Book Review

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Corpus-based Translation and Interpreting Studies in Chinese Contexts: Present and Future, Kaibao Hu, Kyung Hye Kim. Springer, NY (2019). 239 pp. ￥951.90 Paperback, ISBN 9783030214401

Corpus-based Translation and Interpreting Studies in Chinese Contexts: Present and Future, edited by Kaibao Hu and Kyung Hye Kim is an insightful attempt at presenting an in-depth account of the recent growth of critical translation studies (CTS) and critical interpretation studies (CIS) in the Chinese context. The book covers perspectives emerging from a region that has traditionally been overlooked in English-language dominated research. With the aim of expanding the field of CTS and CIS to inspire more interdisciplinary research in the future, Hu and Kim's most substantial accomplishment is the establishment of a link between theory, research and practice.

This volume is composed of four parts, each featuring two carefully selected contributions by leading scholars in the field of CTS and CIS in China. Chapter one of this book looks at the development and trends of corpus-based translation studies in China, with a particular focus on the extent of the contributions made by Chinese scholars to the study of TU (translation universals) in translational research. In particular, this part explores how the existing body of literature which examines distinct features in the

Chinese language deepens the understanding of features such as syntactical structure, idioms, collocations, close-ended constructions, and semantic prosodies.

Drawing on a comparable corpus of original written and translated Mandarin Chinese, Chapter two authored by Hongwu Qin, Lei Kong, and Ranran Chu presents a corpus-based diachronic account of the factors contributing to the complexity of Chinese syntactic structure. In particular, the authors look into the load capacity and the close-ended constructions that characterize Chinese sentences, i.e. 'Preposition + Locative' and 'Demonstrative Classifier + NP'. Their findings point to a growth in syntactic complexity due to the growing popularity of baihua translation in Chinese as part of the May 4th Movement.

Chapter three of this volume presents the trajectory of corpus-based research in interpreting studies in China. Binghua Wang and Fang Tang present a critical review of corpus-based current studies on the basis of a self-built interpreting corpora. This chapter explores the norms and norm-taking with applicable to the use of hedges as a case in point within Chinese political discourse. A comparable corpus of Chinese government press conference interpretations and Chinese government work report translations is established to serve the research purpose.

Chapter four examines the presence of the translator's fingerprint in the translation and also illustrates the role that semantic prosody and semantic preference play in arriving at the proximate equivalence between English and Chinese. This chapter written by Xiaohong Li and Naixing Wei contrasts the translated text with the original writing on the basis of the parallel corpus.

The chapter five by Qing Wand and Defeng Li explores the idiosyncratic preferences of individual translators by comparing two Chinese translations of Ulysses rendered by Xiao and Jin, and it also investigates the original writing of Xiao so as to pinpoint patterned features in translation through comparable analysis.

Chapter six is the most valuable contribution of the book for scholars interested in corpus-based research as it emphasizes on new perspectives such as sociology-informed approaches and cognitive translation studies, thus opening up new interdisciplinary

perspectives in this field. Indeed, the author shows how researchers may use discursive patterns in tandem with corpus methodology to bridge gaps in the existing body of knowledge and to link studies to establish the place of their work within the wider body of knowledge. The chapter written by Tao Li investigates the construction of the national image of China presented in the Chinese translations of two South Korean news reports with contrasting political and social stances and positions on missile deployment issue, also highlighting the shift of stance before and after this event.

The last chapter by Kaibao Hu offers a description of corpus-based translation studies and translation cognition research in terms of their similarity and convergence. According to Kaibao Hu, corpus-based translations studies (CTS) furnish translation cognition research (TCR) with the corpus methodology to locate characteristic lexical and syntactic features otherwise impossible to execute manually. On the other hand, TCR's emphasis on the effect of metaphor, cognition process, artistic perception, and cultural factors bolsters CTS with a new perspective for empirical research. Drawing upon the recent trajectory in CTS and CIS in the Chinese context, this volume investigates translation and interpreting of different modalities and language combinations from a variety of perspectives (e.g., interpreting norms, translation equivalence, translator's style, discursive studies, and the effect of translations on Mandarin.

While the volume's vigorous coverage of theoretical and empirical studies on translation is impressive, there are two caveats as to how it could have extended its coverage for a richer account. Firstly, it fails to address the issues it takes up in regard to translation studies vis-à-vis interpreting studies, thus leading to an under-representation of interpreting research within the book. Such an omission detracts from a full account of the development of CTS and CIS research. Additionally, with topics relating to power, discourse and ideology enacted in the translated and interpreted text and the relationship between translation/interpreting behavior and socio-cultural factors being such dominant concerns in the postmodern world, for the authors not to address these within the book is another discernible lacuna.

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