated literary works.

Keywords

Machine translation; Bilingual corpus; Evaluation metrics; Web novels

Session 3A.3

Optimizing AI-Powered Translation: How Simplified Prompts Can Maximize Quality for Non-Expert Users

Yin Hao, Qi Mengyao and Liu Jianwen (Hong Kong Shue Yan University)

Artificial intelligence (AI) has revolutionized the field of translation, providing users with quick, accessible, and often cost-effective translation services. However, user experience and existing research indicate that the quality of translations can vary significantly, even when translating the same source text, depending on the prompts provided. While it is widely acknowledged that more detailed prompts tend to produce translations that align more closely with users' expectations, most users—particularly non-experts—lack the time, resources, or expertise to create the ideal prompt for optimal translation. This raises an important question: How can ordinary users generate high-quality translations with the simplest prompts? Is it possible to maximize translation quality by incorporating just a few strategically chosen elements without requiring exhaustive prompt details? To address these issues, this study conducts an experiment using ChatGPT to examine the effects of different prompts on text samples from diverse fields, including academic, legal, technical, commercial, and literary texts etc. These texts are translated both ways (English-to-Chinese and Chinese-to-English) with variations in the prompts provided, incorporating specific elements such as tone, style, formality, context, target culture and audience etc. These elements are drawn from *Translation Quality Assessment: Past and Present* (House, 2015). The translations generated are then evaluated by a Session of translation experts, including translation professors and translation competition judges. This research aims to provide a time-efficient, high-quality translation solution for non-expert users, offering insights into which key elements can optimize translation output with minimal input. By identifying the most effective prompt structures, this study seeks to empower everyday users with the ability to produce professional-level translations, improving the accessibility and utility of AI-powered translation tools for a broader audience. The findings have the potential to inform future developments in AI translation technology, making it more user-friendly and efficient across various domains.

Keywords

Artificial intelligence

ChatGPT

Prompt engineering

Translation quality assessment



Session 3A.3

Translation Violence under Technological Intervention: A Study on the Impact of AI Translation Tools on Academic Language Use

Lan Meilin (Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics)

With the widespread adoption of AI translation tools in academic contexts, their coercive intervention in language use has become increasingly prominent. This study examines the violent characteristics of AI translation tools in modern translation practices, taking Microsoft Edge browser's AI translation as a case study and employing Venuti's concept of translational violence as its theoretical framework. Through multi- platform corpus analysis, in-depth interviews, and questionnaire surveys, the study reveals the mechanisms by which AI translation tools influence academic language use. The findings indicate that: (1) AI translation creates a form of technical translational violence through its predetermined algorithmic models that standardize source languages; (2) in academic contexts, AI translation's forced substitutions and automatic corrections lead to the alienation of original linguistic features; (3) under technological intervention, users gradually develop dependence on AI translation, weakening their active control over language use. This technology-driven translation model is reshaping the norms and habits of academic language use. The study recommends incorporating more humanistic considerations into AI translation technology development, establishing mechanisms to evaluate translational violence, and balancing technological efficiency with linguistic diversity.

Keywords

AI translation

Translational violence

Technological intervention

Academic language

Session 3A.3

Structured Training of LLM-Based AI Agents for Professionals: A Case Study of English-Chinese Popular Science Translation

Hou Xinzhi (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen)

Following the advent of general-purpose large language models (LLM) such as ChatGPT, trained AI agents powered by these models are increasingly demonstrating their potential to outperform general LLMs in specialized applications, including translation. This study focuses on the training of LLM-based AI agents for English-to-Chinese popular science translation, aiming to provide professional translators with an alternative solution for human-AI collaboration and to present a transferable model of structured training of LLM-based agents that requires no coding experience.

The core issue addressed in this study is the development of LLM-based agents capable of managing both domain-specific knowledge and the stylistic nuances of popular science writing, as well as structuring the interactions among different AI agents to automate the translation workflow. This approach seeks to produce first-draft translations that outperform traditional machine translation engines such as Google Translate, and general LLMs. The study outlines key steps in data preparation, including text alignment, annotation, and preprocessing of both English and Chinese texts, as well as the implementation of structured prompting for interactions among different agents. The LLMs employed in this research are ChatGPT and Doubao.

The dataset used for training comprises a specialized parallel corpus containing approximately 80,000 English words of source texts and corresponding Chinese translations translated by the author for the Chinese edition of Science Focus. This dataset includes reports and articles on scientific developments in fields such as biology, medicine, astronomy, physic, etc. spanning from June 2022 to December 2024. The Chinese translations reflect the translator's distinctive style, striking a balance between technical accuracy and accessibility for a non-expert audience.

The evaluation framework combines quantitative metrics, including COMET, MQM, etc., with qualitative human assessments to evaluate translation quality in terms of accuracy, fluency, and suitability for the target audience. This study highlights the potential of LLM-based AI agents to enhance professional translation workflows, offering valuable insights into the future of human-AI collaboration in translation. It is particularly relevant in the domain of popular science, where clarity and precision are essential for effective communication.

Keywords

LLM

Agents

Workflow

Structured training

Human-AI collaboration



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 3A.4

Innovations in translation and interpreting education



Session 3A.4

Embracing Transdisciplinarity to Prepare for the Future: Revisiting the Gap Between the Labour Market and Translator Education

Lan Li, Qinran Dang, and Ke Zhao (Shanghai University of Finance and Economics)

There has long been a disconnect between the labour market for translators and translator education. Most research on this disconnect focuses on either industry or education in isolation, leaving the problem unsolved. To address this gap, this study examines both industrial and educational perspectives on transdisciplinarity in translators' domain competence through an epistemological lens. Three types of data are collected: translation-related job ads, curriculum plans of Master of Translation and Interpretation (MTI) programmes, and semi-structured interviews with teachers-cum-translators. The findings, derived from data mining and textometric analyses of targeted job ads together with content analyses of both curriculum plans and interviews, show a shared epistemological understanding in industry and education of new forms of knowledge pertaining to domain-specific translation tasks. Alongside this shared understanding, we highlight misalignment between market needs for and training on knowledge about cross-boundary collaborations, and we explore the transdisciplinary domain competence required to cope with a complex-market reality using a common language shared with stakeholders. The implications for a transdisciplinary approach to translator education are also discussed.

Keywords

Industry-education gap
Mixed-method approach
Transdisciplinarity
Translator education

Session 3A.4

Educating the Translators of Tomorrow: Service-Learning as a Transformative Methodology in Translation Pedagogy

Bernardini Silvia and Stempniewicz Patrycja Lidia (University of Bologna)

In an era marked by global exchanges and significant societal challenges, as well as fast technological progress, translators are quickly becoming cross-cultural agents (Chesterman 2009), deeply embedded in the broader technological and socio-political contexts that shape their professional interactions, playing a variety of less clear-cut roles than was previously the case (Bernardini et al 2020).

While interpersonal ethics (Pym 2012) and community engagement (Taibi and Ozolins 2016) aspects are more and more recognized in the education of future translators, the concept of social responsibility (Drugan and Tipton 2017) remains inadequately explored and applied (see e.g. the EMT competence framework, in particular as it details desired interpersonal and service-oriented skills (EMT 2022)). Moving from competence frameworks to translation pedagogy, project-based learning models have been proposed following socio-constructivist-inspired learning theories (Kiraly 2000, Guadec 2005, van Egdom et al. 2020). Yet even these models, however successful at developing technical and service-oriented expertise, typically lack a specific focus on active citizenship and ethical reflective practices.

To address this shortfall, we advocate for the integration of a service-learning framework into translator education, drawing on the principles outlined by Furco (1996). By examining the IN.TRA initiative launched at the University of Bologna in 2021, we illustrate the translation service-learning model as an innovative fusion of Gouadec's project-based translation pedagogy (2005) and Dewey's democratic pedagogy (1916): the first makes it possible to apply and boost professional and interpersonal knowledge, skills and abilities, rooting them in real professional experience; the second enables the development of active citizenship skills, by stimulating practice of, and reflection on, civic engagement and solidarity values in the community. 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 humans, able to effect positive societal change (UNESCO 2018, Target 4.7).

Keywords

Service-learning
Project-based learning
Socio constructivism
Global citizenship competence
Translator education

Session 3A.4

Constructing a Model of Academic Translation Competence: The Preliminary Results of Empirical Validation

Krisztina Károly and **Anna Zólyomi** (ELTE Eötvös Loránd University)

Different cultures work with distinct conceptions of knowledge and define, construct and communicate knowledge differently. This poses significant challenges for translators and puts special responsibilities on them in the domain of science. The actors of translation (scholars or professional translators), the strategies they work with (domestication or foreignisation) and their ensuing decisions during the act of translating may affect not only the quality of translations but linguistic and epistemic diversity as well. Research has shown (e.g., Bennett, 2024) that multilingualism (as opposed to monolingualism) in academia is instrumental in preserving the various systems of knowledge and equality of opportunity in science for scholars whose native language is not a lingua franca. As the nature of the act of translating in academia differs in a number of ways from other domains of specialized translation, in the first part of the presentation, a conceptual model of academic translation competence (ATC) is proposed (Károly, 2024), which follows a consilient and multidisciplinary approach where the sociological perspective is central (Chesterman, 2007), and which views ATC as a complex, multi-componential macrocompetence, consisting of a special set of interrelated (sub)competences. The aim of this study is to introduce this model and validate it through empirical testing as there is no universally accepted academic translation competence model (PACTE, 2003). Based on the model, a conceptual definition of the construct of ATC is offered, consisting of linguistic, non-linguistic, disciplinary and epistemic constituents, and preliminary hypotheses are generated relating to its defining characteristics. The second part of the presentation offers an overview of the methodological framework designed for the empirical validation of the model and provides initial validity data concerning the construct, its constituents, their interrelations, as well as the distinguishing features of ATC compared to the competences needed in other domains of specialized translation. In this study, the preliminary results of model testing are presented which allows stakeholders to have an insight into the application of the ATC model. The implications of the study for the theory, practice and training of academic translation and the disciplinary training of researchers will also be discussed. This presentation also serves as a call for further empirical testing of the ATC model across different linguistic and cultural contexts.

Keywords

Academic translation
Competence
Epistemic diversity
ATC model
Model validation



Session 3A.4

Bridge the Gap between Knowledge and Practice Using Semantic Waves: A Case Study of Skill Acquisition in Interpreting Interpersonal Meaning

Hai Luo and Qianhua Ouyang (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies)

As a mental skill, interpreting aligns with the principles of skills acquisition. It has been observed that although students often understand general concepts in interpreting, they encounter challenges in applying these concepts to practice effectively. Therefore, it is necessary to explore how to narrow the gap between knowledge and practice in interpreting education.

This research, based on Dreyfus' (2004) five-stage adult skills acquisition model, investigates the effectiveness of semantic wave-based teaching design in facilitating skill acquisition in interpreting training through classroom observation of a training module on interpersonal meaning transfer. The teaching was designed based on the premise of Legitimate Code Theory, which posits that creating semantic waves, characterized by recurring transitions between decontextualized theoretical knowledge and contextualized practical knowledge, can scaffold students' skill acquisition and ultimately enhance their performance in practice.

Data collected mainly includes field notes, classroom interaction transcripts, students' interpreting recordings, and self-assessments at different stages. These data are analyzed with mixed methods, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches. Qualitative analysis involves examining field notes, classroom interaction, and self-assessments to delineate their skill acquisition process and elucidate how students apply the skills in practice. Meanwhile, the interpreting recordings are analyzed quantitatively to assess improvement in transferring interpersonal meaning. This study aims to describe the trajectory of skill acquisition in semantic wave-based teaching and to reveal how this teaching approach bridges the knowledge-practice gap in interpreting training, particularly how the alignment of theoretical knowledge and practical skills may reduce the disconnect between knowledge and practice. Implications for curriculum design and teaching strategies in interpreting education will also be discussed.

Keywords

Skills acquisition
Knowledge-practice gap
Interpreting training
Semantic waves



Session 3A.4

Investigating Multimedia Design in Postgraduates' Cognitive Satisfaction during Information Acquisition: A Qualitative Study

Liao Yangyi (Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen)

Multimedia platforms are essential for university students' information acquisition due to their diverse content. However, suboptimal multimedia designs can increase cognitive load, reducing browser satisfaction. To address this, optimizing multimedia design to support students' cognitive processes is crucial. Guided by the Cognitive-Affective Theory of Learning with Media (CATLM) (Moreno & Mayer, 2007), this study examines (1) cognitive engagement patterns in multimedia navigation, (2) factors shaping satisfactory engagement and their manifestations in forms of information presentation, and (3) metacognitive strategies employed in satisfactory navigation and their impact on interface element selection.

The study employs a qualitative approach to examine students' cognitive satisfaction in multimedia information processing. A simulation experiment with 20 postgraduate students was conducted, utilizing think-aloud protocols and screen-recording to capture engagement patterns on UN multimedia platforms, which were then visualized using Gephi. Semi-structured interviews were implemented to explore participants' perspectives on key satisfaction factors, preferred information presentation forms, and metacognitive strategies in interface element selection for satisfactory navigation. The qualitative data from interviews were analyzed through multimodal analysis and content analysis.

The study reveals complex engagement patterns and key satisfaction factors, including logical coherence, question-answering, information comprehensiveness, objectivity, and intuitiveness. Intertextual information presentation primarily addresses these factors in the forms of event progression and content elaboration, while intersemiotic information presentation relies on various cohesion forms. In interface element selection, metacognitive strategies range from monitoring platform guidance by following webpage recommendations and in-text hyperlinks to planning specific searches using keywords to achieve cognitive satisfaction. This interdisciplinary research bridges cognitive theory and multimedia design, suggesting that students' experiences in cognitive processes may be improved through information presentation and interface element design.

Keywords

Cognitive engagement with multimedia
Cognitive-affective theory of learning with media
Multimodal analysis

Session 3A.4

Down the Rabbit Hole: An Analysis of Cognitive Load in Students' Post-Editing of Machine-Translated Literary Texts

Shuyao Zhu

Advances in artificial intelligence have driven increasing studies on machine translation and human-AI collaboration. As the oldest form of *human-computer interaction* (HCI) for translation, there has been a groundswell of research into the post-editing process and products, with little attention given to cognitive processing during post-editing. Therefore, the goal of this experiment was to explore cognitive load during the post-editing of a literary text with the assistance of generative AI. Specifically, this study aimed to investigate attention discrepancies regarding lexical, semantic, and syntactic errors. Building upon the experimental paradigm of data triangulation in translation process research, error correction analysis, eye-tracking data, thematic analysis of participants' interactions with AI, and interview responses were employed to examine how participants addressed errors in machine-translated texts. Fourteen participants, either recent graduates or current students in translation and interpreting programmes, were invited to take part in the experiment via a link generated by the iMotions Remote Data Collection (RDC) module, accessible through the iMotions platform. The results suggested that the correction rate across lexical, semantic, and syntactic levels was not solely due to the complexity of errors, but also related to participants' attention discrepancies across and within paragraphs. Additionally, the investigation of those who managed to correct more complex errors showed that the appropriate use of generative AI during translation preparation not only helped post-editors obtain more language resources but also assisted them in addressing MT's shortcomings. Furthermore, while participants expressed their belief that MT and AI could be applied in post-editing, they also experienced identity displacement, raising the question of whether post-editors see themselves as translators or evaluators. These findings and the experimental design have implications for further research on how to augment translators' performance with generative AI. It is hoped that this research may offer valuable insights for translation educators in guiding students through the challenges posed by technological development.

