

Book reviews

TAYOKO TAKEDA / JESÚS BAIGORRI-JALON (EDS) (2016) *NEW INSIGHTS IN THE HISTORY OF INTERPRETING*, AMSTERDAM/PHILADELPHIA, JOHN BENJAMINS, 278 PP. ISBN 9789027258670.

REVIEWED BY CATERINA FALBO AND ALESSANDRA RICCARDI

This volume on new research on the history of interpreting is a selection of papers from the *First International Symposium on the History of Interpreting* held in Tokyo in May 2014 and integrated by two complementary contributions. The aim of the volume, as stated by the editors, Tayoko Takeda and Jesús Baigorri-Jalon, is to contribute to the development of historical knowledge and research in Interpreting Studies and beyond. In our opinion, the aim has been achieved because all the contributors to the volume have engaged in meticulous research to offer new items of knowledge about interpreting and interpreters in the past (with the exception of Antony Pym's contribution dealing with a contemporary historical event). The ten chapters offer stimulating reading in the growing area of the 'History of Interpreting'. Central issues of interpreting practice such as loyalty, neutrality, invisibility, ethics and training were already relevant in the past and learning how they were addressed provides us with valuable information to better understand and reflect on how the interpreter's role developed. There are common features that can be recognised, regardless of place or time, for example, in the first five chapters. Here, a recurrent theme is that bilingual, or even trilin-

gual skills, were often a means to acquire a higher social status, either as officials in administration or diplomacy, or even in independent posts as trade brokers or intercultural mediators enjoying privileges and autonomy in their choices and decisions: their title often became hereditary in many cultures of the past.

Rachel Lung opens the collection drawing on the earliest data provided herein. Her contribution takes us back to ancient China at the end of the first millennium. Her attention is first directed to the definition of 'interpreter', its use and significance, with special focus on Sillan interpreters. The historical data stem from the diary of the Japanese Monk Ennin during his stay in China in the second half of the first millennium. The thirty-eight references in Ennin's travelogue are a precious historical source for learning about Sillan interpreters and interpreting at that time in China. Using quantitative and qualitative analysis, Lung defines specific categories of interpreters, their identities, roles and concrete tasks in East Asian exchanges. Analysis of the travelogue reveals that Sillan interpreters accomplished multiple tasks: liaising and transferring messages as independent agents; or handling logistics problems; or sometimes also acting as trade brokers. Surprisingly, in the monk's account there is no reference to interpreting: interpreters' tasks were mainly beyond the linguistic sector leading to the question as to whether 'Sillan interpreter' "might have meant something else other than sheer language mediation at the time" (p. 14).

Alonso-Araguás Iciar examines in the second chapter how interpreting practices in early colonial Mexico underwent a rapid evolution "toward the establishment of a series of official positions under specific regulations" (p. 28). Primary sources consulted include chronicles of the Indies, legal documents and historical archives, with the aim of comparing the linguistic strategies employed during the first voyages of discovery and the early colonial administration of the Spanish overseas colonies. The first period was characterised by the use of captives as interpreters – young natives were kidnapped and used on site as guides and language mediators – or instead by forcing local people to learn Spanish, taking them to imperial administrative centres or to the Court in Spain. Both methods were customary solutions already adopted in previous voyages of exploration. New solutions to overcome the language barrier were found in the second period, when the colonial administration was established and required institutionalised contacts between locals and administrators in the fields of justice and law, tax collection, or for activities related to the Catholic Church. At the time, language skills became an asset for improving social status. Intermediaries, often native Indians or mestizos, would eventually become staff interpreters in the *Audencias*, a new form of administration in New Spain. Alonso-Araguás provides a detailed account of staff interpreters in the colonial administration describing the evolution of language intermediaries and their growing importance, reflected in the inclusion of interpreting practices in fourteen specific ordinances of the *Compilation of Laws of the Indies*.

