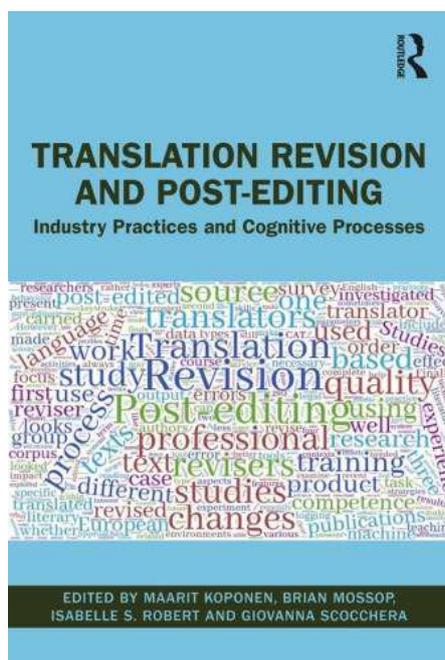
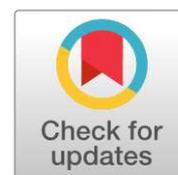


TRANSLATION REVISION AND POST-EDITING: INDUSTRY PRACTICE AND COGNITIVE PROCESSES – BOOK REVIEW

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Translation revising, which was seen as “function of professional translators in which they find features of the draft translation that fall short of what is acceptable, as determined by some concept of quality, and make any needed corrections and improvements” (Mossop, 2020, p. 115), plays an important role to ensure the translation quality. Another concept similar to revising is post-editing. According to ISO 17100, post-editing is “editing and correcting machine-translation output” (term 2.2.4). With the improvement of machine-translation (MT) technology and the surge of translation demand in the era of globalization, post-editing has become an important production process in translation. Post-editors check and correct MT output to improve the translation quality and applicability. It’s not difficult to find that revision and post-editing are intuitively comparable: the former is the process of checking human translation, whereas the latter is that of checking a machine-translated text. Even though many studies on revision and post-editing have been carried out, ranging from studies of the process, studies of the product to studies in different environments or contexts, seldom do they investigate these two types of translation checking work together. This volume, edited by Maarit Koponen, Brian Mossop, Isabelle S. Robert and Giovanna Scocchero, explores the interrelation and boundaries between the two as well as some other interesting topics.

Structurally, the book is divided into three parts, including twelve incisive chapters contributed by leading scholars in the fields of translation revision and post-editing. An adequate introduction precedes the first chapter, which thoroughly introduces the state-of-the-art research into revision and post-editing from the aspects of theoretical publications and empirical studies.

The first part, covering from chapter 1 to chapter 3, confirms the over-editing behavior, or we can say preferential changes, in revision and post-editing tasks (chapter 1), and discusses the conceptual boundaries among editing, post-editing and revision as well as details the role of editing in the study of post-editing (chapter 2), and examines the differences between post-editing and revision concerning efficiency and quality by letting translators revise and post-edit translations without knowing the real provenance of the text, that is, whether they are human translations or machine outputs (chapter 3).

Part 2 (chapter 4 and 5) concentrates on revision and post-editing activities carried out by non-professionals. Chapter 4 presents the non-professional revision of translations within a government department in Canada. It finds that the translations provided by the Translation Bureau, regardless of being deemed to be of good quality, were not always suitable for the intended readers. Therefore, civil servants in the government department, the ones who ordering the translations, usually make stylistic and lexical editing to the end users. Chapter 5 analyzes the quality of the post-editing carried out by some Spanish-speaking physicians. The result suggests that although non-professionals were able to identify some syntactic and terminological errors of MT outputs, their post-edited texts were not good enough as was demonstrated by the proof-reader's large number of stylistic and syntactic edits.

The third part (chapter 6 to 9) explores the professional revision practice in different contexts: translation agencies in chapter 6, 7 and literary publishing sector in chapter 9. Relations between translators and revisers are investigated in chapter 8.

Chapter 6 reveals the reception and application of two translation quality standards — EN 15038 and ISO 17100 by Austrian translation service providers. In chapter 7, after investigating the revision process of some Finnish language service providers, the author introduces the concept of “revision continuum”, which ranges from “simple linguistic review” to “creative stylistic editing”, to show the flexibility and complexity of the revision task (p. 133). Chapter 8 investigates the expectations and attitudes of translators and revisers towards each other and the power struggle between the two in the working practice. In chapter 9, the authors, using as examples the whole revision stages that three literary translation manuscripts went through before publication, argue that the revision process is “a complex loop” (p. 180) in which translators, revisers as well as authors, editors and proofreaders are all involved.

The revision and post-editing teaching as well as the acquisition of skills and competences are always among hot topics in the field (O'Brien, 2002, Robert et al., 2017, 2018, Scocchera, 2019, Nitzke et al., 2019). The last part, chapters 10 to 12, focuses on revision and post-editing training.

Chapter 10 explores a holistic and integrative model for teaching revision and post-editing in the translator training curriculum based on commonalities and

differences in revision and post-editing competences. Chapter 11 observes the revision training from a technological perspective. The functionalities of the tool, translationQ (TELEVIC/KU Leuven), was examined to see if it can help improve the quality of trainer-to-trainee revision. The study reveals that with error memory and extensive feedback, translationQ can reduce the repetitiveness of revision practice and enhance feedback consistency across assignments. The closing chapter presents a detailed description of the MT post-editing training in Europe, based on data collected from questionnaires, analysis of syllabi and interviews with educators in European Master's in Translation (EMT).

This volume presents the latest research on translation revision and post-editing in various contexts, including government department, translation agencies, literary publishing sector, volunteer sector, etc. There are also a few books that focus on translation checking work. Nevertheless, this book distinguishes itself from other books in several ways.

First and foremost, this book looks at revision and post-editing together, exploring the similarities and differences between the two, such as the over-editing behavior in both practices (chapter 1), their conceptual boundaries (chapter 2), characteristic features regarding quality and efficiency (chapter 3) and the common as well as specific competences involved in each checking task (chapter 10), which has rarely been done in previous publications.

Secondly, the research methods are diverse and complementary. This volume includes both empirical studies based on observations or experiments like questionnaires, eye-tracking, interviews and keystroke logging, and theoretical reflections about specific aspects of translation, editing, revision, and post-editing.

Last but not least, what highlights this collection is the wide variety of topics it covers, which range from translation revision process (chapters 4, 7, 9), quality of the revision and post-editing products (chapters 5, 6), translator and reviser relations (chapter 8), to the training in revision and post-editing (chapters 10, 11, 12). Therefore, this book will undoubtedly be useful to its intended readership, including researchers, teachers, undergraduates along with MA and PhD in related fields as well as translation practitioners with interest in the checking work.

Despite the above-mentioned merits, this volume still leaves some space for improvement. For example, there is an imbalance between the empirical studies and theoretical research in the organization of the book, with ten chapters focusing on testing hypotheses related to revision and post-editing based on quantitative or qualitative data while only two chapters (chapters 2, 10) explore theoretical characteristics of checking translation. In addition, due to a small number of participants in the research, the conclusions of some contributions should be taken with caution, for example only five participants in the experiment in chapter 5, and only 4 translation agencies investigated in chapter 4. What's more, since most contributions in the book discuss revision and post-editing involving English and other European languages, experiments on larger scales and richer language pairs would have gained a wider appreciation.

Overall, this is an insightful and enlightening volume that presents both recent empirical and theoretical studies on revision and post-editing. The book will be of great help for scholars and students in the fields of translation studies as well as for professional translators.

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