# REVIEW: Daniel Dejica, Carlo Eugeni, Anca Dejica-Carțiș (eds.), Translation Studies and Information Technology - New Pathways for Researchers, Teachers and Professionals

**Anca-Simina MARTIN**

**Universitatea „Lucian Blaga" din Sibiu, Facultatea de Litere și Arte**
**Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Faculty of Letters and Arts**
Personal e-mail:anca.martin@ulbsibiu.ro

REVIEW: Daniel Dejica, Carlo Eugeni, Anca Dejica-Carțiș (eds.), Translation Studies and Information Technology - New Pathways for Researchers, Teachers and Professionals.

**Abstract:** This review explores Daniel Dejica, Carlo Eugeni, and Anca Dejica-Carțiș's Translation Studies and Information Technology - New Pathways for Researchers, Teachers and Professionals, a collection of 17 articles, elaborated by a transnational group of 25 authors from seven countries and three continents. The volume is the result of the "Professional Communication and Translation Studies" international conference, held in Timișoara on 4-5 April 2019. The edited volume has a tripartite structure, with topics ranging from new perspectives on age-old conundrums to cutting-edge avenues of translation research and practice
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Stemming from the eleventh "Professional Communication and Translation Studies" international conference, held in Timișoara on 4-5 April 2019, Daniel Dejica, Carlo Eugeni, and Anca Dejica-Carțiș's *Translation Studies and Information Technology - New Pathways for Researchers, Teachers and Professionals* is a collection of 17 articles, elaborated by a transnational group of 25 authors from seven countries and three continents. The tripartite structure of the edited volume, whose chapters target specific target audiences—researchers, teachers, and professionals—, is relatively balanced, in that the first and second parts consist of six essays each and the third, of five contributions.

It should, however, be noted that the topics explored in the articles, ranging from new perspectives on age-old conundrums to cutting-edge avenues of translation research and practice, are not restrictively niched; in fact, they can serve as a platform for fruitful collaboration among scholars, higher education instructors, and practitioners. After all, as the editors note, "Computer-Aided Translation (CAT) and Machine Translation (MT)," whose manifold theoretical and practical ramifications this volume examines, "are given for granted by all stakeholders of translation," with translators' relevance and competitiveness being assessed, more than ever before, against their ability to master these technological advances and harness their serviceability (7).

The topicality of this 'Renaissance man' conundrum is, to a certain extent, the underlying theme of two articles

featured in the first section of the volume, i.e., Daniel Dejica and Anca Dejica-Carțiș's "The Multidimensional Translator. Roles and Responsibilities," and Carmen Ardelean's "AI in Translation: Friend or Foe?", with which, to my mind, the chapter titled "Pathways for Researchers" should have opened. The former, which charts the technologically catalyzed division and specialization of the translator's craft and the polyvalent role translation professionals are paradoxically expected to play nowadays, is a concise yet comprehensive study of the shift from the "static, one-dimensional translation scenarios" in which translators hitherto operated to the "dynamic ... media-supported audio-visual" ones occasioned by the forth industrial revolution (54). The latter comes to further contextualize this phenomenon, in the sense that it explores the anxieties and opportunities with which AI translation tools and databases present translators, arguing, in the same vein as Dejica and Dejica-Carțiș (55), that "[t]ranslator training will surely remain at the core of future skills accumulation" (87).

Attila Imre's "The ®Evolution of Translation Technology to the Detriment of the Professional Freelance Translator" brings the two articles' narratives full circle, suggesting that technology, although "not the enemy of users," may turn out to be the death of the individual freelance translator (66), just like MT and CAT tools have come to pervade all but one field of the industry, literary translation, which "constitutes [nonetheless] a very small percent of overall translation jobs" (61). In contrast, Mihaela Cozma's quantitative and qualitative study, on which she reports in "An Approach to The Translator's Competence in the Digital Era", is more optimistic in what it reveals about the state of the present-day power struggle between linguistic and technical competence in translation practice. According to the author's findings, the majority of the millennial translators-to-be involved in her survey "stress that, in spite of representing a very helpful tool, technology does not necessarily define a good translator," which suggests that translation students regard MT and CAT neither as threats to their future trade nor as one-size-fits-all solutions to language and culture issues (79).

