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Understanding Wikipedia's Dark Matter:

Translation and Multilingual Practice in the World's Largest Online Encyclopaedia

15-17 December 2021 Hong Kong Baptist University Hong Kong Online via Zoom

Programme Handbook



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Hong Kong Baptist University		

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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Wikipedia is the world's largest online encyclopaedia. It has 303 active language editions, which were accessed from 1.7bn unique devices during October 2020. Now over twenty years old, the encyclopaedia has been studied by academics working within a range of disciplines since the mid-2000s, although it is only relatively recently that it has started attracting the attention of translation scholars too. During a short space of time we have learnt a considerable amount about topics such as translation quality, translation and cultural remembrance, multilingual knowledge production and point of view, the prominent role played by narratives in articles reporting on news stories, and how translation is portrayed in multiple language versions of the Wikipedia article on the term itself. However, translation largely remains Wikipedia's "dark matter": not only is it difficult to locate, but researchers have so far struggled to map out the full extent of its contribution to this multilingual resource. Our aim in organising this international event is to allow the research community to take stock of the progress made so far and to identify new avenues for future work.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Mark Shuttleworth (Chair) Hong Kong Baptist University

Henry Jones University of Manchester

Robert Neather Hong Kong Baptist University

Min-hua Liu Hong Kong Baptist University

Jun Pan Hong Kong Baptist University

Clara Chuan Yu Hong Kong Baptist University



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PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

15 December 2021 (Wednesday)

09.00-10.15 **OPENING**

Mette Hjort (Dean of Faculty of Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University) Robert Neather (Head of Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University)

KEYNOTE SPEECH 1

Digital research methods to identify, analyze and visualize conflicts in Wikipedia's Translation-related articles Julie McDonough Dolmaya (York University, Canada) (Moderator: Mark Shuttleworth)

10.45-12.15 SESSION 1: INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

Session Chair: Jun Pan

Pertalan Kontèn: The quality of translation results of cultural terms in feng shui article in the Javanese Wikipedia Elis Fajariyati (Wikimedia, Indonesia) Amanda Amalia Noor Arifah (Wikimedia, Indonesia)

Agatha Vidya Nariswari (Wikimedia, Indonesia)

Wikipidiya: Translating Wikipedia into the Taiwan indigenous minority language Seediq Darryl Sterk (Lingnan University, Hong Kong)

Exploring self-reported issues and challenges by Mandarin-English interpreters in Melbourne: An ELF and intercultural communication perspective

Yanjun Wang (Monash University, Australia)



14.00-15.30 SESSION 2: INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

Session Chair: Marija Todorova

Editing as a form of activism: The case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict Wikipedia article in English and Arabic Iman Said Sulaiman Al Ghafri (Sultan Qaboos University, Oman)

Negotiation and power in online collaborative translation: A case analysis of norm conflicts amongst Wikipedia translator-editors Bei Hu (National University of Singapore, Singapore)

Lessons learned from multilingual transl-a-thon of Wikipedia Takashi Ota (Wikimedian in Kansai, Japan)

16.00-17.15 KEYNOTE SPEECH 2

Corpus-based Wikipedia studies: Theoretical and methodological challenges for translation scholars Henry Jones (University of Manchester, United Kingdom) (Moderator: Mark Shuttleworth)

16 December 2021 (Thursday)

09.00-10.30 SESSION 3: INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

Session Chair: Julie McDonough Dolmaya

We are bilingual, but can we translate? Translaboration in translating Wikipedia in Riyadh's 1st Translation Marathon Sarah Aldawood (University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA)

FAIR and open multilingual clinical trials in Wikidata and Wikipedia Lane Rasberry (University of Virginia, USA) Cherrie Kwok (University of Virginia, USA)

Translator training via Wikipedia for humanitarian purposes Martha Celis-Mendoza (Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico)

11.00-12.30 WORKSHOP 1

Scraping Wikipedia articles

Zhilu Tu (Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong) (Moderator: Mark Shuttleworth)

14.00-15.30 WORKSHOP 2

Digital tools for researching Wikipedia Mark Shuttleworth (Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong) (Moderator: Jun Pan)

16.00-17.30 SESSION 4: INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

Session Chair: Henry Jones

Developing transversal competences in a complex multilingual ecosystem. Evidence from *Translatathons* Maristella Gatto (University of Bari, Italy)

Introduction to emerging translation roles via Wikipedia translation Kyriaki Kourouni (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece) Maria Teresa Musacchio (University of Padova, Italy) David Orrego-Carmona (Aston University, United Kingdom) Elisabet Tiselius (Stockholm University, Sweden) Ester Torres Simón (Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Spain)

Translation in Wikipedia: A praxeological study of normativity, negotiation and performance across four language communities José Gustavo Góngora-Goloubintseff (University of Manchester, United Kingdom)



17 December 2021 (Friday)

09.00-10.15 KEYNOTE SPEECH 3

Tales of the "fish in your ear": How does Wikipedia help to shape a public narrative on interpreting? Jun Pan (Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong) (Moderator: Mark Shuttleworth)

10.45-12.15 SESSION 5: INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

Session Chair: Darryl Sterk

Translating Wikipedia for accessibility in less commonly used languages on the internet Marija Todorova (Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong)

A comparative study of ethical issues in Wikipedia translation and professional translation: A case study of the E<>C translations published through the Wikipedia Content Translation Tool Haohao Yang (Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong)

English and Chinese words of the year 2020 in Wikipedia articles Hui Wu (HKU SPACE Community College, Hong Kong)

16.00-17.30 SESSION 6: INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

Session Chair: Mark Shuttleworth

(withdrawn) #viquiPAU - Translating Wikipedia as preparation for university entrance exams Mar Mañes-Bordes (University of Vienna, Austria)

Translation students' and Wikipedia editors' attitudes towards Wikipedia translator: Ideas for software improvement Nebojša Ratković (Wikimedia Serbia, Serbia) Olga Arsić (University of Belgrade, Serbia)

Translating Wikipedia articles from Finnish into Russian in the translation classroom Svetlana Probirskaja (University of Helsinki, Finland)

The Magic lantern called Wikipedia: Translation challenges and opportunities in the age of virtual learning Muhammad Y Gamal (Independent Researcher, Australia)

17.30-18.00 CLOSING REMARKS

Mark Shuttleworth (Conference Chair, Associate Head of the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies, and Associate Director of Centre for Translation, Hong Kong Baptist University)

Keynote Speech

KEYNOTE ABSTRACTS

Keynote Speech 1

Digital research methods to identify, analyze and visualize conflicts in Wikipedia's translation-related articles

Julie MCDONOUGH DOLMAYA York University, Canada

Research investigating neutrality, conflicts and controversies in Wikipedia has tended to focus on articles about political figures, conflict zones, contentious scientific theories, and other issues likely to generate debate among Wikipedians (Rogers 2013, Shuttleworth 2018, Esteves Gonçalves da Costa and Cukierman 2019). As Jones has demonstrated, however, controversies can arise even in articles about seemingly uncontentious topics such as the city of Paris (Jones 2018) or Tokyo (Jones 2019). Likewise, Torres-Simón (2018) has discussed the wide variety of contrasting definitions of translation circulating within and across the many different language editions of the Wikipedia platform. The methods used to identify and explore these disagreements have varied, and have included studying the Talk pages, the number of edits made to an article, and changes in an article over time. In this presentation, I will build on work by Torres-Simón (2018), Kimmerele et al. (2009) and Borra et al. (2014), applying different qualitative and quantitative methods to identify, analyze and visualize conflict in English Wikipedia articles related to translation, including qualitative coding, social network analysis, and sentiment analysis. The two primary goals are to facilitate a discussion about the strengths and limitations of different methodological approaches to the study of conflict within Wikipedia and to consider the contexts in which multimethodology (Mingers and Brocklesby 1997) might be desirable or feasible.