Chapter three by Marcos Sarmiento-Pérez is dedicated to the role of interpreters in the activities of the Spanish Inquisition. A detailed introduction to the Inquisition lays out its composition and geographical, historical and social areas of activity, as well as the crimes it pursued. The *Archivo Histórico Nacional* or man-

uscripts from the British Library were used as primary sources, while secondary sources have been consulted to illustrate the institution. The Inquisition's activities were multilingual and interpreters were needed at all stages of trials. Sarmiento-Pérez identifies three categories of interpreters working for the Inquisition: occasional interpreters, regular interpreters and official interpreters. The latter had to satisfy specific requirements, were expressly appointed and enjoyed a number of privileges and exemptions.

The importance of historical novels to understand how interpreters are located within a particular historical and social context is discussed by Torikai Kumiko. The chapter illustrates how the novelist Yoshimura Akira has portrayed *Oranda Tsiji* interpreters i.e. Japanese interpreters in Dutch, based in Nagasaki during the end of the Edo Period, in pre-modern Japan. The four novels discussed are based on real characters and the author has conducted in-depth research on their lives with the help of historical accounts and much fieldwork. These interpreters were at the same time translators, accomplishing multiple tasks in trade and diplomacy, but also in academic work and strongly influenced intercultural communication. The author examines the pros and cons of her approach and how historical novels may help us comprehend the life and work of past interpreters. In addition to historical facts, they can help to understand interpreters' personalities and inner feelings.

In the past, interpreting services were often the first step in a diplomatic career, as illustrated in the chapter by David Sawyer devoted to the history of the U.S. Department of State's Corps of Student Interpreters, established in 1902. The aim of the Corps was the professional training of future interpreters to support the United States Consular and Diplomatic Services in China, Japan and Turkey. The author based his investigation on primary sources from Consular and Diplomatic Services documents, Acts of Congress, documents related to appointment and promotion in the Corps, selection and advancement criteria, together with reports and memoirs of the participants. The Corps was first established and implemented in China, which was the most successful part of the Corps and on which the chapter is focused. In their personal accounts, participants describe the difficulties connected with the language acquisition process: interpreting was mainly used to support language learning, while later it was practised in the field. The program was closed in 1924 and, similarly to what happened in other countries after World War II, the training of interpreters in the U.S. was to become independent, separated from the training of diplomats.

In chapter six Sergei Chernov deals with the origin of simultaneous interpreting in the USSR. The analysis of records from Russian archives proves that simultaneous interpretation was concurrently invented and implemented in the USSR and in Western Europe. While Edward Filene had contacts with the Secretary-General of the League of Nations in order to propose his prototype system in 1925, Dr V.Z. Epshtein was proposing "an apparatus for translation from all languages" (p. 141) to the Comintern. Dr Epshtein's system was improved by engineer Isaac Goron and implemented during the 6th Comintern Congress in 1928. The author provides a detailed description of the first version of the system and of the necessary modifications and improvements which allowed its practi-

cal use, as well as an accurate explanation of the three-year observation and evaluation of some aspects linked to simultaneous interpretation, such as quality of interpreters' performance and interpreters' selection and training.

The dawn of simultaneous interpretation constitutes the element of continuity with chapter seven, in which Jesús Baigorri-Jalón discusses the use of photographs as historical sources in general, and in particular, in the introduction of simultaneous interpretation at the UN. Photographs offer to the observer's eyes what historical documents can only describe through words, albeit in a very detailed way. Therefore, they are an essential part of historical research, although sometimes a neglected one. Nevertheless, photographs are neither objective nor truthful images of reality, but the result of a series of choices on the part of the photographer, in other terms, a construction. The author assumes this precise methodological approach, namely, considering photos as artifacts representing other artifacts (events) and pursuing particular goals (e.g. "possibly disseminate the Organisation's wide range of activities and to keep a record of its institutional memory", p. 171). Against this background Baigorri-Jalón devotes the remaining part to the analysis of a number of photos about interpreting and interpreters at the UN. The author aims at showing the impact that such an analysis can have on historical research in interpreting, provided that the researcher takes care to situate photographs "in time and space through a detailed exploration of the context in which they were produced" (p. 188).

