

## EDITORIAL

# Towards Meaningful Interactions between the East and the West in Translation and Interpreting Studies

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It all began in early 2021 when I was approached by Karen Wang from All Terrain Publishing, who invited me to be the Founding Chief Editor in launching a new journal on translation and interpreting (T&I) studies. I happened to be in the process of preparing “The 1st UK-China Symposium on T&I Studies” (首届中英联合翻译学研讨会), which was designed to be a regular event jointly organised by a UK university and a China university. The symposium aims to promote academic exchanges between UK and China, to stimulate research in T&I studies with a focus on English/Chinese translation and interpreting as well as their education. Motivated with the same heart willing to serve the wider community of academics and professionals in T&I and to enhance the communication and understanding between China my motherland and the UK my second home, I accepted the invitation and we got down to various work preparing for the launch of the new journal.

After several rounds of discussion about the name and scope of the journal, we named it “*The International Journal of Chinese and English Translation and Interpreting*” (*IJCETI*), which is intended to be an international, peer-reviewed, open-access biannual journal in T&I studies with a focus on the Chinese and English language pair. The first reason for launching this new journal is that translation and interpreting have played and will continue to play important roles in various aspects of relations and people-to-people exchanges between Sinophone countries/regions and Anglophone countries/regions. In addition to the frequent translation and interpreting activities in various forms linking international relations and peoples’ hearts and minds across languages and cultures, Chinese and English T&I has also become a major pathway in scores of translation and interpreting degree programmes in the UK and in several hundred programmes in China. Secondly, since the journal might be the first to focus on a specific language pair, which includes two highly contrastive languages (Chinese from the East and English from the West), we hope to cultivate academic efforts in exploring language-pair-specific issues, which might help take T&I studies to new frontiers and greater depths. Thirdly, we also hope to develop a publishing venue for the marginalised discourse about the language from the (far) East because international T&I studies have always been dominated by Eurocentric or westernised discourses.

In terms of the scope of the journal, we intend to provide an accessible venue of publishing not only for T&I researchers but also for T&I trainers and practitioners, who have always been marginalised in shaping academic discourses about T&I because of difficulties in publishing. With such a consideration, the scope of this journal covers a broad range of original articles, including not only conceptual and empirical research articles but also reflections and commentaries on professional and training practices in T&I. We also intend to develop this open-access publishing venue to foster useful interactions between centralised discourses and marginalised discourses, and between Anglophone voices and Sinophone voices. This is particularly meaningful because a lot has happened in T&I in China throughout its history: The first wave of large-scale translation activities in China started in the East Han dynasty (148 – 265 AD) and reached the peak in the Tang dynasty (618 – 907), which focused on the translation of Buddhist scriptures into Chinese. The second wave of large-scale translation activities



in China took place during the late Ming dynasty (1368 – 1644) and early Qing dynasty (1644 – 1911), which focused on the translation of science and technology into Chinese. The third wave of large-scale translation activities in China came after the Qing empire lost the Opium War (1840 – 1842), which focused on the translation of social sciences into Chinese. In all these waves of large-scale translation activities in China, translation acted as an important medium for the generation and dissemination of new knowledge in China. This is even more meaningful because a lot are happening in translation and interpreting in China now. In addition to the large number of T&I activities required on daily basis in China, the world's largest economy, it is also evident in China's major government-sponsored projects of translation from Chinese to foreign languages, in Chinese people's urge to translate Chinese literature and culture to other languages, and in the hundreds of T&I programmes hosted by universities in China. All of these provide rich sources for academic explorations, which merit meaningful engagement by and interactions between T&I researchers, trainers and practitioners from the East and the West.

We encourage scholars and practitioners from the East to publish in this journal to make their voices heard internationally, and scholars and practitioners in the West to publish here to engage in discussions on language-pair-specific issues with a focus on Chinese (a language from the remote East) because such issues have been and might continue to be neglected otherwise.

In addition to renewed discussion about classical topics in T&I studies, we welcome particularly research articles, reflections and commentaries exploring the changing landscape of the T&I profession, training and research. With the new development of AI-enhanced technologies that are becoming more applicable to the language service industry and drastic changes brought about by the global pandemic during the past two years, the T&I profession is undergoing a big transformation, which will in turn lead to new changes in translator and interpreter training and T&I research. Shall we let technology dominate our profession, or harness it for human benefit and advantage? How can we develop a healthy human-machine synergy in T&I? What technical, professional and ethical issues are involved in this changing landscape? It is imperative for us, T&I researchers, trainers and practitioners to explore such issues that are vital for our shared future!

