

## **Machine Translation: A Problem for Translation Theory**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper argues that machine translation has so far not been identified as a translation theoretical problem. It further argues that this is not accidental but a symptom of certain theoretical and methodological predispositions. These refer to normative moments in the conceptual foundations of those research paradigms in translation studies that are oriented towards the concepts of agency and culture. The aim of this paper is to problematize these predispositions and propose a conceptual framework in which machine translation can be identified as a problem for translation theory and directed towards possible solutions. It will be shown that the concepts of culture, translator and communication must be newly interrelated in order to secure and justify the object-relation of translation studies in the face of new forms of translation.

**KEYWORDS:** communication, culture, machine translation, methodology, translation theory.