# 'I wish they could see the magic': literary translators on their roles and technology

**Paola Ruffo**
*Heriot-Watt University*

The configuration of translation as a form of Human-Computer Interaction (O'Brien, 2012) has highlighted the need for Translation Studies to acknowledge and address human issues derived from the complexity of said interaction (Kenny, 2017). This becomes even more compelling in light of the overall 'sense of confusion' (Cronin, 2013: 1) surrounding the future of the translation profession and its human agents. In this regard, Littau (2016) advocates for a rediscovery of the ways in which materiality and ideality mutually and symbiotically shape each other, in that if we are to explore translation in contemporary society and culture, then we are to study the interplay between the two. Defined as 'the last bastion of human translation' by Toral and Way (2014: 174), literary translation appears to be postponing the encounter with materiality, despite a growing body of research on the application of translation technologies to its workflow (Voigt and Jurafski, 2012; Jones and Irvine, 2013; Besacier and Schwartz, 2015; Toral and Way, 2014; 2015a; 2015b; Toral et al., 2018). This paper reports on a doctoral research project that operates within this framework, exploring the dynamic, mutual and social construction of human-computer interaction in literary translation. The study adopts a socio-technological framework inspired by Pinch and Bijker's 1984 Social Construction of Technology (SCOT) model in order to collect literary translators' perceptions of their own role in society and their attitudes towards technology via means of a questionnaire. Results show that (1) there is a relationship between perceptions of role and attitudes towards technology and that (2) the adoption of a proactive and collaborative approach between different social groups could benefit the process of technological innovation in literary translation.

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