About the Speaker :

Julie Mcdonough Dolmaya is Associate Professor in the School of Translation at York University's Glendon campus. Her research interests range from translation, politics and oral history to translation in digital spaces. She has published articles on these topics in *Meta*, *Target*, *The Translator*, *Translation Studies*, and others. She is also co-editor of the *Journal of Internationalization and Localization*, published biannually by John Benjamins.



Keynote Speech

Keynote Speech 2

Corpus-based Wikipedia studies: Theoretical and methodological challenges for translation scholars

Henry JONES University of Manchester, United Kingdom

Corpus-based methodologies are now well established in Translation Studies as approaches which offer a valuable means of examining large bodies of text in a more systematic and efficient manner than would be possible by hand and eye alone (Bernardini and Kenny 2020). The potential of such methodologies for the study of translation in Wikipedia, however, has yet to be sufficiently explored. In this presentation, I will argue that the construction and analysis of large corpora of Wikipedia content can not only dramatically improve our ability to engage with the scale of the encyclopedia platform as a data source, but also open up several exciting new avenues for research. Specifically, through investigation of a corpus of Wikipedia Talk pages developed as part of a UK research council-funded project, I will show how these resources can be used to provide insight into the features and functions of 'translation talk' (Davier 2019; Pritzker 2014) and other forms of metalinguistic discussion as they appear across many thousands of individual comments and interactions between members of the multilingual volunteer community. Discussion of this case study will also highlight a number of challenges shaping the application of corpus-based methodologies in a Wikipedia context, and encourage critical reflection on the limits and limitations of this approach to the analysis of Wikipedia translation.



About the Speaker :

Henry Jones is Lecturer in Translation Studies at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. He is a co-coordinator of the Genealogies of Knowledge Research Network (https://genealogiesofknowledge.net/research-network/) and co-editor of the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Citizen Media* (2021). His research into Wikipedia has mainly focused on highlighting the extent to which translation practices are inextricably bound up with the processes of negotiation through which knowledge is collaboratively produced in this online platform. His other research interests lie in the fields of corpus-based translation studies, translation history and media theory.



Keynote Speech

Keynote Speech 3

Tales of the "fish in your ear": How does Wikipedia help to shape a public narrative on interpreting?

Jun PAN Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

The activity of interpreting dates back to ancient human history (Baigorri-Jalón, 2014; Takeda & Baigorri-Jalón, 2016). Nevertheless, the work of interpreters has for a long time remained mysterious and has only been increasingly placed in the public eye since their involvement in major international events such as the Paris Peace Conference (Baigorri-Jalón, 2014). Recent vears have seen growing narratives of this complex human activity online and in the media. As an online platform of collective knowledge production and sharing, Wikipedia, despite controversies (Jemielniak, 2014; Leitch, 2014), provides an ideal space for the study of a public narrative (Somers and Gibson, 1994; Baker, 2006). There is also a shared view of taking Wikipedia as a corpus that provides scholarly value (Shaoul & Westbury, 2010; Sketch Engine, 2014; Davis, 2015). Under such a background, this study focuses on what and how stories of interpreting are circulated on Wikipedia. Exploratory in nature, the study compiles corpora of Wikipedia articles on interpreting or interpreters, Talk pages on articles of the same subject, and Wikinews articles relating to interpreters. Apart from investigating the linguistic and textual features of the interpreting related articles, the study performs topic and sentimental analysis on the corpora data to find out events/people and opinions associated with the profession in Wikipedia. The talk will end with a discussion of how Wikipedia can be used as a unique lens to study narratives of professional activities such as interpreting.

* This study is supported by the General Research Fund of Hong Kong Research Grants Council (Project No.: 12603619).



About the Speaker :

Jun Pan Is Associate Professor in the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University. She serves as Managing Editor of *Bandung: Journal of the Global South* and Review Editor of *The Interpreter and Translator Trainer*. Her research interests lie in digital humanities and interpreting/translation, corpus-based interpreting/translation studies, interpreting/translation and political discourse, learner factors in interpreter training, professionalism in interpreting, etc. Her recent work includes a 6.5-million-word corpus on Chinese/English political interpreting and translation (<u>https://digital.lib.hkbu.edu.hk/cepic/</u>). She works as co-investigator of the project "Understanding Wikipedia's dark matter: translation, knowledge and point of view", which is led by Mark Shuttleworth.



Workshop

Workshop 1

Scraping Wikipedia articles

Zhilu TU Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Unlike other Wikipedia research that focuses on big data analytics, research on the "dark matter" of Wikipedia attaches importance to the distinctive features and evolution of one or several articles across interlingual versions. This implies that the scraping method should avoid overlooking any fragments or details of the article while keeping the text clean and readable for further processing. In this workshop, several implementations of scraping Wikipedia articles will be introduced for a wide variety of research scenarios. Most of these methods are supported by official documentation. With the help of interfaces and parsers provided by Wikipedia and other developers, users are able to control exactly what Wikipedia content they want to get, such as tables, quotations, illustrations, etc. The basis of programming and data science will also be introduced in this workshop. Based on Google's Colab platform and Python's rich libraries, participants will be able to get the idea of scraping Wikipedia without installing any additional software on their computer.



About the Convenor :

Zhilu Tu holds a master's degree in translation and currently is a PhD Student in the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University. His research interests lie primarily in Translation Studies and the area of Digital Humanities. His research aims to use digital methods to explore humanities (translations) questions. At present, he is working on visualizing the translation on social media such as Twitter and Weibo. The web-scraping and parallel-sentence-mining techniques introduced in his research have also been adapted to explore the 'dark matter' in the Wikipedia translation.

Workshop

Workshop 2

Digital tools for researching Wikipedia

Mark SHUTTLEWORTH Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

In this workshop I intend to focus on some of the wide range of tools that are freely available for investigating different aspects of Wikipedia that are relevant to translation research. These firstly include quite a number that can be accessed via the Wikipedia interface itself, as follows:

- 'Pages translated from ...' for finding pages translated from different editions of the multilingual encyclopaedia
- Revision history for viewing and comparing earlier states of an article
- Page Statistics, including general statistics as well as statistics on authorship, top editors, year and month edit counts, (semi-)automated edits and page assessments, present article-specific numerical information on edits and editors
- Page View Statistics, including Langviews and Siteviews, for obtaining numerical data on article editions in different languages and all languages together
- WikiBlame for finding when a word or phrase was added or removed
- User Contribution Search for finding edits made to a page by a particular user
- Wikiwho and WhoColor for highlighting the contributions of different editors to the text of an article

Taken together, these form a major part of what I have elsewhere referred to as Wikipedia's own 'research ecosystem' (Shuttleworth 2017:315-17). Besides these, a growing number of tools are being produced by third parties, such as the following:

- Wikipedia Cross-Lingual Image Analysis for comparing the images contained in the different language versions of an article
- Wikipedia TOC Scraper for observing how an article's table of contents evolves over time
- Wikipedia Edits Scraper and IP Localizer for scraping the entire edit history of a Wikipedia article

Finally, the 'Understanding Wikipedia's dark matter' project from which the conference stems has produced at least three tools to date:

- WikiTime for visualising relative editing effort over time
- MultiWikiBlame, a multilingual version of WikiBlame
- WikiAligner, a tool for aligning sentences in two different Wikipedia articles

Nearly all these tools should be freely accessible, and there will plenty of chance during the workshop for participants to try them out for themselves and to consider how they might contribute to translation research.

