

Hatim, Basil (2014) *Teaching and Researching Translation*. (Second edition). London and New York: Routledge. 344 pp. ISBN9781408297636 (pbk) £27.99

Williams, Jenny and Andrew Chesterman (2002) *The Map: A Beginner's Guide to Doing Research in Translation*. Manchester, UK & Kinderhook (NY): St. Jerome Publishing. 150 pp. ISBN 1-900650-54-1 (pbk) £16.99

Saldanha, Gabriela and Sharon O'Brien (2014) *Research Methodologies in Translation Studies*. London & New York: Routledge. 292 pp. ISBN 978-1-909485-00-6 (pbk) £31.99

In the preface to his book *Teaching and Researching Translation*, Basil Hatim states that his aim is to 're-write' the research agenda and to propose a different conceptual map of Translation Studies (Hatim 2014:xii). Research reference books often tell the readers more than research methods and techniques. The authors also show us how they conceive the subjects or academic fields, and the kinds of research needed to advance the scholarship. With a comparison of the three books on translation research, we can catch a glimpse of the changing landscape of translation research, and possibly the discipline of Translation Studies as projected in the maps (re)drawn by Hatim, Williams and Chesterman, and Saldanha and O'Brien.

Teaching and Researching Translation by Basil Hatim (first published in 2001; the second edition was brought out in 2013) and *The Map: A Beginner's Guide to Doing Research in Translation* by Jenny Williams and Andrew Chesterman (2002) are probably two of the earliest guidebooks to translation research. Their views on research and Translation Studies are, nonetheless, very different. Hatim looks at Translation Studies as a subject that should integrate theory and practice. For that matter, he advocates practice-driven action research. The first section of the book gives an outline of major concepts addressed in translation theories, such as equivalence and relevance, culture and ideology, manipulation and power. The overview

includes influential theories such as polysystem theory, deconstruction and skopos theory.

Translation Studies takes its root in the humanities from which ideas and theories are borrowed to study translation-related topics.

The research models in section two are developed to address various aspects of the translation practice, with special attention given to the translation strategies as reflected in the translations. While Hatim briefly discusses process research in chapter 12 on empirical research, the focus is unmistakably on the written translated texts. Ernst-August Gutt's concept of communicative clues is introduced to examine the relationship between style and contextual features such as poetics, formulaic expressions, and connotation in a communicative act (pp.111-118). To analyse discourses which reflect ideological constructs, Hatim cites the works of Donald Bruce (pp.141-144), Luise von Flotow (p.146), and Françoise Massadier-Kenny (pp.147-149) to study the 'discourse formations'. The central message is that by applying research models, the researchers can examine the textual features and stylistic traits which shed light on the strategies adopted by the translators and the impact of such decisions. The practitioners can then benefit from such observation, especially through translation training. This message is reinforced in chapter 13 that discusses the pedagogy of translation. Section three shows how research finding can support the work of the practitioners to suggest possible actions. A new chapter is added to look into the translation of style, which is defined as "the textual phenomena of markedness" (p.236). Sample texts are drawn from literary and non-literary texts to demonstrate how analytical tools such as M.A.K. Halliday's system functional grammar and Roger Fowler's mind style can generate useful data to deepen our understanding of the basic concepts and issues raised in the first section. The discipline of Translation Studies, after all, is grounded firmly on the practice with written texts as the output.

Research is given a different role in *The Map: A Beginner's Guide to Doing Research in Translation*. Rather than the research outcomes, Williams and Chesterman pay more attention to the research processes. The discipline is still characterized by its interdisciplinary nature, yet it is depicted as a “relatively new and uncharted terrain” (p. 1) to be explored. The authors introduce 12 research areas, ranging from the conventional topics such as translation criticism, translation history and translations of different genres, to the latest development including translation technology, audio-visual translation, translation ethics and institutional factors. Interpreting is described as an independent area which has its own focus in terms of training, quality assessment, ethical and historical issues. Research projects should be designed to study various forms of translation practices observed through time and place. The chapter on translation theoretical models examines the major theories from a different angle. Williams and Chesterman seek to look at the “aspects of reality” represented (p. 48), that is, the models behind the theories. The three types of models—comparative, process and causal—are illustrated with appropriate examples and help the readers gain a proper perspective as they consider the theoretical framework for their own project. That also helps them clarify the objectives of their research.

The Map achieves more than a handbook for beginners engaged in translation research. On the one hand, it establishes Translation Studies as an independent field of knowledge with distinct research areas. On the other hand, it sets out guidelines to systematic investigation, starting with formulating research questions and hypothesis, setting the conceptual framework, collecting and interpreting data to generate reliable evidence and meaningful findings. The stages of research process are elaborated with delicate details. Hypotheses are broken down into four types to help researchers clarify their goals. Readers are familiarized with the terminology to articulate and evaluate their research. On research design in chapter two, the authors alert the

readers to the potential psychological stress and the relationship with the supervisors in addition to the technical aspect such as defining the scope of the research project, note-taking, keeping bibliographical records and a research log. Anyone who has been through the process would appreciate the useful advice. Even though the terms and concepts are not explained in depth, the beginners would gain from the invaluable tips to prepare themselves for scholarly research.

