

YOUDALE, Roy (2020): *Using Computers in the Translation of Literary Style: Challenges and Opportunities*. New York/London: Routledge, 242 p.

Mehrdad Vasheghani Farahani

Volume 67, numéro 3, décembre 2022

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1100488ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/1100488ar>

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal

ISSN

0026-0452 (imprimé)

1492-1421 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce compte rendu

Farahani, M. V. (2022). Compte rendu de [YOUDALE, Roy (2020): *Using Computers in the Translation of Literary Style: Challenges and Opportunities*. New York/London: Routledge, 242 p.] *Meta*, 67(3), 690–691.
<https://doi.org/10.7202/1100488ar>

This book calls for a change in the approach to research, suggesting a divergence from the prototypical product-oriented comparative research to a more practice-oriented one. New approaches or “turns” in Translation Studies can gain foresight from this book and consider integrating Practice Theory into translation theory, which, in turn, will enrich both fields of study. Also, through the writer’s methodological suggestions, translation researchers can feel more secure and be more willing to do fieldwork, especially in the workplace.

BURCU TAŞKIN

Kırklareli Üniversitesi, Kırklareli, Turkey

REFERENCES

- BUZELIN, Hélène (2006): Independent Publisher in the Networks of Translation. *TTR*. 19(1):135-173.
- EHRENSBERGER-DOW, Maureen and O'BRIEN, Sharon (2015): Ergonomics of the translation workplace: Potential for cognitive friction. *Translation spaces*. 4(1):98-118.
- GOUANVIC, Jean-Marc (2010): Outline of a sociology of translation informed by the ideas of Pierre Bourdieu. (Translated from French by Laura SCHULTZ) *Monti 2: Applied sociology in translation studies*. 2:119-129.
- LATOUR, Bruno (2005): Reassembling the social: an introduction to actor-network theory. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- MOSSOP, Brian (2000): The workplace procedures of professional translators. In: Andrew CHESTERMAN, Natividad GALLARDO SAN SALVADOR and Yves GAMBIER, eds. *Translation in Context*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 39-48.
- OLOHAN, Maeve (2004): *Introducing corpora in translation studies*. London/New York: Routledge.
- OLOHAN, Maeve (2016): *Scientific and technical translation*. London/New York: Routledge.
- SIMEONI, Daniel (1998): The pivotal status of the translator's habitus. *Target*. 10(1):1-39.
- TEIXEIRA, Carlos S. and O'BRIEN, Sharon (2017): Investigating the cognitive ergonomic aspects of translation tools in a workplace setting. *Translation Spaces*. 6(1):79-103.
- WOLF, Michaela (2011): Mapping the field: Sociological perspectives on translation. *De Gruyter*. 2011(207):1-28.
- YOULDALÉ, Roy (2020): *Using Computers in the Translation of Literary Style: Challenges and Opportunities*. New York/London: Routledge, 242 p.
- With the advent of technology over the last decade, Translation Studies has witnessed a great deal of progress in both theory and practice (Bourne 2014; Chan 2014; Mitchell-Schuitevoerder 2020). Accordingly, years of productive work in the realm of translation technology have led to the publication of several books. Despite a massive body of resources, there seems to be a lack of solid, first-hand books in specific domains of translation and technology, such as on translation style. Thus, such a dearth of research has led to a non-negligible gap for researchers and translators. In an effort to fill this gap, Youdale has published a highly seminal and worthwhile book which offers both researchers and translators an overview of the salient role technology plays in analysing style in translation.
- Structurally comprised of one introduction and eight chapters, Youdale's book provides the reader with challenges and opportunities one might encounter when using technology in translating literary style. Apart from the introduction, the book has been thematically divided into two sections. The first section, chapters 1 to 3, is dedicated to the theoretical aspects of translation technology in relation to literary translation, analysing source text and CDR (close and distant reading) as well as translation theory. The second section, chapters 4 to 7, deals with applying the methodology and theoretical framework to analyse literary style.
- In detailing his analysis, Youdale starts his introduction with a moderately extensive definition of style in translation and continues by comparing traditional and new approaches to analysing the concept of style in translation. Although Youdale advocates the usage of technology in analysing language features, he points to the risks and shortcomings of it when he writes that “[n]o stylistic analysis is ever complete [...] and any analysis must take into consideration the original context” (p. 8).
- To lay the foundations for his research, Youdale sheds light on the striking role computers play in literary translation, with a specific focus on corpus linguistics. Correspondingly, various software programs, such as CATMA (Computer-Aided Textual Markup and Analysis), *Sketch Engine* and *Voyant* are explained with clear and pertinent examples. In addition, to compare the advantages and disadvantages of these software programs, a detailed list of various corpus linguistic software programs is provided, programs which are essential for analysing literary style in translation. In addition, Youdale explains his provisional CDR model for analysing style, which consists of lexical categories, grammatical categories, figures of speech, context and cohesion.
- Every translation analysis entails a detailed scrutiny of the source and target texts (Seresová and Breveníková 2019). Understanding this, Youdale sets out to take a closer look at the target