Following the last two chapters, focused on the dawn of simultaneous interpretation in two different contexts, the reader has the opportunity to glean deeper insight into the risks and inauspicious destiny of interpreters after World War II. The figure of the interpreter as a neutral person "in the middle" is wiped out in the two contributions from Shi-Chi Mike Lan (chapter eight) and Kayoko Takeda (chapter nine). Shi-Chi Mike Lan provides an accurate framework of the war crimes trials the allied countries conducted against 173 Taiwanese who had served in the Japanese army during World War II. Among the Taiwanese war criminals convicted or even sentenced to death, there were people "officially designated as 'interpreters'" (p. 195) who served under the Japanese military police (*kempeitai*) and Taiwanese who, because of their language knowledge, had *ad hoc* interpreting assignments. The author conducts a rigorous analysis of official documents and trial proceedings which allows him to identify the reasons at the base of the Taiwanese interpreters' conviction. None of the Taiwanese official or *ad hoc* interpreters were brought to trial or convicted because of their interpreting activities, but by virtue of the fact that their status as interpreters "did play a significant role in bringing or forcing a good number of civilian Taiwanese into their involvement in the alleged war crimes" (p. 218). Whether or not Taiwanese interpreters fulfilled their interpreting tasks willingly or unwillingly, they "took the responsibilities of the Japanese military's crime and suffered the consequences" (p. 219).

Depending on time and context language proficiency turns out to be an asset or a burden. This is what Kayoko Takeda describes in a very effective way dealing with the history of Japanese interpreters in the postwar occupation period (1945-1952) compared to the wartime period. If interpreters who served in the

Imperial Japanese Army during the war were brought to trial and convicted by the allied countries in and outside Japan, former Japanese military personnel and Japanese civilians began to work as interpreters during the occupation period for the allied powers. The author examines in depth two emblematic situations of the postwar period: the complex relation between Japanese interpreters and war crimes trials, and interpreting for the foreign military occupiers as a job opportunity to fight against hunger in devastated postwar Japan. It is worth mentioning that at that time interpreting was an unexpected job opportunity for women to improve their status in society. In Takeda's contribution, interpreting is portrayed in its whole and present complexity: interpreting where, when and for whom? These questions seem to come to the surface and impose themselves with all their ethical strength. They remind the reader of the unavoidable human dimension of every interpreting task.

This human dimension is highlighted in Antony Pym's contribution (chapter ten) in which the interpreter is not only understood within her/his professional identity, but first of all and foremost, as a human being embedded in a determined social context. The author scrupulously analyses the components of an interpreter-mediated interaction between a U.S. sergeant and a village inhabitant in a conflict zone such as Afghanistan, and identifies participants' different interests and backgrounds – including those of the interpreter – which largely determine their communicative intention. The analysis of this high-risk case study gives rise to a series of remarks on interpreters' status and the best practices they should follow. Drawing upon the outcomes of the analysis, in his conclusive notes, Antony Pym reflects on the sense that covering a history of interpreters can have: “the writing of the history itself is one way of actually constituting the identity and culture of the profession” (p. 263). In this approach, knowledge of the past and an awareness of the complexity of present-day interpreter-mediated interactions, converge towards a better understanding of interpreting dynamics in different contexts. Therefore, highlighting certain aspects (e.g. status, role, training, pay grade...) could contribute to a re-distribution and a mitigation of the personal risks interpreters face on a daily basis.

In this volume, methodology is a priority issue. Different primary and secondary historical sources, such as records from archives, photographs and personal accounts, are meticulously analysed taking carefully into account the time and space contexts in which they were produced. Thanks to this approach, interpreting practices are studied and analysed against their historical background contributing to greater awareness of the historical nature of every interpreting theory and practice, and of the identity and role of interpreters. The History of Interpreting is the topic pursued by the contributions making up the volume, but it is portrayed as the knowledge necessary to raise awareness on what interpreters were, are and, perhaps, will or would like to be.

NICODEMUS BRENDA / CAGLE KEITH (EDS) (2015) *SIGNED LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION RESEARCH: SELECTED PAPERS FROM THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM*, (STUDIES IN INTERPRETATION SERIES, EDITED BY MELANIE METZGER AND EARL FLEETWOOD), WASHINGTON D.C., GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY PRESS, XII+250 PP. ISBN 978-156368-649-8.

