Collaborative Translation: a Model for Inclusion

July 2016 - July 2017

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Our project explores how the interlingual translation of texts may be undertaken through a collaborative process that addresses and enhances a range of language and disciplinary skills. Recent initiatives in collaborative translation research have emphasised the many possible configurations the practice may take and the benefits that it offers. However, as an emerging body of ideas it is yet to influence industry standards, which remain premised on single-practitioner practice. We propose a model of collaboration that can be implemented in a variety of contexts, demonstrating how an inclusive translation practice undertaken by participants with complementary skill sets can be utilised to pursue a range of context-specific outcomes.

TRANSLATION METHOD

Our method requires a specific combination of skills and proficiencies in two participants, who are identified as the "source collaborator" (S1) and the "target collaborator" (T1). The S1 is required to have native competence in the source language, and to have a sufficient level of the target language to engage in conversation. The T1 is required to have native competence in the target language of the translation; they are not required to have proficiency in the source language, but they are required to have some disciplinary expertise in the subject of the text. The translation involves a "talk' process in which the S1 "sight translates" the source text verbally. By following the verbal cues, the T1 attempts to transcribe the sense of the verbal translation into a written draft. The S1 and the T1 then undertake a process of discussion, in which an agreed sense of the source meaning is established in the target.

Advantage of this method:
- The S1 is uniquely able to clarify nuances of the source language that might be lost to an L1 translator working in isolation.
- The T1 is uniquely able to ensure that the translation choices comply with the disciplinary expectations that are applied to the text.
- The process of interlingual translation becomes accessible to a wider range of people, encouraging a more 'inclusive' approach to translation practice.

PROJECT OUTPUTS
- Public symposium at Monash University Prato campus, Italy (July 2017), presenting overall project results and encouraging further implementation of the practice.
- Smaller academic workshops and community-based events aiming to disseminate the practice in specific contexts.
- Publication of data pertaining to the use of collaborative translation in various academic disciplinary contexts.
- Classroom unit designed to deliver language teaching via collaborative translation practice.
- Report on the use of collaborative translation in migrant communities.

CONTEXTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The **Literary Translation** context illustrates how the method can facilitate collaborative translation within the academic domain. We are currently overseeing three case studies that demonstrate how an inclusive method of translation broadens the scope of academic practice and enriches the scholarly and literary potential of practitioners. We are working with postgraduate and early career researchers at both Monash and Warwick to produce translations of scholarly writing, fiction and survey material. These collaborations draw respectively on the fields of Shakespeare studies and German studies, Creative writing and Brazilian studies, and Educational psychology and Translation studies.

The **Language Learning**context illustrates how the method can facilitate language learning within academic and non-academic pedagogical institutions. We are developing a case study premised on the idea that collaborative translation in the classroom affords undergraduate students greater exposure to the linguistic and cultural knowledge of a language in a way that challenges traditional models of language pedagogy. We are working with the Warwick society *World@Warwick*to prepare and facilitate a language course through workshops open to undergraduate students.

The **Migrant Experience** context illustrates how the model can facilitate collaboration within a non-academic domain. We are currently consulting with Filipino migrant community organizations *Gabriela* Australia and *Migrante*Melbourne, to implement collaborative translation as a form of integration aid for migrants. By facilitating a collaborative process that results in English translations of Tagalog narratives, this process will contribute a form of knowledge transfer that increases cultural understanding and community engagement.

For further information on any aspect of the project, or if you would like to find out how you can be involved, please contact one of the coordinators:

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