About the Convenor :

Mark Shuttleworth has been involved in translation studies research and teaching since 1993, at the University of Leeds, Imperial College London, University College London and, most recently, Hong Kong Baptist University. His publications include the *Dictionary of Translation Studies*, as well as articles on translation technology teaching, metaphor in translation, translation and the web, and Wikipedia translation. The use of digital methodologies in translation studies research is also an interest of his. His monograph on scientific metaphor in translation, *Studying Scientific Metaphor in Translation*, was published in 2017 and he is currently working on a second edition of the *Dictionary*.

Session 1: Individual Papers

SESSION PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS (In the order of presentation)

Pertalan Kontèn. The quality of translation results of cultural terms in feng shui article in the Javanese Wikipedia

Elis FAJARIYATI Amanda Amalia Noor ARIFAH Agatha Vidya NARISWARI Wikimedia, Indonesia Wikimedia, Indonesia Wikimedia, Indonesia

Translation is currently done by both humans and machine translators. One of the machine translators is called *Pertalan Kontèn* in Javanese Wikipedia. This machine has had a significant impact on adding content to the Javanese Wikipedia. However, it cannot guarantee the quality of the article. Hence, the focus of this research is to find out the quality of the content translation, particularly the translation of the cultural terms. In this study, the data were words, phrases, or sentences in English Feng Shui article, which were translated into Javanese. The data collection technique was done by doing sampling on the criteria of all words that contain cultural terms. It was followed by data analysis using Spradley's theory of domain, taxonomic, and component analysis to determine the accuracy of the translation of these cultural terms. Moreover, the result of the hypothesis is that translation errors were found due to lack of words, cultural differences, and differences in the meaning.

Keywords:

Translation of Cultural Terms, Content Relation, Javanese Wikipedia



About the Presenters :

Elis Fajaryati is a graduate student of Universitas Gadjah Mada (Gadjah Mada University), Linguistics Department Postgraduate. She joined as a volunteer in Javanese Wikipedia since 2018. Elis has been an active contributor on both offline and online programs. She has been a trainer for projects written on Wikipedia in Indonesian and Javanese. Apart from being a written trainer, she has also received project grants from Wikimedia Indonesia, such as the Saraswati Project and the *WikiBeksa* project.

Amanda Amalia Noor Arifah is currently a volunteer in Javanese Wikipedia. As a recent graduate of Universitas Gadjah Mada (Gadjah Mada University), English Literature Study Program, she has done many things about writings including in Wikipedia. Since 2019, Amanda has been contributed to Wikipedias' programs such as Saraswati, Wiki *Masuk Sekolah*, *WikiLatih*, and more.

Agatha Vidya Nariswari wrote articles in Javanese Wikipedia since 2018. She also joined the community since that year. Agatha was a recent graduate of Universitas Gadjah Mada (Gadjah Mada University), Indonesian Literature study program. She is currently a representative of Javanese Wikimedia community in Indonesia. As a representative, she has a particular role regarding to the communication of Javanese Wikimedia community to the Wikimedia Indonesia (and reverse).

Furthermore, Elis, Amanda, and Agatha are currently doing a research about the quality of the content translation regarding to cultural terms in Wikipedia. Hopefully, this research could be useful to advance the knowledge in Wikipedia.

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Session 1: Individual Papers

Wikipidiya: Translating Wikipedia into the Taiwan indigenous minority language Seediq

Darryl STERK Lingnan University, Hong Kong

Seediq is a Formosan Austronesian language spoken by under 10,000 in central Taiwan, most of them over 50 years old. There has been a language shift to Mandarin since WW2, which elites are now trying to reverse. One approach is translation, particularly for a Wikipedia. The Seediq Wikipedia began with a state-organized competition to see which of Taiwan's 16 officially recognized indigenous groups could build the biggest Wikipedia. (Note that of the 16, Sediq (=Seediq) and Truku are actually dialects of the same language, catalogued as trv by Ethnologue.) Around the country, indigenous language development committees threw themselves into group translation sessions to create enough articles to meet Wikipedia's standards. Seediq is one the three languages (also Atayal and Amis) that have made the grade. The Seediq Wikipedia has gone from incubator status to a full Wikipedia with its own homepage: https://trv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruwahan_patas (literally "opening page"). It now boasts nearly 2,000 articles, with a total word count of on the order of 150,000 words.

This paper will investigate the process that produced the Seediq Wikipedia through a methodology of textual analysis and interviews with the Seediq translators. Textual analysis of sample articles will yield insights about the approaches the translators took to coining terms to translate foreign cultural items. It will also address the degree to which the Seediq articles are interlinked and how complete the translations are. Interviews with the translators will yield insights about how the translation effort was organized, including the division of labor, quality control, selection of articles, and negotiation of dialectal differences.

The paper will provide an introduction to the Wikipedia endangered language policy, and contribute to the study of the role translation can play in reversing language shift as minority indigenous cultures are textualized by marginal language communities in settler states around the world.

Keywords:

reversing language shift, language endangerment, Formosan Austronesian languages, Seediq, Taiwan, minority translation studies



About the Presenter :

Darryl Sterk (Assistant Professor of Translation, Lingnan University) is a scholar of indigenous Taiwan, particularly in terms of "indigenous cultural translation" – the transfer of meaning across linguistic boundaries and the "translation" of tradition in modern contexts. He has written a monograph entitled Indigenous Cultural Translation: A Thick Description of Seediq Bale on the subject. He is currently interested in "autoethnobotany" – how indigenous peoples textualize and translate their knowledge of the natural world, particularly plants. He is also interested in other ways in which minority indigenous language communities are reversing language shift, for instance by translating pop music lyrics.

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Session 1: Individual Papers

Exploring self-reported issues and challenges by Mandarin-English interpreters in Melbourne: An ELF and intercultural communication perspective

Yanjun WANG Monash University, Australia

The research focus on the issues and challenges facing Mandarin-English interpreters in mediated intercultural communication featuring both Chinese and English speakers which remains underrepresented in literature. The issues identified are discussed from linguistic aspects including accent and lexicon use and interpreting aspects including issues related to cultural discourse and cultural pragmatics related to different communication acts and practices. At the same time, this project seeks to see how Mandarin-English professional interpreters cope with challenges and how they perceive the role of interpreters and competences required in profession in general. Lastly, the project seeks to establish what the implications of this may be for Mandarin-English interpreter training and on the field of intercultural communication in Australia in general. This study is an introspective data study using qualitative method ---- interview with a sample of ten Mandarin-English professional interpreters. The study may be limited by intercultural communication challenges between English speakers of different varieties and Mandarin-speaking clients due to the cultural and linguistic suitability of the researcher, thus aspects of cultural differences were somewhat limited in terms of cultural varieties.