Keywords

Machine translation post-editing (MTPE)

Cognitive load

Literary translation

Generative-AI tools

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 3A.5

Nation, narration and translation (PTH)



Session 3A.5

Empathy Narrative and Translation Strategies for Chinese Audiovisual Works — Take the “Belt and Road” Audiovisual Works as an Example

Yi Manyu and Li Pan (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies)

In international communication, audiovisual works of new media are highly welcomed by international audiences for their vivid and intuitive qualities. To tell good Chinese story and promote the “Belt and Road Initiative”, it’s very important to take the advantage of audiovisual narrative in new media communication to evoke effective empathy among international audiences for enhancing the international dissemination of the “Belt and Road Initiative”. This paper, based on bilingual Chinese-English audiovisual works released by Chinese mainstream media during the 10th anniversary of the “Belt and Road Initiative” in 2023, conducts quantitative and qualitative analyses from three perspectives: narrative content, narrative method, and narrative perspectives. By exploring the narrative empathy strategies and translation strategies in these audiovisual works, the paper aims to find a systematic combination strategy that can enhance the international dissemination of Chinese bilingual audiovisual works and contribute to the enhancement of China’s international communication capabilities.

Keywords

Narrative empathy

The Belt and Road Initiative

Audiovisual translation

Subtitling translation

Session 3A.5

Visual Narratives and Discourse Construction in the Translation of Red Zone Reports during the Resistance War Period — Taking Chinese Translation of *Photographs from Red China* as an Example

Wang Xiangbing (National University of Defense Technology)

During the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, dozens of foreign journalists went to the Red Zone (or Red Revolutionary Base Area) of China to carry out interviews and reports, bringing a “Red Zone Fever” and a wave of translation of Red Zone reports in China. These translation works contain vivid visual images and words to show the real conditions of Red Zone in terms of military, politics, economy, culture and education, etc.. Taking the Chinese version of Harrison Forman’s *Photographs from Red China* as an example, this article, after the refinement of the Visual Grammar Theory proposed by Kress & van Leeuwen and the empirical analysis by Nvivo image corpus, encodes, counts, and analyzes the representational, interactive, and compositional meanings of photographic images in *Photographs from Red China*. Then four-fold Red China visual discourses constructed by *Photographs from Red China* are concluded based on the visual analysis above and the historical analysis, that is, “the collaboration and tenacity of the military and the local people in revolutionary area”, “the equality and harmony between the military and the local people in revolutionary area”, “the fulfilling and orderly life in revolutionary area” and “the united and comprehensive war against Japanese aggression in revolutionary area”. These visual images and discourses played immeasurable positive roles in constructing and disseminating the image of Red China, and helping the “red sanctuary” discourse outcompete the “red menace” discourse. This article tries to build a bridge between the visual images of translation works and the visual discourse analysis, so as to provide a path for interpreting visual narratives in other translation works of Red Zone reports and even in all translation works that contain images.

Keywords

Translation of red zone reports

Photographs from Red China

Visual narratives

Visual grammar

Visual discourse construction



Session 3A.5

Translation and Evolution of Military Terminology from the Perspective of Transknowletology: Focusing on the Chinese Translation of “Command and Control”

Cao Yang and Wang Xiangbing (National Unverisity of Defense Technology)

This article takes the term “Command and Control” as an example to investigate its origin, translation and evolution as a military concept in Chinese context based on the theory of Transknowletology. Through the utilization of historical database resources, the origins of “Command and Control” were investigated in both ancient English and Chinese language context and social background. The connection process between English term and its corresponding Chinese counterpart in the early stage of translation is explored; the evolution of its Chinese translations influenced by the society is discussed, considering the wars and conflicts as the pillar factors. The historical materials are mined to examine the production, description, dissemination and developement of military knowledge and beyond in the Chinese translations of the term. Such analysis is conducted from the macro level of cross-language and cross-cultural knowledge transmission. The interaction between the local knowledge and the global knowledge during the translation of this military term is under detailed and profound exploration to discover the knowledge glocalization process. Therefore, this study applies Transknowletology theories into the field of military terminology translation, providing a new research perspective for military terminology translation, different from the previous studies with a focus on “how to translate” military terminology accurately from the micro level. The translation of military terms is not restricted to the conversion of languages, but to produce and develop discipline and cross-discipline knowledge carried and thus reveal the intellectual nature of military terminology translation, which enlightens the research into the terminology translation of other fields.

Keywords

Transknowletology

Military terminology

Translation

Interation

Evolution

Session 3A.5

One Message in Two Tongues: Language Choice in *Treaty of Nerchinsk* and *Treaty of Shimonoseki*

Jiao Lin and Ren Dongsheng (Ocean University of China)

The signing of bilateral treaties during the Qing Dynasty marks the beginning of China's modern diplomacy. In the process of treaty negotiations and signing, there existed a phenomenon of “one message in two tongues” through the use of non-official languages of the parties involved. The Sino-Russian *Treaty of Nerchinsk* and the Sino-Japanese *Treaty of Shimonoseki* are representative examples. In the negotiations for the two treaties, Latin and English were chosen as the authentic text languages, which can best express the pact message between the two parties. The choice of authentic text language was influenced by both chance and the inevitability of Latin being the language of the European diplomatic community, as well as English being the language of the “empire on which the sun never sets”, reflecting both parties' pursuit of linguistic neutrality and accuracy. The treaties were first translated from official language of the signatories into authentic text language and then into other languages. For example, the *Treaty of Nerchinsk* was then translated into Mongolian, French, German, Dutch, and Japanese. Within the translation hierarchy, the authentic text aims at reproducing the accurate pact message, while other texts serve pragmatic functions, including domestic governance and international declaration. The Sino-Russian *Treaty of Nerchinsk* and the Sino-Japanese *Treaty of Shimonoseki* further exemplify the “one message in two tongues” model in state translation programme.

Keywords

“One message in two tongues”

Treaty of Nerchinsk

Treaty of Shimonoseki

State translation programme



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 3A.6

Cross-disciplinary approaches to translation and interpreting studies



Session 3A.6

Probing Cognitive Load Difference Between Simultaneous and Consecutive Modes: A Hybrid Method of Performance, Stress, and Linguistic Features

Li Ruyang (Shanghai International Studies University)

The professional practice of conference interpreting, along with the training required to achieve advanced interpreting competence, generally encompasses two distinct working modes: consecutive interpreting and simultaneous interpreting. Despite their widespread use, these modes have not been extensively compared in research. Existing comparative studies primarily focus on evaluating interpreters' performance in terms of accuracy or quality, or they analyze cognitive load based on either the interpreting process or the output. However, a more comprehensive approach that integrates both the process and output dimensions is necessary to systematically compare and explore cognitive load across the two modes.

This study employs a hybrid empirical methodology. Eight interpreters, all graduates of a conference interpreting program, participated in the research and were randomized into two groups of four. Each group interpreted a five-minute Chinese speech into English using either the consecutive or simultaneous mode. In terms of performance, their outputs were recorded and evaluated by a professional interpreter with over 30 years of experience at the United Nations. Psychologically, interpreters' stress levels were measured using validated scales both before and after the tasks. Additionally, their recordings were transcribed and analyzed for linguistic features to compare the two modes.

The findings reveal that: 1) there is no statistically significant difference in interpreting performance between the two modes; 2) interpreters in the simultaneous mode exhibited a significant increase in stress levels post-task, while those in the consecutive mode experienced a decrease in stress levels and reported overall lower stress compared to the simultaneous mode; and 3) linguistic features, including lexical diversity, density, and syntactic complexity, did not differ between the two modes.

Keywords

Cognitive load

Linguistic features

Interpreting performance

Psychological factors

Interpreting modes



Session 3A.6

Mediating Conceptual Asymmetries: Examining the Translated CIRCLE Metaphors in Chinese Political Discourse

Weike Wang (University of Stirling)

Within the domain of political metaphor translation studies, scholarly attention has largely focused on the cognitive force of metaphors in shaping public attitudes and understanding through translation. However, the extent to which metaphor translation can address conceptual asymmetries between languages has received little attention in the political sphere. This is a critical yet underexplored issue with significant real-world consequences, as inaccurate translations can lead to unnecessary conflicts. The ongoing development of cognitive metaphor theories offers valuable insights into discussing the transfer of linguistic forms and render metaphorical conceptualisations across languages. Comparing the translation of metaphors with similar and different conceptual mappings between two languages offers important perspectives into the complexities of metaphor translation, particularly in addressing conceptual asymmetries within the political context.

To address this gap, this study investigates the Chinese-English translation of the CIRCLE metaphor (i.e., using circular-related characteristics or imagery as source domains) in Chinese political discourse from 2013 to 2022, a conceptual metaphor deeply rooted in Chinese political philosophy. Employing Extended Conceptual Metaphor Theory (ECMT) (Kövecses 2020) as the theoretical framework and integrating corpus-assisted discourse analysis (Gillings & Mautner 2023), I analyse the translation of CIRCLE metaphors in terms of their transfer of linguistic forms and metaphorical conceptualisations by conducting three procedures: 1) identifying metaphorical lexical units and the conceptual mappings of CIRCLE metaphors in the source texts (ST); 2) analysing and comparing the translation methods of CIRCLE metaphors in similar and different mapping conditions between Chinese and English political discourse; and 3) examining the shifts of metaphorical conceptualisations resulting from different translation methods.

Through providing examples of data analysis, I will address the following arguments: 1) the translation method substitution is a more effective and adaptable way than retaining metaphors when mediating the conceptual asymmetries in the lexical representations of two languages; 2) if two languages share a similar metaphorical understanding at the conceptual level, omitting its linguistic forms in the target texts (TT) does not necessarily hinder the transfer of metaphorical meaning. These findings contribute to the understanding of metaphor translation for achieving mutual understanding in political communications.

Keywords

Cognitive metaphor translation
Political metaphor
Conceptual asymmetries



Session 3A.6

Evolution of Narrative Theory in light of 'Observer Effect' of Quantum Physics

Jianxun Wu (Henan Normal University) and **Mengqi Shen** (Xinxiang Institute of Engineering)

In spite of those encouraging achievement in translation studies engaged by previous scholars, the research of translation studies remains unfully-developed, compared with natural science researches: it is difficult to have accurate measurement, there are no accurate definitions or "standards" for overlapping definitions and terms; and the argumentation is mostly not rigorous enough. The inability to measure and define as accurately as natural sciences will give birth to many similar but claimed-different discourse systems and research methods in theoretical researches, causing unnecessary waste of academic resources. However, the general and not-sospecific theories, vague and empty, lacks of strict and standardized application conditions, and cannot really guide the specific translation practice, either.

As a new and interdisciplinary subject, translation studies must continue to absorb elements from other subjects in order to grow into a more mature one. We have learned from many other disciplines, such as linguistics, sociology, and literature, and borrowed their terms, ideas and paradigms to greatly expand the connotation and extension of translation studies. In new age, reference from and integration with natural sciences may become a potential opportunity for the further development of translation studies.

The author will try to apply the "observer effect" theory of quantum mechanics in interpreting the narrative theory and thus test the feasibility of the above ideas. In the author's opinion, narration is the vision and value in a specific reference system or a coordinate system. The differences between narrations are actually the different visions and values obtained in different reference systems or coordinate systems. Every narrator (observer) is in (or actively selects) a different reference system or coordinate system from the others, based on differentiated social classes, educational backgrounds, knowledge, genders, ethnicities, ages, etc., the result of his observation will never be exactly the same. Framing, in this sense, is to use one's own worldview to affect the behavior of other observers and narrators). The observer itself causes the observation result to collapse (to frame). That is, the narrator will inevitably disturb the narrative itself.

In addition, looking at translation theory from the perspective of physics or mathematics, we can, much more accurately, unite the initial state (ideal state), variables (translator's background, sponsors, poetics and other environmental factors), function (applicable translation theories), entropy (untranslatability) and likewise to establish a more scientific application model of translation theories, so that translation theories can be more intuitively reflected and can better guide the translation practice.

Keywords

Observer Effect; Narrative; Quantum physics; Translation theory; Scientization exploration

Session 3A.6

Processing Unit in Consecutive Interpreting-Investigation through Word Order Asymmetry

Yue Wu and Qianxi Lv (Shanghai Jiao Tong University)

The cognitive process involved in interpreting has long been the focus of scholarly exploration. Theoretical frameworks have stressed the challenges caused by word order asymmetry (Donato, 2003) and empirical studies have measured the cognitive demand through various approaches (Ma et al., 2021). The strategies to tackle the difficulties, especially how the asymmetry affects the processing units during interpreting are yet to be explored. This study investigated the underlying syntactic processing in consecutive interpreting (CI) by identifying the processing unit and its interaction with word order patterns between Chinese and English.

A 2×2 within-subject Chinese-English CI experiment was conducted, manipulating syntactic structure (*amod* and *obl* in dependency grammar) and structure length (short and long). In Chinese, modifying structures are prenominal and linked by the particle *DE* with the head noun (e.g., 壹個艱巨的任務). The English translation may replicate the original structure (TT: an arduous task) or use a relative clause (TT: a task that is arduous). When PPs, composed of a preposition and its object, are located before verbs in Chinese *obl* (e.g., 在投資領域開展合作), a change in word order is always required to comply with English grammatical rules (TT: cooperate in investment). Short structures consist of 3-5 characters, while long structures comprise 10-13 characters.

The findings from this study involving 40 interpreter trainees indicated significant effects of both syntactic structure and length on word order patterns ($p < 0.01$), with syntactic structure showing a stronger influence. Interpreters were more likely to reorder long sentences and *obl* structures.

To dig into the rationale for syntactic processing, we further analyzed the dependency relations corresponding to different word orders (Fig.1). In *amod* structures, repeated word order suggested source language shining-through, while changing word order through dependency relations such as *acl:relcl* might be driven by interpreters' effort to reduce memory load or their reformulation strategy for resource management, as was supported by syntactic locality (Gibson, 1998). When reformulating *obl* structures, interpreters are forced to change into the right-branching structure instead of retaining the original Chinese word order to achieve grammatical production. By repeating the original structure, they sacrifice the quality of production to reduce the size of processing units, due to the constraints of capacity.

