Book Review
Russo, M., Bendazzoli, C., & Defrancq, B. (Eds.) (2018). *Making way in corpus-based interpreting studies.* Singapore: Springer Nature. ISBN 978-981-10-6199-8 (eBook)

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With descriptive studies taking centre stage, Mariachiara Russo, Claudio Bendazzoli and Bart Defrancq's volume *Making Way in Corpus-Based Interpreting Studies* aims at presenting the latest developments in corpus-based interpreting studies (CIS). An offshoot of corpus-based translation studies (CTS), and originally a somewhat minor discipline, CIS has flourished considerably during the last two decades.

This volume, comprising 11 contributions from 19 authors, draws on theoretical frameworks as diverse as cognitive psychology, gender studies, contrastive linguistics and media studies, and delves variously into such topics as figurative language, interpreting strategies and norms, and gender-based language features.

This volume can be generally divided into two parts, with part one (consisting of chapters 1 and 2) providing the theoretical framework of CIS and part two (the following nine chapters) presenting the fruitful results of descriptive observations of professional interpreting performances.

Taking stock of nearly two decades of CIS all the way up to Web 2.0 applications, chapter 1 concludes that CIS in three areas – namely research, education, and professional practice – has reached different degrees of maturity. Chapter 2 subsequently provides a complete and accessible step-by-step guide for designing and building European Parliament (EP) interpreting and multimodal corpora through a distributed community effort.

Chapters 3 through 11 discuss the studies that have been conducted. Contrasting simultaneous interpreting (SI) data in Dutch with non-mediated Dutch data, chapter 3 confirms that increased intra-word filled pauses, which signal higher cognitive load, occur significantly in compound parts in reverse order compared to the source language. Similarly, chapter 4 finds that extra cognitive load is required for restructuring effort when interpreting between English and Chinese, a pair which involves significant differences in linguistic structures and cultural conceptualization. Chapters 5 and 6 both study the language of interpreters ('interpretese'). Chapter 5 stresses the importance of recurrent formulaic phraseologies in producing fluent speech, and the necessity for trainee interpreters to extend their phraseological repertoire autonomously. Chapter 6 for its part describes the linguistic patterns of interpreters and non-native speakers, who tend to use the optional complementizer "that" more frequently than in native English discourse out of a habit of ensuring clarity and formality in communication. A novel research

of gender differences is investigated in chapter 7, based on speaker's mode of delivery, input speed, language combination and topic in relation to target speech (TS) length.

Chapter 8 examines the strategies applied by professional interpreters when tackling figurative language, a major issue in the simultaneous interpreting process. Chapters 9 and 10 study different habits displayed by interpreters when dealing with hybrid forms of adversarial exchanges in TV-broadcast presidential debates and football press conferences. The final chapter (11) describes the collection of an English-Japanese/Japanese-English SI corpus that contains both recorded interpretation results and partial translation, which makes it possible to conduct contrastive study between texts without time constraint on the one hand and speech with time constraints on the other. It is concluded that interpreters with a greater amount of experience tended to provide longer and more inclusive renderings of the original text.

The source of corpus-based interpreting studies (CIS) can be traced back as early as to Oléron and Nanpon's work in 1965/2002, though its development as a small discipline in its real sense began with the seminal paper by Miriam Shlesinger in 1998. At that early age, the corpora were by no means machine-readable, but it is still viewed as corpora-based because of the empirical data collected from real life interpreting assignments on site, which in turn forms the most conspicuous feature of the corpus for CIS: authenticity. Over time, an increasing number of studies, including projects listed in this volume, have been based on fully machine-readable data. In fact, the development of computer technology has had a dramatic impact on the collection and analysis of larger datasets in the scientific field of linguistics, which also makes the tagging and indexing of the data possible.

In addition to the empirical datasets involved in this volume, another advantage it offers is the diversified language combinations. Though in most cases English is the main language, the variety of counter languages includes Chinese, Hebrew, Dutch, Spanish, German, French and Japanese. There are also language pairs in comparative studies such as Italian and Spanish, Italian and French etc. Moreover, the interpreting modes consist of simultaneous interpreting as well as consecutive interpreting, with the latter mostly coming from Asian contexts. Furthermore, aside from the prestigious EP corpora, data from multiple interpreting settings have been investigated, such as PRC Premier's press conferences, televised political debates, football press conferences, etc. Generally speaking, in terms of interpreting research, this volume contains contrastive studies between source and target transcripts, as well as between texts in the same language but produced from different sources, e.g. in triangulated comparison.

As a volume composed of empirical projects, this book provides authentic aids for the improvement of interpreting quality, as well as valuable inspiration for trainee interpreters who can benefit from the demonstrations of professional interpreting styles and adopted strategies. It also encourages the effort to apply corpus-based and corpus-driven featured methodologies to interpreter training and education.

However, some major issues still remain to be tackled. For example, the CIS corpora are relatively smaller in size than their CTS equivalents, reflecting the more limited development of research in this area thus far. Furthermore, especially in Asia, simultaneous interpreting corpora need to be steadily expanded, since all the projects involved in this volume are based on consecutive interpreting datasets. Growing the corpora may seem simple enough, but factors such as confidentiality issues are potential obstacles to the accessibility of some data. Last but not least, the diversity of areas covered by CIS needs to be increased. For example, studies concerning other international organizations would be a welcome inclusion in order to generalize the results. As previously remarked, corpus-based interpreting studies is an emergent

discipline, and the joint efforts of scholars will be of great benefit to its ongoing development.

References:

Oléron, P., & Nanpon, H. (1965/2002). Research into simultaneous translation. In F. Pöchhacker & M. Shlesinger (Eds), *The interpreting studies reader* (pp. 43–50). London: Routledge.

Shlesinger, M. (1998). Corpus-based interpreting studies as an offshoot of corpus-based translation studies. *Meta, 43*(4), 486–493.