

BOOK REVIEW

INNOVATION AND EXPANSION: A NEW POINT OF DEPARTURE IN CORPUS-BASED TRANSLATION STUDIES

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Extending the Scope of Corpus-Based Translation Studies, by Sylviane Granger and Marie-Aude Lefer, London, Bloomsbury, 2022, 290 pp, 85.5£ (hardback) ISBN 978-1-3501-4325-8, 68.4£ (e-book) ISBN 978-1-3501-4327-2.

Since its inception in the early 1990s, corpus-based translation studies (CBTS) has gained momentum thanks to the empirical and statistical evidence produced in the past three decades. A number of publications have sought to reflect on the progress made in this field and envisage its future development (e.g. De Sutter & Lefer, 2020; Pérez & Laviosa, 2021). As suggested by the title, *Extending the Scope of Corpus-Based Translation Studies*, edited by Sylviane Granger and Marie-Audie Lefer, strives to broaden the spectrum of corpus-based research by introducing the state of the art in theoretical, methodological, empirical, and pedagogical studies in this field.

The book consists of four thematic parts, with all contributors responding to the call for innovation and presenting interrelated topics, complemented by lists of further relevant readings and their summaries. Part 1 provides a retrospective and prospective view of corpus-based studies. The opening chapter, *Corpus-based Translation and Interpreting Studies: A forward-looking review*, charts the progress of a mixed-method approach to 12 peer-reviewed journals over nearly a decade (2012-19). Unlike the bibliometric quantitative analysis of titles and abstracts, this study conducts a qualitative full-text survey and identifies the current trends in “linguistic focus” and “translation features” (p. 25) in corpus-based research, which account for one tenth of the dataset. Furthermore, the authors foreground some lesser developed fields: semantics and morphology within the “linguistic focus”, the applied study of translation quality assessment, studies using monolingual comparable corpora, interdisciplinary studies and studies using sophisticated corpus techniques and statistics. In Chapter two, *Expanding the corpus-based translation studies: The opportunities that lie ahead*, Federico Gaspari encapsulates the current foci on translation universals and translation directionality. Whilst admitting the advances in corpus studies, he proposes the application of “hybrid

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Tao, Y. – Innovation and Expansion: A New Point of Departure in Corpus-Based Translation Studies *Translation Matters*, 5(1), 2023, pp. 146-149, DOI: https://doi.org/10.21747/21844585/tm5_1r3 *comparal* approach” (p. 50) in methodology as well as investigations into “technical interventions” (p. 52), such as online platform translation by social media, crowdsourcing by amateur translators, fansubbing and localisation of games in the digital era.

Part 2 zooms in on the methodological and theoretical innovation which integrates product- and process-oriented research on the nature of translationese, “a language variety as a third code” (p. 68). In Chapter three, entitled *Translation as constrained communities: Principles, concepts and methods*, Haidee Kotze examines the interplays of the constraints on the *that/zero* alternation between English translations from Afrikaans and written native South African English. With the “variationist, multifactorial and interdisciplinary” approach (p. 70), she concludes that there is the similarity in as regards factors of register but difference in text production and language activation, which illustrates different “cognitive and social constraint configurations and effects” (p. 90).

In Chapter four, *On the use of multiple methods in empirical Translation Studies*, Stella Neumann, Jonas Freiwald and Arndt Heilmann examine the English-to-German subject identifiability with a creative combination of “observational and experimental” methodology of corpus analysis, eye-tracking and keystroking logging (p. 99). Both corpus-based and behavioural research exhibit similar patterns, where translation shifts occur more often in non-identifiable subjects. The corpus results, which reveal more obvious shifts, are interpreted and complemented by the process-oriented research for the cognitive demand. With the triangulation of method and data, the findings provide more validity and explanatory power from both linguistic and cognitive perspectives.

Part 3 is dedicated to empirical studies by focusing on the lesser studied linguistic focus, taking into consideration sociocultural factors. Chapter 5, *Syntactic properties of constrained English: A corpus-driven approach*, carries out a bottom-up analysis of part-of-speech dependency bigrams between L1 and the constrained languages of translation and L2 with keyness and multidimensional analysis. The results illustrate the preference for post-nominal noun phrases and proper nouns in constrained varieties and the influence of complexity of registers.

Chapter 6, *Grammatical metaphor in translation: A corpus-based investigation of nominal of-constructions*, draws on the metaphorical lexico-grammatical decisions from Systemic Functional Linguistics and investigates the English to German translation shifts in the nominal *of*-constructions from non-congruent to congruent structure using multivariate statistical analysis. The low frequency of de-metaphorisation (15%) in the translation of *of*-constructions demonstrates that the structural equivalence is facilitated by cross-lingual structural priming and normalization, while the shift in metaphoricity may be attributed to increased idiomaticity.

In Chapter 7, *Detecting normalization and shining-through in novice and professional translations*, Ekaterina Lapshinova-Koltunski compares the translationese effects of

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normalisation and shining-through in the English-to-German translations of seven registers between novice and professional translations. Although the translation varieties do not display significant preference for the two effects, student translations exhibit normalisation in political speeches and fictional texts.

Part 4 shifts to applied translation studies in translator training, particularly learners' error typology with CBTS as a tool for learning and analysis. In Chapter 8 titled *Translation quality in student specialized translation: The impact of corpus use*, Heidi Verplaetse integrates Toury's acceptability and adequacy into translator training with different corpora. The results reveal higher acceptability errors among learners with monolingual corpus (MOC) in comparison with bilingual corpus. A closer examination on the error types reveals that MOC holds the advantage in lexicon over stylistic and register. On a related note, Chapter 9, entitled *Using comparable corpora for translating and post-editing complex noun phrases in specialized texts: Insights from English-to-French specialized translation*, shows that there is little variance between the efficiency of bilingual dictionaries and comparable corpora in the translation of complex noun phrases. The study then focusses on follow-up post-editing classroom activities based on error types.

Summing up, the book provides both a theoretical and a methodological framework for future research in the broadened scope in CBTS. Theoretically, corpus-based studies exhibit an outward-looking integration with neighbouring disciplines, such as cognitive linguistics and Systemic Functional Grammar of grammatical metaphor and thematic structure. Not only do the full-fledged disciplines enlarge the ever-expanding body of corpus-based research, but they also offer a theoretical framework for investigating the nature of translation as a constrained language.

Methodologically, CBTS presents an inward-looking focus with multifactorial and multimethod analysis. For one thing, the monofactorial analysis, which may suffer from "confounding explanations" (p. 162), is enlarged to multifactorial analysis, which takes into account a larger range of factors in the translation process, such as register, modality, and competence. For another, the multi-methodological analysis triangulates the data and methods with complementary evidence from both product-oriented and process-oriented studies. The innovation enhances the methodological rigour and is consistent with the cognitive turn in translation studies.

Despite its clear contribution to expanding the research spectrum, the book also has some limitations. First, the theoretical extension is mainly draws on linguistics and stylistics (if we consider register) and some of the empirical studies are limited in sample size. Second, the study of translator training could take into account other factors, such as fine-grained assessment of learners' proficiency. The revamping of methodology and theoretical perspectives, however, will undoubtedly contribute to the full maturity and underpin the validity of the young discipline of translation studies, which may provide a

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fresh starting point for its enlarged scope.

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