



THE UNIVERSITY
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CREATE CHANGE

2021 Symposium on Translation Technology

Proudly hosted by the University of Queensland
Organised by the Translation and Interpreting Research Cluster
Fully ONLINE Tuesday 2nd November, 2021

Symposium Programme

All times are given in AEST (Australian Eastern Standard Time)
Please note DST (Daylight Saving Time) is not observed in Queensland

Tuesday 2 nd November	
14:00-14:30	Session 1: "Assessing the quality of machine interpreting tools: Implications for interpreters" <ul style="list-style-type: none">Presented by Dr Lily Wang
14:30-15:00	Session 2: "Factors contributing to translation and interpreting technology adoption by instructors" <ul style="list-style-type: none">Presented by Dr Seb DianatiCo-researchers: Dr Natsuko Akagawa and Dr Akiko Uchiyama
15:00-15:15	Break
15:15-15:55	Keynote 1 Associate Professor Minako O'Hagan "Translation and Technology: Disruptive entanglement of human and machine"
15:55-16:35	Keynote 2 Professor Anthony Pym "Translation fast and slow"
16:35-16:50	Break
16:50-17:30	In Conversation with Minako and Anthony Discussant: Associate Professor Joss Moorkens

SESSION 1: Assessing the quality of machine interpreting tools: Implications for interpreters

Dr Jihong (Lily) Wang

This study aims to examine the quality of target language renditions produced by three machine interpreting tools – iFLYTEK, youdaofanyiguan and Mr.Translator – when interpreting English speeches into Mandarin and vice versa. Specifically, this research focuses on two aspects of quality assessment – accuracy and grammaticality – to shed light on whether these machine interpreting tools are effective. Professional interpreters can often recognise a speaker’s code-mixing (i.e. mixing source language words with target language words) in the source text and make appropriate adjustments to produce accurate renditions. However, machine interpreting tools typically cannot detect code-mixing in the source speech, let alone provide correct renditions. Moreover, when the source speech contains long pauses or self-corrections, machine interpreting tools sometimes segment the source speech incorrectly, again resulting in incorrect comprehension of the source text and inaccurate renditions. Taken together, machine interpreting tools’ inaccurate recognition of the source speech and lack of consideration of the context often lead to incorrect renditions. Machine interpreting tools still have a long way to go to achieve a high degree of accuracy and grammaticality in their target language renditions. It is important for students and professional interpreters to be able to assess the quality, potential and limitations of machine interpreting technologies.

Jihong (Lily) Wang is a lecturer in Chinese/English translation and interpreting at the University of Queensland, Australia. She completed a PhD thesis on the relationship between professional Auslan/English interpreters’ working memory capacity and simultaneous interpreting performance and recently published a monograph entitled *Simultaneous Interpreting from a Signed Language into a Spoken Language* (2021). Her research interests are signed language interpreting, spoken language interpreting, the cognitive aspects of interpreting, simultaneous interpreting, remote interpreting, machine interpreting and sight translation.

SESSION 2: Factors contributing to translation and interpreting technology adoption by instructors

Dr Seb Dianati (Co-researchers: Dr Natsuko Akagawa, Dr Akiko Uchiyama)

The purpose of this study was to examine what factors contributed to translation and interpreting (T&I) technology adoption using mixed research methods. The qualitative aims were to identify the technologies currently being used in Australia, which were categorised as either web-search, CAT, mobile, tablet and language lab software or hardware. An infographic was used to help display these technologies in these four domains. The findings from the quantitative analysis indicate that the frequent use of T&I technologies in instructors’ current practices was significantly related to their intention to use the technology. However, their experiences both in teaching and using technologies were not factors influencing their future use. The instructors who tended to use T&I technologies tended to recommend these tools to their friends and family; they viewed these tools as having helped them attain current and future jobs and improved the accuracy of their job performance. The instructors faced some challenges of using T&I technologies such as accuracy and lifespan of the software. Nevertheless, if the instructors perceived T&I technologies to be useful, they tended to continue using them.

Seb Dianati is the Director of the Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CaLD) Lab in the School of Languages and Cultures at the University of Queensland (UQ), where he leads various CaLD project initiatives across UQ. Seb’s interests are the intersections of technology with CaLD, as well as with

the adoption of other translation and interpreting technologies. He is also a teaching fellow in digital curriculum design and has led over 20 course redevelopments in the school alongside over 20 student partnership projects. He has extensive experience in developing MOOCs and SPOCs as well as flipped, blended and online learning enhancements and has led large-scale, high volume blended learning experiences at UQ.

