

# Towards an encompassing, adaptable and future-oriented TS framework: some methodological explorations

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Complexity theory and Actor Network Theory are being discussed within Translation Studies (TS) as theoretical frameworks that can stimulate a reconceptualisation of translation in the 21st century. This is a reconceptualisation that is necessary if TS wants to keep pace with the emergence of complex social and semiotic realities and provide TS scholars with a framework and the tools to study the proliferation of new, often hybrid and complex translation phenomena (Marais, 2019; Remael, 2019).

In the present paper, we explore how the underlying principles of Complexity Thinking and Actor-Network theory could be adopted by TS scholars to create synergies between established subfields of TS and newer ones such as Audiovisual Translation and Media Accessibility, conceptualising translations as hybrid, semiotic and emergent phenomena that are characterised by a dynamic set of human and non-human technical and contextual determinants (Remael, 2019).

By mapping key concepts from the different turns in TS as connected nodes in a process-network of translation, we aim to illustrate how translation phenomena of all types can be studied as manifestations of varying constellations of mutually dependent determinants that can take on different material forms in different contexts. Examples of specific translation processes, interlingual “translation proper” but especially newer forms such as fansubbing and audio description, will be discussed in terms of this conceptual network, to illustrate how convergences and apparent divergences between translation phenomena can be conceptualised in such a way that the distinctions between them become one of degree, allowing for the creation of an encompassing, adaptable and future-oriented TS framework.

## References

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