REVIEWED BY GRAHAM H. TURNER

This eclectic set of papers has been brought together by the editors following the *First International Symposium on Signed Language Interpreting and Translation Research* held at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C., in March 2014 (see <http://www.gallaudet.edu/interpretation/department-of-interpretation-research/2014-international-research-symposium.html> for a video-summary and other details of the event). The efficient university press at this institution, widely known as a world-leading centre for Deaf and hard-of-hearing students, and the editors are to be congratulated for once again rapidly turning the wheels of the publication process to bring out this volume just a year later. It is the 13th volume in a series which has previously made a contribution to encouraging dialogue between interpreting researchers working with signed and with spoken languages. On this occasion, given the nature of the source conference, the ten selected papers only address interpreting that involves signed languages: between these covers one may find discussion of a range of topics, including the need for Deaf perspectives in interpretation research; discourse strategies and techniques that are unique to video relay call settings; the benefits of using sociology as a lens for examining sign language interpreting work; translating university entrance exams from written Portuguese into Libras (Brazilian Sign Language); the linguistic choices interpreters make when interpreting ASL figurative language into English; the nature of designated interpreting; and grammatical ambiguity in trilingual VRS (Video Relay Service) interpreting.

One of the collection's strengths is that it draws attention to a number of 'hot topics' in the field. Some of these will be familiar to scholars in the wider world of Interpreting Studies, since they are common to other environments and not exclusively of interest within the field of signed language interpreting. Others present a more narrow range of application, and it is one of these – the inclusion of the perspectives of Deaf people in signed language translation and interpreting research – which opens the volume in its first chapter. Eileen Forestal, who introduces herself as a Deaf person, now retired after 36 years as an educator of American Sign Language (ASL)-English interpreters, echoes an exhortation that is currently often evident as she “urge(s) hearing researchers to relinquish their power and work with Deaf researchers, including Deaf participants, and grant the Deaf community ownership, accountability, and shared responsibility” (p. 15). Although the notion of empowering Deaf people within research processes is not a new one (see, for example, Turner/Harrington 2000), it is arguably only with the increasing professionalization of Deaf interpreters and translators (Boudreault 2005; Turner 2006a; Stone 2009) that the real-world experiences of

Deaf people have been systematically allied to theoretical underpinnings which reveal new insights to the wider field.

Whilst the bulk of the volume consists of more traditional empirically-based studies, two other papers align with Forestal's contribution in pursuing different kinds of goals. In a theory-driven piece, Jeremy Brunson revisits his doctoral work ("The Practice and Organization of Sign Language Interpreting: An Institutional Ethnography of Access", Syracuse University 2008) to discuss the relevance of wider sociological theory to signed language interpreting. Elsewhere, Ronice Muller de Quadros, Janine Oliveira, Aline Nunes de Sousa and Roberto Dutra Vargas detail the linguistic and technical issues involved in translating the university entrance examination for the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil, from Portuguese into the national signed language, Libras. This is clearly a matter of immediate practical consequence to Deaf people's educational experiences in this context, and reminds us that interpreting changes lives, for better or worse.

The remaining papers range from those of the more narrowly empirical variety, concentrating primarily on linguistic description, through those which more actively seek to connect language and social consequences, to those with an eye on wider theoretical modelling. Picking up another of the field's most prominent current developments, two papers centre upon the introduction of VRS interpreting using signed languages. Introduced in Sweden in 1997 (Hellström 1998), VRS has grown in significance with the spread of enhanced digital technologies, alongside similar growth in videoconference interpreting between spoken languages following experiments back in the 1970s (Mouzourakis 1996; Braun 2015). In this volume, Annie Marks' paper, deriving from her Gallaudet University Master's dissertation, examines interpreters' management of discourse in VRS settings. Since recording actual VRS interaction is strictly prohibited in the United States, Marks takes her 81 minutes of data from three simulated calls, and returns to the familiar territory of footing shifts marked out by Metzger (1995) to map out the practices she observes. In the same (mock) setting, David Quinto-Pozos, Erica Alley, Kristie Casanova de Canales and Rafael Treviño take a quasi-experimental approach to investigating interpreters' strategies for handling material that the researchers consider ambiguous in the source language. The results are held to show, not unexpectedly, that "lexical choices made by interpreters involve careful consideration of context, interpersonal dynamics between speakers and addressees, and sociocultural norms of communication" (p. 232). In another study emerging from the campus of Gallaudet University, Roberto Santiago, Lisa Barrick and Rebecca Jennings sought to discover whether, under 'laboratory' conditions, interpreters would use figurative language in rendering into English a heavily idiomatic ASL source text. Follow-up interviews – asking whether the six participants used idioms in everyday interactions, and felt this affected their interpreting; what factors influenced their decisions to use idioms; and whether using idioms in their ASL-English work was a risk – explored the relative lack of idiomaticity in the English renditions.

