THINKING AND WORKING OUT OF THE BOX: TAPPING THE INTERDISCIPLINARY POTENTIAL OF TRANSLATION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

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THE INTERDISCIPLINARITY OF TRANSLATION STUDIES: SOME ISSUES FOR RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

CROSSING BORDERS

- Translators are *multiprofessional*
- Translation Studies is a *polydiscipline* and *interdiscipline*
  - mixed theoretical and methodological approaches
  - more complex, nuanced analysis

→ *What is the role and the impact of TS on translating practices?*
→ *Does TS question the division of knowledge among disciplines?*

(McCarty, 1999; in Munday, 2012: 23)

A true interdiscipline is [...] the Phoenician trader among the settled nations.

(Pym 1998)

(Chesterman 2002; Gambier & Van Doorslaer, 2016; Snell-Hornby, 1994 etc.)
FROM SUBDISCIPLINE TO DISCIPLINE: PUTTING TRANSLATION STUDIES ON THE MAP

THE HOLMES/TOURY MAP

“PURE”:
• Theoretical
• Descriptive

APPLIED:
• Pedagogy ("training")
• Technology ("aids")
• Quality ("criticism")

Toury (1995: 10)
FROM LINGUISTICS TO TRANSLATION STUDIES:
SHifting Viewpoints, Paradigms and Turns


LANGUAGE AND TEXT IN USE

GRAMMAR  TEXT

RETRO-SPECTIVE

PROSPECTIVE

INTERDISCIPLINE

EMPIRICAL

GLOBALISATION

SOCIOLOGICAL

ICONIC

PRAGMATIC  CULTURAL

TURNS

TRANSLATION STUDIES PROPER: TURNS AND LOCI OF RESEARCH INTEREST

- CULTURAL
- EMPIRICAL
- GLOBALISATION
- ICONIC
- SOCIOLOGICAL
TRANSLATION STUDIES PROPER:
TURNS AND LOCI OF “PURE” RESEARCH INTEREST
TRANSLATION STUDIES PROPER: SOME “PURE” RESEARCH INTERESTS

GENRE  MEDIUM / MODE  INTERCULTURALITY

INT. PROCESS  COGNITION  SELF-CONCEPT

EXT. PROCESS  TECHNOLOGY  ACTORS  ORGANISATION

DISCOURSES  ETHICS  INCLUSION

SOCIETY

SOCIO-TECHNICAL ENVIRONMENT

TRANSLATOR

TEXT
TRANSLATION STUDIES *PROPER*: SOME APPLIED RESEARCH FOCI
TRANSLATION STUDIES PROPER: SOME APPLIED RESEARCH FOCI

(Cognitive) Linguistics, Pragmatics, Cultural/Intercultural Studies, Literary Studies etc.

Psychology, Cognitive Sciences, Expertise Studies, Neurosciences Educational Sciences etc.


Sociology, Discourse Analysis, Media Studies, Corporate/Technical Communication, Risk Management, Accessibility/Integration Studies etc.
TRANSLATION STUDIES AS AN INTERDISCIPLINE:
TRANSLATION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

- Technical Communication
- Corporate Communication
- Professional T&I
- Para-professional T&I
- Meta-professional T&I
- Barrier-free Communication
TRANSLATION STUDIES AS AN INTERDISCIPLINE: TRANSLATION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

- Providing and managing access to information, messages, and services
- Gaining access to stakeholders

- Cognitive
- Physical
- Organisational
TRANSLATION STUDIES AS AN INTERDISCIPLINE: TRANSLATION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF TS ON TRANSLATING PRACTICES?

Professional

• Future-proof solutions to the challenges of
  – interprofessional convergence
    → expanded roles and responsibilities
  – technologisation
  – adding human value (adaptive expertise vs AI)
  – eroding status
TRANSLATION STUDIES AS AN INTERDISCIPLINE: TRANSLATION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF TS ON TRANSLATING PRACTICES?

Organisational
• Process and workflow optimisation
• Staff efficiency and well-being
• Enhanced quality and reduced risk
• Building reputation and trust

Societal
• Integration, inclusion and multilingual message placement
TRANSLATION STUDIES AS AN INTERDISCIPLINE: 
TRANSLATION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF TS ON TRANSLATING PRACTICES?

Educational

• Modelling and developing competence
  – Individual and group profiling
  – Product-based and process-oriented performance measures
  – Self-concept and self-regulation
  – Socio-technical integration
  – Socio-ethical role awareness
TRANSLATION STUDIES AS AN INTERDISCIPLINE: TRANSLATION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

DOES TS QUESTION THE DIVISION OF KNOWLEDGE AMONG DISCIPLINES?

I think it does; and we must remain Phoenician traders to tap the full potential of translation research and practice.

Thank you for your attention.

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