

BOOK REVIEW

Advances in Discourse Analysis of Translation and Interpreting: Linking Linguistic Approaches with Socio-cultural Interpretation

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The ‘social turn’ or ‘sociological turn’ in the field of translation and interpreting studies, put forward by some scholars (e.g., Wolf 2006), has undergone an upsurge in “expanding the horizon of translation and interpreting studies from micro-analysis into words, sentences and texts to macro-analysis into the role of translators/interpreters and the function of translation and interpreting in society and culture” (Wang and Munday 2020, 1). However, what remain under-explored are “how linguistic analysis can be linked to the wider target text function and how socio-cultural studies can be better validated with detailed textual and discursual analysis” (Wang 2019, 613). This book covers several advanced and state-of-the-art developments in discourse analysis in translation and interpreting studies. It comprises eleven chapters that are categorised into four sections: (I) Uncovering positioning and ideology in translation and interpreting; (II) Linking linguistic analysis with socio-cultural interpretation; (III) Discourse analysis of news translation; (IV) Analysis of multimodal and intersemiotic discourse in translation.

Section I consists of four chapters focusing on the significant mediation role of translators and interpreters in Chinese political discursive practice. The first chapter by Binhua Wang “Presentation, re-presentation and perception of China’s political discourse: an analysis about core concepts on the ‘Belt and Road’ based on a comparable corpus” explores the re-contextualisation of key concepts about the “Belt and Road” (B&R) in China’s political discourse. The study employs a corpus-based discourse analysis approach using a comparable corpus and illustrates how the B&R is presented in the Chinese government’s discourse, re-presented through institutional translation and perceived in Western media’s discourse. The study finds that labels of the B&R in Western media’s perceived discourse are to some extent different from those in the Chinese government’s presented and re-presented discourse. The study also reveals that the image of the B&R as constructed in Western media’s perceived discourse is different from that of the Chinese government’s re-presented discourse. Wang maintains that the discrepancy between presentation, re-presentation and particularly perception about core concepts of the B&R can be partly attributed to the different positioning of different agents and partly because the Chinese government has not gained the initiative in re-presenting the discourse in English. The second chapter is Fei Gao’s article entitled “From linguistic manipulation to discourse reconstruction: a case study of conference interpreting at the World Economic Forum in China”. The essay explores how



conference interpreters mediate linguistic resources through evaluative shifts in simultaneous conference interpreting. The study adopts a critical discourse analysis (CDA) combined with appraisal theory to investigate the prominent patterns of interpreters' reconstruction in the target text discourse and the linguistic techniques interpreters use to mediate discursive source texts on a self-built corpus of a panel discussion of the 2016 Summer Davos hosted by the World Economic Forum. The findings show that in terms of Chinese economic policies, interpreters tend to enhance positivity and alleviate negativity through addition, omission and altering positive or negative values. The study contributes to the scholarship of inter-disciplinary research by linking CDA with appraisal theory. The third chapter is Chonglong Gu's article "The main problems in China-Japan Relations lie in the fact that some leaders in Japan keep on visiting the Tasukuni shrine": a corpus-based CDA on government interpreters' metadiscursive (re)construction of truth, fact and reality". The study probes into interpreters' mediation role in (re)constructing Chinese political discourse via metadiscursive markers concerning truth, fact and reality by adopting a corpus-based CDA approach based on a self-built corpus containing the data of 20 years (1998-2017) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) premier's press conferences. It reveals that there has been increased production of metadiscursive markers in the interpreted discourse in English holistically. In addition, more attention has been paid to the pattern 'the fact that'. The study illustrates that the interpreter-mediated press conferences serve as a platform for delivering the country's policies and political stances related to truth and fact to the outside world. The last chapter of this section is Qianhua Ouyang and Qiliang Xu's "Competing narratives and military interpreters' choices: a case study on China-US disaster-relief joint military exercise". The study adopts a discourse analysis approach, aiming to uncover how interpreters' choices of diction are affected by different military contexts, using a self-built corpus of a two-day midterm consultation conference of the China-US disaster-relief joint military exercise, consisting of plenary sessions and parallel group discussions. The lens of narrative theory and different layers of narratives are utilised as contexts. It is unveiled that under most circumstances, the interpreters' choices are stimulated by instant oral input while in some cases the interpreters may resort to conceptual and meta-narratives when the oral input collides with the conceptual and meta-narratives in the face of crucial moments.