Keywords

Consecutive interpreting
Word order asymmetry
Processing unit
Dependency relation

Session 3A.6

The Evolution of *Chongyi* (Relay Interpreting) as a Social Construct in the Qing Dynasty

Lixia Dai (Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen)

Oral interpreting, particularly *chongyi* (relay interpreting), played a pivotal role in reflecting and shaping Qing-era societal transformations. While prior studies emphasize named interpreters in key diplomatic events and war settings, the social functions of *chongyi*—often referenced obliquely in official records—remain underexplored. This study analyzes textual traces of *chongyi* from The First Historical Archives of China to map its symbolic evolution across the early, high, and late Qing periods. Though limited in quantity, these sources are critically representative, offering rare insights into the societal undervaluation of interpreting.

Thematic and content analysis reveals *chongyi*'s shifting significance: initially denoting practical multilingual mediation, it later symbolized imperial prosperity and, ultimately, masked social decline through rhetorical simplification. As Qing China transitioned to a semi-colonial society, *chongyi*'s usage became pared down to evoke stability, despite underlying turmoil. This paradox underscores its ideological role in constructing narratives of progress, even as the dynasty fragmented. Such textual metamorphosis highlights the interplay between interpreting practices and broader socio-political currents.

This research contributes twofold: first, by introducing underutilized primary materials from The First Historical Archives of China, and second, by enriching historical narratives through an interdisciplinary lens that bridges translation studies and social history. It demonstrates how *chongyi* served not only as a linguistic tool but also as a social construct, shaping and shaped by the empire's shifting identity.

Keywords

Chongyi

Social construct

Qing Dynasty

History of interpreting

Historical archives



Session 3A.6

Developing an Automatic Evaluation Model for Korean Translation Education: A Focus on the Integration of Multiple Automatic Evaluation Metrics

HyungJae Lim and Calvin Bun Lee (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies)

This study explores the development and application of an automatic evaluation model tailored for Korean translation education, emphasizing the integration of multiple automatic evaluation metrics. Automatic evaluation metrics, leveraging string matching and deep learning techniques, enable rapid and objective assessment of translation quality. These metrics provide consistent results, making them valuable for evaluating machine translation performance and supporting translation education more effectively than traditional human evaluation methods. The proposed model integrates metrics that assess various dimensions of translation - form, syntax, and semantics - offering a comprehensive and reliable framework for evaluating translation tasks in educational settings. Specifically, the study employs metrics such as “AEM-L2,” “AEM-S1,” and “AEM-M1” to design a multi-dimensional evaluation model aimed at improving the translation quality of Korean language learners. A case study on developing an automatic evaluation program demonstrates the feasibility of applying this model in real-world educational contexts, offering actionable feedback to both students and professionals.

This feedback can enhance the learning process by providing specific insights into translation errors and areas for improvement. The findings suggest that integrating automatic and human evaluation approaches can produce more accurate assessments, fostering higher standards in translation education. Future research should prioritize the development of metrics that incorporate pragmatic aspects and expand the scope of evaluation to address the nuanced needs of Korean translation education. Despite its contributions, this study acknowledges limitations, such as the lack of detailed disclosure regarding specific metrics and the absence of pragmatic evaluation components. Nonetheless, the model presents a promising tool for advancing both translation system performance and the quality of translation education.

Keywords

Multiple automatic evaluation metrics
Translation automatic evaluation model
Model construction
Model application
Translation evaluation

APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 3A.7

Translation, interpreting and travel (English and PTH)

Session 3A.7

Iterative Translations and Knowledge Growth: Translating Chinese Geographical Accounts from the 19th to 21st Centuries

Wenqing Peng (Soochow University)

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, when China was invaded by western powers since the year 1840 and forced to open its door to the world, an increasing number of western diplomats or interpreters were commissioned to China or worked on Chinese issues. Apart from their work in the consular or other administrative offices, many of them translated Chinese works into western languages. Among them, some chose Chinese geographical accounts, which, though not in a spectacular scale, illustrated an impressive network of these western sinologists' studies and translations. These translations have not been paid much attention in academics, but deserves detailed investigations, particularly when the network of successive translations is reconstructed in this study. In this study, one translator would be the starting point, William Woodville Rockhill, an American diplomat who is more renowned as an expert at Tibet in sinology, to open the scroll of introducing and translating Chinese geographical accounts to the west. A network of translators and sinologists as well as translations covering French, German and English shapes the history of introducing and translating Chinese geographical accounts to the world, which spans from the first partial translation in 1857 to the latest version in 2020.

To describe the network of successive translations and translators, this article borrows the term *iterative books* from biological community in the 18th century and discusses the *iterative translations* as well as the knowledge growth in this case. The term *iterative books* is borrowed from the 18th century Linnaean botany, which relied heavily on the accumulation and aggregation of contributions by many people, and pursued a global project of registration, documentation, and classification. Drawing upon this frame to interpret and analyze the successive translations in this case, this study applies the conception of iterative translations to illustrate some features: (a) they were open to correcting and supplementing, mostly in their heavy footnotes and sometimes in the introductory parts; (b) they were largely networked by correspondence between translators or sinologists when they talked about their co-translation or geographical locations or foreign relations in the accounts; (c) they functioned as an evolvable format that could keep up with the accumulative character of the process by which the knowledge of geographical accounts was created.

Keywords

Iterative translations

Knowledge growth

Translating Chinese geographical accounts

Session 3A.7

Metaphors We Tour by: Effects of Extended Conceptual Metaphor Theory on Tourism Translation

Li Tianhao and He Sirong (The National University of Malaysia)

Metaphor is a complex phenomenon in translation practice. Translators might omit or generalise metaphors into the target language due to metaphor being a translation problem. Previous studies address the issue of metaphor itself in translation. This study, however, argues that metaphor is a solution to promote translation, particularly in the context of tourism advertising. Metaphor is commonly seen in tourism-related texts. Hence, the present research focuses on translation procedures of metaphors in tourism promotional materials by conceptualising source domains within cognitive metaphors. A small corpus is collected from China's official tourism promotional website, which has Chinese and English translated versions. Adopting descriptive translation studies, the present research aims to enhance the destination image of China by exerting the effects of twelve contextual factors employed with Extended Conceptual Metaphor Theory (ECMT) on metaphor translation. By conducting a comparative analysis between original and suggested translations, the research finds HUMAN and ANIMAL as the most common source domains in metaphors of tourism promotional materials. Besides, to fill in the gap of contextual factors in metaphor translation, a new concept, sub-translation, is also created in this research. The concept emphasises the contextual factors within metaphors, which provides translators in tourism sectors with a mediated space to identify potential source domains varying from the contextual factors and sensibly choose one tailored for the context within a conceptual metaphor in the target text. The concept is potentially instrumental in facilitating the translation procedure and intercultural communication towards target tourists, allowing translators to convert metaphors into solutions.

Keywords

Metaphor in translation

Contextual factors

Sub-translation

Chinese-to-English translation

Tourism advertising

Session 3A.7

A Probe into the English Translation — Annotation Version of *Datang Xiyu Ji* by Thomas Watters

Jin Ping (Communication University of Zhejiang)

From the Han and Tang Dynasties to the early Northern Song Dynasty, Chinese eminent monks went west to India, the center of Buddhism in search of the Dharma. In the meantime, they also wrote the travel records about countries and regions they passed along the ancient Silk Road between China and India. The book *Datang Xiyu Ji* (《大唐西域记》) is such a travel record written by Xuanzang(玄奘), a Chinese monk in the Tang Dynasty after he traveled and researched Buddhism in India for seventeen years, which involves history, geography, religion, language, politics, customs, legends and other aspects. Since the nineteenth century, the translation and research of *Datang Xiyu Ji* have begun in the West. Among these, *On Yuan Chwang's Travels in India*, the English translation-annotation version by the British scholar Thomas Watters (1840-1901), has always been identified in the Western world due to its high translation quality and professionalism, and has been spread over more than one hundred years. This paper, by taking the theoretical perspective from traditional Chinese Exegesis and Annotation, makes an analysis of the translation-annotation system in Watters' English version from the aspects of its themes, strategies, influential factors, utilization and reception. Based on this, this paper further discusses how translation-annotation style, as a cross-cultural way of writing, plays its role in the continuity of translation value and the regeneration of cultural meaning, and its possible development space in future. The ultimate aim for such study is to provide a new perspective and inspiration for the translation of cultural classical documents about the Silk Road in foreign languages.

Keywords

Watters

Datang Xiyu Ji

English translation-annotation version

Cross-cultural way of writing

Session 3A.7

Cultural Mistranslation in Traveling Theory from the Perspective of Transknowletology: A Case Study on the Chinese Translation of “Carpe Diem” in English Films and Television

Jianxing Lu (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

This study adopts the perspective of Translation Studies within the framework of Knowledge Translation to analyze the cultural mistranslation and semantic transformation of the Latin phrase “Carpe Diem” as it travels through English and Chinese cultural contexts. Using Edward Said’s “Traveling Theory” as a four-stage model, the research investigates how translation mediates and reconstructs knowledge across linguistic and cultural boundaries. The findings reveal that while “Carpe Diem” and its Chinese rendition “及时行乐” (jishi xingle) share a recognition of life’s transience, their contemporary philosophical connotations diverge significantly. In modern Chinese contexts, “及时行乐” often aligns with hedonistic tendencies, diverging from the original’s emphasis on moderation and mindfulness. This case underscores translation’s dual role as both a creative force and a source of semantic drift in global knowledge dissemination, offering a fresh theoretical lens for studying cultural mistranslation.

Keywords

Transknowletology

Cultural mistranslation

Traveling theory

Film and television translation



Session 3A.7

A Multimodal-narrative Approach to Cultural Transmission in the Translation of Tourism Short Videos

Lu Tian (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies)

In this increasingly interconnected world, facilitated by the Internet, short videos have emerged as a pivotal channel for cross-cultural communication. Particularly, the multimodal and narrative nature of audiovisual materials positions tourism short videos as an effective medium for vividly presenting local landscapes and cultural characteristics to a global audience and potential visitors.

This study is anchored in two foundational understandings: translations are not merely not even primarily concerned with linguistic accuracy but an endeavor for cultural resonance; and audiovisual translation encompasses the integration of multimodal elements. Consequently, this research transcends the linguistic aspects of subtitling in tourism short videos to explore the interplay and coordination of multimodal elements in narrating culturally rich stories.

The study commences by establishing an analytical framework for evaluating cultural transmission, incorporating multimodal elements into the narrative structure analysis of tourism short videos. It posits that the coordination of multimodal information is pivotal to the core narrative elements, encapsulated by the 5Ws (who, what, when, where, and why). Subsequently, the research delves into the translation strategies for tourism short videos, emphasizing the necessity of narrative and contextual adjustments due to sociocultural disparities. These adjustments are crucial for ensuring cultural adaptability and acceptance, encompassing the selection and screening of cultural information, as well as supplementation and explicitation of relevant contextual knowledge. Lastly, the research applies the multimodal-narrative approach to a case study of specific Chinese-English tourism short videos to evaluate the translation quality based on their ability to preserve the integrity of cultural content while maintaining clarity and coherence in narration.

Keywords

Audiovisual translation
Multimodal analysis
Narration
Cultural transmission
Tourism short video

Session 3A.7

Improving Cultural Inclusivity: Translating Venetian Museum Content for Chinese-speaking Visitors

Xu Fei (University Ca' Foscari of Venice)

This research investigates translation strategies for museums and cultural heritage in Venice, aiming to improve accessibility and inclusivity for Chinese-speaking tourists. Despite Venice's renowned historical and cultural wealth, the lack of Chinese translations in museum materials limits engagement for an increasingly significant segment of international visitors. This study seeks to address this issue by proposing effective translation strategies for rendering Italian museum texts into Chinese, while also drawing insights from existing English translations as a reference. These strategies aim to enhance accessibility for Chinese-speaking audiences by ensuring linguistic accuracy and cultural relevance.

The research draws on both theoretical and practical methodologies. The theoretical framework is informed by museum and cultural heritage translation theories proposed by scholars such as Kate Sturge and Robert Neather, which emphasize the importance of cultural adaptation and audience engagement. On the practical side, the study identifies key categories of traditional museum content for translation, such as wall panels, exhibit labels, and audioguides. It analyzes existing English translations of Chinese museum texts and proposes modified versions to identify linguistic and cultural challenges as well as best practices. Building on this foundation, the study engages in practical translation exercises with texts from Venice's Doge's Palace, demonstrating how tailored strategies can be developed and applied effectively across diverse contexts.

In addition, the research integrates these insights into the researcher's Chinese-English Translation course, where graduate students participate in discussions and hands-on exercises. By critically engaging with real-world museum texts, students contribute innovative perspectives to the project, fostering a collaborative approach to the development of effective translation strategies.

The study emphasizes the broader implications of translation in the context of cultural tourism. By addressing the gap in linguistic accessibility, the research demonstrates how museums can bridge cultural divides and foster meaningful connections with diverse audiences. These efforts not only enhance the visitor experience for Chinese tourists but also contribute to the global dissemination of Venice's cultural heritage.

This research provides a theoretical framework and practical insights into translation as a tool for cultural inclusion. It highlights the importance of linguistic diversity in cultural heritage management and offers a replicable model for other global destinations seeking to better accommodate international visitors. The findings underscore the critical role of translation in creating a more inclusive and engaging cultural tourism landscape.

Keywords

Tourism translation; museum translation strategies; Cultural inclusivity; Museum accessibility



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 3B.1

Translation, film and literature



Session 3B.1

A Study of English Translations of Chinese Run-on Sentences from the Perspective of Explicitation: Focusing on Three English Versions of *Border Town*

Huang Hongyu and Feng Yang (Harbin Institute of Technology, Shenzhen)

Explicitation, a translation strategy that renders implicit information from the source language explicit in the target language, has been primarily studied at the micro lexical level such as the explication of pronouns and conjunctions. This paper explores its application at the macro-level syntactic and textual features, focusing on the translation of *liushuiju* or Chinese run-on sentences (CRS) in Shen Congwen's 1934 novella "Border Town" and its three representative English translations by Ching Ti and Robert Payne (1947), Gladys Yang (1981), and Jeffrey Kinkley (2009).

The study addresses three questions: CRS distribution in "Border Town," challenges posed by translating CRS in light of explicitation, and patterns in translators' explicitation strategies for CRS. Findings reveal that CRS is prevalent in "Border Town," appearing in 93% of paragraphs and constituting 65% of sentences, with a notable concentration in the first and last chapters. This confirms CRS as a defining feature of Shen's aesthetic style. Translation challenges include obligatory explicitation of CRS subjects, optional explicitation in converting paratactic coherence to hypotactic cohesion, and pragmatic explicitation to address the strong spatiality of CRS versus the temporality of English. In the three translations, explicitation strategies for CRS exhibit similarities, such as explicitation of implicit subjects, consistent handling of conditional and adversative relationships, and convergent treatment of spatial reversibility. Differences include lexical choice, with Ti favoring pronouns and static verbs, while Yang and Kinkley emphasizing dynamic verbs; textual construction also varies, with Ti's literal translation resulting in more fragmentation and a less literary quality, Yang's concise, flowing and expressive style, and Kinkley's scholarly faithfulness to the original text.

