Translating metaphors: the process through an exploratory and experimental study

Academic area: Translation Studies

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Introduction

In the discipline of Translation Studies (TS), metaphor has been widely discussed, mainly on the translatability, and procedures to translate based on traditional understanding metaphor as a figure of speech, as a linguistic expression which is substituted for another expression. Only in the end nineties this traditional view gradually has been changed in TS into a cognitive approach, where metaphors are a means of understanding one domain of experience in terms of another. This cognitive approach has contributed to new insights into areas of TS, like process-oriented approaches where this research is affiliated. I will report the results of a pilot study involving translators in the language pair Chinese-Portuguese to test an experimental design in order to measure parameters for the process analysis of the translation of metaphor by expert translators from Chinese into Portuguese. To this end, shall be tested methodological procedures and instruments used to collect data including, among them, the representations obtained through the program Translog®, retrospective protocols record by the program *Camtasia*®, and target texts with metaphor of *tiger* collect from data bank of Center for Chinese Linguistics of Peking University (CLL). Preliminary results about will be presented and shall be assessed the validity of the Contemporary Theory of Metaphor (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980/2003, 1999) by process-oriented approach, suggesting by Schäffner (2004). This research want contributed to Translation Training.

Literature review

The contemporary studies on metaphor was initiated by Lakoff and Johnson (1980/2003) as developed by cognitive linguistics like Kövecess (2002), psychologists like Gibbs (1992, 1994, 2007) and so on, has gone beyond its mere treatment as an adornment or a language figure restricted to the universe of literary language, a vision dictated by the classic theory that lasted over centuries, and seeks to determine metaphor as an ubiquitous portion both of everyday language and cognition. In this approach metaphors are a means of understanding one domain of experience (a target domain) in terms of another (a source domain).
Schäffner did a detailed of literature review concerning the treatment of metaphors in the area of TS conduced within the framework of Descriptive Translation Studies and predicts that "process-oriented analysis would add valuable insights as well" (2004:1258). The process-oriented analysis is a naturalistic study to investigate the translator's internal decision-making process. It is supported by instruments for data collection as consecutives or retrospectives think-aloud protocols (TAPs) (cf. Ericsson and Simon 1993; Tirkkonen-Condit and Jääskelain 2000; Ryding 2002, 2005; Jakobsen 2003), combined with recording keystrokes from computer by *Translog* program (Jakobsen and Schou 1999; cf. Jakobsen

2003) sometimes with eye tracking in real time, and interviews or questionnaires. In recent years, the analysis and results (cf. Alves 2001, 2003, 2005; Hansen 1999, 2002, 2006; Jakobsen 2003; Lauffer 2003, PACTE 2001, 2002, 2003) is use triangulation of quantitative data from *Translog* and eye tracking, and qualitative data from TAPs in an attempt to capture indirect inferences processes about the use of internal support and utilize *Camtasia* program to record the queries in electronic dictionaries or websites on the screen to find external support of translator. Since the translation process of textual production, a focus of research is recursion (cf. Flowers and Hayes 1981; Schilperoord 1996), i.e., the writing process is built upon itself successively in steps of planning, writing and editing one above the other without a sequential order has priority over the other. In this perspective the time factor as a variable to be investigated, where was find a significant difference between the moment when a recursion occur during the writing. The idea of Schilperoord (1996) is that there is a significant difference between the time that a recursion occurs during the writing of a text in relation to their occurrence in any one other time. The interference of time in the writing process can be best explained when considering the total time of text production and it is separated from time devoted to writing and pause time. The research in the field indicate that the breaks are not uniform distributed and the resulting patterns of alternation between phases of writing and pause are defined as cognitive guidance (Schilperoord 1996) and are likely to be identified through the program *Translog* (Jakobsen 2002) in naturalistic environment of text production, and than the pauses can "speak" through the retrospective protocols by translator immediately after of the translation activity. It is presented the theoretical frame, where yet have many gap that I will be deep completed. Let now I introduce the experimental design.