Section II includes two chapters, both of which draw on systemic functional linguistics (SFL) and a corpus-based approach in order to have an in-depth look at translators' and interpreters' mediation roles in political discursive articulation in the Chinese context. The first chapter is Hailing Yu and Canzhong Wu's article "Functions of the pronoun 'We' in the English translations of Chinese government reports". The study explores the English translations of the Annual Work Report of the Chinese government (2000-2019) by concentrating on investigating the use and functions of the first-person plural 'we'. Firstly, the diachronic distribution of the pronoun in both Chinese and English texts is explored; second, the interpersonal and experiential functions in the translated texts that contain 'we' are analysed. It is revealed that the pronoun 'we' is frequently added to strengthen some desirable qualities on behalf of the Chinese government thus further establishing a proactive and prudent image of the Chinese government in leading the whole nation to a brighter future. The second chapter in this section is Xin Li and Ranran Zhang's "Interpreting as institutional gatekeeping: a critical discourse analysis of interpreted questions at the Chinese Foreign Minister's press conferences". The study explores the extent and linguistic means of Government Press Conference (GPC) interpreters' gatekeeping by employing a corpus-based CDA approach to the framework of SFL using the self-built corpus of GPC from 2016 to 2018. Special attention is paid to interpersonal shifts of the renditions of the questions, in



particular subtly face-threatening questions, raised by correspondents, compared to their original texts. It reveals that the government-affiliated interpreters do indeed act as gatekeepers and serve to alleviate, strengthen, and modify ideational meanings in the process of interpreting.

Section III is made up of three chapters on interpreters/translators' mediation role in reframing and recontextualisation in news translation. Li Pan and Chuxin Huang's chapter "Stance mediation in media translation of political speeches: an analytical model of appraisal and framing in news discourse" examines interpreters' stance mediation through the comparison of President Xi's metaphors in English translations of two keynote speeches at international conferences with those quoted and contextualised in the foreign news media discourse within the framework of the appraisal theory. The study unveils that Xi's value orientations of his metaphors are changed when the metaphors are quoted and contextualised in English media news reports. "Representations of Hong Kong in news translation: a corpus-based critical discourse analysis" by Yuan Ping scrutinises how the 2014 Hong Kong protests are (re)contextualised in news reports disseminated by typical media outlets from mainland China, Hong Kong, the UK and the USA by adopting a corpus-based CDA approach. The study makes a comparison of the word frequencies, keywords, concordances and collocations in the source texts with those in the target texts to investigate translation shifts concerning the ideological stances of the mainstream news agencies. Binjian Qin's chapter "Reframing China in conflicts: a case study of English translation of the South China Sea dispute" inspects the stance of re-instantiation and reframing of China's translated news reports and possible causes of such deviation by employing the appraisal theory and the reframing strategies. The study makes a comparison of the news reports concerning the South China Sea dispute as well as their English translations by Xinhuanet, a state-owned media agency. It is found that the translated English texts might alleviate the positive stance and convey China's willingness to cooperate with the international community although the Chinese version describes a tougher image of China. Qin posits that this might result from different target readers, Xinhuanet's institutional protocols as well as China's foreign policy of peaceful rise.

Section IV is composed of two chapters concerning multimodal and intersemiotic discourse analysis in translation, which represents a booming area of research. Xi Chen's chapter "Translations of public notices in Macao: a multimodal perspective" examines the translation of public notices in Macao from a multimodal perspective. Based on a custom-built database, the study investigates the verbal realisation of appellative function in the translated public notices and explores the visual realisation of interpersonal function in public notice images using a framework of visual social semiotics. It reveals that texts and images intimately correlate with each other in order to attain the appellative as well as interpersonal functions of public notices. This is done by a close look into three types of multimodal public notices in Macao: multimodal public notices with photographic images, with cartoon images and with a mixture of photographic and cartoon images. The last chapter "Representation of identity in dubbed Italian versions of multicultural sitcoms: an SFL perspective" explores the multicultural tween-sitcoms dubbed into Italian. The study scrutinises the representation of the characters' multiethnic identities by adopting an SFL approach. Dialectical variation in audiovisual translation (AVT) and its translation are analysed.

This exciting edited book features a wide range of discourse analysis approaches such as the SFL approach, CDA, and theoretical frameworks such as the appraisal theory, narrative theory, and visual social semiotics, which are useful for readers who are interested in discourse analysis in translation and



interpreting. Articles in this excellent collection represent some of the most up-to-date developments in discourse analysis of translation and interpreting, with corpora covering a broad range of specialised areas and genres including politics, media, public notices, dubbing, etc. Despite the clear merits of the book, some minor limitations are worth noting. First, the book is presented from research using predominantly Chinese-English and English-Chinese corpora except for one chapter, despite the claim made by the editors that non-European languages are the main scope of the book. There is a lack of language diversity (non-European languages) in the corpora used, such as Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese. Secondly, the categorisation of the collection is not particularly clear with some overlaps. For example, the three chapters in Section III relating to positioning and ideology in translation and interpreting have some overlaps with the theme of Section I. Thirdly, additional corpora including short videos could have been incorporated into the collection to represent a wider variety of corpus data. Despite the above-mentioned minor drawbacks, this book has infused academia with advancements in discourse analysis of translation and interpreting, especially in the field of Chinese politics.

Declarations and acknowledgement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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