GENEALOGIES OF KNOWLEDGE: TOWARDS A CORPUS-BASED ANALYSIS OF CLASSICAL RETRANSLATIONS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY BRITAIN

Dr Henry Jones (University of Manchester, UK)

Genealogies of Knowledge (http://genealogiesofknowledge.net/about/) is a multi-disciplinary research project, based at the University of Manchester, UK, which explores how understandings of key cultural concepts have evolved across centuries, languages and cultures. Specifically, it aims to investigate the role of translation and other sites of mediation in the transformation and contestation of the central ideas underpinning modern political thought (e.g. 'democracy', 'citizenship' and 'equality') and scientific discourse (e.g. 'evidence', 'proof' and 'expertise'). To do so, the project involves building large and diverse electronic corpora of texts written and translated from or into Classical Greek, early Latin, Medieval Arabic and Modern English. We then provide researchers and the general public with free online access to the corpora through a range of open-source software applications, specially designed by members of the *Genealogies* team.

This presentation begins by introducing the *Genealogies* project as a whole and the design criteria according to which our corpora are being constructed. Then, in order to illustrate the potential and challenges of corpus-based methodologies within this area of research, it reports on an ongoing case-study focused on nineteenth-century English-language retranslations of classical Greek works. In particular, it examines Henry Musgrave Wilkins (1873), Richard Crawley (1874) and Benjamin Jowett's (1881) respective re-interpretations of Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War* and discusses how this classical author's account of ancient Athenian democracy was used to make sense of, legitimise and challenge the stirrings of liberal democracy across Europe during this period. In doing so, my analysis draws on the initial research findings of Lianeri (2002), Harloe and Morley (2012), and Hoekstra (2012), but suggests that these previous investigations have failed to interrogate sufficiently the relationship between the political context in which these translators were embedded and their textual choices. As a solution, I demonstrate how, when combined with insights drawn from retranslation theory (Alvstad & Rosa 2015) as well as socio-narrative approaches to translation studies (Baker 2014), the application of corpus tools can dramatically improve our understanding of these retranslations, as well as help us to better explore the connections between culture, ideology and language use.

[345 words]

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Presenter bio:

Henry Jones is a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at the University of Manchester's Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies (UK). Having recently completed his PhD research focusing on translation in the context of *Wikipedia*, he is now working as part of a multi-disciplinary team on the AHRC-funded *Genealogies of Knowledge* project.