A SPACE FOR TRANSLATION: THRESHOLDS OF INTERPRETATION

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Abstract:

What is "text"? What is an "ST" and a "TT"? What kind of "text" is translated? And what does it mean to translate in the digital space? In this paper, I intend to seek "answers" to these questions by positioning translation in a multimodal and multisemiotic digital media space.

To begin with, I shall introduce three digital media platforms on which translation plays a crucial role – Yeeyan (a translation community in China); Chinadialogue (an independent bilingual online magazine) and Global Voices (a multilingual and international citizen media community). Drawing on the method of social network analysis, a networked space is created, i.e. *a space of translation*. In this space, the *nodes* and *ties* that connect these three platforms and through which texts travel include: 1) human actors like journalists, translators and social activists; 2) non-human actors which are social networking sites (e.g.WeChat, Twitter and Facebook), media portals (e.g. *The Guardian*), and other non-traditional semiotic signs (i.e. hyperlinks and diverse forms of the visuals), as well as 3) a chain of textual materials selected, translated and re-narrated in this space of translation. After that, I discuss the translation of a particular ST and its travelling trajectory at a textual level through analyzing a set of textual and paratextual elements. I argue that translation in a digital media space is a kinaesthetic and interactive exploration of the textual and visual texts. The space where it takes place is both a networked digital media space as well as a textual space.

Author's Biography
Chuan YU is a Lecturer in Translation and Interpreting Studies at Monash University. She received her PhD in Translation Studies from Hong Kong Baptist University. Her research lies at the intersection of translation studies, anthropology and media and communication studies. Her current research focuses on collaborative translation, online translation communities, the use of ethnographic methodologies in TS research, citizen media and Chinese internet research. She writes and publishes in the areas of translation and social sciences, discussing online translation theoretically and methodologically. Chuan also undertakes translation work and teaches translation. Before joining Monash, she taught translation at The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Baptist University, conducted research at the University of Manchester as a Visiting Scholar, and was employed as a Confucius Institute Teacher in the US.