Keywords:

interpreter mediated dialogue interpreting, intercultural communication featuring both Chinese and English speakers, ELF communication in community interpreting

About the Presenter :

Yanjun Wang is currently taking her second master of applied linguistics with a research pathway. Her first master's degree was master of translation and interpreting. As a NAATI certified professional interpreter, she is interested in the community interpreting settings with interpreters facing Chinese speakers and English speakers of different varieties in the current era. She is also working in the vocational training sector for interpreter and translator training. She hopes her study could provide some implications for interpreters' training and intercultural communication in general.

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Session 2: Individual Papers

Editing as a form of activism: The case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict Wikipedia article in English and Arabic

Iman Said SULAIMAN AL GHAFRI Sultan Qaboos University, Oman

This study is an attempt to investigate the role of Wikipedia as a tool for activism through which editors explicitly declare their political affiliations, ideologies and their ultimate goal of resisting other narratives. In particular, the study uses a narrative model to examine the editorial process of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Wikipedia English article and the Arabic Wikipedia article "The Palestinian Cause" (القضية الفلسطينية). (In addition to comparing between the two articles, the study examines the use of history logs, talk pages as well as statistics provided by Wikipedia on the two articles. It also looks into the political and social factors at play behind the scene. Moreover, it investigates the usefulness of the set of checks and controls imposed by Wikipedia in neutralizing the debate. It aims to contribute to the newly introduced research on Wikipedia in translation studies from the angle of the understudied notion of activism in relation to the production of multilingual knowledge. The study shows that although Wikipedia prides itself on being a free unbiased platform, it is still at the heart of the war on narratives, in which it is a platform for continuous manipulation of information.

Keywords:

Wikipedia, activism, Palestinian Cause, Israeli-Palestinian Conflict



About the Presenter :

Iman Said Sulaiman Al Ghafri has been working as a translator for 10 years. She holds a BA (2011) in Translation from Sultan Qaboos University and an MA (2017) in Translation Theory and Practice from University College London. She is currently a part-time lecturer in Translation at Sultan Qaboos University.

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Understanding Wikipedia's Dark Matter: Translation and Multilingual Practice in the World's Largest Online Encyclopaedia

Session 2: Individual Papers

Negotiation and power in online collaborative translation: A case analysis of norm conflicts amongst Wikipedia translator-editors

Bei HU National University of Singapore, Singapore

Collaborative translation practices have been receiving increased scholarly attention (Alfer 2017) and have also given rise to attempts to conceptualise Wikipedia translation as an inherently collaborative phenomenon (Jiménez-Crespo 2017). Despite recent proposals (e.g., Yasseri et al. 2014; McDonough Dolmaya 2015; Shuttleworth 2017) regarding the use of Wikipedia's multilingual archived data to study the agentive forces in collocative translation, the self-organisation process used by the hierarchical structure of volunteer translator-editors and the cultural and ideological conflicts embedded in 'multiple translatorship' (Jansen and Wegener 2013), Wikipedia translation possesses an as-yet underexplored translational dimension. This study attempts to uncover a crucial piece of the 'dark matter' of Wikipedia collaborative translation: the ways in which translator-editors communicate and reconcile discrepancies in culture-sensitive terminology translation and the extent to which negotiations are productive among various agents who have different ideological slants concerning appropriate translation strategies. For this study, our corpus is built from Wikipedia's archived 'equivalent terms in different Chinese-language regions' section, in which volunteer translatoreditors and Wikipedia administrators discussed, debated and decided how to translate terminology differently for Wikipedia users from mainland China, Taiwan Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. The period chosen for investigation was January 2020 to January 2021, during which 112 terminology conflicts were brought to the fore and 25 items were addressed using consensus. The study's analysis focuses on translation norm conflicts and conditionals in online dialogic interaction, with an emphasis on the dynamics of the power relationships within which the translator-editor sits, and it may serve as an alternative methodological vardstick in 'the Wikipedia research ecosystem' (Shuttleworth 2017: 315). It is hoped that envisaging negotiations of interests and needs among agents in knowledge management will broaden our understanding of Wikipedia translation and collaborative translation in the context of digital humanities.

Keywords:

Wikipedia translation, Collaborative translation, translation norms



About the Presenter :

Bei Hu is an Assistant Professor of Translation Studies in the Department of Chinese Studies at the National University of Singapore. She received her Ph.D. in Translation and Interpreting Studies from the University of Melbourne. Her research interests lie in highstakes intercultural communication, intuitional translation and reception studies with a focus on empirical/experimental methods. Her most recent work has been accepted for publication in Translation Studies and Target.

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Session 2: Individual Papers

Lessons learned from multilingual transl-a-thon of Wikipedia

Takashi OTA Wikimedian in Kansai, Japan

In July 2019, the author held a transl-a-thon named as "Wikipedia Town for Multicultural Symbiosis" at and in collaboration with Maruoka High School located in Sakai, Fukui Prefecture, Japan. The event aimed to enrich local contents as much languages as possible. Target participants are foreign residents living nearby towns and cities who have never edited Wikipedia before. The event picked out "Brief Messages from the Heart Museum" as a subject and translated from Japanese into 15 language versions of Wikipedias by 19 editors, while some versions were deleted afterward.

In this paper, the author shares plenty of troubles we faced during the transl-a-thon, including choosing appropriate subject for translation, various restrictions of Wikipedia's Content Translation (CX) tool, the source article with corrupted-syntax, restrictions associated with specific-language versions of Wikipedia (especially English), clearing criterion of notability, typical IT issues like keyboard layout mismatch between languages or browser compatibility, as well as time shortage of course.

Nonetheless, such attempt has significant importance for foreign residents who lives far away from their home, where local resources written in their mother tongue are scarce, to learn how to contribute to the world's largest online encyclopedia. At the same time, local language speakers can learn from them through this opportunity of cross-cultural exchange.

Keywords:

transl-a-thon, multilingualism, migrant inclusion, translation and minority



About the Presenter :

Takashi Ota is a Japanese Wikimedian (User:Takot) since 2005, mainly works on translations between English and Japanese, of user interfaces of Wikipedia apps for smartphones, as well as Wikipedia articles. He participates Wikipedia town (one-day photo walk and edit-a-thon) events and teaches how to edit Wikipedia and behave in the Wikimedia community. He served as an organizer of Wikipedia Asian Month, an annual online edit-a-thon to promote Asian topics, since 2015 until 2019. He earned his B.A.(Environmental Information) and Master of Media and Governance, both from Keio University.

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Session 3: Individual Papers

We are bilingual, but can we translate? Translaboration in translating Wikipedia in Riyadh's 1st Translation Marathon

Sarah ALDAWOOD University of Massachusetts Amherst, United States

This paper discusses the collaborative dimension of translation (translaboration cf. Alfer, 2017) by studying the first Translation Marathon in the Riyadh International Book Fair, which was held in Saudi Arabia in 2018. The event involved more than 1000 participants gathered in an 8-day marathon to translate Wikipedia articles written in Arabic. The underlying aim of the event was to enrich the Wikipedia content of articles highlighting the Saudi culture, heritage, history, geography and public figures in English and French. Through this study of the marathon event, various themes related to translaboration will be discussed such as translation as mediation, and the translator's labor. The marathon's participants ranged from professional translators and university professors to nonprofessionals such as amateur translators and bilinguals from different age groups. Therefore, the notion put forward by Pym (2011) that "technology might thus be driving us [in regard to translation] to a world of amateurish fun" (6) will be supported; it will be argued that translation through this event is not done only by the professionals but rather it is a quasi-universal human capability. Consequently, it will be argued that this event, bound with technological social shifts, instigates a redefinition of the translator as a socially constructed being.

