BOOK REVIEW

Empirical Studies of Translation and Interpreting: The Post-Structuralist Approach

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What might be broadly understood as 'post-structuralism' has exerted a great impact on translation and interpreting (T&I) studies since the late 1980s, giving rise to a raft of theoretical and practical explorations into the social, cultural, ideological, political, and communicative aspects of T&I. 'Post-structuralism' is marked by "a rejection of essentialist claims and traditional positivist concepts, such as equivalence and fidelity, the stasis of earlier linguistic-based models" (Angellelli and Baer 2015, 3). Among those T&I studies adopting a post-structuralist approach, an increasing number of them have featured the empirical element. These empirically oriented studies are soundly capable of describing and explaining various external factors constraining T&I, as they enhance scientificity and preciseness, reinforce descriptive and explanatory power, and unfold the latest trend of T&I studies. Thus, T&I's complex phenomena, external causation, and agent involvement can be explicated with this approach. Considering the significance of post-structuralism and its empiricalness, this themed volume includes thirteen up-to-date and forward-looking empirical T&I studies, and is organized in five parts: (I) Intervention in T&I; (II) Process of T&I; (III) Product of T&I; (IV) T&I and Technology; (V) T&I Education.

In Part I, the focus is placed on sociopolitical and ethical elements in two interpreting settings. The first chapter by Rebecca Tipton aims to find out how interpreters communicate with the clients in domestic abuse cases, in terms of risk assessment, language proficiency, and victim-blaming and to provide some tangible advice for future improvement. To this end, the author recontextualizes victim support and interpreting as biopolitical enterprises, and develops draft guidance tailored to the specific circumstance. Five female Arabic-speaking interpreters and five female Urdu-speaking interpreters are chosen to take part in the simulated experiment, and the transcriptions of their recordings show that the experience of interpreters does not significantly affect the aforementioned three aspects. However, the follow-up interview involving six of the participants who read the draft guidance prior to the experiment shows some confusions towards the guidance, which means specialized training should be offered to interpreters, especially in the aspect of risk assessment. The second chapter deals with the clinical mental healthcare setting. With the person-centred principle of healthcare service placed as the priority, Natalia Rodrívguez Vicente, Jemina Napier, and Raquel de Pedro Ricoy conduct an examination of the impact of interpreters' mediating role on healthcare service's communication

process as regards patient autonomy, spirituality, and relational continuity. By inviting three interpreters for an experiment and a semi-structured interview, they verify the interpreter's mediating effect on the process and results of person-centred healthcare consciously or unconsciously. The doctor and patient gap between languages and, more importantly, purposes, depends on interpreters to bridge. In the cross-linguistic communicative process, adherence to patient autonomy and spirituality is fundamental. Moreover, relational continuity is also a noteworthy benefit to the patients, hence the authors propose that healthcare organizations should take this communication process into account.

Part II lays emphasis on students' consultation behavior and professional translators' query behavior in translating. It is worth noting that both studies combine the qualitative method with the eye-tracking approach, a conventional quantitative method in Cognitive Translatology. Yixiao Cui and Binghan Zheng, the authors of the third chapter, devote their efforts to studying how students' cognitive resources, measured by the number of transitions between translation and consultation, are distributed during the translation process. Thirty-eight M.A. students participate in an eye-tracking experiment to finish two texts with different difficulty levels and a retrospective interview. Statistically, Welch's t-test is applied to see whether there is a significant difference in students' resource types and time spent in the two texts, coupled with the Wilcoxon test to further identify. They state three major findings: when students perceive an increase in translation difficulty, longer time is spent on consultation, more online resource types are involved, and more transitions are made between translating and consultation. The fourth chapter by Claire Y. Shih explores professional translators' web-navigating behavior, as indicated by primary and secondary actions as well as the interplay between them, in the middle of translating. Ten participants chronologically undertake a translation task, recorded by an eye-tracking tool, a retrospective think-aloud (RTA) protocol, and an interview. Among seven query intents that can beget translators' secondary action, participants conduct five query types as the primary action.

Part III revolves around four topics. First, the corpus-based critical discourse analysis (CDA) approach has gained growing popularity thanks to the corpus research method's relative objectivity and capability of deep data mining, complementary to traditional CDA (Stubbs 1996). Moreover, as Ivarsson (1992) was committed to subtitling systematically, subtitling has become a topic meriting translation academia's close attention, particularly in this age of new technologies. Hence this part turns its eye to political interpreting from the angle of corpus-based CDA and humour phenomenon in subtitle translation. Furthermore, explicitation, a recognized translation universal, is explored based on the corpus of political discourses; and interpreted political discourses are fully explored via a quantitative method borrowed from corpus linguistics. In the fifth chapter, Fei Gao and Binhua Wang work together to study interpreted discourse in diplomatic settings by applying the functions of a parallel corpus, i.e., wordlist and concordancing. The results reveal that, in political interpreting , first-person plurals and obligation modal verbs are used in target texts (English) more frequently and distinctly than in source texts (Chinese), with interpreters' sense of obligation and solidarity viewed as the underlying cause. The sixth chapter by María del Mar Ogea Pozo sheds light on the cultural, social, and linguistic features of different types of humour by taking the political comedy *Veep* as the case study. Theoretically, on the basis of humour typology proposed by Juckel *et al.* (2016), the author puts forward a new typology, within which conservative and creative strategies represent humour translation strategies. Then, a questionnaire is filled in by forty-one respondents to test viewers' reception. It is

