

A STUDY ON TRANSLATOLOGICAL DICTIONARIES

Fan Min

Shanghai International Studies University

Qufu Normal University

China

[mailto: fanminxy@yahoo.com.cn](mailto:fanminxy@yahoo.com.cn) min.fan@hotmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study examines translational dictionaries from the perspective of text linguistics with a discussion of the close relationship between translational dictionary studies and text linguistics. This is done to promote translational dictionary studies and further the development of translation studies. The study demonstrates the textual and extra-textual constraints on the research and compilation of translational dictionaries by discussing how seven criteria of textuality can be integrated into translational dictionary studies. In the study, the following three topics will be discussed: (1) an understanding of the translational dictionary and its research methodologies; (2) theoretical basis and significance of the translational dictionary as text; and (3) the integration of the seven criteria of textuality into translational dictionary studies. On the whole, based on the understanding of the translational dictionary as text, by linking the seven criteria of textuality and translational dictionary studies, this study shows how to maximally present authoritative, systematic and typical translation knowledge in translational dictionaries so as to meet the needs of users in the field of translation and other relevant areas. The findings derived from the present study contribute both theoretically and practically to the fields of translational dictionary studies and translation studies.

Keywords: characteristics of translational dictionaries; text linguistics; the seven criteria of textuality; the translational dictionary as text; translation studies

INTRODUCTION

The present study attempts to provide a general framework for the study of translational dictionaries from the perspective of text linguistics, devised for identifying all relevant factors in the process of translational dictionary research and compilation and the relationship between the seven criteria of textuality and translational dictionary studies, and above all, for giving effective guidance to the theoretical construction of translational dictionaries.

The parameters of text linguistics theory and other theories of neighboring disciplines are embedded in a theory of translational dictionary research and compilation. With reference to the features of text linguistics and the seven criteria of textuality proposed by de Beaugrande and Dressler(1981), this author points out that the text linguistics perspective can give a comprehensive, systematic and macroscopic view towards translational dictionary studies and at the same time she attempts to relate an integrated account of text processes to the practical concerns of lexicographers and to see how the seven criteria---intentionality, acceptability, informativity, cohesion, coherence, intertextuality and situationality ----can be integrated into the process of research and compilation of translational dictionaries. Towards this goal, the present study endeavors to present a general framework for translational dictionary studies from the perspective of text linguistics by discussing the following aspects: the historical study of translational dictionaries, the characteristics of

translatological dictionaries, the translatological dictionary as text, the relations between intentionality and translatological dictionary studies, the relations between acceptability and translatological dictionary studies, the relations between informativity and translatological dictionary studies, the relations between intertextuality and translatological dictionary studies and the relations between situationality and translatological dictionary studies. In doing so, this paper shows how the translatological dictionary research and compilation can work well within a broad framework of text linguistics and how the development of translation studies can best be presented in translatological dictionaries in a systematic, dynamic and comprehensive way.

In this paper it is the monolingual encyclopedias of translation studies rather than bilingual dictionaries of translation terminology that are discussed. Because according to prototype theory, the type of encyclopedia of translation studies has the characteristics of typicality, and can help people in understanding different kinds of translatological dictionaries with reference to this basic abstract category. In addition, among the various branches of linguistics, the study of text linguistics with open, interactive and dynamic nature is integrated into translatological dictionary studies.

Literature Review

Since the study of translatological dictionaries didn't suddenly appear overnight, a brief description of early views of translatological dictionary studies is needed in order to sketch the situation from which the more recent theories and methodologies emerged.