Carlo Eugeni and Alice Pagano, both hailing from Italy, delve deeper into the nitty-gritty of the latest translation technologies. The former's "Human-Computer Interaction in Diamesic Translation. Multilingual Live Subtitling" and the latter's "Verbatim vs. Edited Live Parliamentary Subtitling" address a similar topic, live subtitling (LS), and empirically analyze the impact of the respeaker on the translation process and the faithfulness of the outcome. In short, the respeaker's role is to repeat the source utterances in a simplified form, with unambiguous vocabulary and syntax, with a view to facilitating the production of reliable real-time subtitles via a speech recognition software. Although dealing with different language combinations and human-computer interactions—i.e., Eugeni researches the effectiveness of various forms of interlingual LS, whereas Pagano focuses on intralingual LS—, the two scholars reach similar conclusions: "[i]n terms of accuracy, ... [sensatim, respeaker-aided LS] seems to win, because of a striking difference: when the target text is intralinguistically manipulated ... quality after the AT [automated translation] process increases by more than 20%" (Eugeni 29), which, in turn, leads to "more coherent and readable text, characterised by shorter sentences and no features of orality" (Pagano 41).

"It is axiomatic to say that, in the digital er,a the training of translators with a view to their smooth insertion to the labor market cannot be done without the integration of the related technology," writes Titela Vîlceanu in her "Bits of Translator's Power. Research-driven and Pedagogical Perspectives." Featured in the second chapter of the volume, "Pathways for Teachers," the author's article proposes a tried-and-tested, CAT-oriented reworking of Paula Gordon's workflow, which is specifically designed to teach translation project management (103). Similarly, Claudia E. Stoian and Simona Șimon's "The Language of Education in the Digital Era: Classroom Activities for Translation and Interpreting Students" puts forward modalities whereby students can develop transversal competencies by acquiring fluency in the educational terminology deployed in various real-life contexts, from participating in simulated Erasmus+ interviews (133) to translating diplomas and interpreting opening speeches (134).

In other cases, it is the empirical observations of the students' thought processes and classroom experiments that help to align teaching methods with the cognitive particularities of the trainees and the latest innovations in terms of translation technologies. In "On the Role of Raising the Metacognitive Awareness of Born-Digital Translation Trainees," Loredana Pungă expounds on the think-aloud research she conducted on four second-year MA students, who agreed to self-record their translation processes verbally and visually. Specifically, the debriefing discussion revealed that, "by recording their thoughts and reflecting on them prior to editing their draft translations," students reported "keep[ing] better track or [getting] clearer understanding of the areas that they found more problematic" (125). Conversely, Diana Oțăt, whose contribution is also based on a study carried out on second-year MA students, simulated a translation agency project via the web-based Ginger Software environment. The findings of her inquiry, "Access Tomorrow: Online Translation Environments," show that such platforms may bring added value to translator education, "increasing," along the lines of think-aloud protocols, "trainees' awareness with regard to the process and the quality of the performed translation" (142).

On still other occasions, instances of good practice such as those discussed in Vîlceanu's, and Stoian and Șimon's articles, and experiments the likes of which Pungă and Oțăt conducted, go to become proposals for labor market-

oriented academic curricula and courses. Najwa Hamaoui's "Training Intercultural and Technological Mediation in the Digital Era" focuses on one such case, the Pedagogical and Methodological Curriculum (PMC) for training digital interlinguistic audio description (AD), which originates in eye-tracking research and feedback from educators, practitioners, trainees, and the target audience. Although currently under development, a survey conducted on major stakeholders in audiovisual translation (AVT) training has shown that interlinguistic mediation courses would be a welcomed—if not pivotal—addition to Translation and Interpretation curricula (94-95). This is also the case with UNAM's Online Legal Translation Certificate, which Ioana Cornea and Andrew Tucker examine in their joint article titled "Educating Legal Translators in Virtual Environments: UNAM's Online Legal Translation Certificate". Designed in correlation with the peculiarities of the Mexican market, this upcoming online training course is expected to address the increasing demand for specialized translators of English-language legal texts and the relative absence of formal education prevailing nowadays among translators in Mexico (107). Of particular note here is the topicality of this course's format, which allows for competitive, locale-specific tele-training in a setting where both trainers and trainees can interact safely.