Factors influencing the choice of explicitation strategies in translating CRS include linguistic structures, cognitive frames and translator differences. These translator-specific variations encompass sociocultural backgrounds, professional identities, and collaborative modes. Translating literary classics into foreign languages demands not only the precise conveyance of content (such as characters, plot, and environment) but also the subtle reproduction of linguistic features and stylistic elements, necessitating the dynamic adjustment and negotiation of numerous factors both within and beyond the language.

Keywords

Chinese run-on sentences

Border Town

Explicitation

Gladys Yang

Jeffrey Kinkley

Ching Ti



Session 3B.1

The Translator's Presence and Invisibility: A case study on Yu Dafu's translation of Oscar Wilde's "The Preface" to *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Mengzi Liu (University of New South Wales)

This paper examines the concept of "the translator's invisibility" as a neutral term, using Yu Dafu's translation as a case study. It argues that translators are always present, and their visibility or invisibility depends on the relationship between the observer and the observed. This paper defines the translator's state of presence yet invisibility as a ghostly existence. From the observer's perspective, the translator's visibility varies across synchronic and diachronic dimensions, influenced by shifts in observers and viewpoints. From the perspective of the observed, translators can actively choose to appear or remain invisible. The translator's invisibility is not inherently negative; it may represent a deliberate strategy employed by translators to achieve their own objectives.

Keywords

The translator's invisibility

Yu Dafu's translation

Active invisibility

Session 3B.1

Poetry for Socio-political Justice in Palestine: Mahmoud Darwish's Translation and Re-narration of Palestinian-Israeli Encounters

Mahmoud Alhirthani (Hamad Bin Khalifa University)

While Darwish's work has been largely studied from a literary perspective, not much attention has been given to its translational dimensions. This article examines two of Mahmoud Darwish's poems, "Identity Card" (1964) and "A Soldier Dreams of White Tulips" (1967), as two complementary endeavours to achieve justice for the Palestinian people. It focuses on the socio-political contexts of their production, circulation, and reception to demonstrate the pivotal role translation as (re)narration can play in pursuit of justice and in challenging hegemonic narratives. Both poems became a site of political controversy due to the ways in which they were produced, translated, and renarrated across languages and modalities. While "Identity Card" offers a personal and public narrative of Palestinians' confrontation with Israelis, "A Soldier Dreams of White Tulips" opens up a space to hear the remorse of an Israeli soldier because of the acts of killing he committed against the poet's own people. Unsurprisingly, the two poems were received very differently: "Identity Card" became a national poem in Palestine whereas "A Soldier Dreams of White Tulips" received little acclaim in the Arab world. Indeed, "A Soldier Dreams of White Tulips" was criticized because it stood against the pervasive public narratives of the 1960s which stress that the humanized soldier portrayed by Darwish does not exist in the enemy's camp. However, decades later, the poem is proven right, as the soldier, is revealed to be Shlomo Sand, Israeli writer, and activist, known for taking resolute steps towards justice. After quitting the army, he leaves Israel and goes to France, where he produces work, as an author and an activist who stands against Israeli mainstream narratives, to the extent that his work is translated into Arabic by Palestinian translators, at the request of Darwish himself. It is in this new context that "A Soldier Dreams of White Tulips" is rediscovered, decades after it appeared for the first time, and becomes the object of temporal and spatial framing across contexts and modalities, including translations, recitations, and documentaries. At a time of despair by entrenched injustices and crimes against humanities perpetrated by Israel settler colonialism, the dynamics of the poem's emergence and later revival may well inspire alternatives to existing hegemonic narratives of selves and others that continue to stand in the way of justice for the Palestinian people.

Keywords

Justice
Mahmoud Darwish
Narrative
Palestine
Translation



Session 3B.1

An Examination of the English Translation of “Xin Xue” in Yangming’s Heart-Mind Learning

Xu Han and Wen Bing (Zhejiang Sci-Tech University)

Effectively translating the term “Xin Xue” (Heart-Mind Learning) in Yangming’s Heart-Mind Learning poses one of the challenges in its overseas dissemination. This paper explores the translations of “xin” (heart-mind) and “xue” (learning) from an etymological perspective. The study finds that “xin” is translated not only as “mind” but also as “heart-mind” and “Mind-heart”, while “xue” is rendered as “school”, “doctrine”, “thought”, “learning”, “ethics”, and “theory”. These translational discrepancies significantly impede the effective communication of Wang Yangming’s thoughts abroad. Ultimately, this paper contends that the most suitable translation for the concept of “Xin Xue” in Yangming’s Heart-Mind Learning is to render “xin” as “Heart-Mind” and “xue” as “Learning”. This not only embodies the dual connotations of Yangming’s Heart-Mind Learning, encompassing both the “Benti Xin” (ontological heart) and the “Xuerou Xin” (vital heart), but also aligns closely with its emphasis on individual moral self-awareness achieved through introspection and practice. It can facilitate a deeper understanding among Western readers and thereby promote exchanges between Chinese and Western philosophical thoughts.

Keywords

Yangming’s Heart-Mind Learning
English translation of “Xin Xue”
Philosophical translation
Etymology

Session 3B.1

Mind in or out of Heart? — A Contrastive Study of Expressions of *Xin* in Two Translation Versions of *Beauty*

Xu Songjian (Shanghai International Studies University)

Xue Mo is a contemporary Chinese writer whose works have been translated in many countries. His works mainly depict people's life in the western regions of China, and feature in spiritual narration. In this study, one of his stories, *Beauty*, which is a combination of four chapters of his novel *White Tiger Pass*, is chosen to analyze the translation of *xin*, the Chinese 'heart' literally, in two of its English versions, one translated by Nicky Harman, the other by Howard Goldblatt and Sylvia Li-chun Lin. Two steps are taken for the analysis. Firstly, the collocations of *xin* in the original Chinese version and their counterparts in the translated versions are selected; meanwhile, as 'mind' is closely related to 'heart', the collocations of 'mind' in the translated versions and their original Chinese counterparts are also picked out, in case there is anything missing. These expressions are then compared in detail. Secondly, for the two translation versions, the degrees of granularity adjustment to various kinds of metaphors and metonymies lying in the collocations of *xin* are compared to explore the extent of the translators' empathic projection. The results of the study show that expressions vary in translating *xin*. A large part of them are abstract concepts, which relates to the long tradition of disembodied 'mind' in the western countries. In addition, the findings indicate that different granularity adjustment strategies are used in the two translated versions, demonstrating distinct levels of empathic projection by the translators, which stems from the translators' various embodied experiences.

Keywords

Xin

Heart

Xue Mo

Translation comparison

Embodied cognition

Session 3B.1

Translating Women's Sexual Experiences in the English Rendition of *Liaozhai Zhiyi* (聊齋志異 / *Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio*)

Ang Li (University of Stirling)

Even though the research regarding sexuality and translation has been widely discussed (Irshad and Yasmin, 2022), Baer (2022) notes limitations of this topic beyond Western Europe and Anglo-America. Particularly, scholars have devoted limited theoretical or critical attention to discussing late imperial Chinese works and their English-translated texts under a feminist lens. To address this research gap and provide a model for applying feminist theory in the representations of women in late imperial Chinese texts and their translated versions, this study is structured in two stages. Initially, I will explore women's sexual experiences in literary works and the sociocultural and ideological contexts in which they are situated, with a focus on the tale 'Yecha Guo' (夜叉國 / *The Country of Cannibals*) in *Liaozhai Zhiyi*, which is written by Pu Songling, as an example; then, this paper will examine how the translator, Herbert Giles, a predominant sinologist in the Victorian era, receives and renders this text, and in which way he contributes to the exclusion and stereotyping of women's sexual experiences in his translated work.

The discussion of the ST and TT will focus on women's experience as a sexual agency, which challenges the traditional stereotype that women lack sexual autonomy (Vanwesenbeeck et al., 2021). Through challenging the neo-Confucianist sexual ethics, which require 'discard human desires to retain the heavenly principles' (Ruan, 2013), Pu arranges plots that enable female characters to initiate sexual behaviours and express their sexual desires, revealing the possibility of subverting the conventional power dynamics between two sexes prescribed by neo-Confucianism. However, Giles' TT tells a different story: his deletion of women's identity as sexual agency leads to the patriarchal power dynamics of the two sexes reinforced. Based on the TT's preface (Giles, 1880) and Victorian British gender ethos (Fenn, 2020), I argue that Giles' representation of women's sexuality is alignment with Victorian morality and social-political context. In addition, the implications of Giles' deletion will be analysed based on the gendered civilisation-barbarian binary under British colonial enterprises, proposing that Giles' TT aligns with the ideological and structural conditions of patriarchy and colonialism.

Overall, the dialectic and dynamic relationship between men and women in both ST and TT allows a postcolonial and feminist reading of the tale possible, in which a labyrinthine and dynamic relationship between late imperial China and Victorian Britain, Self and Otherness, civil and barbarous will be carefully analysed around the conceptual axis of sexuality in translation.

Keywords

Feminist translation theory; Late imperial Chinese literature; Chinese women; Colonialism, Sexual agency

Session 3B.1

A Corpus-based Study on Linguistic Features of E-C Animated Films Translation

Li Jing (North China University of Water Resources and Electric Power)

With the rapid spread of a vast amount of audiovisual translation products globally, the importance of audiovisual translation has become increasingly prominent. Compared with other types of films, animated films enjoy an all-age group of audiences and have attracted the attention of many researchers. However, the previous studies mainly focus on translation strategies. This research conducts a comprehensive comparison between the original language (Chinese and English) and translated language (Chinese) at the lexical and syntactic levels, by using a self-built parallel corpus and a Chinese referential corpus.

It is interesting to find that: 1) there are significant differences in the distribution of the parts of speech among the three types of texts; 2) compared with the original texts, the translated texts exhibit a significant preference for high-frequency words; 3) The personal pronouns usage in the translated texts is much closer to that of the source texts, instead of the original Chinese texts; 4) similarities are found in the usage, collocations and semantic rhyme of some special Chinese sentence patterns (such as sentences in the passive voice or sentences with the “ba” structure) between the translated texts and the original Chinese texts; 5) Translators’ decisions are reflected in the translation of adversative conjunctions and personal pronouns.

Keywords

Corpus-based

Linguistic Features

Animated Films Translation



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 3B.2

Translation, film and literature



Session 3B.2

A Comparative Study of Translator's Styles Using Corpus-based Textual Features-Lin Yutang's and Leonard Pratt's Translation of *Fu Sheng Liu Ji*

Li Zhuofan (Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics)

In this study, two self-built parallel corpora are used, and several NLP tools — TAALED 1.3.1, TAALES 2.2, TAACO 2.0.4, NeoSCA, and spaCy — are employed to analyze thirty-one textual features at the lexical, syntactic, and discourse levels, as well as assess readability. The selected texts are Lin Yutang's and Leonard Pratt's translations of *Fu Sheng Liu Ji*, a well-known classic Chinese novel. Unlike previous studies, the methodology is innovative in its use of interdisciplinary methods, combining psycholinguistics and computational linguistics with stylistic analysis. In addition, statistical analysis based on SPSS 27.0 is employed to reveal the stylistic differences between the two texts. As a complement to quantitative analysis, typical examples are also provided for more in-depth qualitative investigation of their styles. After that, the reasons for the formation of their distinctive translator's styles are explored. The results show that, compared with Lin's version, Pratt's translated text exhibits greater diversity, sophistication, concreteness, and imageability at the lexical level, and greater global and discourse coherence as well as readability, but scores lower in lexical familiarity, length of production units, and the number of coordinate phrases and complex nominals per clause, as well as noun tokens and types per sentence. These findings reflect two distinct translator's styles: Pratt's style emphasizes clarity, conciseness, and reader accessibility, while Lin's translation prioritizes fidelity to the original text and formal consistency. The stylistic discrepancies between the two translations may signify the translator's strategic decisions in the translation process, influenced by their first languages, different levels of English proficiency, translation purposes, etc.

Keywords

Corpus-based stylistic analysis

Translator's style

Translation

Session 3B.2

Diasporic Writing as a Definition of Early Hong Kong Literature in Translation

Robert Tsaturyan (Hong Kong Baptist University)

A fundamental purpose of the editorial team of the multivolume *Compendium of Hong Kong Literature 1919–1949* 香港文學大系 1919–1949 was to define Hong Kong literature. The extended “general preface” by its chief editor and the genre-based introductions to different volumes by various scholars have perhaps achieved this tremendously difficult goal. However, as a coordinator of a funded project at The Education University of Hong Kong, titled “Internationalization at Home: Translating Hong Kong Literature into English,” and a co-editor of an upcoming *Hong Kong Literature (1919-1949): A Bilingual Edition* (with Prof. C. T. Au), I soon discovered that our selected pieces (for which we had several criteria, such as best representing Hong Kong literature while avoiding the better-known May Fourth authors) shared several interconnected themes: nostalgia, departure and return, and foreign land. Unlike the multivolume compendium, a single translated collection requires not only historical but also thematic contextualization. I argue that the above themes are characteristic of Hong Kong literature from this period and become more evident in translation. As Wong Nim-yan 黃念欣 notes in her introduction to the “Fiction II” volume: “The frequent migration of the population created many themes related to leaving, returning to, or emigrating from one’s hometown, or what is now known as ‘diaspora’ literature. In 1940s Hong Kong, such themes were ubiquitous.” I argue that these themes can define early Hong Kong literature against the backdrop of another wave of “leaving and returning” in our times. In this context, translating and editing also serves as an attempt to re-define Hong Kong literature of the 1930s and 1940s for contemporary readers. As a translator and co-editor, I will share insights on the complex interplay between defining local literature through translation

Keywords

Hong Kong Literature

Diasporic writing

Translation

Nostalgia

Session 3B.2

Reconstructing Musicality in English-Chinese Translation and Dubbing: An Investigation of Online Fandubbed *Hamilton*

Wang Xiao (Fudan University)

This study examines the motivations, processes, and reception of fan-created Chinese translations and dubbings of the musical *Hamilton*, with a focus on the reconstruction of musicality through cyberdubbing. The research is rooted in the musical's popularity in China, the rise of fan culture, and the growing trend of cyberdubbing on the Chinese platform *Bilibili*. With the increasing number of *Hamilton* fans and a growing appreciation for fandub translations, there is a clear need for a deeper exploration of this intercultural communication practice.