Fieldwork of a different kind underpins two papers which centre particularly on an emerging seam of questions relating to questions of identity management

in relationships between signed language interpreters and those with whom they work. Identity issues abound in sign language studies (see overview in Napier/Leeson 2016) and in interpreting more particularly (Harrington/Turner 2001, Turner 2005), but the papers offered here are indicative of a contemporary shift arising in the context of improved access to employment for Deaf people. The history of ‘institutionalised audism’ (Turner 2006b) that previously undermined Deaf employees’ chances of professional advancement has been steadily overturned in many countries, not least as a consequence of the provision of workplace interpreting (Dickinson/Turner 2008; Hauser *et al.* 2008; Dickinson/Turner 2009; Dickinson 2010). Here, from another master’s dissertation (rooted informatively in traditions of linguistic anthropology with much to offer to Interpreting Studies), Stephanie Feyne attends to audience perceptions of Deaf professionals, showing that – in the unusual setting of museum talks delivered by Deaf ASL users – addressees “attributed almost all interpreted utterances to the Deaf originators” (p. 67), not recognising the influence of the interpreter’s individuality on the message as conveyed to them. Annette Miner’s interview data is taken from a pilot study with two Deaf academics and five interpreters (three of whom worked with those Deaf people). Miner contrasts these perspectives and concludes that whilst Deaf professionals regarded their regular interpreters “as a cook might regard a favourite knife”, the interpreters thought of themselves “as a key ingredient in the dish, not just as a tool used in creating it” (p. 208). The difference is revealing, and certainly suggests a need for much deeper exploration of the topic.

The remaining two chapters perhaps reach most explicitly for the nurturing of wider scholarly impact from empirical roots. Campbell McDermid continues, after two decades as an educator and three as a practitioner in the field (notes on contributors would have helped readers by providing such background details), to seek to use insights from ASL-English interpreting to answer bigger questions about how best to model the linguistic, social and cognitive processes enacted and revealed by the quest to optimise the management of meaning in this context. In this study, McDermid asked 12 novice and expert practitioners to interpret an English monologue into ASL: he concludes that they “felt the need to disambiguate approximately 50% of their target text utterances in order to achieve a comprehensible story for a Deaf audience” (p. 125) and argues firmly that this lends credence to cognitive, constructivist models of interpreting. In another window on interpreters as *collaborative* constructors of meaning, Silvia Del Vecchio, Marcello Cardarelli, Fabiana De Simone and Giulia Petitta investigate what happens when interpreters are directly addressed by, and respond to, other participants. Their focus is on “perceptions of the interpreter’s role by the interlocutors and the effects on the interpreting effectiveness” (p. 25). This is a welcome contribution to the slow-burning development of post-conduit modelling in Interpreting Studies: the idea of the interpreter as a ‘participant’ in a ‘*pas de trois*’ who ‘co-constructs’ meaning along with others in interaction have been with us for some time (Roy 1989; Wadensjö 1992 and Turner 1995 respectively), but we have collectively taken our time in developing practices in the field which actively enable all participants to share responsibility for the effectiveness

of interpreted interaction (Turner 2006c, Turner 2007) and in expanding thinking on both describing and theorising the outcomes (Turner/Merrison 2016). As Del Vecchio and the other authors succinctly state, active engagement of primary participants serves to “improve the interpreting process and can be defined as cotranslation because – whether they are asked to or not – participants contribute to the work of the interpreter. However, the actual improvement of the translation process must be further investigated in this perspective, in order to clarify its implications” (p. 41).

