

# Future Translators and Future Ergonomists at Work

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Ergonomics has received growing attention in translation studies over the past few years and that multi-dimensional discipline – i.e. physical, organisational and cognitive as defined by the International Ergonomics Association - emerged as a new paradigm in translation studies (Lavault-Olléon 2011, 2016). In particular, ergonomics applied to translator training has raised a number of issues (Massey 2016) that need to be addressed with a view to better train future translators to the translation market (Peters Geiben 2016). This is all the more important since professional translators have started to take stock of ergonomics issues for their workplace – see the studies by Ehrensberger-Dow et al. (2016) and Meidert et al. (2016) as well as ergonomics-related professional events e.g. the recent French SFT Workshop on Musculoskeletal Disorders, prevention and ergonomic workstation.

As suggested by Massey (2016), possible deployments of ergonomics for future translators include “macro-organisational aspects” among which authentic experiential learning scenarios. Building on previous work on the collaborative and ergonomic perspective of authentic translation project (Frérot et al. 2019/forthcoming), we have further investigated how to integrate ergonomics for future translators. An initial collaboration with ergonomists has paved the way for an interdisciplinary approach between translator and ergonomics trainers. An ergonomic perspective aimed at activity analysis was developed with master’s students in translation involved in an authentic translation project. It highlighted how space was used to foster coordination in the translation activity and how work organisation developed and influenced each other’s work, e.g. project managers, translators and reviewers. Further deployment of ergonomics consisted in having master’s students in ergonomics observe future translators during a collaborative translation project that took place in December 2018. The cognitive dimension was given particular attention due to its overwhelming relevance not only for translator’s work but also for future ergonomists who favour the physical dimension of ergonomics otherwise.

## References

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