The paper investigates the motivations behind fandub creators' efforts, the challenges they face in translating, dubbing, and producing Chinese versions, and the reactions of the online audience. A mixed-method approach was employed, combining interviews with creators and qualitative analysis of data from *Bilibili*.

The findings reveal that, in addition to their passion for the original work, creators are also motivated by the feasibility of the project and the opportunity to improve their skills. Positive feedback from fans and friends, both online and offline, serves as continuous encouragement. Many creators rely on resources such as Genius (for song lyrics), native speakers, Chinese arts experts, linguistic knowledge, AI tools for music production and rhyming, and other fan-made adaptations (e.g., Japanese and sign-language versions). During the viewing of fandub videos, audiences actively engage in discussions, offering praise or critique. Creators typically respond positively, using negative feedback as an opportunity to improve their work. Fandub videos that feature professional production, high-quality translations, and voices similar to the original tend to attract more attention. Creators who maintain the continuity of the musical by faithfully preserving its original structure and features are more likely to develop a loyal audience.

The study acknowledges several limitations, including a small sample size (5 Mandarin creators and 1 Cantonese creator), a restricted time frame (2021-2024), and limited data. As AI technologies and creative tools become more accessible, fan translations are likely to become increasingly diverse, opening up new opportunities for cultural dissemination.

Overall, this research highlights the dynamic interaction between language and culture. This interest-driven practice not only satisfies the creative needs of translators but also fosters broader cultural exchange.

Keywords

Musicality

Creative adaptation

Fandub translation



Session 3B.2

“Inseparability of One and Many”: A Study on the Construction of Chinese Philosophical Terminology in Ames’ English Translation of *Focusing the Familiar*

Junkang Huang and Wei Guo (Central South University)

As the essence of traditional Chinese culture, Chinese philosophical classics contain profound philosophies, the translation and dissemination of which is the key of Chinese culture’s “going global”. Chinese philosophical terminology could summarize and punctuate the text perfectly, and it is the manifestation of the connotation of Chinese philosophical texts. If not translated properly, it is difficult to convey the true meanings of Chinese philosophy. Improper translation of Chinese philosophical terminology has led to the erroneous view that “China has no philosophy,” partly because the translators lack understanding of the differences between Chinese and Western philosophy, and overly “Westernized” translations of philosophical terms. In addition, a single word in ancient Chinese often “plays multiple roles” in a sentence, and its polysemy and cultural differences also make the meaning of philosophical terms more obscure in the long-term historical evolution. Therefore, accurately translating Chinese philosophical terms and constructing a discourse system of Chinese philosophical terms has important academic value and practical significance. “Inseparability of One and Many” is the cosmological view that laid the foundation for Confucianism and is the guiding ideology in Chinese philosophy for describing the relationship between the origin of the world and all things in the world. As a master in the translation and dissemination of Confucianism, Roger T. Ames has deeply explored the terms of *Focusing the Familiar* with the methodology of complete translation, and fully implemented the cosmological concept of “Inseparability of One and Many” into the translation, highlighting the focus-field thinking, which is of great significance in constructing the path for the English translation of Chinese philosophical terminology.

Keywords

Inseparability of One and Many

Focusing the Familiar

Chinese philosophical terminology

Roger T. Ames

Session 3B.2

Changes and Implications of Characterisation in the Translation and Adaption

Jian Aili (Shanghai International Studies University)

Numerous literary works from around the world have been translated and embraced by international audiences, highlighting compelling characters, profound themes, and well-structured plots. A faithful representation of a character conveyed through language or imagery is often regarded as a hallmark of quality translation. However, shifts in characterisation are an inherent part of the translation process, whether intralingual, interlingual, or intersemiotic. There remains a gap in research regarding the impact of (re)translation on characterisation—the process by which characters in a narrative are developed with specific traits, personalities, or identities.

This case study focuses on the works of contemporary Chinese writer Wang Anyi and primarily employs corpus stylistic analysis. By examining keyword patterns, collocational patterns, and cues for characterisation, this study first aims to clarify how characters are portrayed in the source text and how these representations change in the target text and the adapted film. Secondly, the paper will explore the factors influencing the choices made by translators and adaptors concerning characterisation.

The changes introduced by translators and adaptors in reshaping character portrayals should not necessarily be viewed as losses or deficiencies. Instead, this study advocates for a new perspective that acknowledges the constructive role of translators in reconfiguring narratives that shape our understanding of the past, present, and future. The article suggests that the shifts in characterisation observed across the source text, target texts, and adapted film can provide valuable insights for future retranslations and dissemination of Chinese literature, as the strategies and motivations of the rewriters may be closely intertwined.

Keywords

Characterisation

Translation

Adapted film

Corpus stylistic analysis



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 3B.3

AI's impact on translation and interpreting research and practice



Session 3B.3

The Future of Translation and Interpreting in the AI Era: A Case Study of the New Energy Vehicle Industry

Liu Quan (BYD Limited)

This paper explores the future of translation and interpreting in the age of AI, using the new energy automotive industry as an example. The paper points out that with the advancement of AI technology, translators and interpreters are facing new challenges and opportunities. The new energy automobile industry has a wide range of terminology and rapidly updating technology, which puts great pressure on translators. AI tools such as Wenxin Yiyan and ChatGPT can assist translators in quickly understanding technical principles, accurately translating terminology, and improving work efficiency. At the same time, AI also shows advantages in handling numbers and accents. The document also stresses that translators need to combine AI tools to give full play to their strengths and find their niche in the new era.

Keywords

New energy vehicles

AI

AI-assisted interpreting



Session 3B.3

The Impact of Live Captioning on Ear-Voice Span, Cognitive Load, and Interpreting Quality in Simultaneous Interpreting

Lang Xu (Shanghai International Studies University)

Simultaneous interpreting (SI) with live captioning (LC), powered by artificial intelligence, is an emerging paradigm garnering increasing attention in academia. While existing research highlights LC's potential to enhance interpreting quality and reduce cognitive load, its impact on ear-voice span (EVS)—a key component interpreters can manipulate to balance cognitive resources and maintain output quality—remains underexplored.

This trial study investigates how LC affects EVS, cognitive load, and interpreting quality. Two Chinese-English professional interpreters with differing levels of familiarity with LC participated, performing SI on two challenging speeches under baseline conditions (without LC) and experimental conditions (with LC). Semi-structured interviews followed to capture their perceptions and use of LC both in general and during the experiment. The study hypothesized that LC, by alleviating cognitive demands on listening comprehension and memory, would support longer EVS without compromising output quality.

Contrary to expectations, results showed that EVS was negatively correlated with interpreting quality under both conditions, with significant quality declines beyond an interpreter's EVS "threshold". LC benefited the frequent user, leading to shorter EVS and improved output quality, but resulted in longer EVS and reduced quality for the non-frequent user. Additionally, overreliance on LC occasionally caused comprehension issues for the frequent user, resulting in very short EVS and degraded interpreting quality.

These findings challenge the assumption that LC universally improves SI performance, emphasizing the need for training and practice to maximize its benefits. Interpreters and trainees must approach LC with caution, as its "double-edged sword" nature can lead to performance inconsistencies. This study contributes to understanding how AI-powered tools reshape SI cognitive processes and performance, offering practical implications for interpreting training and practice in technology-assisted environments.

Keywords

Simultaneous interpreting
Live captioning
Ear-voice span
Cognitive load
Interpreting quality

Session 3B.3

Integrating AI in Football Translation: A Multi-Stakeholder Analysis

Yingyi Zhuang and **Mingyi Zhou** (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen)

The emergence of large language models (LLMs) has transformed the landscape of artificial intelligence (AI) and its applications across professional domains, including translation. In sports translation, while LLMs can accelerate workflows and enable real-time content delivery, they still face a fundamental limitation: capturing the nuanced expertise that defines quality sports translation. Beyond mere linguistic conversion, sports translation demands mastery of specialized terminology, distinctive styles, and deep cultural literacy in the sporting world.

Among various sports translations, football translation has become particularly significant in China. After decades of globalization, European football leagues have established a large fanbase in China, where football enthusiasts actively translate content about their favourite clubs and players on social media platforms. With the rise of LLMs, AI tools are increasingly being integrated into football translation practices, raising interesting questions: How well can LLMs handle the specific requirements of football translation? And how do different stakeholders—including football translators, readers, and translation project managers—view the use of LLMs in this context?

To address these questions, this study carries out surveys with football translators, readers, and project managers based on two approaches. First, it uses the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) model to understand how football translators and project managers embrace and integrate AI tools into their work. Second, it applies Uses and Gratifications (U&G) theory to examine reader engagement with and evaluation of AI-assisted football translations. It then analyzes the impact of AI tools on translation processes and quality and explores implications for crowdsourced translation practices. By examining the integration of AI tools in football translation, this study provides insights into the dynamics between technology, content producers, and audiences in specialized translation domains.

Keywords

AI
Sports translation
Football translation
UTAUT
U&G



Session 3B.3

Translation and Interpreting Technology in the Age of AI: An Australian Perspective

Sixin Liao, Vanessa Enríquez Raído, Marc Orlando and Jan-Louis Kruger
(Macquarie University)

As digital technologies and artificial intelligence are transforming the language industry, understanding their impact on translation and interpreting (T&I) practices has significant implications for T&I training. This study surveyed over 1000 professional translators and interpreters in Australia to assess their use of and attitudes towards a broad array of technologies. Results show that a quarter of respondents use computer-assisted translation (CAT) and machine translation (MT) tools, while less than 10% use computer-assisted interpreting (CAI) tools and large language models (LLMs).

Translators are the biggest users of technology overall and interpreters the lowest. This seems to suggest that translators in Australia have become more acquainted with both CAT and MT/MI tools whereas more recent advances in CAI tools and LLMs have led to a limited uptake to date. Respondents generally considered these technologies helpful in improving the productivity and quality of their work. They also reported a good awareness of the limitations, risks, and ethical implications associated with the use of technologies in their work. In particular, there is a strong awareness of the ethical issues associated with the use of AI from confidentiality to copyright to accuracy to language deskilling and sustainability and legal consequences. Only ecological impact was of lesser concern by all groups. However, many felt less confident in their understanding of how MT process texts and in their proficiency with AI tools, expressing a strong need for training of these tools. Implications for T&I training are discussed based on the findings.

Keywords

Artificial intelligence (AI)

Large language models (LLMs)

MT literacy

Technology

Translation and interpreting training

Session 3B.3

Machine Translation in Japanese Local Governments: Human Resource Strategies and Challenges

Akiko Sakamoto (Kansai University) and **Rei Miyata** (University of Tokyo)

Japanese local governments have been facing a high demand for multilingual translation services due to the recent dynamic shifts in the demographics of foreign residents in Japan. In addition, Japanese local governments, which are often under tight budgetary constraints, bear enormous responsibilities for foreign residents, because their multilingual information dissemination affects not only the quality of life of foreign residents, but it can also be crucial during life-threatening events like earthquakes, which are a common occurrence in Japan. In these circumstances, MT plays a vital role in local governments' multilingual public-facing service provisions. As such, local government workers in Japan form an important MT user community, but their perceptions of and practices around MT use are severely understudied.

This paper will present a section of our research project “Translation Resources for Local Governments” or “TR4LG”. The project’s ultimate goal is to create specialized multilingual translation resources and tools for local governments in Japan, including tailored terminology lists, bilingual corpora, a customized MT engine, and accompanying user guidelines.

To inform this initiative, we conducted a preliminary study to survey what challenges Japanese local government workers are facing regarding translation, and how MT is used to tackle these issues. Three local governments of different sizes in terms of population were examined using questionnaires and interviews. The study identified two main areas of concern: a general absence of clear guidelines as to how to use MT safely and effectively in the local governments' public-facing multilingual services; and an overall shortfall of adequate human resources for risk management (here risks include translation errors), particularly for low-resource but high-demand languages (such as Vietnamese and Nepalese). Despite the constrained human resources, however, it has also been revealed that various methods are used in mitigating the risks, sometimes systematically but other times haphazardly, depending on the availability of human resources at that local government. This presentation will report on these contrasting examples of MT use. The contrasting elements encompass quality assurance procedures (e.g. a cross-departmental coordinated procedure as against single-departmental or an employee's individual effort), human resource deployment (e.g. use of full-time employees as against part-timers or non-professional resident volunteers, with different translational knowledge and linguistic backgrounds) and MT literacy education (where MT vendors also play a role). We will then discuss the importance of human resource strategies in the MT-led multilingual services at local governments regardless of the size of the organization.

Keywords

Local governments; Translation resources; Machine translation; Japan; Multilingual translation service



Session 3B.3

From Prompt Engineering to Workflow Engineering: Exploring New Possibilities of LLM-Based Multi-Agent Literary Translation

Wang Lulu (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University), **Wang Xing** (Tencent), **Sun Sanjun** (Beijing Foreign Studies University), **Gu Jinghang** (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University), and **Liu Kanglong** (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

Large Language Models (LLMs) have shown considerable potential in machine translation. However, their performance in literary translation continues to lag behind high-quality human translations, despite the use of advanced prompting techniques. LLM-generated literary translations often suffer from stylistic awkwardness and overly literal renderings. Recent research has introduced multi-agent systems based on LLMs to tackle complex tasks by decomposing them into smaller components. While these systems often emulate the labor division of human society, it remains unclear whether such designs fully utilize the unique capabilities of LLMs. To address this gap, we designed two multi-agent systems for translating Chinese fiction into English, utilizing OpenAI's GPT-4o as the foundational model. The first system emulates the traditional workflow of a translation company, incorporating multiple stages of review and proofreading. The second system capitalizes on the intrinsic strengths of LLMs, such as contextual understanding, strategic planning, and creative text generation, to explore stylistic and literary flexibility. Preliminary evaluations showed that both systems produced translations that matched or, in some cases, surpassed high-quality human translations. This study presents the findings of a corpus-based linguistic analysis, which identified linguistic features in the translations that may influence reader experiences. The first system, which simulates human workflows, employs direct and sensory-rich lexical choices to enhance accessibility and create vivid imagery. In contrast, the second system adopts a more abstract and interpretive style, yielding nuanced renderings that could evoke deeper emotional responses. Notably, LLM-generated translations achieve vividness through lexical patterns distinct from those found in original English fiction. These findings underscore the potential of LLMs to exhibit stylistic variation and provide valuable insights into optimizing multi-agent workflows for literary translation to accommodate different reader preferences.