The development of translatological dictionary studies has its background. The latter half of the 20th century, especially the years since the 1970s, witnessed the breath-taking development of translation studies as an independent discipline worldwide. The accumulation of the literature of translation studies calls for the birth of its dictionaries. Constant consultation of reference materials such as dictionaries and references books is part of the translator's stock-in-trade. Yet translators have had a hard job finding the "perfect dictionary" to suit their particular needs. The surge of the compilation of translatological dictionaries did not begin until the 1990s, an exciting time for the discipline. The translatological dictionary has become the translation theorist's important aid, and a translation theorist or translator who does not consult one when in doubt is arrogant or ignorant or both. With the proliferation of terms or topics relating to translation theory in the present information age, it would be more useful, and academically and intellectually more rewarding, to explain in an accurate manner these terms or topics that will soon become a part of the language that we use in our work. In recent years, various kinds of translatological dictionaries have been published, such as, the *Dictionary of Chinese Translators* (1988), *Dictionary of Chinese Science Translators* (1991), *A Glossary of Translation Terms: English-Chinese· Chinese-English* (1993 HK), *An Encyclopedia of Translation: Chinese-English·English-Chinese* (1995 HK), *A Companion for Chinese Translators* (1997), *Aspects of Translation* (1999), *Dictionary of Contemporary Chinese Practitioners* (2001), *A Dictionary of Translation Studies* (2004) and *A Topical Bibliography of Computer(-aided) Translation* (2007 HK) in China.

Translatological dictionaries published or forthcoming outside China mainly include: *Dictionary of Translation Studies* (1997), *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies* (1998), *Encyclopedia of Literary Translation into English* (2000), *An International Encyclopedia of Translation Studies* (2004), and *Encyclopedia of Translation* (in press). The

successive publication of translational dictionaries signals the growth of translation studies worldwide, and the availability of such a broad range of materials in translation studies greatly help individual scholars, college teachers and students to build up their own knowledge and understanding of the subjects, and contribute to the development of translation studies as a discipline in universities and colleges. At the same time, the theoretical research of translational dictionaries has also born some fruits (See Fang 2002; Lin 2003; Tan 2004; Zhang and Han 2005; Zheng and Sun 2005; Fan 2009, 2011) These articles with the form of dictionary reviews, dictionary principles and dictionary typology scattered far and wide in journals or magazines. These articles were useful to the later studies of translational dictionaries. With the development of interdisciplinary studies the study of translational dictionaries gradually becomes much more mature. It gradually becomes a field whose endeavors are informed by the theories and practices from disciplines such as terminography, lexicography, encyclopedia work, translation and teaching as well as disciplines of linguistics, corpus studies, philosophy, literature, culture, communication, media studies, history and sociology, which provide the broader setting for the translational dictionary research and making.

In short, the boundaries between the professional activity and the academic field of translational dictionaries are fluid, professional training, seminars and workshops, academic publications about dictionaries and the relevant disciplines have served to mature translational dictionary studies into an independent field with its own principles and practices, purposefully making use of, and qualifying, the findings of other disciplines.

METHODOLOGY

The paper is both theoretically and practically oriented. Based on the seven criteria of textuality, the translational dictionary studies from the perspective of text linguistics is advanced so that the study of translational dictionaries can be carried out through theoretical investigation into the dynamic and communicative compilation process. By “study” I mean, in a rather loose sense, a sense of assumptions about a phenomenon presented in the usual academic way. This study project will be investigated and presented by different methods such as a case study, survey, data collection, text analysis, sampling, modeling, and comparisons, intending to support the development of the paper.

In order to expose the textual and extra-textual influence on the process and use of translational dictionaries, three authoritative encyclopedias, namely, *An Encyclopedia of Translation: Chinese-English ·English-Chinese*, *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies* and *An International Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*, and other types of monolingual/bilingual dictionary of translation studies(such as, *A Glossary of Translation Terms*, *Dictionary of Translation Studies*,etc.) are selected as a case study in this paper. Data collection, survey, sampling, modeling, and comparisons are mainly based on the study of the above-mentioned dictionaries of translation studies. For example, in order to describe the characteristics of translational dictionaries, Table 1 is given. In order to expose the influences of cultural factors towards the research and compilation of translational dictionaries, Table 2 is given.