Keywords:

translaboration; mediation; marathon; Wikipedia; non-professional translation



About the Presenter :

Sarah Aldawood is currently a PhD student in Comparative Literature with a focus on Translation Studies at UMass Amherst. Her research interests include the sociology of translation, intersemiotic translation and modern Arabic literature. She received her BA in English translation from King Saud University, Saudi Arabia and MA in the Theory and Practice of Translation from SOAS, University of London, UK.

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Session 3: Individual Papers

FAIR and open multilingual clinical trials in Wikidata and Wikipedia

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Cherrie KWOK	University of Virginia, United States

This project seeks to conduct language translation on metadata labels for research publications, attribution data, and clinical trials information to make data about medical research queriable in underserved languages through Wikidata and the Linked Open Web. This project has the benefit of distributing content through Wikipedia and Wikidata, which already have an annual userbase of a billion users and which already have established actionable standards to practice diversity, inclusion, openness, FAIRness, and transparency about program development. The impact will be localized access to basic research information in various Global South languages to integrate with existing community efforts for establishing the same. Although Wikidata development in this direction seems inevitable, the cultural and social exchange required to establish global multilingual research partnerships could begin now with support rather than later as a second phase effort for including the developing world. Wikipedia and Wikidata are established forums with an existing active userbase for multilingual research collaboration, but the research practices there still are immature. By applying metadata expertise through this project, we will elevate the current amateur development with more stable Linked Open Data compatibility to English language databases. Using the wiki distribution and discussion platform to develop the global conversation about data sharing will set good precedents for the trend of global research collaboration.

Keywords:

clinical research, clinical trial, Wikipedia, Wikidata, FAIR data, open data



About the Presenters :

Cherrie Kwok is a PhD Candidate and an Elizabeth Arendall Tilney and Schuyler Meritt Tilney Jefferson Fellow at the University of Virginia. She has written about strategies for using Wikipedia in the classroom in The Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy (JITP), and her engagement with Wikipedia is part of her broader research interests in the digital humanities and digital writing.

Lane Rasberry is Wikimedian-in-residence at the School of Data Science at the University of Virginia. In this role Lane seeks to support students, faculty, and staff at the university in sharing information in Wikipedia, Wikidata, and other Wikimedia projects. In this way people at the university use Wikipedia to publish to a large audience including students, researchers, journalists, and anyone else doing basic research on a topic.

Lane's professional interests include popular science, consumer protection, civic engagement, access to health information, clinical research, the Open Movement, data science, LGBT history, and Wikimedia projects.

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Session 3: Individual Papers

Translator training via Wikipedia for humanitarian purposes

Martha CELIS-MENDOZA Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico

The long-standing metaphor of the translator as a bridge between two cultures may sound utopic; however, it is true that the participation of translators in humanitarian collaborative projects has involved thousands of volunteers in the last decades: only Translators Without Borders had produced over 10 million translated words pro bono by over three thousand translators. The participation in different collaborative humanitarian projects is a wonderful way to promote the practice of novel translators that need to gain experience before being accepted in the "real world". Projects like Ted Translators, Duolingo, and Coursera offer translators-in-training the opportunity to put their knowledge and skills to work while also contributing to endeavors that, for a variety of reasons, require the participation of many volunteers. In the case of Translators Without Borders, their organization has joined efforts with Wikimedia Foundation to translate the most relevant medical articles into as many Wikipedia languages as possible. The opportunity to do supervised translation practice by means of Wikipedia articles offers translators-in-training the chance to collaborate in a global effort where they can select at first those topics that are more interesting or more closely related to their area of expertise, and they can later be assigned articles outside their "comfort zone" where they must develop further documentation and research skills. It is important to address the role of the instructor in the supervision of the translation practice, especially in the case of problematic articles like those related to health issues, where it must be carried out in full detail, while in the other cases, peer revision by other students can be enough as a first step, also allowing them to improve their editing skills. This has proven an effective way to promote long-term involvement of new translators in humanitarian projects.

Keywords:

humanitarian translation, collaborative translation, volunteer work, translator training programs



About the Presenter :

Martha Celis-Mendoza (Mexico, Universidad Iberoamericana) is a lecturer and translator; she holds a PhD. in Hispanic Literatures and an MA in Translation, both from El Colegio de México, and a BA in English from National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). She is the head of the Translation Diploma Program at Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City and has taught several different courses related to Translation and Comparative Literature at UNAM, IBERO and AMETLI. She has written articles and several conference presentations about Translation Studies, women translators, Mexican 20th Century writers, detective fiction, Shakespeare and J. R. R. Tolkien.

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Session 4: Individual Papers

Developing transversal competences in a complex multilingual ecosystem. Evidence from *Translatathons*

Maristella GATTO University of Bari, Italy

In recent research on the interplay between approaches and methods in translator training and complexity theory, it is argued that translation teaching should move more and more towards post-positivist approaches based on the triad "autonomy, experience and expertise", and needs to be open to the challenges of 'emergentism'. This new vision involves the design of innovative methods, where the traditional translation class is abandoned in favour of more complex activities based on "authentic projects", which inevitably bring both teacher and learners "at the edge of chaos" (Kiraly 2006, 2019; Perez 2019).

Against this background a number of projects have emerged that exploit the complex multilingual ecosystem of Wikipedia as a source and working environment for authentic translation tasks. (Al-Shehari 2017; Musacchio 2020; Gatto 2020). What these projects have in common is the involvement of groups of students in the translation of Wikipedia pages, in curricular teaching activites or as part of dedicated workshops. In particular, the present paper aims to report on a number of Wikipedia-based Translatathons carried out at the University of Bari (2018-2021) The basic assumption is that, following the above-mentioned approaches, activities of this kind can really help develop a comprehensive translation competence. Furthermore they are an invaluable opportunity to develop the so-called transversal/soft skills, which are now a key asset in the job market. In more general terms, these project have eventually provided invaluable insights into some specific aspects of translation and knowledge dissemination in the self-contained ecosystem of Wikipedia.

Keywords:

Translation competence, Translation Pedagogy, Multilingual ecosystem, Translatathons



About the Presenter :

Maristella Gatto is Associate Professor of English Linguistics and Translation Studies at the University of Bari (Italy). Her research areas include Corpus Linguistics (especially the Web as/for Corpus), Computer Mediated Communication, Corpus Stylistics, Translation Studies, and Specialized Discourse.

She is the author of the monograph *The Web as Corpus. Theory and Practice,* Bloomsbury 2014. Other related publications include book chapters and articles on the discourse of Web 2.0 genres, especially Wikipedia.

Her most recent articles and book chapters concern Data-Driven Learning and Corpus Stylistics She has recently co-edited the reader *Culture and the Legacy of Anthropology*, Peter Lang 2020.

