

Ergonomic quality in trainer-to-trainee revision processes: a pilot study

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Hitherto, little consideration has been bestowed upon ergonomic quality in translator training. However, with the growing need for practice-oriented, labour-intensive translation courses, and, what is worse, with study programmes in the humanities being whittled away by budget cuts, inquiries into translator training ergonomics seem to be very timely. In this contribution, we will home in on a small yet important factor that is believed to affect the overall well-being of translator trainers: trainer-to-trainee revision processes. In this contribution, the revision module of translationQ (KU Leuven/TELEVIC), touted as the ultimate time-saver in translation revision, will be showcased and put to the test. We will first describe how translationQ is said to reduce the drudgeries of revision to a minimum, while at the same time providing an indispensable fillip to revision quality (See also Van Egdom et al. 2018a, Van Egdom et al. 2018b). In the second part of this contribution, we will report on a pilot study carried out at Zuyd University, a study in which the efficacy and overall revision quality of this software was tested by dint of comparison. During the pilot project, translator trainers were asked to alternate between three different modes of revision (pen-and-paper revision, revision in MS Word using comments/track changes, and revision in translation). The mean time spent on tasks in different modes were compared. Overall quality was observed from the perspective of translator trainees: 6 trainees were asked to fill out a questionnaire on the usefulness of trainer feedback (13 items) and discussed the results in a focus group. Despite some seemingly inevitable stumbling blocks, the results of the pilot study show that translationQ does seem to tackle a number of long-standing issues of ergonomic and general qualitative concern.

References

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