

## Book Review\*

**The title of book:** *Translation Revision and Post-editing: Industry Practices and Cognitive Processes*

**Authors:** Maarit Koponen, Brian Mossop, Isabelle S. Robert and Giovanna Scocchera (eds)

London/New York: Routledge, 2021

ISBN: 9781138549715

£27.99 (p/b)

The present volume, *Translation Revision and Post-editing: Industry Practices and Cognitive Processes*, edited by Maarit Koponen, Brian Mossop, Isabelle S. Robert and Giovanna Scocchera, is a collection of twelve research articles looking at correcting translations generated by humans and those generated by machines. Concerning the similarities and differences between these two activities, the volume presents new research on revision and post-editing from the perspective of industry practice and cognitive processes.

Chapter 1, authored by Jean Nitzke and Anne-Kathrin Gros, investigates the phenomenon of preferential changes in revision and post-editing (PE). Based on the datasets of three different studies covering light post-edit (LPE), full post-edit (FPE), bilingual PE, monolingual PE and revision tasks, all of which are conducted with English source texts and German as the target language, the authors analyze participants' performance in three aspects: editing time and effort, quantification of over-editing instances and classification of over-editing instances. The findings reveal that "it is difficult for translators to adhere to guidelines that prescribe requirements lower than their own quality standards and stylistic

preferences, which they have to suppress" (p.31). This study also sheds light on the importance of efficiency and suggests that revision and PE training should be incorporated into university translation curricula, and adhering to given guidelines and predefined requirements in training tasks.

Chapter 2, written by Félix do Carmo and Joss Moorkens, starts with differentiation of some related terms: translation and translating, revision and revising, and editing. "Informed by theoretical considerations and practical analyses of industrial workflows" (p.35), the authors oppose the existing narratives of resistance to PE in academia and industry and argue that PE is a specialized form of translation rather than a form of revision. The authors also analyze editing in detail, proposing the "editing threshold", "a boundary that sets the point from which a sentence requires much more writing than reading, a point from which editing becomes translating" (p.43), and describing four actions composing editing task: deletion, insertion, movement and replacement. This chapter closes with the stress on the need for interactive editing tools and requirement of translator's proficiency at using these tools.

In Chapter 3, Joke Daems and Lieve Macken

---

\*The work was supported the National Social Science Fund of China (grant number 21BYY062) and the Social Science Fund of Jilin Province (grant number 2022B205).

present an experimental study to determine differences between revision and post-editing practice in professional settings, with no idea about the actual provenance of the texts (MT or human translation) given to the translators. The materials used in this study are human translations and neural machine (DeepL) translations from English into Dutch. In their statistical analysis, the authors combine automatic metrics with manual annotations and adopt mixed effects models, using TER (Translation Error Rate) scores to quantify the amount of editing, and proposing a formula of intervention optimality involving two factors: editing quantity and editing quality. The authors have three main findings: significantly more changes are made in the revision condition of MT; for human translation, the quality of PE is higher than that of revision, while for MT, the quality of revision is higher than that of PE; translators have better performance with wrong provenance information of a text.

Chapter 4 is Matthieu LeBlanc's study of non-professional editing in the New Brunswick public service. Concerning language ideologies, understood as "beliefs, feelings, and conceptions about language that are socially shared and relate language and society in a dialectical fashion" (Piller 2015: 4), the author analyzes the implementation of the recently modified language policy and non-professional editing practices, utilizing excerpts from semi-structured interviews with civil servants and professional translators. It is found that non-professional editing occurs quite frequently in public service, as the professional translations cannot always meet the specific requirement of the intended audience due to the centralization of translation activities and strict professional norms, which highlights the need for translators to work more closely with the commissioners and further exploration in the language ideologies.

Chapter 5 presents Carla Parra Escartin and Marie-Josée Goulet's study on self-post-editing practices of the MT output in academic circles. The authors analyze the post-edits performed by five Spanish physicians engaged in the experiment with a combination of several research tools and tasks: questionnaires (pre- and post-task), writing and post-

editing, proofreading, and annotation of the edits, and compare the post-edited texts by physicians with those by professional translators. The results suggest that the physicians are capable of carrying out a post-editing to a certain extent, but the intervention of a professional translator is still necessary as the edited work by physicians does not meet the publishing standards.