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Understanding Wikipedia's Dark Matter: Translation and Multilingual Practice in the World's Largest Online Encyclopaedia

Session 4: Individual Papers

Introduction to emerging translation roles via Wikipedia translation

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Maria Teresa MUSACCHIO	University of Padov
David ORREGO-CARMONA	Aston University, U
Elisabet TISELIUS	Stockholm Univers
Ester TORRES SIMÓN	Universitat Rovira i

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Integrating Wikipedia editing into translator training has the potential to provide a realistic scenario that supports the development not only of translation competence but a series of competences that will be useful to translation trainees. Wikipedia has become a tool in the translation classroom with positive results, as seen in Al-Shehari (2017), Dolmaya (2012) or Szymczak (2013) among others. Often the tasks proposed cover a more traditional role of translation, post-editing and revision and are presented as an isolated classroom activity or as part of a one-time hands-on open edit-a-thon. However, the nature of Wikipedia translation allows us to consider not only traditional types of translation but also other newly emerging types.

The EST Wikipedia committee has been encouraging and also running translation workshops and edit-a-thons with a two-fold objective: increasing the visibility of TS on Wikipedia and using the platform for training purposes. Based on the challenges faced in those activities to reach the ultimate aim of publication of revisions and new articles, a need for Wikipediarelated tasks beyond revision/post-editing and translation proper were identified. In order to clarify how to promote learning outcomes related to personal and interpersonal competences, service provision competences, and information management competences (EMT 2017), we explain the circumstances in which the occasion to practice them appear in the process of Wikipedia editing, how to favour the creation of those circumstances and how to integrate lessons learnt in the regular curriculum or in autonomous learning activities.

We believe that focusing on Wikipedia-related tasks that address the above mentioned competences, paths to different roles in the language industry.



Keywords:

EST Wikipedia committee, translator roles, translator competences, learning outcomes, Wikipedia edit-a-thons, translation, interpreting



About the Presenters :

Kyriaki Kourouni is a Senior Fellow at the Department of Translation and Intercultural Studies, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece). She has been working as a professional translator and subtitler. Her research deals with translator training and translation technologies. She has served as Vice-President of the Panhellenic Association of Translators (2008-2010), as Board Member of the Hellenic Society for Translation Studies (2016-2018) and as Vice-President of the European Society for Translation Studies (2016-2019). She is currently Board Member of the European Society for Translation Studies (2019-2022) and of the Greek Applied Linguistics Association (GALA, 2021-2023).

Maria Teresa Musacchio is chair of English Linguistics and Translation Studies at the Department of Linguistic and Literary Studies (DiSLL) of the University of Padova (Italy) Her research deals with specialised translation and terminology and their teaching/learning, with a focus on corpus-based and corpus-driven studies of scientific, business and technical communication. She currently studies communication and translation in times of crisis with special reference to emergencies from natural hazards and is part of the interdisciplinary group EconLex investigating the language and translation of economics, business and finance in a diachronic perspective.

David Orrego-Carmona is a lecturer in translation studies at Aston University (UK) and a research associate at the University of the Free State (South Africa). He holds a PhD in Translation and Intercultural Studies (Universitat Rovira i Virgili). His research deals with translation, technologies, the social impact of translation, and users of translation, as well as the integration of open science into translation and interpreting studies research to improve empirical research in the field. He studies how translation technologies empower professional and non-professional translators and how the democratisation of technology allows translation users to become non-professional translators. He tweets @dorrego.

Elisabet Tiselius is an associate professor of and holds a Phd in interpreting studies at Stockholm University. She's an active conference and public service interpreter. On Wikipedia she's Paristolken. Tiselius heads the research group Stockholm Process Research in Interpreting and Translation (SPRINT) which focuses on cognitive aspects of interpreting and translation and is funded by the Swedish research council (VR grant 2016-01118). She is an



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Session 4: Individual Papers

Translation in Wikipedia: A praxeological study of normativity, negotiation and performance across four language communities

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As a peer-produced multilingual platform, Wikipedia relies heavily on the goodwill of thousands of volunteers from all over the world, variously referred to as 'users', 'editors' or 'Wikipedians'. Such altruistic sentiment has not gone unnoticed by translation scholars. For instance, previous research has considered the motivations driving Wikipedia translators (McDonough Dolmaya, 2012). More recent studies have shown that some translators work in isolation (Shuttleworth, 2017), while others engage in lengthy disputes on forum-like spaces known as talk pages (Jones, 2018). Notwithstanding, more research has yet to be conducted on Wikipedia translation as practice.

Consequently, this presentation seeks to disseminate the key findings of a three-year doctoral investigation into the performance of translation practices across the Spanish, French, Dutch and Swedish language communities of Wikipedia. Drawing on an understanding of Wikipedia as a constellation of communities of practice (Wenger 1998), this presentation will address three central issues: the approval of local documented standards (translation guidelines), their arduous negotiation, and their subsequent assimilation by experienced Wikipedia translators. The data used in the study comes from a thematic analysis of all existing translation-related guidelines in the communities mentioned above, their ancillary talk pages, and one-to-one semi-structured interviews with 16 senior Wikipedia translators (four per community).

The aim is to gain insight into how distinct Wikipedia communities regulate translation and the extent to which those regulations inform the translators' practices. The findings suggest that Wikipedia guidelines on translation differ slightly across the communities under investigation. Moreover, the interview data showed a widespread tendency among participants to regard guidelines as marginal elements to their practice. Despite this peripherality, most participants reported following Wikipedia policies that are commonly observed in other forms of content creation, thus reinforcing the idea that translation and editing in the online encyclopaedia form a continuum.

Keywords:

Wikipedia translation, Translation as practice, Translation guidelines, Communities of practice



About the Presenter:

José Gustavo Góngora-Goloubintseff is Associate Lecturer in Translation Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London. He has recently completed his PhD at the University of Manchester. His research into Wikipedia has focused on the standards and materials that underpin and configure the practices of translators.

A former board member of Wikimedia Spain, Góngora-Goloubintseff has also been an active Spanish and Catalan Wikipedia editor and administrator since 2006 and has attended seven Wikimania events, including the 2013 edition in Hong Kong.

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Session 5: Individual Papers

Translating Wikipedia for Accessibility in Less Commonly Used Languages on the Internet

Marija TODOROVA Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Having internet content in local languages is crucial for smaller language communities, especially for those speakers who do not use any foreign language. As one of the fastest growing and one of the largest online and open access encyclopedias, Wikipedia is an influential source of information and knowledge worldwide.

Wikipedia in English has more than 5.5 million articles, while the smallest number of articles are in the Kanuri language. The biggest number of Wikipedia articles in the Balkan languages can be found on the Serbian Wikipedia, with more than 602,000 articles. With about only 93,000 articles in the Macedonian language, this language is less used than the languages of other countries from the Balkans. Thus, North Macedonia's Ministry of Information Society and Administration initiated a nationwide project for increasing the number of Macedonian language articles on Wikipedia. The project was implemented with the assistance of Universities in the country, including foreign language programmes, by developing assignments for language students to translate Wikipedia articles. Additionally, an association of volunteer contributors has also used translation to increase the number of articles in Macedonian on Wikipedia.