Whilst containing certain insights, this volume also underlines some shortcomings in the field. Too often, it continues a familiar lack of connectivity within the relatively small academic community. With notable exceptions, few of the papers here are deeply underpinned by a sense of either the history or the broad geography of scholarship in signed language interpreting studies, and even fewer display substantial attention to the wider disciplinary roots from which they are, in fact, drawing, and – equally importantly – which they should be feeding in turn. The result is that we see claims such as Jeremy Brunson’s (p. 145) that “an ontology that situates the everyday of interpreters in a larger context” has been “missing from Interpreting Studies scholarship for some time”. In entry after entry, Franz Pöchhacker’s 552-page *Routledge Encyclopedia of Interpreting Studies* (2015) is just the latest of innumerable outputs that make a nonsense of such a statement. It is hard to upbraid spoken language researchers for not seeing the value in signed language work if the evidence of volumes like this suggests that the practice is frequently mutual. A stronger editorial hand might have insisted, too, that contributors considered the contribution their ideas might make to the non-signing majority in the Interpreting Studies field: Deaf researchers like Eileen Forestal should not, for example, imagine that they are the only members of minority groups who may have more to offer to the generation of knowledge than has hitherto often been acknowledged, and these connections are there to be made to the benefit of all.

For these reasons and others, readers may find it hard to ‘place’ this volume on their academic shelves. It is, perhaps, revealing to consider why the organisers of the original conference from which these papers were plucked decided to call it the *First International Symposium on Signed Language Interpreting and Translation Research*. After all, conferences on signed language interpreting have been running in the United States for half a century. And signed language interpreting research has been presented at international academic events for a very long time, too – the first such event I attended was at Durham University in England in 1994, for instance. Should one conclude that the message between the lines is that the American field was largely unaware of what was happening in Europe at that pre-internet time? And that the legacy of a literature that was largely produced by and for practitioners (predominantly disseminated through the US Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, established in 1964) and trainers (US Conference of Interpreter Trainers, from 1979) is evident in this ‘first’ symposium to put research centre stage?

Part of what this book demonstrates, anyway, is that whilst the broader Interpreting Studies is expanding, it is also inevitably getting to be somewhat ‘bag-

gy' (synonyms: loose-fitting, roomy, generously cut, voluminous, billowing). In part, that's a reflection of its dynamism and a welcome diversity of approaches. But it's also a consequence of the approach we collectively take to the circulation of ideas, which tends towards 'letting a thousand flowers bloom': encourage everything, and time will tell what persists. Publications like *The Interpreters' Newsletter*, though, could perhaps be the place to cultivate a slightly more managed form of gardening, one which takes a pro-active approach to the generation of coherence by fostering *continuity* within promising lines of enquiry, and direct *exchange* among groups of researchers engaged in analysing related topics. This might mean promoting intensive *workshops*, for example, which allow at least as much time for interaction and exploration of ideas as for the initial presentations that are the meat-and-drink of most conference programmes (including the event that sparked the present volume). Likewise, academic journals in more venerable fields than our own (philosophy; medicine) sometimes offer scope for *Letters to the Editor*, creating space for response and counter-argument on the scholarly issues of the day. As an historic crossroads for many forms of transaction, where better than Trieste, home city of *The Interpreters' Newsletter*, to look again at such possibilities?

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BENDAZZOLI CLAUDIO / MONACELLI CLAUDIA (EDS) (2016) *ADDRESSING METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN INTERPRETING STUDIES RESEARCH*, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARS PUBLISHING. ISBN (10): 1-4438-9067-7, ISBN (13): 978-1-4438-9067-0

REVIEWED BY DANIEL GILE

This collective volume, dedicated to the memory of Miriam Shlesinger, is based on a 'natural selection' of papers from a conference also organized to honor her memory in 2013 at UNINT University, Rome.

In their introduction, the editors pay tribute to previously published volumes on methodology in research into interpreting, a courteous gesture that is rare enough in the literature to be noteworthy. They go on to explain the mindset with which they see this volume: one of self-reflection conducted by researchers who cannot be totally detached from what they study, especially when most of them are also practitioners (of interpreting) themselves. This important point deserves serious analytical reflection indeed. In particular, such reflection could offer insights into reasons for the behavior and policy of some schools of thought in Interpreting Studies, and one would have liked to see it taken much further in at least one of the chapters of the book.