Table 1 A Comparative Study between Five Dictionaries

Title of the Dictionary	Monolingual / Bilingual	Entry	Definition/ Interpretation	Major Readers
<i>Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner's English Dictionary</i>	Monolingual (general dictionary)	General and common words	Definition in a natural way; Polysemy: the readers are required to select the appropriate meanings according to different contexts.	Translation practitioners
<i>A Glossary of Translation Terms</i>	Bilingual (subject-specific specialized dictionary)	Terms, words or expressions in translation fields	Equivalents are provided	Translation researchers
<i>Dictionary of Translation Studies</i>	Monolingual (subject-specific specialized dictionary)	Terminology in translation studies	Systematic interpretation in a concise way and from different perspectives.	Translation theorists and researchers
<i>A Topical Bibliography of Computer (-aided) Translation</i>	Monolingual (subject-specific specialized dictionary)	Terminology in computer-aided translation studies	Consistent provision of bibliography on corresponding entries	Computer-aided translation theorists and researchers
<i>Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies</i>	Monolingual (subject-general specialized dictionary)	Terms and Topics of translation studies	Systematic and detailed interpretation of the origin and development of topics	Translation theorists and researchers

Table 2 A Comparative Study of the Parameters that Influence the Research and Compilation of Three Translatological Dictionaries

Title Parameters	<i>An Encyclopedia of Translation: Chinese-English -English-Chinese</i>	<i>Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies</i>	<i>An International Encyclopedia of Translation Studies</i>
Time of Publication	1995	1998	2004
Setting	the growth of translation as an academic subject and a popular training in H K	Translation Studies as an exciting new discipline of the 1990s	more intensive and extensive study of translation with growing diversification and specialization

Purpose	help strengthen HK academic footing, promote communication between Western and Eastern worlds.	provide the reference book, attract the scholars' interest, encourage new perspectives	document and survey the entire complex of translation as well as the operations and phenomena associated with it"
User(s)	All those who are interested in translation studies and relevant fields and for use in public libraries and large institutions.	All those who are interested in translation studies and relevant fields and for use in public libraries and large institutions.	For researchers, teachers and students working in translation studies, linguistics, literary and cultural studies, semiotics, philosophy, theology, law, communication and media studies; for practicing translators and interpreters; and for use in public libraries and large institutions.
Content	rich in terms of entry count, richest in terms of practical concerns of E-C and C-E translation activities with the guidance of translation theories	richer in terms of entry count, richer in terms of introduction of Western translation theory, lack of practical concerns of translation activities	richest in terms of both entry count and introduction of Western and Eastern translation theory, lack of practical concerns of translation activities
Editor(s)-in-Chief	Chan Sin-wai and David E. Pollard	Mona Baker	Harald Kittel, Armin Paul Frank, Norbert Greiner, Theo Hermans ,etc.
Contributor (s)	renowned Western and Chinese scholars in translation fields and relevant disciplines	renowned Western scholars in translation fields and relevant disciplines	renowned Western scholars in translation fields and relevant disciplines
Publishing House	Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press	London and New York: Routledge	Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter

Textual Analysis mainly includes the following hypothesis: the seven criteria of textuality lead to the textual-cognitive and communicative model, which focuses on the cognitive and communicative elements in texts. The translational dictionary as text presupposes interpretation, which requires our understanding of textual meaning and is intimately related to cognition and communication, therefore this model is helpful to the construction of framework of translational dictionary studies in the following aspects:

Firstly, the study of translational dictionaries from textual-cognitive and communicative model is evidence of rapid development of translation studies. According to Bassnett and Lefevere, among others, the future translation areas for future research include, “the study of postcolonial translation to better re-evaluate Eurocentric models, and the study of different kinds of criticism, anthologies, reference works, as well as translations, to see how images of texts are created and function within any given culture” (Bassnett and Lefevere 2004: xiii). Nowadays, translation tools are increasingly used in the work of translation and translation studies. We use various printed dictionaries for information reference, online dictionaries for meaning clarification, and translation memory systems for the reuse of previous translations, and translational dictionaries for reference to translation theories. However, the dictionaries should not be considered only as the “reference works” or “translation aids” as indicated by Bassnett and Lefevere (2004) and Holmes (1972), Toury (1995) and Munday (2001) it should also be considered as a communicative process between participants. This is true with translational dictionaries. Moreover, the translational dictionary as a specialized dictionary should be investigated from its methodology, principles and functions. It is rather promising for this research field. The International Federation of Translators (FIT) World Congress as one of the most prestigious and influential international gatherings in the global translation community will be staged at the Shanghai International Convention Center in August 2008 with focus on the theme of “Translation and Cultural Diversity” including discussions on “translation terminology and translational dictionaries”. Therefore, the study of translational dictionaries as one of the promising fields in future research attracts more and more people’s attention. In view of this situation, the present research intends to approach the study of the translational dictionary from the perspective of text linguistics which mainly concerns the stress of the need to view the translational dictionary research and compilation as a dynamic, social, interactive phenomenon within certain social and cultural context, and to see how the translational dictionary as text functions in the new millennium.

Secondly, the study of translational dictionaries from textual-cognitive and communicative model can ultimately promote the overall development of translation studies, and greatly serve to enrich neighboring disciplines. As “one of the most enlightening and memorable ways of transmitting culture within a country, is by means of configured corpora” (Baker 1998:13), the translational dictionary, which embodies and projects the compiler’s image of the world’s most authoritative translation knowledge, or of the translation knowledge most characteristic of each country represented in translational dictionaries, creates a meaning and value greater than the sum of meanings and values if the individual items are taken in isolation. It can “display the important findings of translation studies, sum up experience in translation studies, and demonstrate the relationship between translation studies and other disciplines” (Sun 2003:403-409). Hence, the study of translational dictionaries, which provides guidance to the healthy professional lexicographical practice and ultimately promotes translation studies, is indispensable. In addition, it can also raise accuracy-awareness for translators, create an environment where the continuous acquisition of translation knowledge is a core value, promote the training of required professionals in translation fields, and the effective provision of translation services. Like all interdisciplinary fields in science, translational dictionary studies is a discipline that is defined in relation to other fields from which it takes a specific set of concepts. Therefore, the study of translational dictionaries as an interdisciplinary subject can enrich other disciplines such as lexicography, cognitive science and communication theory.

Thirdly, the study of translational dictionaries from textual-cognitive and communicative model can help to improve the quality and efficient use of translational dictionaries. As the translational dictionary represents a sub-corpus selected from a wider corpus of works (the total potentially relevant corpus), and this sub-corpus stands in a synecdochic relationship to the wider corpus. The precise nature of this relationship, i.e. exactly which parts have been selected to stand for the whole, makes a very interesting point of study. In addition, the motives and criteria for selecting one's own translation literature differ from those for selecting a foreign one in the process of translational dictionary compilation. By monitoring changes in the balance between the increasing total reservoir and each individual repertory of translation knowledge, it is possible to assess the changing positions ascribed to individual translation literatures, contributors and works, in relation to the translation literatures of the world. Such a comparison requires different approaches, while the present approach can probe into the various factors which lie behind the selection and compilation of translational dictionaries, take into consideration the process and functions of translational dictionaries in its many contexts of use, take account of the users' profiles of translational dictionaries and the skills necessary for, and brought to bear on, the translational dictionary use, and provide reliable translation strategies for the potential editors, thereby ensure translational dictionaries much more convincingly useful and speed up translation by helping users in efficiently retrieving the specified translation knowledge and assisting the editors in consciously realizing the manipulatory processes involved in the translational dictionary compilation so as to greatly improve the quality and efficient use of translational dictionaries.

In a word, the methodology used can be seen as evidence and a stimulus to the development of translation studies, it can also greatly serve to enrich neighboring disciplines and considerably help to improve the quality and efficient use of translational dictionaries.