Natsuko Akagawa is Senior Lecturer at the University of Queensland. She researches heritage discourse, politics and practice in a global context and is a Series General Editor for Routledge and on the editorial board for *Museum History Journal*. Her interest in translation lies in the application of machine translation and virtual interpretation for heritage sites and museums and has translated numerous documents and cultural resources for government departments, in addition to translating literature. She is an Expert Member for the International Council on Monuments and Sites and the International Council of Museums. Her recent books include *Heritage Conservation and Cultural Diplomacy* (2015), *Safeguarding Intangible Heritage* (2019), *Intangible Heritage* (2009) and *Places of Traumatic Memory* (2020).

Akiko Uchiyama is a lecturer in translation studies, and she coordinates the Master of Arts in Japanese Interpreting and Translation (MAJIT) program in the School of Languages and Cultures at the University of Queensland. Her research interests lie in literary translation, translation pedagogy, translation and postcoloniality and the cultural history of translation in Japan. Her recent publications include “*Shinseinen no bungaku-teki tenkai: Morishita Uson to tantei shōsetsu no hon’yaku*” (Literary Development of *Shinseinen*: Morishita Uson and the Translation of Detective Novels) in *Hon’yaku to bungaku* (Translation and Literature 2021) and the co-edited book *Diverse Voices in Translation Studies in East Asia* (2019). She is currently co-editing the book *Border-Crossing Japanese Literature: Reading Multiplicity*.

KEYNOTE 1: Translation and Technology: Disruptive entanglement of human and machine

Associate Professor Minako O’Hagan

This presentation revisits my 2020 edited volume the *Routledge Handbook of Translation and Technology* and reflects on some of the key themes. In the midst of ongoing technological transformation, it is critical to understand the dynamic relationship being formed between translation and technology at a technical and a philosophical level. The inquiry into this deepening connection will widen the scope of Translation Studies and better recognise diverse translation practices in society. I invite you to explore with me the nature of entanglement between the translator and the machine. This is ultimately related to the question of what it is to be human and a translator in the age of AI.

Minako O’Hagan is an Associate Professor at the School of Cultures, Languages and Linguistics (CLL) at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Her research interests centre on the impact of technologies on translation practice and theory. Her publications include the edited volume *The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Technology* (O’Hagan 2020) and the co-authored monograph *Game Localisation: Translating for the Global Digital Entertainment Industry* (O’Hagan and Mangiron 2013). She is a Co-Editor of the Journal of Internationalisation and Localisation.

KEYNOTE 2: Translation fast and slow

Professor Anthony Pym

When official translations of COVID-19 information are reported to take 8 weeks to deliver, something is wrong. Not only will the information be out of date, but this also indicates that the translation workflows are more seriously outdated, reminiscent of the cottage industries of the 19th century. Even minimal technologies such as coordinated and shared glossaries and translation memories could enhance timeliness and ensure consistency, thus allowing post-editors extra time to localise cultural features. It is not rocket science, and yet resistance to technology persists in various professional cottages, as if accuracy were all. At the same time, though, technologies are changing the ways translations can be received, allowing users access to multiple versions and to several ways of checking anything that might look like the one true accurate translation. When a belated COVID-19 translation is not trusted, since it comes late, the receiver can seek information via machine translation, comments on social media and online dialogue. The resulting thick reception is also a fact of technology, slowing down communication flows and potentially returning cross-language communication to something like the multilayered, interpretative involvement that might typify indigenous translation. These two effects of technology will be explored through examples from the Yarra River.

Anthony Pym is a Professor of Translation Studies at the University of Melbourne, Distinguished Professor of Translation and Intercultural Studies at the Rovira I Virgili in Tarragona, Spain and Extraordinary Professor at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. He teaches hands-on courses in translation technologies and is currently a member of a Melbourne-based research team working on trust in healthcare communication among culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

In Conversation with Minako and Anthony

Discussant: Associate Professor Joss Moorkens

Joss Moorkens is an Associate Professor and Chair of postgraduate translation programmes at Dublin City University and a Funded Investigator at the ADAPT Centre. He has authored over 50 journal articles, book chapters and conference papers on translation technology, machine translation post-editing, translation quality evaluation, translator precarity and translation ethics. He is General Co-Editor of *Translation Spaces*, and coedited the book *Translation Quality Assessment: From Principles to Practice* (Springer, 2018), as well as special issues of *Machine Translation* (2019) and *Translation Spaces* (2020). He leads the Technology working group (with Prof. Tomas Svoboda) as a board member of the European Masters in Translation network.