The last decade saw the publication of books and collections of essays devoted to a scientific approach to translation research. Some introduce methodologies in specific areas, such as *Efforts and Methods in Interpreting and Translation Research: A Tribute to Daniel Gile* edited by Gyde Hansen, Andrew Chesterman and Heidrum Gerzymisch-Arbogast (2008), *Areas and Methods of Audiovisual Translation Research* by Bogucki, Łukasz (2013), and *Research Methods in Interpreting: A Practical Resource* by Sandra Hale and Jemina Napier (2013). Others expound particular types of research, for example, *Quantitative Methods in Corpus-Based Translation Studies: A Practical Guide to Descriptive Translation Research* edited by Michael P. Oakes and Meng Ji (2012), and *Methodology, Technology and Innovation in Translation Process Research: A Tribute to Arnt Lykke Jakobsen* edited by Inger M. Mees, Fabio Alves and Susanne Göpferich (2009). The methods, technology, and the ensuing discussions anchor in relevant technical expertise, targeting readers who are already equipped with a basic understanding of relevant topics and methods. *Research Methodologies in Translation Studies* by Gabriela Saldanha and Sharon O'Brien (2014) comes under this category, but aims to reach the general readers from diverse backgrounds "who may not be familiar with the wide range of methodological practices in the field" (p. 2).

As suggested by the title, research methodology takes centre stage throughout the book. Saldanha and O'Brien take care to elucidate their position in academic research and outline the

scope of the book. Interpreting and translation history are not covered though examples are drawn from both areas. Historical research is briefly mentioned in an attempt to define case studies in chapter six. They also acknowledge their disposition to discuss methods commonly applied in empirical research even though they would not prioritize empiricism over other research models. They believe that observation based on empirical evidence and theories developed in conceptual research should be complementary to each other: “Research can be seen as theory building as well as theory testing; as providing answers (for example, in hypothesis-testing research) as well as framing questions (in hypothesis-generating research).” (p. 4). Hatim sees the value of research in its practical application, while Williams and Chesterman give attention to the structural process of translation research. In comparison, Saldanha and O’Brien stress the importance of the technical application and utilization of methods and tools to gather and interpret data. In fact, they make a point to avoid the conceptual theories. Nor do they give an account of the trends of translation research. It seems that Translation Studies is taken to be an established branch of knowledge that does not require further elaboration.

In the introduction, the authors start with a series of definitions of research terminology, research types and other basic concepts such as hypothesis, data, triangulation, qualitative and quantitative approaches. Research quality and ethics are elucidated at length. Translation research, like any other research, is about applying reliable methods to generate valid findings that will ultimately contribute to human knowledge. The quality of research is measurable. In addition to reliability, validity and generalizability, “credibility” and “warrantability” are raised to assess the qualitative research (pp. 27-41). This section lays the foundation for the in-depth discussion of research methods in the following chapters.

The next chapters are organized according to the focus of observation, which takes the form of methods used to collect or “elicit” data from written texts (product-oriented research), mental activities (process-oriented research), the people (participant-oriented research) and context (context-oriented research: case studies). Saldanha and O’Brien take an evaluative approach towards the research methods. In the chapter on product-oriented research, for example, they provide a critical discussion of tools commonly used in text analysis, namely, corpus-linguistics and critical discourse analysis. The discussion is then extended to translation quality assessment. They explore the merits and drawbacks of discourse analysis, and suggest possible solutions by drawing evidence using other methods, such as combining qualitative and quantitative analyses, contextualizing the results (pp. 59-61). By highlighting the significance of triangulation, the importance of reliability and validity is reiterated.

The discussion of process-oriented research in chapter four is restricted to the cognitive processes that take place in the translator’s mind. Methods such as “think-aloud protocol” (TAP), keystroke logging and eye tracking, and their application are expounded. While other complementary methods to observe the working environment and personal traits are mentioned, process-oriented research seems to focus only on the translation act, according to Andrew Chesterman’s definition of translation processes (Chesterman 2013:156). The situational event and different stages of translation do not fall within the scope of research. The authors delve into the technical application of software and devices, the procedures, the nature of evidence and processing of data. At some point, the chapter reads like a manual to process research. Readers who do not have the technical expertise may be astounded at the instruments and technical support required to carry out process-oriented research.

A similar tendency can be seen in chapter five on participant-oriented research. With the

increasing attention to the factor of agency in translation and interpreting activities, more researchers are interested in the interactions among the agents involved in the production process, as well as the influence of the institutions or other forms of social structures. Surveys and open-ended interviews are obviously the major methods to gather primary data. The authors again give detailed explanations and illustrations on the application and design of questionnaires, interviews and focus groups, as well as problems which can be encountered by the researchers and possible solutions. The exclusive attention given to retrospective self-reports, however, may lead the researchers to overlook other sources of data. Paratexts written by translators and editors, correspondence among the agents and drafts of a translation can shed light on the behaviour of the translators as suggested by Munday (2013).

The chapter on case studies is most inspiring. It is labelled as “context-oriented research” and its focus is said to be on “how to investigate external factors affecting individual translators, the circumstances in which translations take place and how translations influence the receiving culture” (p. 205), or in other words, tracing the contextual factors to explain the phenomenon under observation. This is, nonetheless, quite misleading as the chapter seeks to illustrate case studies as a research method. Case study research refers to a holistic investigation of a phenomenon by gathering relevant data from multiple sources. This explains why the content of this section overlaps with those in the other three chapters. Indeed, this is also why case studies set an excellent example to demonstrate the triangulation of findings derived from a variety of methods – analyzing translated texts and paratexts (written sources), interviewing participants (verbal reports), personal observation, non-textual evidence, generating quantitative data, and so on. The final part offers useful ideas on coordinating and processing data. Practical (and even trivial) as it may sound, the advice touches on the crux of case study research and reflects its complexities that no researcher should disregard.

The three books adopt different perspectives on translation research and the orientation of Translation Studies as an academic discipline. As textbooks for a course on research methodology, they would complement one another to address issues and problems arising at different stages in the long process of research. Apart from knowledge and research skills, the books inspire the users – researchers, course instructors and postgraduate students – to reflect upon their own views of the current state of the field, and how their research and teaching may contribute to the development of Translation Studies.

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