DISCUSSION

In the study, the following three topics are discussed: (1) an understanding of the translational dictionary and its research methodologies; (2) theoretical basis and significance of the translational dictionary as text; and (3) the integration of the seven criteria of textuality into translational dictionary studies.

The first question is about the understanding of translational dictionaries. Through comparison of the entries from five dictionaries, the translational dictionaries discussed in this paper are those that provide systematic, comprehensive and profound theoretical interpretation of the entries, such as *An Encyclopedia of Translation: Chinese-English-English-Chinese*, *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies* and *An International Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*.

The second question discusses the concept of the translational dictionary as text. The author points out that William Frawley's theory of "The Dictionary as Text" does not further probe into how the seven standards of textuality can be applied to lexicography although it contributes a lot to dictionary studies and thus needs to be modified. Accordingly, the author's theory of translational dictionaries is established and developed, accompanied by the discussion of its features, significance and functions. The theory of "The Translational Dictionary as Text" is significant to our further research on the application of the seven criteria of textuality to the research and compilation of translational dictionaries.

The third questions deal with how the seven criteria of textuality can be integrated into the research and compilation of translational dictionaries based on the understanding of text linguistics and relevant disciplines. Each section provides a clear explanation of how to link up the standard of textuality with translational dictionary studies, accompanied by an analysis of how three translational dictionaries work within such a context. In contrast with the past translational dictionary research which focuses on the static compilation process from the editor's perspective, the present research focuses on the systematic, dynamic and diverse dimensions of translational dictionaries based on the textual-cognitive and communicative model.

It should be noted that there exist some limitations in this research. Firstly, the limitation of the study is due to the technological factors. This study proposes the wide and frequent use of technological tools and corpus-based studies, but in practice, due to the economical and technological reasons, some of the compilers' research and compilation are not based on any database or systematic documentary analysis. In such a case, many of the ideas and concepts in the field of translation are mainly empirical, prescriptive and cannot be proven. Seen from this perspective, there exist some distances between theory and practice.

Secondly, the limitation of the study is due to the complexity of context. This study emphasizes the study of translational dictionaries as a purposeful and communicative activity strongly influenced by context and the interaction between compilers, translational dictionary texts, users and context. However, the study does not point out the advanced context-sensitive approach as it is beyond the discussion of this dissertation. In reality, when compilers interact with other persons and the surrounding environment they usually make use of implicit situational information. In most cases, the compilers as humans can intuitively deduce and interpret the context of the current situation and react appropriately, but in some cases intuition is not accurate, thus leading to the incorrect judgment of the context of translational research and compilation.

Thirdly, the limitation of the study is determined by the nature of translational dictionary studies in proper. The translation studies described in translational dictionaries has so far been backward-looking, and concepts in the world of translation have been drawn from past events. In fact, this is determined by the nature of the translational dictionary research and compilation, which usually studies and collects the knowledge of translation based on what has conventionally been studied and conducted. To project into the future of translation studies to see what has to be done is also necessary in translational dictionary studies.

Therefore, it is advisable for the future research to be widely computer-aided and corpus-based, and with context-sensitive and forward-looking approaches. Modern technology and research methodology should be used to find out more about what the future holds for us and predict what is expected to happen so as to improve the research and compilation of translational dictionaries.

CONCLUSIONS

Since text linguistics as a source of information in interactive applications is particularly important, and the application of text linguistics in translation and some other disciplines has become extensive and commonplace, it seems advisable to systematically study the translational dictionary with reference to text linguistics and in a new orientation. Therefore, this study is presented with the investigation of translational dictionaries with

text linguistics as theoretical basis, and the close relationship between the seven criteria of textuality and translational dictionary studies.

