

Default translation in the wild

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Empirical research within Cognitive Translation Studies has focused up until quite recently on investigating the deliberative, decision-making elements of the translation process. This stance was driven by a theoretical motivation—a dominant view of cognition as a computational, problem-solving process (cf Sirén & Hakkarainen 2002 vs Muñoz 2016, 2017)—and also a methodological factor, linked to the ease of identification of such aspects. Think-aloud protocols highlighted translators' deliberations with respect to specific choices (cf Rodrigues 2002, Göpferich & Jääskeläinen 2009). In keystroke logs, pauses and revisions are understood as indicators of uncertainty, deliberation, or both (Angelone 2010; Kumpulainen 2015). From an alternative perspective, translators' mental processes are viewed as the distributed activation or construction of task-oriented cognitive routines, from the starting point of a cognizer's dynamic knowledge interacting with the environment. On this view, non-deliberative, routinized actions are of importance and what has been theorized as 'default translation' (Halverson 2015, in press) is of central interest. This paper provides the first effort to implement an operationalization of the default translation construct using keystroke data. In the study, students and professional translators (L1 Norwegian or Spanish) were asked to translate two different English texts at two different points in time into their L1s in a naturalistic task setting, as close as possible to 'normal' working conditions. Data was collected in Inputlog. Using the approach outlined in Muñoz & Cardona (2018), passages of default translation were identified. Such default passages were aligned with the source text (ST) segments with which they corresponded semantically. Default segments and non-default segments were analyzed to investigate the range of translational choices, the effect of lexical frequency of source and target elements, and the degree of formal similarity of source and target.

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