

## **Editors' Introduction**

*New Voices in Translation Studies* is a peer-reviewing journal hosted by Chalermprakiat Center of Translation and Interpretation, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand and IATIS. The aim of this journal is a platform for new research in the field of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies. In this issue (Vol. 28, No. 2), we have published contributions from sixteen scholars: four peer-reviewed articles, three book reviews and four PhD abstracts. Regular readers will notice that we have adopted a new numbering system for *New Voices*. From now on, we will be publishing one Volume per year with two issue numbers.

Three of the four research articles from Australia, Germany, Jordan, Malaysia, Thailand, and the United Kingdom were co-authored publications which reflects, and is testament to, the spirit of cooperation and knowledge-exchange which generates innovation within the diverse fields of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies. The topics covered are diverse: the use of cognitive grammar in translation studies; the use of ASR-CAI tools in simultaneous interpreting; the development of teaching technologies and distance learning in Jordan following the COVID-19 pandemic; and the use of semiotic theory to analyse the premises of how a man in rural China was made an 'accidental celebrity' via the vector of translation.

In their article **How Cognitive Grammar Can Be Used to Compare Ge Sa-er Wang and Its English Translation?**, **Yuqiao Zhou, Hazlina Abdul Halim, Diana Abu Ujum, and Wong Ling Yann** from University Putra MALAYSIA and the University of Newcastle, AUSTRALIA have presented an innovative approach to understanding culture-specific world-builders in translation. This collaborative research delves into the complexities of meaning construction through the lens of Cognitive Grammar. The authors begin by creating a parallel corpus comprising thirteen stories from *King Ge Sa-er* and their English translations. This meticulous methodology allows for an analysis of culture-specific world-builders, encompassing elements including locations, characters, and objects. By exploring the nuances of these world-builders, the article provides insights into how they contribute to readers' understanding of the text. Drawing on the concept of "domain" from Cognitive Grammar, the researchers propose a fresh perspective on the meaning construction process. Domains, defined as various types of concepts, form a collective framework that shapes the meaning of an item. In their analysis, the authors demonstrate that the mere use of an equivalent word in translation does not guarantee an equivalent meaning of the culture-specific world-builder. Instead, the

construction of domains within the translated version determines the true essence of these world-builders. By offering a new perspective on the use and importance of domains in meaning construction, this article sheds light on the intricacies involved in conveying cultural nuances across languages, providing a valuable framework for future research regarding the complexities inherent in the translation process

**The Use of ASR-CAI Tools and their Impact on Interpreters' Performance during Simultaneous Interpretation** by **Pannapat Tammasrisawat** and **Nunghatai Rangponsumrit** from the Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Communication Research Unit at Chulalongkorn University, THAILAND, investigates the use of some of the latest computerized tools in the field of simultaneous interpreting (SI). The investigation considers both product and process in this context, examining parameters indicative of product quality, such as the rendition of numbers and terminology as well as process-related factors and the interpreters' overall performance. Background research for this article involved a structured investigation with four trainee interpreters, analysing and comparing how SI was performed with and without the support of an ASR-CAI tool. Participants were based in universities in Thailand and were given an English-Thai interpreting assignment, which involved a significant amount of numerical data and technical-medical terminology from the field of gynaecological practice and research. Participants had no prior knowledge of this highly specialised topic and therefore relied to a significant extent on the support of the tools under investigation. The results showed that the use of an ASR-CAI tool led to a reduction in the error rate and omissions. The quality of terminology rendition was also improved. In addition to these product-related findings, the paper discusses the impact of the ASR-CAI tool on interpreters' processing capacity and cognitive effort during SI. Potential benefits and limitations of the ASR-CAI tool were analysed to provide a better understanding of how effective such tools are, so that they can be better integrated into the interpreting process. Findings are therefore readily transferrable to other interpreting contexts. The article illustrates the user interface for the tools under investigation and provides accessible graphic summaries of the data collected. It makes a valuable and timely contribution to the training of professional interpreters.

**Teaching Translation Technology in the Age of COVID-19: An Analysis of Data Gathered in Jordanian Universities** authored by **Bilal Sayaheen** from Yarmouk University, Irbid, JORDAN, **Mohannad Sayaheen** from Jerash University, Jerash, JORDAN and **Ibrahim Darwish** from Yarmouk University, Irbid, JORDAN, adds a further, fresh perspective to the

topic of translation technology and the fast-changing interface between students and teachers prompted by the recent pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of distance learning worldwide and across every discipline. The extent and pace of these changes varied dependent on multiple factors, such as the outbreak and severity of the epidemic, but also subject-specific parameters, such as the need for some students to use specialised equipment. At the outbreak of Coronavirus in Jordan early in March 2020, Jordanian universities introduced distance learning. The focus of the present article is on the challenges faced by translation departments across Jordan, specifically in lab-based translation and interpreting courses. These included computer-assisted translation, consecutive and simultaneous interpreting (English into Arabic and vice versa), audiovisual translation, and website localization, which all require specialized labs with dedicated software. Data was collected via an online survey addressed to the instructors, who gave feedback on their experiences with new technologies and methods. The questions were designed based on recent, relevant research, such as the work of Pietrzak and Kornacki (2021), which emphasises the need for appropriate course-design standards to ensure that the online translation-training environment is totally distributed in complementary space. Analysis of the survey findings, e.g. with reference to Pym (2016), revealed serious challenges to instructors, such as the now familiar phenomenon of decreasing motivation associated with lack of face-to-face contact. At the same time, this investigation flags important opportunities offered by e-learning, such increased flexibility in some aspects of teaching. The paper continues this ongoing discussion and proposes solutions in response to the challenges identified.