Madeleine Schnierer starts Chapter 6 by listing the standards relevant to translation services, describing certification processes and the possibility of registration. Then the author presents an empirical investigation of translation service providers in Austria, aiming to shed light on the reception and use by Austrian companies of the former EN 15038 and current ISO 17100. The qualitative analysis shows that all but one of the certified companies claiming to work in line with EN15038 are among the largest companies; the proportion of uncertified companies that comply with the requirement of EN 15038 for revision without exception is higher than that of certified companies; a large majority of the certified companies work in line with revision parameters in ISO 17100, while the proportion of uncertified companies is under half.

In Chapter 7, Annamari Korhonen addresses the variation in the revision stage of the language service provider (LSP) workflow in real-life business context. Investigating different ways of LSPs operating in Finland through an online survey of LSP representatives, the author analyzes revision processes from the LSPs' viewpoint, dealing with revision task specifications in terms of revision parameters, variation in the level of creativity and distribution of decision-making power. "To help understand the flexibility, complexity and vast potential of revision" (p.131), the author introduces the revision continuum ranging from simple linguistic review to creative editing, which can be used as a theoretical model and a practical tool. The author's findings reveal flexibility and differences in LSP workflows, and variation of revision parameters included in the scope of typical revision with 'linguistic correctness' and 'terminology' marked as part of the typical procedure by all companies. This survey also suggests that clients' requirement is the most important factor which influences LSPs'

decisions about the scope of revision task.

Chapter 8 presents Susana Valdez and Sonia Vandepitte's interdisciplinary, empirical and descriptive study concerning revisers' and translators' attitudes and expectations about each other in biological translation in the Portuguese context. Adapting Bicchieri's typology of self-beliefs and beliefs about other agents, and eliciting revisers' and translators' belief statements, this study focuses on normative attitudes, empirical expectations and normative expectations about other agents. The authors, analyzing the results from the online questionnaires circulated among revisers, novice translators and experienced translators, argue that "the potential lack of communication and trust between translators and revisers can hinder the quality of the translation and ultimately damage the image of the translator" (p.162).

In Chapter 9, Ilse Feinauer and Amanda Lourens carry out a genetic translation study involving the revision processes for three works of fiction translated from Afrikaans into English. Following Munday's (2012) approach in his case study of three literary translation and/or revision processes, the authors utilized archival materials to study three different sets of agents involved in the translation process. Investigating all e-mail correspondence among the agents, the chapter reveals "the complexity of the creative processes engaged in [the production of modern literary works]" (Cordigley and Montini, 2015:1). The authors contest the current definitions related to revision, reveal the various combinations of self- and other-revision, editing and revision in the process, repackage the term revision as the umbrella term for all activities involving a "looking again", and propose further distinctions "based on (1) the presence or absence of comparison with the source text and (2) the agent at work" (p.181).

In Chapter 10, Kalle Konttinen et al. address teaching revision and post-editing in translator education programme. Observing the commonalities and differences between revision and post-editing competences, and examining the revision and post-editing models, the authors propose a holistic and integrative approach of distributing revision and

post-editing content among several courses in a translator education curriculum, i.e. placing revision training in translation courses, post-editing training in translation technology courses and revision and post-editing training in project-based translation courses. The authors also argue that translation company simulations can contribute to the integration of trainees' subcompetences acquired in translation courses and translation technology courses.

Chapter 11 presents Gys-Walt van Egdom's investigation on trainer-to-trainee revision practices from the translator trainer's perspective, aiming at improving revision quality in translation training with translationQ, a cloud-based tool designed to make translator trainers speed up their revision work. In order to assess whether translationQ can contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the translation training practices, the author critically reviews translationQ with focus on revision high-quality standards and ergonomic criteria: Guidance, Workload, Explicit control, Adaptability, Error management, Consistency, Significance of code and Compatibility. It is found that translationQ can meet the requirements for high-quality revision and the threshold of ergonomic quality, although it does not meet all the ergonomic criteria.