Experimental design

Two expert translators translated two texts from Chinese into Portuguese through a computer, and all keystrokes were logger with *Translog*. Immediately after the translating subject has finished his translation task, the playback function of Translog were activated, and the subject watching his text production process unfold in real time on the screen were be asked to comment on what he was doing, and to report on the thoughts he had during the task recorded with *Camtasia* program and after transcript and analyzed according the literature.

The instruments used to collect data including the representations obtained through the program *Translog*, the retrospective protocols recorded on *Camtasia* program through the replay function of *Translog* program accelerated on 500%, later this was transcript, and the target text. The original text was also considered as an instrument to collect data, extracted from the corpus data from CLL Peking University.

Former to searching corpora, initially I consult the frequency that word 虎 *hu* (tiger, in Chinese) occur, and was find 26,484 times in the data bank of CLL. Have this information in hand, I refined the retrieve, adds expressions to exclude 30 literal expressions of tiger in the left side, and I don't do more because of programs limitations of CLL. After this, I have a collection of 18,970 citations-samples with the expression "tiger", and to compound my collection final, I only analyzed the first four thousand citation-samples (21%). People and place with the name Tiger in Chinese, citations repeats, I have hand-excluded, and than remain 840 citations-samples, distributed in 119 metaphorical collocations.

The methodology of analysis

To identify correlations between cognitive patterns and process of translations of metaphors analyzed the log files of *Translog* to identify the total time of text production and pauses, particularly where there were metaphors, and the analysis also considered the transcription of retrospective protocols after the production of written translation. This analysis and discussion will be presented in this symposium.

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On the discourse of Infrastructure and Pearl River Delta, China. Threshold Infrastructure, 2017 by Pelin Tan Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0) Photography: Pelin Tan & Yangyi Quyang Video: more. On the discourse of Infrastructure and Pearl River Delta, China. In the study upon which we report here concentrations of BPA were determined in 20 common species of freshwater and marine fish, collected from markets in Hong Kong, SAR, China. A comprehensive analytical method based on SPE extraction and liquid chromatography electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry (LC–ESI–MS/MS) was developed, validated and applied. The Pearl River Delta Metropolitan Region is the low-lying area surrounding the Pearl River estuary, where the Pearl River flows into the South China Sea. It is one of the most densely urbanized regions in the world, and is often considered a megacity. It is now the wealthiest region in South China and one of the wealthiest in the whole of China along with the Yangtze River Delta in East China and Jingjinji in North China. The region's economy is referred to as Pearl River Delta Economic Zone. It is he 3rd Postgraduate Research Symposium: Language and Cultural Studies in the Pearl River Delta was jointly organised by the Faculty of Humanities (FH) and the School of Humanities and School of Foreign Languages of Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China. The Symposium was held on 26 April 2010 and the Department of English was responsible for the co-ordination work of this year's Symposium. Levels of NP and BPA in the Pearl River Estuary, China: Fluctuations with Country Policy Changes over the Past 40 Years. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 2019,16 (21) , 4100. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph16214100. Hongyan Zou, Wanqi Cui, Zhong-Liang Wang, Zhanyun Wang. Accumulation of quaternary ammonium compounds as emerging contaminants in sediments collected from the Pearl River Estuary, China and Tokyo Bay, Japan. Marine Pollution Bulletin 2018,136 , 276-281. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2018.09.027. Niguse Bekele Dirbaba, Sen Li, Hongjuan Wu, Xue Yan, Jun Wang Introduction. The Pearl River Delta – China's industrial centre producing for export – comprises eleven cities: Hong Kong (Xianggang), Macao (Aomen), Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Zhongshan, Dongguan, Zhaoqing, Huizhou and Jiangmen. The study goes on to analyse those factors that stimulate the possible further integration of the Pearl River Delta cities and those that appear as challenges and hinder the deepening of relations. Goals and political aspirations. the Pearl River Delta is expected to catch up with the rival clusters in the near future. Pearl River Delta. Greater New York.