The editors also state that there is a strong focus on ethnographic methods in the book. The idea is welcome, not only against the background of a need for self-reflection in Interpreting Studies, but also because a good methodological book focusing on ethnographic methods could help fight the temptation to use technology and techniques without reflecting sufficiently on what one is doing and why, at the risk of wasting considerable time and effort. Such a tendency is not infrequent among recent studies, especially in some which use advanced statistical techniques rather pointlessly and when they do happen to produce potentially meaningful results, propose little or no reflection on what they might mean.

The first chapter, by Claudio Bendazzoli, offers an introduction to fieldwork and ethnography and to participant observation before moving on to the specific case of Interpreting Studies. As regards IS, he insists on the advantages of being an interpreter cum researcher as regards the comprehension of the actors' behavior and interactions and access to data. This reviewer believes his research has benefited directly from his being a 'practisearcher' precisely as stated in this chapter and can only approve. The problem, which takes one back to the introduction and which is not really discussed by Bendazzoli, is how to take sufficient distance to be a good observer who does not impose his/her wishes and beliefs on data without the required skepticism which gives scientific investigation an edge over ordinary observation and introspection.

In chapter two, Claudia Monacelli offers a contribution on research into interpreting in confidential settings, in this case mostly for the Italian Ministry of Defense. Central in her chapter and in line with the CDA approach she adopts are the notions of ideology and power. She builds the beginning of her chapter with notions and constructs such as power differentials, context model dimensions,

Goffman's dramaturgy, fields of action and genres, before moving on to a strikingly contrasting practical presentation of a case study and explanations about access problems to informants, saying who had access to what and why and who did what and why, including confidentiality considerations, insider/outsider status and the document production processes. The theory presented in the first part of the chapter would be useful in integrating other research situations within Interpreting Studies and beyond in the same conceptual construct. In this chapter, the juxtaposition of the descriptive and the reflective parts is somewhat odd.

In chapter three, following up on the editors' introduction and on Bendazoli's chapter, Marta Biagini also refers to ethnography, an approach "focusing on specific patterns in social phenomena, investigating a small number of cases and interpreting cultural meanings and human actions in contexts through verbal descriptions and explanations" (p. 63). She stresses the importance of the interaction between the researcher and the observed subject and says that ethnographic research is fundamentally subjective in nature, but without going deeper into the issues associated with such interaction and subjectiveness. The second part of her chapter is devoted to Dialogue Interpreting Research and mentions difficult access to institutional and public settings as a major methodological challenge, an unrelated issue, before talking about her own experience in a more practical vein.

The next chapters no longer address interaction between the research and the object of research, though most of them do mention methodological challenges. Minhua Liu discusses experiments – taking care to clarify that she adopts the viewpoint of psychology, as opposed to other disciplines which may have other definitions and considerations around experiments. She explains some of the principles as well as criticism formulated against experiments within the IS community, in particular with respect to ecological validity. She defends this paradigm while acknowledging its limitations, associated with the small non-random samples most often found in IS studies, and makes the important point that replication is indispensable if findings from experiments are to be generalized. She also mentions naturalistic research as an alternative under the name "descriptive research".

Tanya Voinova and Noam Ordan's chapter is one of the most interesting in the collection. It combines quantitative and qualitative approaches creatively. As part of an elective community interpreting course set up at Bar Ilan University in Israel by Miriam Shlesinger in 2007, students, who take two classes per week during a whole academic year and volunteer 100 hours of community interpreting work, write short weekly reports and an end-of-year text, which is the analysis of two ethical dilemmas, a fictitious proposal to improve interpreter integration into the system, a list of advantages and disadvantages of learning in multilingual classrooms or a description of their prior knowledge about community interpreting and its evolution over the year. The authors extracted 314 typical words from a corpus composed of these assignments, classified them into themes and compared their frequencies as well as their use in this students' assignment corpus and in a general corpus to draw conclusions about how the students perceived their work. *Inter alia*, there was a lot of "waiting" in the reports,

as well as “explaining”, “helping”, “feeling”. The authors note that the overall picture that emerges is sometimes at odds with the image of interpreters given in classes and in professional conduct codes.