The volume closes with Clara G. Cid and Carme C. Ventura's survey-based study on course design and educators' thoughts of the MT post-editing training in Europe. Based on the quantitative analysis of online questionnaire data regarding PE training elements, PE skills, and PE tasks, and qualitative analysis of syllabi and one-to-one interview outcomes, this study reveals several drawbacks in European postgraduate programmes such as the exclusion of MT engine training in MTPE courses and the lack of MTPE practice in "traditional" courses. Furthermore, the study also shows that a more holistic pedagogic approach is expected, but it is difficult to put it into practice.

Overall, the current volume makes contributions to translation studies, methodologically and theoretically.

To begin with, the present volume covers a wide variety of topics, discussing the relationship between

revision and post-editing by presenting new research on these two activities in government and corporate translation departments, translation agencies, the literary publishing sector and the volunteer sector, as well as in translation training programme. Consideration is not only given to the differentiation and boundaries between these two types of translation checking work, but also given to the combination of these two activities (Chapter 3), which has rarely been done in previous publications. Taking a close look into the production practice, the authors contest such traditional distinctions as translating versus editing, and argue that post-editing is a specialized form of translation rather than a form of revision (Chapter 2). The studies in this volume reveal various problems existing in real-life business context: revisers failing to detect errors in translation, introducing errors or wasting time on unnecessary changes, and the conflict between professional and business concerns. Apart from the practical analysis of the industrial workflow, the authors also shed light on the sociological factors in working environment, analyzing revisers' and translators' relationship and their attitudes and beliefs about each other (Chapter 8). Besides, this volume makes contributions to studies on non-professional post-editing, revision and post-editing training. The chapters discuss revision and post-editing involving eight languages: Afrikaans, Catalan, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German and Spanish.

Methodologically, it is worth noting that the approaches to translation revision and post-editing studies in this collection display diversity, cutting across both qualitative and quantitative methods. This volume includes empirical studies based on surveys, interviews and keystroke logging, greatly increasing the ecological validity of the findings. Clara G. Cid and Carme C. Ventura's survey-based study provides both quantitative analysis and qualitative analysis to course design and educators' thoughts of the MT post-editing training (Chapter 12).

A final point to note, the volume is enormously thought-provoking and heuristic, as it lists some interesting questions for research. The current volume studies many unrelated issues in previous translation studies, such as variation in the scope of revision, non-

professional editing, and translation training with translationQ, which fills the gap in the previous studies and takes translation research in a new direction to uncover the full potential of these important issues. However, the sample data of some studies are not enough, so the results cannot be regarded as a representative. Besides, studies in the volume are not exhaustive and leave out some questions which need to be addressed, for instance, whether different revision methods have different effect on speed or on the quality of the output; to what and to whom will the reviser be loyal; how translators read in production practices and so on.

All in all, this is a well-written book which is informative, interesting and thought-provoking. Covering a wide range of topics in real-life context, it is expected to open up a promising window for further exploration of translation revision and post-editing in terms of industry practice and cognitive processes.

## References

- [1] Cordingley, Anthony and Chiara Montini. Genetic translation studies: an emerging discipline [J] . *Linguistica Antverpiensia, New Series: Themes in Translation Studies*, 2015 (14) .
- [2] Munday, Jeremy. *Evaluation in Translation: Critical Points of Translator Evaluation-making* [M] . Abingdon: Routledge, 2012.
- [3] Piller, Ingrid. *Language ideologies* [M] // *The International Encyclopedia of Language and Social Interaction*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2015.

### **Yanmei Yang**

Author

English Department, School of Foreign Languages, Northeast Normal University, China.

### **Shengxi Jin\***

Corresponding author

The Preparatory School for Chinese Students to Japan (The Training Center of Ministry of Education for Studying Overseas), Translation Teaching and Research Center, School of Foreign Languages, Northeast Normal University, China.