

## **Mona Baker and Gabriela Saldanha (eds.): Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies**

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The *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies* consists of articles written by specialists, each one of them working in a specific domain in the field of translation. The first edition appeared in 1998 (Baker 1998) and the second edition (reviewed here) in 2009; the paperback edition has been published in 2011. The *Encyclopedia* has eight consultant editors apart from the main editors Mona Baker and Gabriela Saldanha, both respected scholars in translation studies. According to Mona Baker in her introduction to the first edition, “an encyclopedia of a scholarly subject has a duty to open up rather than unduly restrict the scope of the discipline it sets out to describe”. Thus not only traditional issues, but also less traditional but increasingly popular issues make their appearance in the *Encyclopedia*. Mona Baker and Gabriela Saldanha, in their introduction to the second edition, point out that translation studies have been strongly Eurocentric, but now at the turn of the century there has been a growth of interest in non-Western perspectives; an aspect that is seen in many articles in the second edition, such as “Classical texts”, “History of Translation”, “Institutional translation”, “Postcolonial approaches”, “Machine Translation”, “Relay”,<sup>1</sup> and “Retranslation”.

The *Encyclopedia* is divided into two parts: “Part I: General” (75 articles) and “Part II: History and Traditions” (32 articles). In comparison to the second part, the first part (“General”) consists of more practice-oriented articles, which concern translation technology and applications, such as “Computer-aided translation”, “Machine translation”, and “Localization”. Some other articles of the first part are about translation of different text types, such as “Literary translation”, “Scientific and technical

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<sup>1</sup> St André’s article on “Relay” defines it as “the translation of a translated text (either spoken or written) into a third language”.

translation”, and “Poetry”, while some are ‘less traditional’, though very interesting topics, such as “Asylum”, “Censorship”, “Gender and sexuality”, and “Ethics”. Most articles follow the same structure, which makes the encyclopedia as a whole easily understandable and pleasant to read. The articles (4–5 pages) follow the “template” of definition(s), approaches, origins, process, and future prospects. We would like to refer now to some articles of the *Encyclopedia*’s first part, as these articles in particular appeal to the target audience of the *Machine Translation* journal.

Ke Ping, professor at the Nanjing University in China wrote the article on Machine Translation (MT). Ping defines MT as “[the usage] of computer programs to translate text from one natural language into another automatically” and distinguishes between different types of MT systems based on three criteria:

- (a) degree of human intervention:
  - unassisted or fully automatic MT
  - assisted MT, classified into human-assisted MT (HAMT) and machine-assisted human translation (HAMT);
- (b) specificity:
  - generic (any subject area or domain)
  - customized MT (special-purpose systems);
- (c) system architecture:
  - rule-based: direct approach and indirect approach, classified into transfer-based approach and interlingua approach
  - corpus-based, classified into statistical MT (SMT) and example-based MT (EBMT).

Ping continues with an interesting topic about MT from the user’s point of view focusing on special-purpose systems, speech translation systems, and online translation systems. Knowledge-based MT and statistical MT are considered by Ping as “promising research directions of the past decade or so”. In fact, these fields are already established and some important publications are missing in this article, such as [Carl and Way \(2003\)](#), when referring to EBMT, and [Koehn et al. \(2003\)](#), when referring to SMT. In addition, some discussion about human and particularly automatic evaluation of MT, which is missing in this article, would make the article more complete. Automatic evaluation of MT has made a lot of progress, the last decade leading to the development of many metrics, such as BLEU ([Papineni et al. 2002](#)), NIST Open Machine Translation (MT) evaluation series (see [Doddington 2002](#)), METEOR ([Banerjee and Lavie 2005](#)), and some others. Ping does not refer in his article to hybrid MT research, which combines rule-based and statistical approaches. Hybrid MT research has been active since 1990’s with the first hybrid EBMT–RBMT approach by [Sumita et al. \(1990\)](#) and more recently with the *Euromatrix* project ([Eisele et al. 2008](#)).