In his article **The Dangers of Translation: Interpretations and Re-presentations of a Chinese Internet Celebrity**, Ye Tian from The University of Manchester, UNITED KINGDOM examines the phenomenon of accidental rise of internet celebrity through a case study of Dingzhen, a Tibetan boy living in Sichuan Province in southeast China. The boy was made widely known in China through a video clip which went viral on Chinese social media platforms in China in late 2020. After that, he was also “promoted worldwide as an iconic figure by Chinese officials”. Tian reveals the role of translation in the case study to highlight the violence, or rather, the dangers of translation. His paper underlines translation’s potential to silence the weak and subvert the strong. Translations of the same source can result from, and indeed, may result in, contradicting interpretations. To better understand this phenomenon, Tian explores the hermeneutic nature of translation, arguing that translation can diminish the authority of the author and thus give voice to those previously muted. The metaphor of the

death of the author is presented as a reminder that translation can sometimes be violent. The dangers of translation, therefore, make it a powerful double-edged sword. On the one hand, it is a weapon to deconstruct the hegemonic meaning-making of dominant actors, yet it also provides more powerful translators with a tool to silence dissenting voices. In his case study, Tian examines the various interpretations, or semiotic translations, of the image of Ding Zhen. The paper probes some of the many translations of the picture of the Chinese internet celebrity and highlights a set of contradicting interpretations to illustrate the dangers of translation.

The three book reviews from Germany, Hong Kong SAR and Japan engage with on recent publications in the field of Translator and Interpreter Studies: how quality assurance of conference interpreters is carried out and translator training. **Malek Rafeai** and **Mehrdad Vasheghani Farahani** from Leipzig University, GERMANY present us with an incisive analysis of the edited collection titled *Institutional Translation and Interpreting: Assessing Practices and Managing for Quality* (2021), edited by Fernando Prieto Ramos. As Rafeai and Farahani point out, this work is a valuable and timely contribution in Translation and Interpreting Studies as there is an urgent need for more research in this specialised field of interpreting. **Xia Chen** from Northwest Normal University/ City University of Hong Kong, SAR and **Jackie Xiu Yan**, City University of Hong Kong, SAR provide a detailed and compelling review of *Metacognitive Translator Training: Focus on Personal Resources* (2022) by Paulina Pietrzak. Chen and Yan highlight how Pietrzak describes and sheds illuminating light on metacognition as a vital skill needed by translators, and a skill needing to be taught during all stages of translator training. **Yoshiko Miko Shimizu**, an independent researcher in HONG KONG SAR reviews *Language as a Social Determinant of Health: Translating and Interpreting the COVID-19 Pandemic* (2022) by Federico Federici. As Shimizu points out, this volume highlights the crucial role of translation and interpreting in multilingual crises and has a particular and contemporary relevance with its specific focus on the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this issue, we mark the achievement of four scholars who have successfully completed their PhD journey by publishing abstracts of their recently defended PhD theses. The titles of these four theses are “Valance Translation Shift Found in Start With Why into Indonesian” by **Polce Aryanto Bessie**, Politeknik El Bajo Commodus, INDONESIA; “A Corpus-Based Study of the Semantic Explication of Metaphor in Translations of Huangdi Neijing Suwen: An Analysis of Two Translated English Versions” by **Miao Zhang**, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong

Kong, SAR; “A Study on Revision Processes in Subtitling” by **Vedrana Čemerin Dujmić**, University of Zadar/University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica, CROATIA and “Translation and Cold War Politics: A Comparative Study of the Introduction of Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus in Taiwan and the Mainland of China” by **Yingmei Liu**, Kent State University, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. A massive congratulations to all four scholars, and we wish them all the best in their future research.

In this issue, we express a warm, special thanks and farewell to **Kelly Pasmatzi** and **Edmund Chapman** who both served for many years as editors of *New Voices in Translation Studies*. With his extensive knowledge of Postcolonial Studies and applications of translation, Edmund contributed many illuminating insights to some of the most innovative papers ever published in the journal. Kelly brought her brilliant expertise in sociological perspectives in translation to bear on many papers published and was PhD Abstracts Editor. They both are greatly missed.

The editorial team of *New Voices in Translation Studies* also extends a warm welcome to its newest member, our PhD Abstract editor **Nancy Piñeiro**, a technical and scientific translator from Argentina. Since 2019, she has been part of the Sociology doctoral program at the State University of New York at Binghamton in the United States of America. She carries out research and activist projects concerning translation and social movements, activist ethnography, counterhegemonic translation in socio-environmental struggles, particularly around energy and transition in Latin America, and the sociology of translation.

Finally, we thank all the blind peer reviewers who are part of Volume 28, Number 2 coming to publication, alongside the contributors, whose commitment and creativity never fail to inspire.

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