

Different strokes for different folks: exploring the effect of personality on the translation process

Ella Wehrmeyer

Sarita Antunes

North-West University

The influence of the translator's personality on the translation process is under-researched in Translation Studies. Although Barboni (1999) already proposed certain specific traits of a translator's personality decades ago, only recently have experimental studies emerged. Lehka-Paul and Whyatt's (2016) pioneer study is the only study to explore the personality traits of professional translators in terms of the translation process, whereas Hubscher-Davidson (2009) explored the personality traits of student translators. Both studies not only indicate that translators exhibit certain specific character traits, but that different personalities approach the translation process differently.

Using eye-tracking together with traditional methods of observation, the current (pilot) study seeks to explore the way that different personality types approach the translation process in terms of decision-making mechanisms, engagement with source and target texts, use of resources and handling disruptions. Although the participant pool is not yet large enough to prove significance, the preliminary results indicate that personality traits such as anxiety, conscientiousness and openness to experience do affect the translation process.

Keywords: personality, translation process, cognition, eye-tracking

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