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A Book Review of *Researching Translation and Interpreting**

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Researching Translation and Interpreting, edited by Claudia V. Angelelli and Brian James Baer. Routledge Taylor and Francis Group, London and New York, 2016, 311pp., U.S.\$38.54 (paperback), ISBN: 978-0-415-73254-3 (pbk)

Abstract: The review considers *Researching Translation and Interpreting*, an edited collection of original studies on translation and interpreting (T&I), as a welcome attempt to uphold the interdisciplinary nature of these two disciplines as well as a much wanted project to promote a mutually interrogative relationship between theory, research and practice in these fields. This collection provides a panoramic view of the recent developments and current situation in T&I research from the perspectives of post-structuralist theoretical approach, the pace of globalization and the application of technology to the field. More importantly, by introducing new topics and a total of 13 applicable methods from the neighboring fields to T&I research, this volume points out the possible expanding boundary of T&I research. Readers who are interested in this increasingly vibrant field will certainly find this book informative, instructive and inspiring.

Key words: translation and interpreting studies; interdisciplinary studies; a post-structuralist approach

Translation and interpreting (T&I) research has seen a growing interest in interdisciplinary studies in recent years, developing new branches of translation studies, such as corpus-based translation studies and cognitive processes of T&I research by borrowing research methods from neighboring fields such as cognitive linguistics, computational linguistics and social sciences. It is within this context that the present volume co-edited by Claudia V. Angelelli Brian James Baer is a worthy attempt at producing an in-depth summary of the recent developments of T&I research and reflecting on the new directions for future T&I research. For readers who are already

familiar with the major paradigms of T&I research, these essays will deepen their understanding about the trajectory of this discipline by providing them with in-depth background information and analysis. For those novice T&I researchers, these essays serve as an illuminating introduction to current practices and theories regarding T&I research and open up new interdisciplinary perspectives in the field.

This book consists of Introduction, Part I: Exploring translation and interpreting, Part II: Mapping the field, Part III: Research methods and an Index.

In the introduction, the editors highlight the features of this volume. Specifically, this volume covers research on both translation and interpreting and introduces the theoretical frameworks borrowed from the other disciplines for translation and interpreting studies. In addition, this book promotes a mutually interrogative relationship between theory, research and practice and takes a firm position in advocating a post-structuralist approach to conducting research on translation- and interpreting-related phenomena. It also offers us an integrated view of the field by introducing the theoretical foundations and methods employed in the current T&I research. Apparently, the authors intend to expand the field of T&I research with the aim to inspire more interdisciplinary studies in the future.

Part I discusses the post-structuralist approach to T&I research, explaining the editors' preference for post-structuralist studies. By questioning the positivist view of knowledge and advocating the role of translators as co-creators of meaning, the book enlarges the territory of T&I research by exploring factors beyond the inter-linguistic level. Throughout the book, the editors emphasize the importance of conducting interdisciplinary studies in translation and interpreting research by merging the research paradigms from hard science and social science. Moreover, they suggest that interpreting studies should rid itself of prescriptive tendency if it wants to grow faster. Finally, they outline a research journey which includes such parts as a theoretical framework, literature review, methods, data analysis, results, discussion, conclusion and implication, emphasizing the importance of connecting research to the outside world, to a community, to a group, or to a system.

Part II, which is entitled "Mapping the field", provides an overview of the current T&I research works that are interdisciplinary in nature. This part, which consists of 11

topics, covers such areas as agency and role, bilingualism and multilingualism, cognitive processes, collaborative and volunteer translation and interpreting, fictional representations of translators and interpreters, gender and sexuality, history and historiography, translation and interpreting pedagogy, power and conflict, profession, identity and status, reader response and reception theory. The choice of these topics in the book is largely decided by three factors: the authors' advocacy for post-structuralist theoretical approaches, the pace of globalization and the application of technology to translation and interpreting. These topics show interdisciplinary tendencies in contemporary T&I research by employing theoretical frameworks or methods in sociology, language contact, cognitive studies, educational theories and cultural studies. Being question-driven, all these studies attempt to solve authentic problems in real translation and interpreting scenarios and to establish a link between theory and practice. Topics such as crowdsourcing, the image of translators and interpreters in literature, translation and interpreting pedagogy are new and fascinating areas awaiting further explorations.

In this part, we can see some key concepts that underlie these topics. The concept of "Agency and role", which was proposed by Sergey Tyulenev in the first chapter, emphasizes the fact that translators are not alone but connected with other agents and the settings where they work. Therefore, in T&I research, we need to focus on the social networks of the translation processes and the social roles played by translators/interpreters. Sergey Tyulenev further points out the new directions for the study of agency and role, which include the functioning of translation at the infra-personal level, human translation's interworking with non-human agents, translators' interpreters' experiences and the interaction of their different roles in different settings. Claudia V. Angelelli's article "Bilingualism and multilingualism" in Chapter 2 explores language as linguistic resources by listing several key studies that focus on the use of multilingual languages in different settings. Chapter 3 "Cognitive processes" by Erik Angelone, Maureen Ehrensberger-Dow and Gary Massey reviews the key studies in this field by using methods such as think-aloud protocol, keystroke logging and multiple methods. It is pointed out that research methods that involve triangulation and research topics such as human-machine interaction will be the way forward for future

T&I research.

