THE EDITOR

INTRODUCTION

BROADENING AND FURTHER DEVELOPING OF RESEARCH METHODS IN PSIT/AMPLIAR Y PROFUNDIZAR EN MÉTODOS DE INVESTIGACIÓN EN TISP

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*T*here is a consensus that Public Service Interpreting and Translation (PSIT), or Community Interpreting and Translation (CIT), has experienced a dramatic change in both theory and practice since the first Critical Link Conference in Geneva Park, Canada in 1995. National and international conferences, seminars, courses, and workshops all around the world have made it possible for practitioners, trainers, and researchers to get together to discuss their views and exchange ideas and subsequently there has also been an ever-growing flow of publications that reflect this research activity. This is also evident in papers published in journals dedicated to other disciplines such as *Human Communication Research, Social Sciences and Medicine, Transcultural Nursing, JAMAL, Transcultural Psychiatry, Patient Education and Counseling,* and *Psychoanalytic & Psychotherapy.*

The various topics studied give an idea of the broad extent of PSIT. This can also be seen in the use and adoption of theoretical principles from other disciplines apart from traditionally applied linguistics, the study of languages, and other related disciplines, such as critical discourse analysis or pragmatics (Vargas Urpi, 2011).

This is all accompanied by a combination of different methods taken from disciplines like anthropology, ethnography, ethical and moral studies, neurolinguistics, sociology of the professions, or cultural studies.

A more detailed look also reveals some general characteristics:

1. A greater quantity of small-scale studies adopting several perspectives.
2. A greater number of observational rather than experimental studies.
3. The use of deductive over inductive methods.
4. The used of mixed methods, like: a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods often referred to as triangulation.

Researchers tend to examine local realities with case studies in specific fields, thus contributing to a shift from absolute theories to multiple representations and an increase in interdisciplinarity between Translation and Interpreting Studies (TIS) and PSIT. New trends have emerged in both TIS and PSIT by beginning with the implementation of principles from other disciplines. Linguistic elements concurrently lose relevance by giving way to other

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cultural, social, and ethical aspects (Valero-Garcés, 2019). De Pedro Ricoy and Napier's (2017: 2) comment also illustrates this point:

> The recently published Routledge Encyclopedia of Interpreting Studies (Pöchhacker, 2015) has 21 entries referring specifically to interpreting research, including: action research, bibliometric research, corpus-based research, experimental research, mixed methods research, survey research, ethnographic methods, methodology, eye tracking, retrospective protocols, the activist approach, cognitive approaches, discourse-analytical approaches, linguistic/pragmatic approaches, neuroscience approaches, psycholinguistic approaches, sociolinguistic approaches, sociological approaches, epistemology, interdisciplinary, and paradigms.

These advances in research methods applied to TIS have received a strong boost in recent years in the academic and research field (Hale and Napier, 2013; O'Brien and Saldanha, 2014; Angelelli and Baer, 2016; Mellinger and Hanson, 2017; Biel et al., 2019, to name a few). As a result, greater effort is being made to systematically collect data, maintain both methodological and scientific rigor in data analysis, and to coordinate research practices on a global scale.

A brief glance at some of these works provides us with an insight of what is being done and its influence in PSIT.

A decade ago, Olohan (2000) in *Intercultural Faultlines. Research Models in Translation Studies: Textual and Cognitive Aspects,* wrote that the book "offers an exploration of research models and methods in translation studies, as implemented, discussed, and critically evaluated by some of the leading researchers in the field of translation and interpreting." The volume included chapters focusing on research conducted in areas as diverse as corpus-based translation studies, dialogue interpreting, simultaneous interpreting, acquisition of translation competence, cognitive processes in translation, translation into L2, creativity in translation, and translation quality assessment. Some articles also dealt with topics that have been major themes in PSIT in the last decade such as translational ethics, collaborative research, and issues of power in interpreting research.

A year later, Hubscher-Davidson (2011) called attention to the use of mixed methods, arguing that quantitative research methods can be supplemented by ethnographic qualitative methods so as to enhance the understanding of what underlies the translation process. She even proposed an ethnographic framework for studies on translation processes.