This paper will report on the different approaches and the effectiveness of translation students and non-professional translators in the translation of Wikipedia articles that allows access to information in less commonly used languages on the internet, in particular into the Macedonian language. Based on interviews with local translation trainers and nonprofessional/volunteer translators, and a survey of Wikipedia users, the study will assess the effectiveness of strategies used to translate Wikipedia articles into Macedonian.

Keywords:

Wikipedia, accessibility, translator training, non-professional translators, less common languages, Macedonian



About the Presenter :

Marija Todorova is the editor of *Interpreting War: A Comparative Framework* (Palgrave 2021, with Lucia Ruiz Rosendo). She is the guest editor of a special issue of *Linguistica Antverpiensia: Translation and Inclusive Development* (2022, with Kobus Marais). Her research has appeared in *The Translator, Linguistica Antverpiensia, Translation Spaces,* and numerous edited collections, including the *Oxford Handbook of Translation and Social Practice* (2021). She serves as editor of *New Voices in Translation Studies,* Executive Council member of the International Association of Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS, 2011 – present) and Chair of the IATIS Social Media and Outreach Committee (2020 – present).

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Session 5: Individual Papers

A comparative study of ethical issues in Wikipedia translation and professional translation: A case study of the E<>C translations published through the Wikipedia Content Translation Tool

Haohao YANG Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

This article conducts a comparative study of ethical issues in Wikipedia translation and professional translation. So far, both professional translation ethics and the ethical issues in the Wikipedia knowledge production process have attracted significant academic interest. The ethical issues in Wikipedia translation, however, have remained under-researched. Drawing on previous studies on professional translation ethics and the nature of Wikipedia translation, this article mainly focuses on the following two research questions: 1) What are the ethical issues involved in Wikipedia translation at present? 2) What is the distinctiveness of Wikipedia translation ethics as compared to professional translation ethics? To explore these research questions, the study first compares the professional codes of ethics in translation organizations and the existing guidelines regulating Wikipedia translation, followed by a case study of selected translations between English and Chinese published through the Content Translation Tool in Wikipedia. The article aims to identify the major ethical issues involved in Wikipedia translation ethics.

Keywords:

Wikipedia translation; translation ethics; professional translation; comparative study; Content Translation Tool



About the Presenter :

Haohao Yang got her MA in Computer-aided Translation from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is currently a PhD student at Hong Kong Baptist University. Her research interests include corpus-based translation studies, collaborative translation and interpreting teaching.

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Session 5: Individual Papers

English and Chinese words of the year 2020 in Wikipedia articles

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Wikipedias were comprised of 321 language versions in June 2021, but the unequal distribution of information was able to be found in the multilingual online encyclopedia. For example, the English Wikipedia comprises over 6.3 million articles while the Chinese version has only 1.2 million articles ("Wikipedia," 2021). This study will focus on the comparison and analysis of English and Chinese words of the year 2020 in Wikipedia articles. First, the English words are collected from *Oxford Languages 2020* and *Merriam-Webster's Word of the Year 2020*, and the Chinese words are obtained from *Chinese Characters and Phrases of the Year 2020* initiated by the National Language Resources Monitoring and Research Center and the Commercial Press publishing house. The Wikipedia articles on these words will then be explored to reveal the features of information distribution in both English and Chinese versions, and the characteristics of translation from English to Chinese and vise versa. An investigation into the revision history of the articles will also be conducted to show the evolution of these words and their translation.

Keywords:

Crowdsourced translation, Wikipedia, corpus analysis, English words of the year 2020, Chinese words of the year 2020



About the Presenter :

Dr. **Sissi Hui Wu** is a lecturer and the programme coordinator of the Higher Diploma in Translation and Interpretation at the HKU SPACE Community College. Her research interests include translation and interpreting studies, as well as language learning and teaching.

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Session 6: Individual Papers

#viquiPAU - Translating Wikipedia as preparation for university entrance exams

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Amical Wikimedia is a so-called Wikimedia thematic organisation that focuses on making Catalan culture easily available online and in several languages. One of their most popular events are yearly translation marathons in which registered volunteers and experts from Catalan-speaking areas write or edit articles about a wide range of topics, usually related to language, art, literature, or music. In May 2020, *Amical Wikimedia* organised the first edition of an article-editing contest with the ultimate goal of providing Catalan-speaking high school students additional help to prepare for their university entrance exams while in virtual homeschooling. Participants could earn points by editing or translating entries and opt to prizes such as the registration fee for a language course at any Catalan-speaking university or vouchers for school supplies.

As a result, 22 participants (students, education professionals and amateur users alike) spent several weeks editing or translating a total of 82 articles related to the subjects of the *selectivitat* exams. In order to ensure that certain quality standards were met, contributors were given general guidelines regarding the structure of articles, spelling and the citation of adequate sources. Using Wikimedia's own criteria and internal editing history as reference to determine what strategies and techniques were employed, the 71 articles translated for this project were analysed from a functional approach with the goal to describe how (or whether) translation quality controls were implemented for the duration of the contest. This paper also aims to explore how gamification elements were incorporated into the project to increase users' motivation to participate.

Keywords:

Wikipedia for education purposes; quality control; gamification; translators' motivation; Amical Wikimedia; translation to minority languages



About the Presenter :

Mar Mañes-Bordes is an assistant professor (non-tenure track) at the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna. After earning her PhD in Translation and Cultural Studies at the Autonomous University of Barcelona in 2016 with a thesis on the translation of dialectal and sociocultural elements in the Catalan "free adaptation" of Shaw's *Pygmalion*, she was the Lecturer for Catalan Language and Culture at Kiel University in Germany from 2017 to 2020. At present, Mar Mañes-Bordes is conducting postdoctoral research in the field of online collaborative translation, focusing on translators' motivations and on ideological and ethical questions regarding collaborative practices in both professional and non-professional settings.

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Understanding Wikipedia's Dark Matter: Translation and Multilingual Practice in the World's Largest Online Encyclopaedia



Translation students' and Wikipedia editors' attitudes towards Wikipedia translator. Ideas for software improvement

Nebojša RATKOVIĆWikimedia Serbia, SerbiaOlga ARSIĆUniversity of Belgrade, Serbia

Translation courses at the university level are increasingly taking into account new translation procedures and methods, including different modalities of collaborative translation and postediting, since students are supposed to develop new set of competencies (cf. EMT competence framework).

This paper presents the challenges that arose during the students' activity at the course *Translation Technologies* at the Faculty of Philology University of Belgrade (2019/20 academic year). In one of the course's mandatory activities the students had a task to create Wikipedia articles. All the published articles were post-edited translations from English to the Serbian language produced in the Content Translation Tool using Google Translate. The Content Translation Tool was used because it replicates the structure of the original Wikipedia article, also providing automatic placement of internal and external links and references.

By analyzing students' feedback on functionalities of the Content Translation Tool along with the attitudes towards the same software by Wikipedia editors we identified three aspects that need further attention. First, there is no possibility to create a shared translation memory for a project, which can be useful when a group of students prepares articles in the same field of interest. Second, it is difficult for two or more revisors to work on the same article and third, there is no possibility to get quick and detailed statistics on changes made to the text.

Having systematized both students' and editors' remarks, we present a learning activity through which students can gain a desired set of competences by discovering missing functionalities of the tool. We conclude that even the lack of the software improvement could be used in the educational context.