found that creative strategy wins a higher degree of viewers' reception and acts as a more effective way in audiovisual translation than conservative strategy. The seventh chapter, authored by Caiwen Wang, centres on explicitation when non-native translators render figures of speech (FIGs) in political texts. All FIGs are detected in the parallel corpus and related translators are required to finish an open-form questionnaire including six questions. Interestingly, it is a conscious translating process that demands the competence of translators to generate optional or full explicitation. The eighth chapter, penned by Bing Zou and Binhua Wang, analyzes the linguistic characteristics of interpreted discourses in political settings via the corpus-driven multi-dimensional (MD) method. In the comparable corpus, sixty-seven linguistic features are annotated and then successfully reduced into three dimensions through factor analysis, i.e., oral, interpreted, and well-planned discourses. An in-depth comparison uncovers that interpreted discourses in political settings fall into the category of professional letters instead of oral speeches.

Part IV focuses on technology-assisted T&I. In the ninth chapter, Elisabetta Pisani and Claudio Fantinuoli perceive the impact of Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) on simultaneous interpreters' number rendition. With or without InterpretBank ASR's assistance, twenty students are asked to translate a text dense in numbers and then fill in a follow-up questionnaire. According to the error rates in six error types, there is a significant difference between ASR-assisted interpreting and ASR-free interpreting, thereby proving ASR's efficiency in interpreting. It is proposed that specific training for ASR-assisted number interpreting be offered. Penning the tenth chapter, Xiaojun Zhang keeps an eye on the machine translation problems and countermeasures from the angle of discourse. Dropped pronoun serves as the indicator to measure the neural machine translation (NMT) by BLEU (Bilingual Evaluation Understudy) score. Two complementary approaches are found to outperform a strong attention-based NMT baseline system.

Part V comprises three education-related studies. The eleventh chapter, coauthored by Yiguang Liu, Hailun Huang, and Junying Liang, turns its attention to applying the psycho-emotional method to test whether domain-specific interpreter advantage can be generalized to domain-general conditions. Selected interpreting students and bilinguals complete both the Simon task and the digit switch task. Their reaction time difference and switch cost respectively denote their inhibitory ability and cognitive flexibility, both of which measure interpreters' executive functions and emotional regulation. The data derived from the two statistical methods, two-way ANOVA and three-way ANOVA, show that interpreters' emotional regulation instead of executive functions can be counted as an interpreter advantage. Piero Toto, authoring the twelfth chapter, implements a technology-assisted online flipped classroom, theorized by the 'community of inquiry' model. Teaching links, inclusive of peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, peer assessment, self-reflection, self-assessment, teacher feedback, and so forth, are proven to function well. The questionnaire results show that the majority of the students are satisfied with the tutor's guidance and the class. Coauthoring the thirteenth chapter, Mianjun Xu, Tianyuan Zhao, and Juntao Deng place focus on China's distance interpreting training from teachers' perspective. Seventy-five teachers fill out a questionnaire, fourteen of whom are asked to do a further semi-structured interview to evaluate the online teaching mode's effect from various prisms. The qualitative and quantitative data point to the major finding that blended online and offline teaching modes are better than solely online or offline modes, albeit with some issues to address. Therefore, the authors

suggest that importance be attached to university support, organizational coordination, studying resources, advanced technologies, diverse online interpreting courses, and user-friendly course management systems.

The most prominent feature of this edited book lies in the methodological novelty such as the MD approach and psycho-emotional approach, and topic novelty such as ASR and interpreter advantage. Both T&I practitioners and researchers can be enlightened by the methodological designs and research findings, for all the studies represent the current internationalizing trend in T&I studies owing to the data derived from different language pairs. Additionally, all the articles reflect many empirical turns such as ethics, mediation, risks, and translation process, leading to extensive and profound perception toward the underlying motivations of post-structuralism through exploring the tremendous force of diverse external factors in shaping T&I.

In a nutshell, this volume indeed plays an instrumental role in guiding the T&I community to better grasp the future directions of empiricalness under the post-structuralist perspective. Nevertheless, one of the limitations resides in the depth of direct discussions on 'post-structuralism' and its relation with 'empiricalness', covering only about three pages from the very beginning. Hence, it is better to have more in-depth discussions of the two keywords in the volume. Also, it would be useful to include literary translation, which is unmistakably a major research field of T&I hungering for more empirical data.

Declarations and Acknowledgement:

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