Oakes and Ji (2012), as announced in the introduction, offered a practical guide to the use of quantitative methods needed for Corpus-Based Translation Studies (CBTS), an area of research that plays a relevant role nowadays in the development of quantitative methods for interdisciplinary translation studies. The volume is addressed to students and researchers of corpus linguistics, translation studies, and quantitative linguistics.

Hale and Napier (2013) in *Research Methods in Interpreting: A Practical Resource,* also offered a comprehensive guide to research methods in all types of interpreting, including a specific chapter on PSIT addressed to students and researchers, as well as professionals and interpreter trainers. The guide pays special attention to topics that the authors call "Core areas", such as reading and analyzing research literature, practical issues in research, and producing research reports.

O'Brien and Saldanha (2014) in *Research Methodologies in Translation Studies* again addressed the book to students of translation doing research at a postgraduate level or more experienced researchers who want to familiarize themselves with methods outside their current field of expertise. The book is divided into several sections according to whether the research focuses on the translation product, the process of translation, the participants involved, or the context in which translation takes place. An introductory chapter discusses

issues of reliability, credibility, validity, and ethics; core principles for any researcher no matter what methodology they adopt.

Angelelli and Baer (2016), as the title indicates, include both translation and interpreting. The main objective of this book is to promote rigor in the research field while ensuring cohesion between theory and practice.

In 2017 a series of books on methodological issues were published. Ji et al. (2017) in *Corpus Methodologies Explained: An Empirical Approach to Translation Studies* introduces the latest advances in Corpus-Based Translation Studies (CBTS), which is one of most fruitful fields developed in Translation Studies in both translator training and empirical translation research.

Meister (2017) explores mixed research methods as a methodological approach integrating 1) philosophical and conceptual stances, 2) inquiry logics and 3) research methods. She argues that mixed research methods offer a methodological framework that is well attuned to contemporary translation studies research. Meister considers that mixed methods promotes interactive research design and provides a way to bridge the gap between different research traditions.

Mellinger and Hason (2017), on the other hand, focus on quantitative research methods applied to Translation and Interpreting Studies. The authors define basic concepts and describe the steps or stages that research of this type should cover: sampling techniques, measurement, survey design, how to describe data, how to analyze differences, how to analyze relationships, and how to interpret results. The book is specifically addressed to postgraduate and doctoral students.

De Pedro Ricoy and Napier (2017), in the introduction to the special issue of *Translation and Interpreting,* with the significant title "Innovations in interpreting research methods", point out that the main aim is to provide an overview of the pioneering research from both established scholars and early career researchers. They draw the attention to an increasing amount of empirical research being conducted in interpreting studies through social science, humanities, and interdisciplinary lenses. The volume includes a collection of articles that discuss quantitative, qualitative, or mixed research methods, cross-disciplinary approaches, and the use of tools more commonly associated with other disciplines.

Han (2018) offers an interesting review of the research methods applied in Interpreting Studies (IS) during the years 2004–2014. The study is based on a collection of 312 empirical studies, sampled from 36 peer-reviewed T&I journals (2004-2014), in order to provide insight into the practice of mixed method research (MMR) in IS. Major findings are: (a) that although over one third (36.2%, n = 113) of the empirical studies used MMR designs, explicit justification for doing so was lacking; (b) the four prototypical MMR designs identified, accounting for 60.2% of the 113 MMR studies, were parallel, sequential, conversion, and survey (Qual & Quan); (c) the prototype designs were innovatively combined by researchers, using addition, substitution, and embedment techniques, to form complex MMR variants suitable for the specificities of different research questions.

Biel et al. (2019) offer a collection of articles on legal translation with the aim to illustrate different research approaches across disciplines in order to shed light on the many facets of this social practice. It is argued that legal translation —and by extension I will add that PSIT— calls for research that combines different perspectives to expand our understanding of the roles played. The volume includes examples of critical discourse analysis, corpus-based legal translation research, comparative translating approaches to legal text or a mixed-method approach combining quantitative (Corpus-Based) and qualitative (such as interviews) data in the analysis of interpreting in criminal proceedings.