language as part of his CDR model. This analysis of the source text entails an elucidation of the source book he chooses to analyse in terms of its commercial and critical reception in Uruguay. As part of the source text vetting process, Youdale reports the results he obtained from corpus analyses and such techniques as word lists, lexical richness and N-grams. In this same line, by applying Network Theory and visualisation, Youdale investigates the characters in the source text in order to be able to reach a fuller picture of the source text.

Using technology in translation research, although useful, is incomplete and must be accompanied by a close analysis of the text, which must be done manually. Resorting to this dual analysis (technological and manual), Youdale adopts foreignisation as part of his translation analysis as well as a close analysis of the equivalence of stylistic effect. Providing examples in both the source and target language, what lies at the heart of such analysis is the effects of any stylistic features of the source text on the reader of the target language and thus the need to create a target text with similar effects. The examples the author gives provide a clear understanding of the problems found in the contrastive analysis of the source and target texts.

One of the most prominent aspects of literary translation is the translation of culturally specific items, which has not been neglected by Youdale. While defining culturally specific items by quoting various sources, Youdale explicitly declares that “decision-making about the translation of CSI is not simply a matter of choosing from an array of possible strategies” (p. 100). This is concomitant with the translation of punctuation, where Youdale dedicates a few pages to the translation of punctuation as an integral part of literary translation analysis. He takes into account the challenges of short sentences in translation and the style of long sentences in translation as well as their challenges.

As part of the analysis of translation style, Youdale compares the source text with draft translations, which “help the translator to assess the extent to which they have achieved the translation goals” (p. 151). This analysis entails a close comparison of sentence length, repetitions and small words. Similarly, the author strives to identify the translator’s style as part of the analysis.

One slight criticism I should point out is the use of *Sketch Engine*. It would be better if the author explained more how he used this corpus software program. It is not clear if he analysed the source and target texts through parallel corpora or comparable corpora. If Youdale used parallel corpora, did he align the source and target texts in their entirety or just a part?

I am sure that providing more illustrations of the analysis of the source and target texts done

through this software program would offer the reader a better insight into the work. What seems to be a misnomer is the title of the book. It must be pointed out that although the title of the book gives the impression that the book introduces various uses of the technology in translation, what can be tracked in the content is the use of corpora in translation. What is not clear to me is the word “computers” in the title. In today’s world, every single written translation is done using a computer. It would thus be better if the word “computer” was replaced by another word, such as “technology” or “corpora” as they would better fit the book’s content.

Taken as a whole, this remarkable book deserves to be read and discussed widely as it adds significantly to our understanding of the beneficial impacts and confluence of the role technology plays in translation research. In reading this volume, one is struck by the balance that exists between close and distant readings. Moreover, the book is best appreciated when one reads the many examples the author provides in an effort to analyse source and target texts. In addition, kudos should be given to the quality of the print and the cover of the book. I am certain that this book is a compelling and seminal one for the seasoned and advanced learners in the domain of translation technology. However, given the complexity of the analysis and the topic, this book is not recommended for the novice researcher in translation research.

MEHRDAD VASHEGHANI FARAHANI
Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany

REFERENCES

- BOURNE, David M. (2014): How will the use of technology in translation and testing affect language learning? *Lingua Cultura*. 8(1):22.
- CHAN, Sin-Wai (2014): *Routledge encyclopedia of translation technology*. New York/London: Routledge.
- MITCHELL-SCHUIITEVOERDER, Rosemary (2020): *A project-based approach to translation technology*. New York/London: Routledge.
- SERESOVÁ, Katarína and BREVENÍKOVÁ, Daniela (2019): The Role of Text Analysis in Translation. Paper presented at International Conference on Innovations in Science and Education, Prague, Czech Republic. 617-622. <<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/c232/691e105dc81e25edd961aea86afe57295078.pdf>>.