Chapter 4 “Collaborative and volunteer translation and interpreting” by Miguel A. Jiménez-Crespo also exemplifies the social role undertaken by translators. They propose to study the collaborative networks in crowdsourcing so as to enable this mental activity to interact with social contexts. Klaus Kaindl’s article “Fictional representations of translators and interpreters” in Chapter 5 surveys the studies of translators and interpreters in films and literary works and argues for the new visibility of the translators and interpreters. The author also proposes future directions for historical studies which may shed light on the social history of the translation and interpreting profession. Chapter 6 entitled “Gender and sexuality” by Brian James Baer and Françoise Massardier-Kenney explores such topics as the history of women translators, gay or queer translators, gay-themed literary works. They argue that case studies on the impact of gender on translation, queer translators, gender and interpreting studies will attract more attention in the future. Chapter 7, 9 and 11 in this part all reveal the underlying concept of translation as a social action, which is related to history, conflicts and reader response. Chapter 8 entitled “Translation and interpreting pedagogy” by Sonia Colina and Claudia V. Angelelli connects translation and interpreting research with the teaching practice, with a special focus on process-oriented research. Chapter 10 entitled “Profession, identity and status” by Rakefet Sela-Sheffy examines current research that studies translators as active social agents from a broader, non-textual angle.

Apparently, the selection of these multifaceted topics in Part II reflected the editors’ post-structuralist stance as well as their attempt to shift the focus of translation studies from text to translator, whose inner cognitive processes and exterior behaviors in social and historical contexts are both worth exploring. However, it should be noted that some of the topics under discussion, such as “Gender and sexuality” and “Translation and interpreting pedagogy” cannot exclude linguistic and textual analysis from their study. Actually, it is indeed hard, if not possible, to draw a clear line between the post-structuralist view and the linguistic view in some areas of T&I research.

Part III consists of 13 chapters, which lists 13 methods for T&I research, including action research, bibliometric studies, case studies, conversation analysis, corpus-based analysis, critical discourse analysis, ethnography of communication, experimental

research, *histoire croisée*, interviews and focus groups, narrative analysis, observations, survey-based studies. Each chapter in this part is composed of definition, origin, uses, sample studies, conclusion and potential applications, further reading recommendations and references.

It is noted that the sample studies in each chapter are carefully selected to explain how to adopt different methods in T&I research. Most of the selected works can be regarded as representative for those research which have adopted the same or similar methodology. For instance, in the section of corpus-based studies of T&I, several important studies in corpus linguistics are quoted to elaborate on the use of corpus tools in linguistic analysis. However, due to space limitation, the application of these tools in T&I research is not described in detail, so that the reader is left to wonder what the necessary procedures are if these tools are to be applied in the research.

By addressing some of the key issues in the areas such as cognitive T&I research, corpus-based translation studies, agency of translators, T&I pedagogy, the interaction between the translators/interpreters and the other agents, this collection provides a panoramic view of the recent developments and current situation in this discipline. More importantly, it presents some of the representative studies in each of these areas in T&I research and points out their future directions. Adding to the practical value of the book is its introduction of the multiple research methods from neighboring fields to T&I research. Overall, this volume has made a worthy attempt to integrate pure and applied as well as empirical and theoretical research and combine both qualitative and quantitative paradigms in T&I research, thus offering a comprehensive view of the status quo of this discipline. This should make the book a perfect starting point for research students as well as scholars from other disciplines who might be interested in T&I field. Indeed, the editors' joint effort to foreground and promote the interdisciplinary nature, which has been the hallmark for contemporary T&I research since its inception (Angelelli and Baer 2016: 2) shall be highly commended.

It is clearly shown from the whole book that the editors are in strong support of applying a post-structuralism stance in T&I research. While this novel approach should be encouraged, in our opinion, we don't necessarily need to abandon some traditional concepts about translation in our study. In some specific fields of T&I research, such

age-old concepts as “equivalence”, “translatability” are still worthy of further exploration. For example, bilingual lexicography, which employs the concept of equivalence for long, is now expanding the theoretical field by merging itself with other linguistic domains. Therefore, in T&I research, descriptive and prescriptive studies are not exclusive but complementary.

Apparently, in terms of the structure of the book, it tries to organize the articles according to the post-structuralist paradigm. However, it is doubtful whether the essays on translation and interpreting pedagogy and on the history of translation could be categorized in this way.

Furthermore, in Part III, a number of studies are selected to show the application of different interdisciplinary methods in research. However, only a few of them are directly connected to T&I research. It is also a pity that the most updated literature regarding the application of different methods to T&I research is not included in the volume, thus lacking a full account of the development of T&I research worldwide.

Last but not the least, to do justice to the recent developments of corpus-based methods and its potential applications, we would like to point out that scholars in this field are already aware of problems regarding the representative issue of the corpus data and the depth of data analysis. In China, corpus-based T&I research has seen increasing interest in topics such as the interaction between translated Chinese and the original Chinese (see Wang et.al. 2017) and a meaningful attempt at developing a domain for interdisciplinary corpus-based translation studies has been made by Hu et.al. (2017). Readers who are interested in this new field can find out more about this exciting area by referring to their works.

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