Keywords

Large language models (LLMs)
Multi-agent systems
Literary translation
Translation style
GPT-4o

Session 3B.3

Translator's Posture in the Context of AI

Andrea Musumeci (City University of Hong Kong)

The translator's visibility has been a subject of ample discussion in literary and sociological studies of translation. Instead, the concept translator's posture, with very few, seminal exceptions, has mostly been connected to work-place ergonomics. This paper brings to the stage an introduction to a new way of studying translatorial posture, conceived as a multidimensional research area within translators studies, dedicated to embodied practices and unique ways of vesting a role in translation as a domain of practice. Postural markers include public image, participation to events related to translation, discourse about translation in public spaces, relationship with the audience, with the authors and other actors involved, with the task at hand, with the text, and with translation technology, including AI. This paper will focus on examining an ecologically based conception of how translators relate to the working environment shaped by AI. It poses the question: is there a specific posture or stance, that would be optimal when it comes to a translator working in this context? For instance, is there anything that a translator specifically should consider when creating prompts? In the paper, I argue that thinking in terms of constraint-ranking and affordances bestows the translator with a metalanguage and a performative visualization of operations tethered with cogent use of AI resources for translators. In fact, applying a constraint and affordance-based approach to the prompts eases and clarifies the task for AI, producing in return results that the translator can motivate and justify. The paper will also discuss potential pedagogical implications.

Keywords

Translator's posture

AI in translation

Constraints and affordances



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 3B.4

Innovations in translation and interpreting education



Session 3B.4

The Future Direction of Translation Education – A Critical Intervention

Isaac Hui (Lingnan University)

The narrative on artificial intelligence seems to be overwhelmingly positive in the region – there has been constant emphasis that if one does not adapt to the age of AI one would sink like a stone. The survival of translation education has been threatened as a result, many programmes have been strived hard to include the component of AI, otherwise it may risk becoming obsolete. However, as many also keenly observe, we should not take this narrative without any pinch of salt. For instance, it has been commented that “AI represents a technological shift in the framework of society that will amplify austerity while enabling authoritarian politics.” (McQuillan, 2022) Similarly, Joque (2022) argues how data and algorithms fit “the governing logic of managerial capitalism.” In other words, if one only accepts the development of AI as a “natural” progression of human civilization, one might have forgotten, or deliberately forgotten, the cultural side of this appearance of progress. Indeed, one might wonder if translation (or humanities) would still be eliminated from the curriculum with or without adapting to the age of AI, given that the latter could well just be an alibi. Therefore, because of these reasons, perhaps it is worth considering the future direction of humanities education, in particular translation education, given that the latter is somehow the subject that is allegedly most at risk of being eliminated. Drawing references to arguments about AI outside the field of translation studies, this paper attempts to explore how AI should be incorporated into the teaching and training of translation students and make suggestions on the future direction of translation education. My paper argues that embracing and incorporating the component of AI cannot be done without also commanding the resistance against it; and one should learn to master the skills of using AI while simultaneously aware of its pitfalls clearly.

Keywords

Artificial intelligence

Translation

Humanities

Translation education

Critical theory



Session 3B.4

Navigating AI in Translation Education: Insights from Universities in Brunei Darussalam

Badriyah Yusof and Hasmidar Hassan (Universiti Brunei Darussalam)

In an era where artificial intelligence rapidly transforms the translation landscape, this research addresses the challenge of effectively preparing students to evaluate and refine AI-generated translations. As machine translation increasingly handles basic linguistic conversions, the role of human translators is evolving towards that of cultural mediators and content refiners, necessitating a transformation in translation education. This focus-group research involves 3-5 groups of 8-10 translation students, aiming to identify the strengths and weaknesses of AI-generated translations in educational contexts, develop teaching strategies for critical evaluation and refinement, and assess their effectiveness in enhancing students' translation competence. Through surveys and semi-structured discussions, this research serves as part of a proposed framework for curriculum enhancements. This framework incorporates error identification and post-editing techniques, human-based evaluation metrics, and ethical considerations in AI translation using real-world texts and peer review sessions. In the long run, findings will inform the development of a balanced curriculum that integrates AI technology with traditional translation skills, equipping students with the critical thinking and cultural adaptation skills necessary to thrive in an AI-augmented translation industry. This research contributes to the broader discourse on how technology reshapes translation practices and education, exploring ways to harness AI's potential while preserving the irreplaceable human elements of cultural understanding and contextual interpretation. Additionally, it seeks to transform perspectives on translation education, preparing students to navigate the complex interplay of culture, connectivity, and technology in their future careers as translators and cultural mediators.

Keywords

AI-assisted translation
Translation education
Translation competence
Post-editing assessment
Intercultural communication

Session 3B.4

Study on Translators' Processing Flow Patterns During Digital Resource Consultation in Different Translation Phases Based on Eye Tracking

Qin Jun, Wu Yushu, and Kit Chunyu (City University of Hong Kong)

Consultation of digital resources is deeply integrated into the translation process nowadays. During the consultation, translators need to transit among three main translation subtasks (source text: ST, target text: TT, and digital resources: DR), which forms four types of processing flow patterns (ST-DR-ST, ST-DR-TT, TT-DR-ST, TT-DR-TT). In current translation process research (TPR), however, few researchers have analyzed these patterns in different translation phases (Reaction Time (RT) Period, Pre-translation, Translation, Post-translation). This study investigates how translation phases influence translators' processing flow patterns based on eye tracking. It presents the patterns of 54 student translators, who individually translated one text without time pressure, in the four phases. The results reveal that (1) ST-DR-ST > ST-DR-TT > TT-DR-ST and TT-DR-TT > TT-DR-ST in RT Period, (2) ST-DR-ST outnumbers the rest three patterns in Pre-translation, (3) ST-DR-ST > ST-DR-TT > TT-DR-ST and ST-DR-ST > TT-DR-TT > TT-DR-ST in Translation, and (4) TT-DR-TT surpasses the rest three patterns in Post-translation. Underlying the influence, translators encounter different problems and they have different information needs (ST comprehension, ST-TT language transfer of meanings, TT production, and TT verification) in different phases: They consult digital resources mainly to (1) read and comprehend the ST in Pre-translation; (2) read and comprehend the ST, transfer meanings between the ST and TT languages, and produce the TT in Translation, and (3) verify their TT production in Post-translation. This study reveals student translators' cognitive activities (processing flow patterns), problem types, and information needs during digital resource consultation in the four different phases of the translation process.

Keywords

Digital resource consultation

Eye tracking

Processing flow patterns

Translation phases



Session 3B.4

Using GenAI in English Majors' Group Translation Task: Effects on Students' Self-Regulated Learning and Translation Performance

Yuan Xujia (Beijing Normal University)

Generative AI (genAI), a cutting-edge tool in artificial intelligence, has gained considerable attention for its transformative potential in educational contexts. While much research has explored genAI's impact across fields such as STEM, medicine, and liberal arts, its role in language education, particularly in translation teaching and learning, remains underexplored. This study investigates the use of genAI in a group translation task among 144 sophomore English major students, examining its influence on self-regulated learning (SRL) and the quality of group translation work. Participants were asked to complete a group translation project, where the use of genAI was allowed. Data were collected through observations of group presentations, a structured questionnaire, open-ended questions, and the students' final translation project scores. The SRL questionnaire was designed based on Zimmerman's Cyclical Model, which divides the learning process into three interconnected phases: forethought, performance, and self-reflection. Additionally, elements of social constructivism and collaborative learning theories were integrated to explore group dynamics and technology use in the translation task. The study provides insights into what and how genAI students used, their perceptions of its effectiveness, and its impact on their SRL strategies. Furthermore, the analysis of the translation scores offers a quantitative perspective on the relationship between genAI usage, SRL, and the quality of the final product. Findings contribute to the ongoing debate about the role of genAI in language education, highlighting both its potential benefits and challenges in enhancing translation learning.

Keywords

GenAI

Self-regulated learning

Translation education

Session 3B.4

Triangulation of Product, Process, and Perception in the Investigation of Student Translators' Writing and Translating

Xia Chen (Northwest Normal University & City University of Hong Kong) and
Jackie Xiu Yan (City University of Hong Kong)

The relationship between writing and translating has been studied widely, esp. in terms of linguistic, cultural, and contextual constraints. Most of the studies have focused on mature translators' writing and translating, but little attention has been paid to novice or student translators' practice in these aspects. Moreover, writing and translating have seldom been examined together in either practical or theoretical explorations, although they are equally important in translator training.

This study aims to examine student translators' writing and translating by triangulating their products, process, and perception of writing and translating. Participants were undergraduate and postgraduate translation major students at a university in mainland China. They were asked to complete four tasks: L1 (Chinese) writing, L1 (English-to-Chinese) translation, L2 (English) writing, and L2 (Chinese- to-English) translation. Their thinking-aloud utterances and behaviors on the computer screens in the process of writing and translating were recorded. An interview was conducted after they completed the tasks in order to obtain their perceptions of the four types of text production. The data analysis results identified the quality of the products, attention patterns in the process, and the students' perception of writing and translating. The triangulation provides a comprehensive picture of student translators' writing and translating. The study hopes to help translation researchers and teachers gain a holistic understanding of students' performance in writing and translating, so that more innovative and effectively tailored pedagogical measures can be developed in translator training.

Keywords

Triangulation

Writing and translation product

Writing and translation process

Perception of writing and translation

Writing and translating training



Session 3B.4

Service Learning Pedagogy in Translation Training

Marija Todorova (Hong Kong Baptist University)

This paper examines the integration of service-learning pedagogy in translation training programs and its impact on developing professional competencies among translation students. Through a detailed case study of a collaborative project translating poetry written by asylum seekers in Hong Kong, alongside broader research evidence, this study demonstrates how service-learning initiatives effectively bridge classroom learning with professional practice while promoting social justice and cross-cultural understanding.

The research centres on a service-learning project where translation students worked with local NGOs to create a bilingual anthology of poems written by asylum seekers. This project exemplifies how service-learning combines academic objectives with meaningful community service, as students translated deeply personal narratives from English to Chinese while engaging directly with the poets and refugee advocacy organizations. The project not only enhanced students' translation skills but also developed their cultural sensitivity and understanding of forced migration issues.

The study examines project design, learning outcomes, and assessment methods, while exploring how such initiatives create meaningful partnerships between academic institutions, NGOs, and marginalized communities.

Findings indicate that service-learning in translation training significantly improves students' practical translation skills, particularly in handling culturally sensitive materials and maintaining authors' authentic voices. Students demonstrated enhanced awareness of translation ethics, client relations, and the social impact of their work. The poetry translation project particularly highlighted how service-learning can simultaneously serve educational objectives while amplifying marginalized voices and promoting social inclusion. These findings have important implications for translation pedagogy, suggesting that service-learning can effectively prepare students for professional practice while fostering civic engagement and cross-cultural understanding.

Keywords

Service-learning
Translation training
Experiential learning
Community engagement
Refugee narratives

Session 3B.4

How Chatgpt Empowers Students' Critical Thinking Ability in Interpreting Classroom

Tingting Sun (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

The objective of this study is to investigate the potential of ChatGPT in empowering interpreting education, with a particular focus on its capacity to enhance interpreting students' critical thinking abilities. The experimental group utilised the ChatGPT model to assist with interpreting exercises, whereas the control group adhered to conventional interpreting methodologies. The collection of interpreting text data from interpreting students during their performance of interpreting exercises, in conjunction with training and fine-tuning using the ChatGPT model, served as the basis for the experimental group's approach. In contrast, the control group maintained their utilisation of traditional interpreting techniques. The experimental group demonstrated superior improvement in critical thinking ability, as well as stronger proficiency in handling complex and challenging sentences and logical reasoning. The findings of this study indicate that the incorporation of ChatGPT in interpreting education can effectively cultivate students' critical thinking abilities and offer novel approaches and methods for interpreting instruction. Future research should explore the application of ChatGPT in interpreting teaching in greater depth and combine more evaluation indicators and methods to more comprehensively assess its role and impact in interpreting teaching.

Keywords

Interpreter training

ChatGpt

Critical thinking



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 3B.5

Nation, narration and translation



Session 3B.5

The Role of “We” in Constructing China's National Identity: A Corpus-Based Analysis of Government White Papers (1993-2023)

Li Juan (Shanghai International Studies University)

This presentation explores the pivotal role of the pronoun "we" in shaping China's national identity, as evidenced by English translations of government white papers from 1993 to 2023. Utilizing a corpus-based discourse analysis approach, the study investigates the evolution of "we" across three distinct periods: 1993-2003, characterized by a focus on internal stability; 2003-2013, marked by assertiveness and global engagement; and 2013-2023, which emphasizes international cooperation and leadership.

The findings reveal that "we" is predominantly employed in an exclusive sense during the earlier periods, reflecting a strong sense of national unity and identity. In contrast, the later period demonstrates a significant shift towards inclusive usage, indicating a strategic pivot to acknowledge global partnerships while preserving sovereignty. This evolution is further illustrated by changes in high-frequency words and modal verbs, collectively showcasing China's adaptive narrative in response to domestic needs and international expectations.

By examining the linguistic features surrounding "we," this research underscores how language serves as a tool for ideological expression and power dynamics within China's self-representation. The results contribute to a nuanced understanding of how China constructs its national image through discourse, revealing the intricate interplay between language, identity, and global perception.

Keywords

National identity

Discourse analysis

Pronoun usage

Chinese Government White Papers



Session 3B.5

Corpus-based Discourse Analysis and Construction of the International Communication of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Inner Mongolia

Shulin Chen (Inner Mongolia University of Technology)

With the wave of globalization, translation and imagery have forged an increasingly intimate bond. Translation, serving as the primary conduit for cross-cultural dialogue, is important for shaping and presenting images. Conversely, the processes of image construction and dissemination constitute significant facets within translation practice and research endeavors. In recent times, the construction and dissemination of national imagery have emerged as prominent themes in translation studies, with intangible cultural heritage, as a vital component, capturing the attention of scholars. The intangible cultural heritage of Inner Mongolia encapsulates the profound Chinese culture, mirroring the beliefs, aesthetic values, and ingenuity of the working populace. Consequently, to further delineate the image of China and disseminate Chinese culture, it is of utmost importance to delve into the external communication discourse surrounding the intangible cultural heritage of Inner Mongolia.

This study integrates communication and translation, with a particular focus on the English translation and external communication corpus of Inner Mongolian intangible cultural heritage. It delves into the self-shaping and other-shaping aspects within the translation process. Initially, the study commences from the practical requirements of constructing discourse around Chinese intangible cultural heritage, and discusses the historical backdrop of its translation and discourse dissemination that underpin these demands. Leveraging the corpus tool Wordsmith Tools 8.0 and the theoretical framework of social translatology, the study undertakes a comparative analysis of the "self-shaping" and "other-shaping" discourse in English external promotions of Inner Mongolian intangible cultural heritage. This examination is conducted across three levels: vocabulary, sentence, and discourse. Furthermore, the study uncovers the underlying patterns of discourse expression and explores the critical pathways for its external dissemination, considering various perspectives such as readers, translators, social contexts, and other influencing factors.

