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Review

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It is widely acknowledged that given the unique significance of legal language as a register, legal translation and interpreting has become a rapidly developing subfield of translation studies. The newly published book Research Methods in Legal Translation and Interpreting—Crossing Methodological Boundaries (May 2019) is a wonderful collection of 11 research papers, each making a chapter, that apply diverse research methods to approach translation and interpreting practice in legal settings which address a series of critical issues that deserve further investigations. This article aims to provide a brief critical review on these papers as follows.

Chapter 1 "Corpus methods in legal translation studies" (by Gianluca Pontrandolfo) makes a systematic and comprehensive retrospect into the applications of corpus methods in translation studies. It aims to analyze current application and future trajectories in employing corpora in translation studies, with its analytic angle on research methodology. To be specific, the chapter addresses a series of problems. Firstly, it analyzes "The substance: legal corpora" (14) and points out its unique features. Then, it probes into "The avenues: corpus methods in descriptive legal translation studies" (15), in which six pairs of binary opposites are sequentially taken into consideration. Finally, it draws out a picture of challenges and new perspectives in this field. This article

will help readers better understand the nuances in legal corpora that differ from other registers.

Chapter 2 "Implications of text categorization for corpus-based legal translation research: The Case of international institutional settings" elaborates on the significance of text categorization as "a key aspect of research into discourse features and translation patterns" (29) in "delineating the scope of research questions, producing valid datasets and deriving findings accordingly" (ibid) . The paper stresses the scope that the diversity of legal text types complicates legal translation in terms of methodology, especially in building corpus for textual analysis. The chapter concludes that text categorization is a central issue in translation studies, drawing on "the boundaries and underlying conceptions of the object of the study" and "conditioning data representations and findings validity"; and the various "research aims, theoretical grounds and legal system-bound factors" determines that multidimensional approaches are required and expected to tackle the complex legal discourses. This insightful case study is applicable to explorations of legal documents in international organizations.

Chapter 3 "Inverse legal translation: A corpus-driven study of multi-word units related to the structure of translated statutory provisions" investigates the issues involved in translating from native language(L1) into L2 (or foreign language), focusing on Polish-English language pair. In light of the marginalized state of inverse translation, the author Justyna Giczela-Pastwa would like to fill in the gap, pointing out "the shortage of native speakers of dominant languages who would be able to translate from peripheral languages as their foreign languages into their mother tongues" (48). The chapter concludes with comments on the research findings – the directionality of translation deserves more attention, as "the interference of the translators' mother tongue is pervasive, although the method used is no able to precisely measure the intensity of the phenomenon" (64). Thus, the validity of this research paradigm for other language pairs still awaits specific testifying.

Chapter 4 "Language of treaties – language of power relations" (by Miia Santalahti and Mikhail Mikhailov) scholarships that probe into the correlations between language and political relations via the study of interstate treaties. The authors firstly describe the features of language in bilateral treaty with references in legal documents such as Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaty (UN 1969, Article 33). Then, they introduce the sources of their research data and the methods they employ to elicit such data, namely the

PEST corpus (the Russian-Finnish section in particular). Next, they further elaborate on the methodology that combines quantitative and qualitative approaches. They provide a case study on Soviet in post-war treaties in the following section to explain how the methods operate with findings drawn from legal discourse analysis.

Although this research piece is a success, its limitations could lie in the specific focal choices of language pair; whether this approach works for those linguistically far-fetched language pairs/combination such as Chinese and English, Japanese and German is uncertain.

Chapter 5 "Explication in legal translation: a feature of expertise? A Study of Spanish-Danish translation of judgments" aims to examine whether differences exist "between experts and non-experts in terms of the explicitations they perform in their translations" (81). The chapter consists of 6 sections: 1) introduction; 2) core concepts of the research; 3) the existing literature on translation expertise and its connection with explicitation; 4) the overall study; 5) the research findings drawn from the quantitative and qualitative interpretations via exemplifications; and 6) conclusive discussions on the research results and draw implications. This study merits in its specific focus on the translation of Spanish-Danish language pair, which has been rarely explored so far in the international academia, but the validity of the research results is also restricted by thi specific choice of language pair.

Chapter 6 "Critical Discourse Analysis and the investigation of the interpreter's own positioning in a court hearing – A case study from an Austrian criminal court" aims to conduct a research that fills in the gap of court interpreting based on CDA, particularly on interpreters' actions in court interactions. It firstly discusses CDA as research method – concerning "discourse definition, order of discourse" (100-101), "Power and ideology" (101) and "Analytical framework" (ibid), then provides an outline of the study, pointing out that the data from the research result cannot be representative enough to account for the entire court action context. The chapter concludes that "The study shows that applying CDA as a research method enables to investigate the subjective positions adopted by the interpreter and to analyze how the interaction is influenced by his own positioning" (111). In other words, this article draws our attention to the interpreter's ideological factors that would inevitably affect court interpreting performance.

