

Working with Electronic Corpora in a Situated Translation Course

In this talk, I will discuss the application of electronic corpora in a situated translation course offered by the Institute of Translation and Multilingual Communication at Cologne University of Applied Sciences. This translation course attempts to project into the translation classroom – as closely as possible – the professional translation environment that students will encounter in their later career as translators, for example by providing them with relevant CAT software or client instructions, assigning timed translation tasks, etc. The course is based on the theoretical framework of situated translation (Risku 2004) and structured with reference to Göpferich's (2008) translation competence model. In this talk, I will focus on the use of electronic corpora as a component of the *tools and research* subcompetence of Göpferich's model. Owing to the situated, or *in vitro*, nature of the translation course, special emphasis is placed on so-called *do-it-yourself corpora* which are created ad hoc with the aim of completing a specific translation task and which may be more easily reconciled with time, financial and availability constraints often encountered in real-life translation. In this context, I will focus on the internet as a source of corpus texts and illustrate an approach to the compilation of web corpora which can be used to compensate for the inherent lack of structure of web content and its varying quality. Then, I will discuss possible ways of using the Internet itself as a *macro-corpus* (Zanettin 2012). In this context, I will present various strategies for querying the Internet as a macro-corpus using conventional search engines and I will discuss several Web concordancers which offer specific functions tailored to the linguistic analysis of the search results.

References

- Göpferich, Susanne (2008): *Translationsprozessforschung. Stand, Methoden, Perspektiven*. Tübingen: Narr.
- Risku, Hanna (2004): *Translationsmanagement. Interkulturelle Fachkommunikation im Kommunikationszeitalter*. Tübingen: Narr.
- Zanettin, Federico (2012): *Translation-driven corpora: Corpus resources for descriptive and applied translation studies*. Manchester: St. Jerome.