Keywords:

Wikipedia Translator, translation teaching methodology, post-editing workflow



About the Presenters :

Olga Arsić is a Teaching Assistant at the *Translation Technologies* (Master in conference interpreting, specialized and audio-video translation at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade). As a PhD researcher, she is interested in transdisciplinary approaches to translation teaching methodology; history and modern practices of collaborative translation, and digitalization and innovative approaches to translation teaching courses. She combines quantitative and qualitative approaches in her research endeavors.

Nebojša Ratković holds an MA degree in International economics and MA in International humanitarian action. Nebojša has been working in the non-governmental sector since 2010, mostly on projects related to youth education. He has been Education Program Manager at Wikimedia Serbia since September 2016 where he works on promoting new technologies in schools and universities, with a focus on Wikipedia and Wikidata. He conducted more than 250 workshops on Wikipedia for students and more than 40 workshops for teachers in secondary and primary schools within the professional development program.

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Session 6: Individual Papers

Translating Wikipedia articles from Finnish into Russian in the translation classroom

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This paper shares the experience of translating Wikipedia articles by the students of Russian language and culture at the University of Helsinki, Finland. The Finnish Wikipedia contains about 508,000 articles, whereas the volume of the Russian Wikipedia is about 1,720,000 articles (Wikipedia.org), which means that it is not easy to find an article in Finnish that would not already exist in Russian. The task of students was to find and translate a Wikipedia article from Finnish into Russian, thus, an article should have been originally written in Finnish.

This paper explores both the translation process of students from the teacher's point of view and the students' feedback collected afterward. The students selected texts of their own interest. Texts mainly dealt with Finnish culture and tourist attractions. The students were motivated by the fact that their translations may have real audience and real usage. On the other hand, they came across technical problems when adding their translations to Wikipedia. In addition, translations of some of them were almost immediately edited by Wikipedia members, that is by unknown, "dark" power of this resource. The issue of authorship is rather different in Wikipedia compared to what students used to in translation training.

For the future classes, students wished more technical guidance on adding translations to Wikipedia, and a discussion on ethical issues related to articles' and their translations' authorship. In the presentation, this experience of using Wikipedia articles in the translation classroom will be described in more detail.

Keywords:

Wikipedia, translation classroom, Russian, Finnish



About the Presenter :

Svetlana Probirskaja is a lecturer of Finnish-Russian translation at the University of Helsinki, Finland. Her PhD thesis focused on bilateral treaties between Russia and Finland in the light of translational keyword analysis. Recently, her research interests have moved to everyday life translation, non-professional translation, translation as a form of aid and peer translation among immigrants. Her article Linguistic First Aid is published in the Routledge Handbook of Translation and Ethics this year.

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Session 6: Individual Papers

The magic lantern called Wikipedia: translation challenges and opportunities in the age of virtual learning

Muhammad Y GAMAL Independent Researcher, Australia

Although translation in the Arab world has a long history it was only in the last twenty years that it has received a technical nudge thanks to accelerating developments in digital technology from multimedia tools to online websites, open source content, accessible resources and most significantly opportunities for immediate publication.

At the same time, Wikipedia was launched and today it offers a suite of services and opportunities never thought possible a mere generation earlier. Although its incredible potential is accessible to the 300+ languages in which it is published, the fact remains that different cultures avail themselves differently and at different levels of the full potential of the magic lantern that Wikipedia has created.

The paper, part of an ongoing research in the modern history of translation in the Arab world (Gamal 2020), examines the collective reaction to Wikipedia in the Arab world. Against the traditional challenges of effort, cost, time and distance; the potential digital technology offers translation professors, policymakers and professionals appears to be hampered by a variety of equally traditional reasons (Gamal 2018). The paper examines some of the most significant attempts at capitalising on the potential of the Free Encyclopaedia in the Arab world and the possible ways to boost translation in a post-pandemic world where online education received the largest and most significant boost ever. Wikipedia is an accessible treasure trove and while the world speaks English; translating the magic into other languages requires an in-depth examination and new research methods that bring academia, government and a youthful population together which is the very spirit and goal of Wikipedia.

Keywords:

Arabic, democracy, diglossia, policy, multimedia, digital age



About the Presenter :

Muhammad Y Gamal is an applied linguist with interest in translation studies. He earned his qualifications in Egypt, the United States and Australia. Over the past 35 years he worked on a wide range of projects from technical translation to diplomatic and simultaneous interpreting for the UN.

Dr Gamal taught translation studies in Australia for over 20 years. He published on various aspects of applied translation studies and is on the editorial board of 5 journals. He is an extramural supervisor for doctoral researchers. His current research interests include: audiovisual translation, digital humanities, history of translation in the Arab world and forensic linguistics. Dr Gamal works as an Arabic translation consultant.

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About the Centre for Translation, Hong Kong Baptist University https://ctn.hkbu.edu.hk

The Centre for Translation was established in 1994 as a University-wide research unit. Committed both to academic research and to fostering links with the translation profession and the community, the Centre aims to provide a focal point for research in Translation and Interpreting Studies and to promote knowledge transfer through a variety of consultancy projects.

The Centre's research activities include academic publishing, seminars and conferences, as well as research projects of its Fellows. Since its establishment, the Centre has published a series of monographs in collaboration with different publishers and was awarded funding from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to co-publish "Jane Lai Drama Translation Series", a total of 21 play scripts translated into Cantonese by Professor Jane Lai. Centre Research Fellows have a strong record of research grant success and have pursued research projects under the auspices of the Centre, covering areas such as Chinese and Western translation theories, museum translation, translation of *Materia Medica*, legal translation, interpreting, literary translation, and drama translation.

In 2001, the "Translation Seminar Series", online since 2020, was launched to provide a platform to facilitate a dialogue among scholars. Over 190 seminars have been organized with over 140 speakers, including Basil Hatim, Kirsten Malmkjaer, Mona Baker, Theo Hermans, Douglas Robinson, José Lambert, Antony Pym, Daniel Gile, Arnt Lykke Jakobsen and Franz Pöchhacker, to name only a few. Throughout the years, the Centre has also held many research summer schools and international conferences, such as the 2018 IATIS Conference.

The Centre is also dedicated to the translation profession and works in synergy with the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies to offer students valuable experience in professional translation. The Centre has involved students in large scale translation projects, including the Chinese translation of *The Oxford Children's Encyclopedia*.

The Centre has actively engaged in public service, consultancy and collaborative work with the community to provide translation and editing services. The Centre served as partner to various local cultural events, such as the Hong Kong International Poetry Festival, "Eye on Hong Kong", Asian Cultural Co-operation Forum, the Mediterranean Arts Festival, the Hong Kong Photo Festival, and the "Hong Kong Memory" website.

For recent updates on the Centre's activities, please visit the Centre Website.

About the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University https://tiis.hkbu.edu.hk

The Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies 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 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.

The Department currently has eleven academic staff, whose research interests include, amongst others, translation and the Web, literary translation, interpreting, and minority regional languages and cultures such as Tibetan. Teachers of the Department share with students their expertise in academic research, their experience in frontline fieldwork in interlingual and intercultural communication, and their pedagogic vision. Students are thus prepared to meet the cultural, socio-political and economic needs of the local community, as well as those of a rapidly developing China.