In response to the imperative of The Times to elevate the national image, this study tracked the multifaceted understanding of intangible cultural heritage. It conducted a thorough analysis and evaluation of the motivations behind the translation of intangible cultural heritage discourse, aiming to identify the appropriate selection and utilization of core translations. To assess the dissemination impact, the study selected native English speakers from Britain and the US, as well as non-native English speakers from Central Asia. A range of effective translation strategies, including transliteration, free translation, literal translation, and translation with annotation, were verified as crucial elements in the external communication pathway. These strategies plays a pivotal role in ensuring the efficient international dissemination of intangible cultural heritage discourse.

Keywords

Inner Mongolia; Intangible cultural heritage; Translation; External communication

Session 3B.5

Deciphering US and China's National Translation Capacity through the lens of Singapore: Towards a Balance between Linguistic Rights and Discourse Power

Susan Xu (Singapore University of Social Sciences)

National Translation Capacity (NTC), published by Beijing Foreign Studies University in 2023, places the US and China at the top two spots. With reference to NTC's metrics, which comprise sixteen parameters in four sub-capabilities, namely, *translation management, services, dissemination, and development*, this study examines the background and rationale underlying the dominant positions of the US and China, drawing insights from existing literature. Specifically, the study explores the translation capacities of the two countries across three parameters within *National Translation Management Capacity*, namely, Translation Policies, Legislations and Planning; Translation Accreditation and Certification; and Translation Resource Management. The comparative evaluation of the US and China is augmented with a contrastive analysis of Singapore, where multilingualism serves as its cornerstone and linguistic diversity is its defining feature. Yet, the city-state ranks 36th, warranting further investigation to better understand the factors that influence its position.

The foregoing analysis of the US and China unveils a larger role of translation in promoting domestic linguistic rights in the US in contrast to greater significance of translation in shaping China's international discourse power. Neither factor, however, appears to play a role in shaping Singapore's translation capacity. A close look at the current practice in the public and private sectors suggests that Singapore's pragmatic approach and commitment to meritocracy, to a certain extent, undermine its translation capacity. In this context, Singapore can draw valuable lessons from both US and China to enhance its national translation capacity. Given its position at the crossroads of East and West, the insights from Singapore will also cast light on the need for a balancing act between increasing discourse power and protecting linguistic rights.

Keywords

National Translation Capacity

Singapore

Linguistic right

Discourse power

Multilingualism



Session 3B.5

From “National Identity” To “National Community”: A Study on the Construction of National Image in the English Translation of Contemporary Multi-Ethnic Literature in China from the Perspective of Institutional Translation

Zhang Wenlong and **Zhou Jianxin** (South China University of Technology)

Institutional translation research traditionally focuses on the organizational, ideological, and cultural dimensions of translating institutions and their impact on translators, translation processes, and products. Historically, institutional translation, often state-governed, has served as a tool for shaping cultural diplomacy and reflecting national identity. In contemporary China, institutional translation of multi-ethnic literature not only mirrors its cultural and ideological goals but also embodies the challenges of unifying diverse ethnic identities under a shared national goal. This study focuses on the English translation of multi-ethnic literature in contemporary China, analyzing the national literary and cultural images constructed by state-guided translation institutions during two critical periods: post-1949 and post-2000. Using a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, it examines textual features, sociocultural contexts, and intertextual connections to explore how Chinese multiethnic literature has been translated into English as a channel for constructing national images. This study investigates the factors driving the shift from constructing “national identity” to promoting a “national community” characterized by multicultural integration and multi-ethnic unity, reflecting the interplay between institutional and state-level cultural and ideological goals. By analyzing the English translation practice of contemporary Chinese multi-ethnic literature, it aims to deepen understanding of institutional translation as a tool for national image construction and propose a more effective model for enhancing the cross-cultural communication of multi-ethnic literature from the perspective of institutional translation.

Keywords

Institutional translation
Multi-ethnic literature
National identity
National community
National image

Session 3B.5

Intertextuality and the Generation of China's Foreign Political Discourse: A Case Study of the Defense White Paper on UN Peacekeeping Operations

Min Liu, Ruimengshi and Xiaotang Hu (National University of Defense Technology)

In the full chain of “construction–translation–dissemination” in the translation and global dissemination of Chinese political discourse, the construction and generation phases warrant further exploration. Based on a self-compiled parallel corpus, this study examines the intertextual relationships between the Chinese and English versions of the white paper *China's Armed Forces: 30 Years of UN Peacekeeping Operations* and other China's official discourses. The research aims to reveal the hierarchical and networked relationships within China's foreign political discourse system during international communication and describe the process of its generation. Employing Fairclough's definition of manifest intertextuality, the study categorizes intertextual phenomena in the white paper into four types: quotation, rewriting, reference, and allusion. Each intertextual instance is annotated in UAM Corpus Tool, and its source is identified and categorized. Among 64 cases found in the Chinese version of the white paper, quotations dominate, followed by references, rewriting, and allusions. The primary sources include speeches by national leaders, official position papers, United Nations documents, official media reports, and traditional Chinese classics. Among 117 cases annotated in the English version, three intertextual strategies—quotation, reference, and rewriting—are observed, with quotation being the most prominent, followed by reference and rewriting. The primary sources for the English version are United Nations documents, translations of speeches by state leaders, translations of official position papers, translations from government websites, and foreign-language books published by official channels. This study outlines the generation process of China's foreign political discourse as a progression from social practices and the articulation of core concepts to the construction of intertextual Chinese discourse networks and their corresponding English counterparts.

Keywords

Political discourse

Translation

Intertextuality

Discourse generation

Governmental communication



Session 3B.5

State Presencing in Institutional Translation

Ren Dongsheng and **Wang Zihan** (Ocean University of China)

It is a relatively common phenomenon in the history of Chinese and foreign translation that national elements participate in or even dominate translation activities. From Fang Xuanling in the translation of Buddhist scriptures in the Tang Dynasty to Yang Shangkun in the translation of the Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of China, as sponsors, executors, supervisors, and gatekeepers of the state's translation activities, they are important objects of study in the history of translation and the practice of the state translation, but they are often neglected and obscured. This kind of role has "Fang Xuanling" as its beginning and has the significance of character paradigm and historical recurrence. Therefore, we call it the "Fang Xuanling phenomenon". Taking the theoretical system of state translation program as a lens, we can summarize a number of modes of combination of "supreme instructor→executor of translation intention" in the history of Chinese and foreign translations, which represent different forms of expression of "state presencing". Fang Xuanling and other "agents" authorized by the emperor or the state, as the pivotal figures linking the high subject state and the middle subject institution, are the key links in the operation mechanism of the state translation program, which strengthen the organic organizational structure and vertical instruction process of the state institution translation. It can be a proof of the status of state subject in state translation program, which triggers us to think about the subject of translation and subjectivity of translators.

Keywords

Institutional translation
State translation program
State presencing
Translation institution
Translation governance

Session 3B.5

Bridging Cultures and Industries: The Role of Language Services in Localizing Belt and Road Initiative Projects in Southeast Asia

Nimo Du and **Vernia Hao** (Hang Seng University of Hong Kong)

Since the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013, integrating language learning into industrial development has emerged as a new approach in China's foreign aid strategy. This approach acknowledges the critical role that language and culture play in facilitating effective knowledge transfer, workforce development, and cross-cultural communication in host countries. This trend is particularly evident in Southeast Asia, where the rising popularity of Mandarin, often referred to as "Mandarin fever," underscores the region's growing economic and cultural ties with China. For instance, China's "Chinese + Industries" model represents a transformative strategy for cultivating local talent by combining language training with technical and vocational education tailored to BRI projects. This paper examines the model's application in Southeast Asian countries, focusing on its potential to enhance project localisation and strengthen bilateral cooperation. Through a comparative analysis, the study identifies both the opportunities and challenges that arise in cross-cultural settings, including language barriers, cultural differences, and the integration of local resources. The findings highlight the model's dual role: it serves not only as a practical tool for ensuring the localisation of BRI projects but also as a key element in China's charm offensive, fostering positive perceptions and deeper regional engagement within its broader geopolitical strategy.

Keywords

Cross culture communication
Belt and Road Initiative
Language service
Localisation



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 3B.6

The ethics and politics of translation and intercultural communication



Session 3B.6

Translation as a Strategy to Counter Platform Censorship: A Social Semiotic Multimodal Analysis of the Translations of a ‘Controversial’ Text on *WeChat*

Xiaoping Wu (Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University)

The advances and proliferation of social media technologies have given rise to new forms of translation practices and modalities by empowering users to engage creatively on social media platforms as well as the broader digital environment (Desjardins, 2017; Wu & Pan, 2023; Yang, 2023). These forms of engagement have shown that translation and translation practices have become more multimodal and creative through the technological affordances of particular social media platforms. In this study, we add to this emerging topic of creative forms of mediated and multimodal translation by examining how users mobilized social media technologies and various linguistic and multi-semiotic resources to provide translations of a ‘controversial’ news article about one of the earliest whistle-blowers of the COVID-19 outbreak in China. In response to the deletion of the article by the content monitors on *WeChat*, one of China’s most popular and powerful social media, users tried to keep it ‘alive’ online by continually translating it into creative and multimodal forms. Adopting a social semiotic multimodal approach (Poulsen & Kvåle, 2018; Zhao et al., 2014), this study focuses on how users employed the technological affordances of *WeChat* as interlinked and overlapping networks together with cultural resources in the reproduction of the source text. In our analysis, we identify and discuss four major forms of the translations including: a) dialects and multilingual languages such as English and alien languages such as Klingon, b) inter-semiotic translations such as emojis and cartoons, c) technologically mediated translations such as a QR code and electrocardiogram, and d) finally appearing as a single symbolic reference without a concrete text, a ‘whistle’. The study contributes to the growing literature on emerging translation practices and modalities on social media by highlighting the technological and multi-semiotic creativity of translation and translation practices. It also provides methodological implications for examining new translation forms and practices in social media.

Keywords

Multimodal creativity

Social media

Social semiotic multimodal approach

Translation

WeChat

Whistle



Session 3B.6

What Gets to Pass the Gate? Tracing the Role of Translation as a Primary Gatekeeping Force in Covering America on the WeChat Account of *Reference News*

Weixin Zeng (Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai)

This study adopts an extended conceptualization of journalistic translation proposed by Valdeón (2022, 2021), which considers translation in news production as a two-level gatekeeping practice. More specifically, this study aims to investigate translation's gatekeeping function at the macro level, a dimension that has received scant attention in JTR. To this end, popular translated news reports covering America posted in 2020 on the WeChat account of an official Chinese media outlet, *Reference News* (RN), were collected. Employing content analysis, the study scrutinized the sources used, the topics covered, and the story tones of the collected reports. The findings indicate that RN exhibited a preference for established and pro-China media sources in covering America. The topics in the examined reports are mostly hard news, with a few instances of soft news. While the majority of the news reports was negative, positive stories were also identified, demonstrating RN's efforts in disseminating constructive journalism.

Keywords

Journalistic translation

Gatekeeping

Conceptualization of translation

Reference News

Session 3B.6

Dialogue on Posthuman's Power: Generative AI and the Ethical Rewriting in Translated Literature

Zhong Zhenhao (East China Normal University)

This study explores the dialogue between posthuman power and generative AI within the context of translation studies, building upon the Chinese translation of Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go* by Zhang Kun. The novel presents a posthuman society where clones serve as organ donors for extending human lives. Zhang's translation, *Mo Shi Mo Wang*, highlights the paradox of clones embodying humanity through discipline while humans transcend into posthumanism via organ transplantation. This paper delves into the translation's focus on power dynamics by analyzing mechanisms of power discipline and the subversive assimilation of power, providing a detailed examination of how the text is rewritten within the Chinese sociocultural context. Through this lens, the study reveals how the translation underscores the inevitability of the clones' tragic fate as a means to deepen the understanding of power structures in the original work. Furthermore, the integration of generative AI is considered as a contemporary manifestation of posthuman technology, engaging in the rewriting of power relationships and ethical dilemmas. This paper argues that generative AI not only amplifies the exploration of power dynamics but also introduces a new layer of ethical considerations in the translator's role and decision-making process.

Keywords

Posthumanism
Generative AI
Never Let Me Go
Power discipline
Ethics



Session 3B.6

Knowledge Production and Translation of Controversial Entries in Wikipedia: A Case Study of the Chinese Wikipedia Entry ‘Russian Invasion of Ukraine’

Yang Haohao (Hong Kong Baptist University)

The crowd-sourced nature of Wikipedia allows for a diverse range of perspectives and expertise to be included. However, it also opens the door to conflicts and disputes, especially during the production of controversial knowledge. This research aims to explore the ethical issues involved in the production and translation of controversial knowledge in Wikipedia, using the Chinese Wikipedia entry of ‘Russian Invasion of Ukraine’ as a case study. The study will address the following three main research questions: 1) What issues have been discussed on the Talk Page during the production of the Chinese entry ‘Russian Invasion of Ukraine’? 2) Who are the active participants in the discussions of the entry, and what are their roles in the community? 3) What ethical issues are involved in the knowledge production and translation of this controversial Wikipedia entry? By examining the conversations among editors on the Talk Page of the entry, the research employs conceptual tools such as political stances, epistemic status and epistemic stances to analyze how knowledge is constructed, contested and negotiated in Wikipedia knowledge production and translation. The findings indicate that both the political and epistemic stances of Wikipedia editors significantly impact the production of controversial knowledge on the platform. Ethical issues related to neutrality, reliability and equity arise during this process. The study highlights the complexities and challenges of maintaining a neutral point of view while ensuring the reliability and equity of information in crowd-sourcing and quasi-collaborative knowledge production. It underscores the importance of understanding the dynamics of editor interactions and the ethical implications of their contributions, which are crucial for the integrity and credibility of crowd-sourced knowledge platforms like Wikipedia.

Keywords

Wikipedia translation
Controversial articles
Knowledge production
Ethics
Political complexities

Session 3B.6

Insights from China's Traditional Translation Discourse on Translator's Ethics: Eight Prerequisites (八備 Bābèi) by the Buddhist Translator Yan Cong

Yueyue Su (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

Thoughts on translator's ethics has brought much inspiration to the practice and training of translators, but much of them are limited to the Western philosophical context. Ethics, a subcategory of philosophy, is highly cultural in nature. Therefore, current research needs to explore the ethical thoughts in traditional Chinese translation discourse, in order to contrast and complement the Western thoughts on this topic, and to contribute Chinese knowledge to the international community of translation studies. In this paper, we first review the thoughts on translator's ethics put forward by the Buddhist translator Yan Cong in the Eight Prerequisites (八備 Bābèi) in the treatise *On Right Way*; then, by comparing its similarities and differences with that of the mainstream Western thoughts, we identify the specialty of the Eight Prerequisites. Contrary to the previous categorization of the Prerequisites, this paper argues that they can be grouped into two levels, "Dao (道 the way)" and "Qi (器 utensils)". The level of "Dao" manifests similarities between Yan's thoughts and those of Western scholars, as both advocate the virtue ethics and literary knowledge. The level of "Qi" embodies the differences, emphasizing translators' learning habits and teamwork skills.