In summary, this brief review indicates that Translation and Interpretation Studies is an area of interdisciplinary research that attracts academics, professionals and students with a

wide range of backgrounds and purposes or commitments, who must then face the challenge of accounting for a complex research object that does not fit well to traditional methods in other fields of research.

This growing interest in the study of research methodology is an indicator of good health and a step towards recognizing the need for empirical and scientific research in T&I.

This special edition of *FITISPos-IJ* (Vol. 7), as indicated by its editors Esther Monzó Nebot and Melissa Wallace, aims to show pioneering research methods in PSIT, in order to deepen the tools, practices, and evaluation methods applied to research, and to broaden the current perspectives of the collection, analysis, and dissemination of research data.

With the generic title of *Research Methods in Translation and Interpreting in Public Services: Broadening and Further Developing the Collection, Analysis, Dissemination, and Systematization of Data*, the guest editors, Esther Monzó Nebot and Melissa Wallace include in this volume five articles.

The section *Articles* begins with the article entitled "Research Methods in Public Service Interpreting and Translation Studies: Epistemologies of Knowledge and Ignorance", by the guest editors of this volume 7 of *FITISPOs-IJ*, on the basis of their experience and international recognition as researchers in PSIT. This article is followed by five articles on diverse but interconnected subjects related to research methodologies. The authors, titles, and a brief note on their content follows.

Aguilar Lozano, in her article entitled "Triangulation and Trustworthiness - Advancing Research on Public Service Interpreting through Qualitative Case Study Methodologies", discusses the practical application of triangulation in public service interpreting settings and presents a case study conducted by the author where a triangulation of participant observation, focus groups, and audio-recorded interaction was employed.

Herring and Tiselius, in their paper entitled, "Making the Most of Retrospective Process Tracing in Dialogue Interpreting Research", present, as the title indicates, retrospective verbal process tracing applied to dialogue interpreting. The article provides both concrete and practical information and guidance for scholars of dialogue interpreting who are interested in employing retrospective process tracing in their research, including recommendations for best practices.

Lomeña Galiano, in her article entitled "Finding Hidden Populations in the Field of Translating and Interpreting: A Methodological Model for Improving Access to Non-professional Translators and Interpreters Working in Public Service Settings", presents some tools used in social and human sciences to improve the relationship with hidden population groups. The article focuses on the interaction between researchers and participants and the relevance of reflection and rapport in this interaction in order to facilitate access, and the consequent participation of hidden populations in studies on PSIT.

Mellinger, in his article entitled "Positionality in Public Service Interpreting Research", examines positionality as an aspect that requires reflection when conducting research in this area and discusses different types of positionality to illustrate the type of reflective practice required to ensure valid and reliable results.

Vuori and Hokkanen, in their article entitled "Empirical Designs in Studies of Public Service Interpreting and Translation", examine the research designs in empirical studies in PSIT based on data derived from the Translation Studies Bibliography published between 2009-2018. The analysis first focuses on types of data and then on the wider analytical perspective used in these studies. Main conclusions indicate that most studies take a factual rather than a cultural perspective, and the most frequent object of study is interpreted interaction. The authors call for studies on cultural meanings attached to PSIT in order to further develop research in PSIT.

In the *Interview* section, we find the words of the research expert and academic Vanessa Enríquez Raído, a Senior Lecturer in Translation at the University of Auckland, and also an academic consultant for the Language Assistance Services Programme to improve public service interpreting and translation in New Zealand. From her experience, main trends in PSIT will include increased hybridization of professional roles and the professionalization of non-professionals, above all in the context of languages of low diffusion and low resources, and the use of tools and technologies that can support multilingual service encounters.

The *Review Book* section includes quotes from various books and collections of recent articles from different subjects and different fields, giving accounts of the complex circle in which PSIT is integrated. The books reviewed are in alphabetical order:

-*Tecnología al servicio de la TISP en situaciones de crisis: experiencias y perspectivas/ Technology at the Service of PSIT in Crisis Situations: Experiences and Perspectives,* by Valero-Garcés, Vitalaru and Elvira Acosta (Eds.), (2019), reviewed by Cristina Álvaro Aranda.