An interesting article about corpora is written by Dorothy Kenny. She stresses that in contemporary corpus linguistics, corpora are in electronic form and she points out various corpus design criteria, such as “representativeness” of a particular type of language, inclusion of spoken and/or written language, deliberate selection of texts, and others. She refers more to corpus processing, typology, and corpus-based translation studies ([Baker 1996](#)), rather than to the importance of parallel and monolingual

corpora for MT or translation memories (TMs). A short reference to these technologies would have been useful.

Another topic, related to corpora as a resource, is covered in “Computer-aided Translation” (CAT), an article written by Minako O’Hagan. The article related to CAT technology focuses on TM technology and its widespread impact and controversial issues, such as quality vs. cost savings, consistency vs. context variation, and ownership. As for the future of CAT, O’Hagan refers, among others, to the usage of speech recognition systems as part of TM systems. She states that corpus linguistics as well as psycholinguistic and cognitive approaches, such as translator-focused investigations, can enhance CAT applications.

Moving to a higher level, Reinhard Schäler writes about “localization” and defines it as the “linguistic and cultural adaptation of digital content to the requirements and locale of a foreign market, and the provision of services and technologies for the management of multilingualism across the digital global information flow”. He refers to the origins of localization starting in the mid-1980s when large software publishers were looking for new markets for their products, mainly word processors and spreadsheet applications. Then he describes the tasks of localization according to [Esselink \(2000\)](#): analysis, preparation, translation, engineering/testing, and project review. In the translation stage, Schäler states that translators “are required” to prepare terminology databases, maintain TMs, and use and maintain MT applications. In this article the technological aspects of localization are briefly covered.

Some important topics which are covered only partially in the *Encyclopedia*, but, in our opinion, should be covered in the future as separate articles, are speech-to-speech translation, controlled language, and also tools in translation technology. Although plenty of theoretical and computational aspects of translation technology are covered, some tools are missing, which were available before the *Encyclopedia* (2nd ed.) was published, such as *Apertium* ([Forcada et al. 2011](#)), *Apptek*,<sup>2</sup> *Moses* ([Koehn et al. 2007](#)), and *OmegaT*.<sup>3</sup> Students, but also professional translators would be interested to read descriptions of state-of-the-art of commercial and free/open-source translation technology tools as well as user studies comparing their features. In fact, often tools become obsolete in few years, but taking into account that the *Encyclopedia* will be updated, it should not be a problem to keep pace with fast emerging technology. In some articles, there is lack of recent references. Particularly for articles related with a technology that is still growing, an updated literature review would have been necessary.

The second part of the encyclopedia (Part II: History and Traditions) is about the traditions in translation of different languages, including African, European (various countries), American, Arabic, Chinese, Indian, and Southeast Asian traditions. According to Mona Baker (in the introduction to the first edition), “one of the most interesting and potentially productive areas of research to emerge from the historical section of this encyclopedia concerns the kind of social or ethnic groups that translators and interpreters have typically belonged to during various periods”. The articles on

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.apptek.com>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.omegat.org>.

this part of the *Encyclopedia* start with a short introduction about the language itself, continue with history of the country, and focus on the translation tradition starting from the Middle Ages till present. Part II of the *Encyclopedia*, though interesting for general information, does not bring any specific insights to the readers of the *Machine Translation* journal.

One aspect of the structure of the whole encyclopedia that is very helpful for the reader is the “see also” cross-references in the end of each article. Readers can easily go to a related article or their preferred topic rather than checking in the index for a possible title. The “further reading” section is also very helpful, being in chronological (from oldest to newest articles) rather than alphabetical order. The bibliography is extensive, spanning 98 pages. The topics are accessible even to readers not initiated in these technologies, as prior knowledge is not often assumed. Examples of terms where prior knowledge is however assumed are ‘concatenation’ (“Localization”) and ‘deep-structure characteristics of the source text’ (“Machine Translation”).

In summary, the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*, edited by Mona Baker and Gabriela Saldanha, is an informative and easy-to-read encyclopedia which looks at translation studies in its full multidisciplinary character while avoiding an exclusively Eurocentric perspective. Although only some parts of the *Encyclopedia* may be of direct interest to the readers of the *Machine Translation* journal, we still recommend the *Encyclopedia*, which is addressed to translators, interpreters, trainers, and anybody who has interest in translation studies, as a way to get a general background of the field.

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