Keywords

Traditional Chinese translation discourse

Eight prerequisites

Translator's ethics

"Dao" and "Qi"



Session 3B.6

Multilingual Narratives: Cultural Representation and Translation in Tibetan Mini Museums

Jampa Choetso (XIANGBAQINGCUO) (Hong Kong Baptist University)

This paper examines the complex dynamics of cultural representation and translation in a cluster of mini museums in a Tibetan town in western Sichuan, focusing on museum texts presented in Tibetan, Chinese, and English. Drawing on theories of museum communication and representation, the study explores how these multilingual texts function as vital sites for negotiating meanings and constructing cultural identities. The analysis includes a selection of representative texts from various mini museums, ranging from long explanatory wall Sessions to short labels and banners, all written in three languages. The findings reveal significant variations in the portrayal of local heritage, people, and events across the three languages, reflecting embedded cultural ideologies and sociopolitical contexts. The paper underscores how the multilingual texts engage different audiences and reflect the power relations between the museum, its visitors, and the cultural narratives presented.

Keywords

Tibetan culture
Translation
Representation
Multilingual
Museum texts

Session 3B.6

Translator's Roles and Ethics in Digital Transformation Era: From AI to IA

Echo Gao (Victoria University of Wellington)

My research focuses on professional translators in New Zealand and China who work with the English-Chinese language pair. It examines the evolving roles and ethical responsibilities of translators in response to the digital transformation of the translation industry, particularly the shift from artificial intelligence (AI) to intelligence augmentation (IA).

Drawing from my own experience in technical (dairy industry), business and community translation, I will analyse my practices within the framework of equivalence theory and the codes of ethics of National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) and New Zealand Society of Translators & Interpreters (NZSTI), outline the ethical challenges that I have encountered by using AI while working in the three different areas within these frameworks, examine the ethical differences between the challenges, share my journey toward achieving IA while addressing the ethical issues that arise in translation practices.

The aim of my research is to present an ethical framework that balances technological advancements with professional integrity and competence, offering practical guidance for translators on how to ethically navigate the use of AI and IA in their work.

Keywords

Translators

Ethics

Artificial intelligence

Intelligence augmentation

Equivalence



APTIF11 Session Topics

Session 3B.7

Innovative practices in translation and intercultural communication



Session 3B.7

Museum in Translation: The History of a Chinese City Represented in English

Xinyi Fan and Zhongli Yu (University of Nottingham Ningbo China)

Translation is one of the main tools deployed by museums around the world to cater to their international and multilingual audiences. Hence, museums are viewed as ‘translation zones’ and museum text translation as one of the various modes interacting in the multimodal exhibition spaces (Neather 2020: 306). In museum spaces, the interactional and translational cultural activities take place both on and off stage. The on-stage part involves language and interlingual translation presented to the public, and the off-stage refers to the activities behind the scenes, such as ‘intercultural contact and community engagement’ (ibid.: 311). Such recent views largely broaden the scope of museum text translation studies. Nevertheless, discussions of museum text translation in the Chinese context which started in 1991 still often dwell on language errors and ways of producing better translations (cf. Yu & Hirzel 2024). Drawing on Neather’s concept of ‘museums as translation zones’ and Kaindl’s (2020) multimodal translation framework, this paper scrutinizes museum text translation with the case of the local history exhibition at Ningbo Museum in Ningbo, China, discussing both the on- and off-stage translational activities. At the on-stage level, the museum text translation interacts with other modes in different dimensions, including materiality (the resemiotization process facilitating the transfer of meaning), media (the complementary intertextuality formed to support the translation of meaning), genre (the translation strengthening the macro genre through selection and deselection), and space (the limited space restricting translation production). At the off-stage level, the translation text production is influenced by the translator’s engagement with the museum community (e.g. curators and other museum staff) in the production process. It intends to explicate how the various modes interact in the multimodal exhibition spaces, which greatly influences the translation process and product, a topic still awaiting substantial research examination from both translation and museum studies for deeper understanding of museum text translation mechanisms and realities.

Keywords

Chinese museum

Museum text translation

Multimodal translation

Session 3B.7

The Predictability in Translating Motion Events in *Brothers* across Chinese, English and French

Kunkun Shi and Huawen Liu (Shanghai Jiao Tong University)

Linguistics has been tapped as the resource to provide perspectives for and approaches to the theoretical development in translation studies. Based on frame semantics (Fillmore 1985), cognitive semantics (Talmy 1985; 2000), and alternation theory (Levin 1993), this survey first looks into the feasibility of taking event, frame and cognitive domain as translation units, and then in view of re-eventualization and re-construction across languages, Levin's (1993) conception of alternation is summoned up to re-define the ST-TT relationship, that is, ST and TT lexicalize the same or different semantic components of the same event frame into event verbs, and they are different alternations of argument realization in the morphosyntactic representation of the same event. Then, the relationship between ST and TT can be deemed as alternation, and translation is a process of re-conceptualizing the event, resulting in a construction in TT alternative to its counterpart in ST. In this process, three mechanisms of cross-linguistic event-reconstruction, namely, zero alternation, frame-within alternation and cross-domain alternation, can be utilized to examine the corresponding degrees of cognitive effort exerted.

Predictability in translation is defined here as the ability by which the lexical or syntactic representation of an event in TT can be foreseen from its source counterpart. This survey as a case study aims to examine the predictability possessed by Chinese for English and French in translating motion events with a self-built Chinese-English-French parallel corpus consisting of the first volume of the Chinese novel *Xiongdi* 兄弟 (*Brothers*) authored by Yu Hua and its English and French translations. 241 English verbs of motion afforded by Levin (1993) are used as the search terms to locate this type of event in the corpus. The assessment of predictability can be based on the number of events belonging to the three types of alternation, each of which requires a different degree of cognitive effort, thus corresponding to the different degrees of predictability that the events of ST have for their corresponding translations. It is found that Chinese generally displays higher predictability for English than for French in the translation of these retrieved 711 events. The further exploration of the predictability of translation from multiple aspects of event semantics (such as semantic roles and aspectual structures) can enable us to recognize the translation process from different perspectives and help translators think about various possibilities and tendencies of translation from the perspective of semantic features of events.

Keywords

Predictability

Alternation

Cognitive effort

Verbs of motion

Brothers

Session 3B.7

The Discovery and Dissemination of History Rediscovery as well as the Renewal of Historical Tradition — The Role, Responsibility, Diversified Cooperation and Theoretical Vision of Translators

Qiuye Wu (The Central Institute of Literature and History, Counsellors' Office of the State Council)

In the early part of the last century, the study of Chinese art history within Western Sinology was largely confined to the framework of archaeology and antiquities (as exemplified by the studies of scholars like Osvald Siren and Roger Eliot Fry). During the period from the 1950s to the 1970s, scholars such as James Cahill and Michael Sullivan successively published monographs on Chinese art history in a historical context, which signified that the study of Chinese art history had evolved into an independent discipline within Sinology circles.

Subsequently, numerous profound experts on Chinese art history emerged in Europe and America, including Richard Barnhart, Lothar Ledderose, and Sherman E. Lee. They produced a series of influential monographs written from the perspective of Westerners. These works exerted a substantial impact on the local study of Chinese art in China through their global perspectives and the meticulous rediscovery and reexamination of many historical materials that had been overlooked by the Chinese themselves.

This paper's author has engaged in the translation of English and German works on Chinese art history for several decades. Drawing on the author's personal experience and taking the successful translation of Prof. Lothar Ledderose's collection on Chinese calligraphy and painting as an example, this paper delves into the translator's role as the discoverer and transmitter of the rediscovery of history, as well as his or her cultural responsibility and boundary in the translation process. It also explores the necessity and approaches regarding the cooperation among translators, original authors, and editors.

Furthermore, the paper puts forward the theoretical idea of expanding the terminology system and re-identifying the basic image library of Chinese art history by combining it with western research results.

Keywords

The translation of German and English monographs on Chinese art history
Translators role and responsibility
Discovery of history rediscovery
Diversified cooperation among translators original authors and editors
Translators theoretical vision



Session 3B.7

English Translation of Wang Yangming's Philosophical Concepts: A Case Study of the Divergent Translation of “liang-chih”

Wen Bing (Zhejiang Sci-tech University)

There are many difficulties in the English translation of Wang Yangming's philosophical concepts, which hinder the effective dissemination of Wang Yangming's thoughts in the English world and lead to some misunderstandings and even criticisms. Through the literature review of the translation and interpretation of Wang Yangming's thoughts in the English world, it is found that there are some notable divergences in the translation of some key concepts in Wang Yangming's thoughts, such as "liang-chih(良知)", " chih hsing ho yi (知行合壹) ", "chih liang chih (致良知) " and so on. In this study, "liang chih", one of the typical Chinese philosophical words, is selected as the sample of the English translation of ideational words. Liang-chih was translated by different scholars such as intuitive knowledge, intuitive faculty (of good), moral knowledge, innate moral knowledge, conscience, prime conscience, untainted conscience, moral conscience, innate knowledge (of the good), pure intuitive knowing, innate moral sense, innate sense of goodness, inborn intellect, the inborn awareness of the good, pure knowing, conscientious consciousness, liang zhi /truly good knowledge, the inborn awareness of the good, moral knowing (liangzhi),etc. This paper tries to explore its rich connotation in Confucian background, to trace back its difficulties in English translation, to analyze the differences of different translation versions in the dissemination, and to propose the corresponding translation strategies for such kind of ideational words. This study can provide a good inspiration and reference for the translation of Chinese ideology and culture.

Keywords

Wang Yangming

Ideational words

Divergent translation

Liang-chih

Cross-cultural dissemination

Session 3B.7

Discursive Strategies of Simultaneous Interpreter from a Cognitive and Communicative Perspective

Marina Korovkina (Moscow State Institute of International Relations)

Translation studies is an area of research characterized by an interdisciplinary approach, as it is a meeting point of cognitive sciences, linguistics, psycholinguistics, neurosciences, philosophy of language and others. Some researchers, for example, Moser-Mercer, believe that there are two most important paradigms in translation research: natural sciences and liberal arts. In his turn Chernov with his model of probabilistic forecasting in simultaneous interpreting regarded his focus on SI studies as a bridge between these two paradigms. Chernov's insights are based on the discoveries of the Soviet school of psycholinguistics in the area of speech production, as interpreting is a specific type of speech production or speech generation. Developing Chernov's idea of probabilistic forecasting through a cognitive-discursive perspective, three SI key cognitive mechanisms that make SI possible – inferencing, probabilistic forecasting and compression – have been singled out and explored. Inferencing, following its understanding by Setton, means making assumptions based on contextual prompts with regards to the invariant sense development in the message of the source language (SL) and its rendering with the specific language means in the target language (TL). An interpreter generates inferences and implicatures on the basis of his/her presuppositional knowledge. Probabilistic forecasting is inferencing directed to the future: in the course of text evolvement a simultaneous interpreter has to bear in mind the development of the sense prompts related to the deixis, modality, evaluation and axiology, expressive means, and the representation of denotational information in the SL message, in order to be able to make an adequate forecast of the invariant sense evolvement. The third SI cognitive mechanism that goes hand in hand with inferencing and probabilistic forecasting is compression conditioned by an acute shortage of time. An interpreter has no choice in using these three cognitive mechanisms through cognitive discursive strategies, meanwhile the choice of specific language means for expressing the SL invariant sense in the target language depends on the language personality of a simultaneous interpreter, on his/her mental lexicon, linguistic preferences and understanding of the invariant sense, though its interpretation should be limited by the context and the message sender's communicative intent. There are also purely communicative strategies – stalling, chunking or saucissonage and trial and error among others – that depend on a specific perception of a communicative situation by an interpreter. His/her choice of cognitive and communicative discursive strategies help come to a translation decision.

Keywords

Simultaneous interpreting
Inferencing
Probabilistic forecasting
Compression
Discursive strategy

Session 3B.7

A Study on the Linguistic Characteristics of Translation Generated by Artificial Intelligence from the Perspective of Quantitative Stylistics: A Case Study of the English Translation of *The New Year Sacrifice*

Yuting Zhang and Linling Fu (South China Normal University)

The New Year Sacrifice, one of Lu Xun's representative short novel, is recognized for its significant ideological, literary and artistic contributions. Employing a corpus-based approach, this research constructs a bilingual Chinese-English corpus comprising seven English translations of the work. These translations are generated by four prominent large language models (LLM) in home and abroad—ChatGPT, ERNIE Bot, Qwen and IFLY-TEK Spark—alongside those produced by esteemed human translators, including Yang Xianyi & Gladys Yang, William Lyell, and Julia Lovell. Utilizing the human translations as a benchmark, the study applies linguistic analysis tools such as *WordSmith*, *TreeTagger*, and *AntConc* to examine the stylistic attributes of the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated translations across lexical, syntactic, and discourse dimensions from the perspective of quantitative stylistics. Key analytical metrics encompass standard type-token ratio (STTR), average word length, noun proportion, average sentence length, passive voice frequency, and the utilization of discourse connectives etc. Case studies further explore the distinctive characteristics of translated texts generated by AI. The findings aim to provide data support for prioritizing emphases and exploring feasible strategies for post-editing within the future human-AI collaboration mode.

Keywords

Quantitative stylistics

The New Year Sacrifice

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Translation

Session 3B.7

Translation of Game Dialogue Texts under the Scope of Artificial Intelligence: A Case Study of *Genshin Impact*

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The Chinese domestic open-world game *Genshin Impact*, developed by miHoYo, has garnered many international honors and awards since its release. This study focuses on the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in the field of game localization, taking the dialogue texts of *Genshin Impact* as the research object, exploring the differences between the AI-generated English translations and the official English translations, as well as the reasons behind these differences, with the aim of providing a case study reference for the future application of AI in game localization. By comparing the English translations of *Genshin Impact* generated by models of *ERNIE Bot*, *Qwen*, and *Tencent Hunyuan*, with the official English translation, the study reveals the following characteristics of AI translations when compared to the official version: 1) Lack of cultural adaptability: AI translations often fail to adequately convey expressions in the original game text that have specific cultural meanings, which may hinder the understanding of the target audience and even lead to misunderstandings; 2) Lack of contextual coherence: AI sometimes struggles to accurately understand the dialogue relationships, personality traits, or emotional shifts of game characters, resulting in translations that seem stiff or incoherent in certain contexts; 3) Lack of creativity: AI translations lack the creativity of human translators, making it difficult to convey the original creative effects of the game, which in turn impacts the audience's experience.

Keywords

Artificial intelligence

Game localization

Genshin Impact

Dialogue texts