Chapter 7 "How to apply comparative law to legal translation: A new juritraductological approach to the translation of legal texts" presents

juritraductology "as the basis of a new theoretical and methodological tool for analyzing translation and its process" (115) and addresses a series of questions concerning legal translator's operation on the issues involved in legal texts. Section 2 elaborates on juritraductology "as a new conceptual framework in law and translation sciences", addressing the relation between law and linguistics as to form legal linguistics and positioning legal translation in legal linguistics and translation studies. Section 3 outlines the "steps to be taken before translating in juritraductology" – concerning 4 main legal contexts (117-119) and "the level of legal complexity in a text" (120). Section 4 presents the three steps for how to translate a legal text. Section 5 concludes that translators are likely to evade common translation pitfalls when applying the 3-step legal approach. This article provides highly operational references for legal translation scholars.

Chapter 8 "A matter of justice: Integrating comparative law methods into the decision-making process in legal translation" (by Carmen Bestué) attempts to "demonstrate how comparative law methods can be applied o terminology work for translation purposes, revealing not only the semantics of a legal term but also its connotations and possible reception in the target culture" (130). It concludes that a methodology of legal translation that applies principles of comparative law and considers the different factors that need to be addressed by legal translators" (144). This paper raises our awareness of how sociolinguistic factors would function on legal translation practice.

Chapter 9 "A mixed-methods approach in corpus-based interpreting studies: Quality of interpreting in criminal proceedings in Spain" (by Mariana Orozco-Jutorán) conducts a research in the social context that the new law (Ley Orgánica 5/2015, de 27 de abril) was approved in Spain in 2015, stressing the significance of translation and interpreting to guarantee the right of legal protection. The chapter firstly introduces the research methodology – a mixed one that combines both qualitative and quantitative approaches in connection with diverse ontological and epistemological methods, then addresses the research question and clarifies the dependent variables ("interaction problems" and "textual problems") involved in the research, explains the processes of data collection and sampling in this study in detail, presents an analysis of textual problems, analyses the dependent variable of interaction problems, validates the measurement instruments via a pilot study, evaluates the research results based on sufficient data sets in corpora. It is natural that the author finally suggests the advocated method in this study needs to be further testified as the quality of court interpreting in Spain should be continuously improved.

Chapter 10 "An online survey as a means to research the 'outstitutional' legal translation market" (Juliette Scott) presents an internet-based survey conducted by means of a questionnaire gathering both quantitative and qualitative data, describing the features of such data in legal translation. It reviews the existing researches on online and offline surveys of and by practitioners from three different aspects, and delves to explain pilot and main research steps with annotated data sets in this study, focusing on data collection, extraction and analysis via questionnaires and combining her own network resources with adequate approaches. It concludes that the online survey would contribute to filling in the methodological gap of externalized legal translation and suggests that future researches would be built on the implications from the existing researches on various language pairs, text types, jurisdictions and branches of law. This chapter complements with the former chapters that deal with the institutionalized legal translation/interpreting settings with an open sight to online resources which are accessible to a larger population of language professionals.

Chapter 11 "Interviewing legal interpreters and translators: Framing status perceptions and interactional and structural power" (by Esther Monzó-Nebot) , different from the previous chapters, adopts sociological approaches to legal interpreting and translation, aiming to "describe and explain how translators and interpreters individually and collectively construct and interact with social structures, that is, their socio-political contexts, as non-geographical boundaries"(187). It firstly reviews the former relevant researches, then probes into the issue of "status as a sociological issue in translation and interpreting studies" through different approaches (quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method). Next, the author explains why and how she conducts in-depth interviews in this research, and analyses data collected from the interviews. Section 4 reviews the research results and discusses their implications. The conclusion is that despite the partiality of the results, they bring valuable insights into "the different dimensions of status as one single construct" (201), but the limits of this study would invite more in-depth interviews in the future.

To sum up, this book presents a batch of very recent research pieces in legal translation and interpreting studies with a particular focus on the aspect of their research methodologies. As reviewed above, the majority of these researches employ empirical methods – involving both quantitative and qualitative approaches as well as a mixed-method mode, though the research design varies from one to another, particularly different in the combination of such methods. To be specific, some are more quantitative-based such as

Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3 and Chapter 5, which primarily lean on corpus linguistics; while other are more qualitative-dominant like Chapter 4, Chapter 7, and Chapter 8, which are largely based on comparative law methods. Besides, Chapter 6 makes Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as its dominant approach, while Chapter 9, Chapter 10 and Chapter 11 all strive to employ a mixed-mode methodology that combines both quantitative and qualitative approaches, though Chapter 9 could be more corpus-based, while the other two are barely corpus-aided. In general, the book provides readers with some most representative pieces of legal translation/interpreting research, which naturally make very good references for scholars to follow up. However, the articles have not been further categorized in terms of the differences in their theoretical approaches, which make the overall structure of the book lack a sense of integrability, especially in that every article is actually an independent research piece conducted by scholars with different linguistic and geographical backgrounds. In other words, since there is no explicit logic connection between the chapters, the order of them looks random, which reduces its overall impression on close readers. Despite this minor demerit, this book still stands out among the books concerning legal translation/interpreting research because it offers readers a direct access to the frontiers of this uprising subfield of translation studies with a multidisciplinary perspective and a boundary-crossing concern. Therefore, we strongly recommend reading this book as a must for legal translators, interpreters and relevant researchers, wishing more commitments to be made in this area.

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