-*Research Methods in Legal Translation and Interpreting. Crossing Methodological Boundaries*, by Łucja Biel, Jan Engberg, M. Rosario Martín Ruano & Vilelmini Sosoni (eds.) (2019), reviewed by Anca Bodzer.

- *La profesión del traductor e intérprete: claves para dar el salto al mundo laboral*, by Purificación Meseguer Cutillas and Ana María Rojo López (Coord.) (2018), reviewed by Ingrid Cáceres-Würsig.

-*Approaches to Didactics for Technologies in Translation and Interpreting*, by Valero-Garcés (Ed.) (2019). Special Issue of *Trans-Kom Journal of Translation and Technical Communication Research,* Volume 12, Issue [1] Volume 2, 2019/ Part II, reviewed by Mª del Mar Maya Martínez.

-*Documentación digital y léxico en la traducción e interpretación en los servicios públicos (TISP): fundamentos teóricos y prácticos*, by Sánchez Ramos (2020), reviewed by Míriam Pérez-Carrasco.

-*Manual de introducción a la traducción e interpretación en centros penitenciarios. Curso básico*, by Valero-Garcés, Vitalaru, y Lázaro Gutiérrez (2019), reviewed by Mohana Sultan.

The *Research Corner* includes several doctoral theses recently read on various topics, which confirms young researchers' growing interest in PSIT. These are:

- *Traducción intersemiótica: la comida como mediación intercultural. El ejemplo de Najat El Hachmi / Intersemiotic Translation: Food as Intercultural Mediation. The Example of Najat El Hachmi* by Bárbara Cerrato Rodríguez (2019).
- *La traducción de valores socioculturales del español al chino en textos económicos: el caso del envasado de productos alimentarios / The Translation of Sociocultural Values from Spanish to Chinese in Economic Texts: The Case of Food Product Packaging* by Zhengyang Chen (2019).
- *La traducción jurada de documentos de constancia del Estado Civil en Brasil, España y Portugal / The Sworn Translation of Documents of Record of Civil Registry in Brazil, Spain and Portugal* by Jesús Antonio Caurel Santiago (2019).
- *La interpretación en los servicios sanitarios en Arabia Saudí: un estudio de caso / Interpretation in Health Services in Saudi Arabia: A Case Study*, por Abdallah Jamal Mohammad Taisir Albeetar (2019).

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In the project section, several projects are mentioned:

- NETPRALAT: NETworking to strengthen pre-trial procedural rights by PRActice oriented cross-border LAwyers Training.
- CAPISCE: Child victims of trafficking: Access to Protection and Information based on their specific needs during Criminal Investigation and procEedings.
- Traducción y Tecnología en la Comunicación Multilingüe y Situaciones de Emergencia.

Some references to recent useful tools related to PSIT are also mentioned: *WHO CBR Survey, WHO CBR Survey App, WHO Chagas app o WHO TADDS app.* At the end of this section, we find a list of events related to PSIT.

The *Working Papers* section includes young researchers' papers based on their Master's Theses or Doctoral Dissertations and deserves a special mention in this volume 7 for its unity regarding the topic and cultural diversity. The titles and authors are: Paula Asensi Gómez with "Translation and Interpreting in Conflict Zones in Cooperation with the Spanish Armed Forces" (Traducción e interpretación en zonas de conflicto en colaboración con las fuerzas armadas); María Belío Bergua with "The Role of T/I in Wars and Conflicts: The Example of the War on Terror and Counterterrorism" (La importancia de los T/I en guerras y zonas de conflicto: la guerra contra el terror y el contraterrorismo) and Yana Toropygina with "Russian Speaking Residents and Tourists in the Spanish Costa del Sol: How do They Shape the Nature of Linguistic Services Provided by Translators and Interpreters in this Region?" (Residentes y turistas rusohablantes en la Costa del Sol española?: ¿De qué manera influyen en la naturaleza de los servicios lingüísticos que prestan los profesionales del ámbito de traducción e interpretación en esta región).

We hope you enjoy reading the various sections and contributions in Volume 7 of *FITISPos-IJ* and your collaboration in future editions. The content of the articles and of the different sections is responsibility of their authors.

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