Made in this study are the following major findings. Firstly, the translational dictionary as a specialized type of dictionary deals with the terms or topics in translation studies and in which the selected terms or topics are arranged according to a fixed format. Among the various translational dictionaries, the type of encyclopedia of translation studies is discussed because it is the one with prototype nature and typical and representative characteristics. Secondly, translational dictionary studies can be considered as a discipline with an independent nature, including theoretical study, practical study and information technology application. But this does not mean it is already an independent discipline. As an interdisciplinary subject, translational dictionary studies should absorb nourishment from other relevant disciplines. Thirdly, the translational dictionary can be considered as a type of text, and one with its own features, significance, and functions. William Frawley's theory of "The Dictionary as Text" needs to be modified, as it does not further explore how the seven criteria of textuality can be applied to dictionary studies, although it is both theoretically sound and practically useful. The theory of "The Translational Dictionary as Text" is therefore put forward and developed based on the theory of "The Dictionary as Text" and according to the characteristics of translational dictionaries.

Fourthly, by integrating the seven criteria of textuality and translational dictionary studies, the author intends to explore the interaction between them: (1) By discussing intentionality and translational dictionary studies, the author points out that the research and compilation of translational dictionaries are purposeful, intentional and communicative. The compilers of translational dictionaries act as the mediators among participants of translational dictionary research and compilation. Their attitudes will influence the production of translational dictionaries. (2) By discussing acceptability and translational dictionaries, the author proposes the typological classification and the Sociocognitive Approach of translational dictionaries, and emphasizes the acceptability of translational dictionaries so as to make translational dictionary research and compilation much more practical and useful according to the needs of different users. The author also points out there are some limitations when the Cooperative Principle and the Sociocognitive Approach are applied to translational dictionary studies. (3) By discussing informativity and translational dictionary studies, the author proposes four criteria for achieving the informativity of translational dictionaries, namely, authority, accuracy, adequacy and systematicity. The author believes that if these four criteria cannot be fulfilled, then the informativity of translational dictionaries cannot be realized. (4) By discussing cohesion and coherence and translational dictionary studies, the author thinks that cohesion and coherence are closely related to the form and meaning of translational dictionaries respectively, particularly reflecting in the consistency in entry selection, arrangement and interpretation. (5) By discussing intertextuality and translational dictionary studies, the author argues that there exists strong relevance between the materials in translational dictionaries and other relevant disciplines; even the materials within translational dictionaries are also strongly relevant. The compilers of translational dictionaries should pay much more attention to the relevance of materials in the analysis and synthesis stage of translational dictionary research and compilation, and to the inheritance and creation of translational dictionaries. The important intertextual markers such as cross-references, suggestions for further reading and selected bibliography establish strong links either between knowledge in translational dictionaries or between knowledge in translational dictionaries and other relevant disciplines. (6) By discussing situationality and translational dictionary studies, the author

points out that situational context and cultural context greatly influence the research and compilation of translational dictionaries. Meanwhile, as the product and creation of context, the translational dictionary can also influence the context from which it is born. Fifthly, among the seven criteria of textuality of the translational dictionary as text, the criteria of acceptability, informativity and intertextuality are most important in distinguishing translational dictionaries from bilingual dictionaries.

In short, in focusing on the research of the translational dictionary as text, this paper follows in the analysis of translational dictionary studies with text linguistics as a platform, by highlighting the traces of the process of translational dictionary research and compilation with purposeful, communicative, functional and ideological meaning. This, then, is the author's aim: to relate an integrated account of text linguistics and translational dictionary studies to the practical concerns of the editors and users and to see how the following standards of textuality---- intentionality, acceptability, informativity, cohesion, coherence, intertextuality and situationality---- can be integrated into translational dictionary studies. The computer-aided translational dictionary studies, corpus studies, Context Toolkit and Proactive Translation Studies are suggested in future studies. The way is now open for fruitful analysis of the process of translational dictionary research and compilation. In so doing, we hope to be able to provide pointers to areas for further research of translational dictionary studies and promote the development of translation studies. It is also hoped that, in some small measure, we have been able to make a contribution to the important area of dictionary studies.

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