

There has recently been a surge in corpus studies of translation using corpora that reflect the production process of a translation, specifically focussing on the role of editors in this process. The influence of editors has often remained “invisible in conventional corpus-based studies comparing translated and non-translated language” (Kruger 2012, 354). Such holistic studies of the translation workflow may “lead to improvements in the ecological validity of experimental settings” (Muñoz 2010, 179) and “provide exciting opportunities for analysis of the language of translation” (Utko 2004, 223).

This has been demonstrated in studies of editorial intervention, for instance, by Andújar (2016), who finds that a range of changes in a French translation of a Spanish novel can be attributed to editors’ attempts to increase the readability of the text. Readability also plays a role in the analysis of sentence splitting in translation, where I argue (2016) against the notion that sentence splitting is a phenomenon that occurs only in particular translation directions. I have found that sentence splitting is frequent in English–German translation of business articles, and that it is not just translators that engage in it, but also editors to a significant extent. Thus, scholars have begun to take editorial influence into account in their discussions of findings from corpus-based analyses of translations (Delaere 2015, 128; Kruger forthcoming) and rejected the hypothesis that editing may exhibit one of a range of “mediation universals” along with translation (Kruger 2012; Bisiada forthcoming).

This talk reports on a range of case studies of translated texts before and after editing that show how editorial intervention has shaped the final translation product. It thus argues in favour of more widespread investigation of editorial intervention by including draft translations in corpus-aided studies to strengthen the empirical basis of analyses of translated text.

References

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