The third section of the volume opens with "Audio Subtitles or Spoken Subtitles/Captions: An Ecological Media Accessibility Service," an article co-written by Pilar Orero, Mario Montagud, Jordi Mata, Enric Torres, and Anna Matamala. Like Pagano and Hamaoui, the authors draw attention to the urgency of expanding AVT research to include media accessibility services such as audio subtitles (AST), in accordance with the Audiovisual Media Services EU Directive (2018). However, as Orero et al. explain, the provisions set "requirements, [but they do not] point to who is responsible to meet them: producers, distributors, or exhibitors" (157-158), which, in turn, can turn AST into an unproductive game of 'hot potato'. To address this issue, the authors look into the technologies whereby reliable AST can be achieved, from Optical Character Recognition to Text to Speech at either the server or the client side (155), and examine six possible workflows (155-156) and three available solutions for broadcast (156-157). In a second article co-authored by Pilar Orero, "Validation of Easy-to-read Subtitles," this time in collaboration with Rocío Bernabé, Óscar García, and Estella Oncins, the authors discuss the reception of an experimental 360° opera performance mediated through easy-to-read subtitles. By adapting Plena Inclusión Madrid's five-stage end-user validation process to the audiovisual format (164-165), the study has shown that "subtitles can be made cognitively more accessible by using Easy to Read as a simplification method and SDH [Subtitles for the Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing] parameters as a reference point" (172), and that "end-user participation ... opens up new job opportunities for all, particularly for persons with reading and learning disabilities" (173).

Keeping in the realm of AVT, next up is Marcela Alina Fărcașiu's "Translation Challenges: Subtitling *Denial* into Romanian," a case study of how a culture-specific movie abounding in specialized terms can serve as a starting point for guidelines of good practice in written subtitling (188). Differences in terminology are also the scope of "The Translation of Online German Economic Texts: Problems and Solutions," an article singlehandedly authored by Anca Dejica-Cartiș. By analyzing the Romanian renditions of several online German economic texts and discussing with students the translation strategies deployed, Dejica-Cartiș has found that "a translation guide based on such a research would prove to be an efficient tool for both students and translators ... as it may cast some light on the genre specificities of these texts and the types of translation strategies which should be used to solve any translation problems" (199). In "Romanian Electronic Corpora: Tools for Translators," Daniela Gheltofan explores other solutions to common translation problems, terminology included. Specifically, the author looks at the existing parallel corpora of texts in Romanian and other languages, whose breadth and number indicate, Gheltofan notes, that "significant steps have been made in the computerization of the Romanian language written and spoken, in particular of non-dialectal form," which is a prerequisite for translator-oriented "e-grammar and bilingual and plurilingual e-dictionaries" (209).

Domestic translation studies research, writes Georgiana Lungu-Badea, perhaps one of the field's most influential Romanian scholars, "is grounded less in autochthonous linguistic and translational reflections and more in allochthonous Western theories" (26). Indeed, Dejica, Eugeni, and Dejica-Cartiș's *Translation Studies and Information Technology - New Pathways for Researchers, Teachers and Professionals* does not come to change the paradigm, but it achieves something else, of equal, if not greater, importance. In bringing together contributions on the latest innovations in translation research, education, and practice from world-renowned and emerging scholars, trainers, and professionals from Romania and abroad, the editors succeed, to my mind, in putting Timișoara, a city with an already proven interest in translation studies, on the international map.

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