

Translation's new shapes, as moulded by future interactive tools

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As stated before on previous occasions, tools are a defining part of translation (Cronin 2013). In an age in which tools determine what we do, to the point that they replace us in several tasks, one tends to think that the definition of translation itself needs to be replaced. However, as Jakobsen has mentioned, if we need to replace our definition of translation because of the tools we use, maybe our definition of translation was not broad enough (Jakobsen 2018).

This presentation will comment on different approaches to the next generation of translation tools and on the models of translation they convey relate to, and then discuss how these may affect the way translation will be done (Wuebker et al. 2016; Hokamp 2017; Moorkens, O'Brien, and Vreeke 2016). These approaches cover a vast technology spectrum, from interactive neural machine translation (Peris, Domingo, and Casacuberta 2017) to automatic post-editing and quality estimation of machine translation (Astudillo, Graça, and Martins 2018). Besides, in addition, a report on the results of a workshop with 50 translators, which tested two interactive translation-support technologies, will be presented (do Carmo 2017), and the impact on translator training will be discussed (Pym 2013).

The views on post-editing as a type of revision will be challenged, and it will be proposed that we should consider the changes brought by current technologies as mere, predictable or even appreciated, evolutions of translation practices.

Finally, this presentation addresses the issue of the future value of human translation.

This discussion will be contextualised in the current conflict between production chains commanded by big data ownership and the growing acknowledgement of a need to shift towards personalisation, both in data mining and in tool development (O'Brien and Conlan 2018; DePalma and Lommel 2017).

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