In founding and editing the journal, we consider quality assurance as of paramount importance. We believe standardisation of the whole life cycle of the journal, from submission to reviewing, editing and production, is the best way to ensure quality. To this end, I prepared the documents of "Editorial Policies", "Guidelines for Authors", "Submission Preparation Checklist" and "Guidelines on Research Articles, Reflections on Teaching Practices, Reflections on Professional Practices", and had rounds of discussion with Karen relating to the standard procedure of submission, reviewing, editing and production. Meanwhile, All Terrain Publishing developed the journal website to ensure the above mentioned were implemented as standard practices on the journal platform.

The launch of the journal has received very positive responses from colleagues in various countries and regions around the world. Dr Chonglong Gu (Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China) happily joined us as the Associate Editor of the journal. Many other distinguished colleagues in T&I research, training and practice also joined us as members of the International Editorial Board of the journal, including: Michelle Deeter (University of Newcastle, UK), Jonathan Evans (University of Glasgow, UK), Fei Gao (Chongqing University of Post and Telecommunications, China), Jack Hargreaves (Paper Republic, UK), Saihong Li (University of Stirling, UK), Wenjie Li (Beijing Normal University, China), Christopher Payne (University of Toronto, Canada), Yuan Ping (Hangzhou Dianzi University, China), James St Andre (Chinese University of Hong Kong, China), Jinghui Wang (Tsinghua University, China), Antonia Yanxi Wu (University of Essex, UK), Guixia Xie (Sun Yat-sen University, China), Yan Ying (University of Leicester, UK), and Feixia Yu (University of Central Lancashire, UK). In Oct 2021 we held the first editorial board meeting, discussions took place regarding the policies of the



journal and great ideas were shared by all the editorial members. With all the warm and generous support, *IJCETI* was formally launched at the end of 2021.

After receiving, reviewing and editing the first batch of submissions in the first few months, we are happy to present to you – my colleagues in translation and/or interpreting research, training and/or practice – Issue 1 or the inaugural issue of the journal. This issue features three research articles, one reflective piece on professional and training practices, and two book reviews.

Stylistic issues have been an increasingly explored topic in T&I studies. In the research article entitled *Translation Style in Two English Versions of Lu Xun's Gushi Xinbian (故事新编) – A Case of "Flight to the Moon"*, Qinglan Chen, Hongjun Wang and Baorong Wang from Shaoxing University, Wuhan University, and Hangzhou Normal University conducted qualitative and quantitative analysis and found that stylistically Yang Xianyi and Gladys Yang' translation version is different from Julia Lovell's version at lexical, syntactic, discursual, and cultural levels. The authors furthermore explored the reasons behind the stylistic differences.

Great strides have been made in recent years in computer-assisted T&I. As a reflection of the rapid developments, the incorporation of computer-assisted T&I tools is of increasing relevance in translator and interpreter training. In the article by Hongyu Wan and Xiaoshu Yuan from Shanghai International Studies University and Shandong Agricultural University, the authors reported their preliminary survey findings on the perceptions of computer-assisted interpreting (CAI) tools in interpreter training programmes in the Chinese Mainland. This highly relevant study promises to contribute meaningfully to the ongoing discussion regarding the role of CAI in interpreter training.

Moving beyond T&I in a literary, technological, and education setting, the interesting article by Zhang Yize and Carlo Eugeni from the University of Leeds explored the social and developmental aspects of interpreting in the context of humanitarian aid. Through their case study, the authors evaluated the efficacy of humanitarian relay interpreters in a China-aid project in Sierra Leone, Africa.

In the reflective article, based on her rich experience as an International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC) member, seasoned interpreting practitioner as well as interpreter trainer, Jin Liu from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, (Shenzhen) looked into and reflected upon the impact of technology in interpreting practice and training. She argued that relatively new technologies such as remote interpreting, machine interpreting, and computer-aided interpreting have progressed dramatically over the past few years and such technologies have become more applicable, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. In her view, the increasingly widespread use of these technologies now represents a new trend in the market and will surely bring profound changes to the profession and industry. As a result, interpreting education programmes need to respond to these changes and adjust their training agenda accordingly in a timely manner.

This issue also includes two book reviews from two up-and-coming doctoral researchers. They have reviewed two high-profile books published recently. Guiqing Zheng from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University reviewed *Advances in Discourse Analysis of Translation and Interpreting: Linking Linguistic Approaches with Socio-cultural Interpretation* (edited by Binhua Wang and Jeremy Munday, Routledge, 2021). Xinqiao Cen from the University of Nottingham in Ningbo reviewed *Diplomatic and Political Interpreting Explained* (Mira Kadrić, Sylvi Rennert, and Christina Schäffner, Routledge, 2021).

Featuring researchers, trainers, and practitioners from different backgrounds, we believe that this issue showcases some of the latest developments in T&I studies relating to the Chinese and English language pair from various perspectives. We hope that this inaugural issue can serve as a warm and



open invitation for like-minded researchers, trainers and practitioners in T&I to contribute to this highly worthy and meaningful dialogue between the East and the West in the months and years to come.