Chapter six, by Cynthia Kellett Bidoli, on the analysis of consecutive interpreting notes, is practical and informative. She begins with a review of existing empirical research on note-taking and mentions a few techniques used to gain insight into the note-taking process online as opposed to inferences made on the sole basis of the note-taking product. For instance, students can be asked to take notes on transparencies which are projected overhead. She mentions space constraints as the main challenge associated with this method, but does not refer to the extra efforts which may be required when the students are asked to write on an unfamiliar medium, presumably in an usual and perhaps uncomfortable physical position, and in a situation where they know the whole class is looking at what they are doing. She also mentions video recording of the note-taking, used by Dörte Andres among others. In the second part of her chapter, she focuses on the most promising and least invasive technique, namely the use of digital pens and on associated corpus analysis techniques, and illustrates it with examples from a case study.

Sara Bani’s chapter analyzes an interpreter-mediated event, a journalism festival with four Latin-American Spanish-speaking foreign speakers and simultaneous interpreting into Italian, from a CDA perspective, “focusing [inter alia] on foreign speakers’ strategies to build a shared identity and to convey a polarization between an ingroup and an outgroup” (p.173). Bani considers that the use of the first person plural in their discourse reflects an attempt to build a shared identity, “in opposition to the government” (p. 183). She observes shifts in the interpreted renditions and notes tactics interpreters use to render cultural references.

Michael Boyd also adopts the CDA approach and the conceptual metaphor theory as a framework to analyze the interpretation of U.S. presidential debates between Obama and McCain in 2008. The turns dealing with “Joe the Plumber”, a conceptual metaphor, were analyzed with a focus on pronouns, the strategies of the speakers when referring to Joe the Plumber and the use of *lei* (polite and more formal) vs. *tu* (more informal) in the target texts.

There is considerable speculation in the interpretation of the data in these last two chapters. This reviewer would have welcomed some skepticism in the analysis – no doubt a reaction due to his own background in the more canonical view of ‘science’.

The ninth and last chapter in the volume, by Anne Martin, discusses research trends and methods under the heading of interpreting and ideology. After listing definitions of ideology, she explains that there are “multiple manifestations of ideological issues in the professional practice of interpreting”. Interestingly, she believes that the directionality issue in conference interpreting, with the Western preference for working into one’s A language and the Iron Curtain countries’ preference for working into one’s B language, was an ideological issue rather than a technical one. She also challenges the invisibility and neutrality of the interpreters’ role in armed conflict settings, and again looks at the role issue in methodological research approaches. She introduces norms, then CDA, then nar-

rative theory, into the picture, and ends her analysis with the ideological component of de Manuel's ideas on interpreter training and action research.

The mix is rather uneven, and not all chapters address methodological challenges in interpreting studies research as the title suggested. Neither do all of them "lean on strong theoretical platforms" as announced in the introduction. The collection nevertheless offers interesting texts to read, and indeed, some insight into practical methodological challenges that investigators dealing with interpreting often face. This reviewer's hope is that the editors will have an opportunity in the near future to encourage further exploration of the interaction between interpreting researchers and the object of their research, and to edit a new collection which will be dedicated to the topic.

The corpus-based approach to the study of interpreter-mediated communicative situations has been applied by a growing number of scholars to different types of interpreting. Since Miriam Shlesinger's call for corpus-based interpreting studies (CIS) in 1998 and following the experience gained in Corpus-based Translation Studies, interpreting corpora have become instrumental not only in enhancing more rigorous research methodology but also in creating language resources in the widest sense. Over the last twenty years, considerable progress has been made in this "off-shoot" of Interpreting Research, ranging from small scale corpora only suitable for 'manual' analysis to larger, machine-readable corpora. However, these developments have largely depended on the degree of data accessibility, thus favouring sources such as the European Parliament and public conferences. On the other hand, more confidential settings (e.g. hospitals, courts, police stations) where dialogue interpreting (DI) is generally adopted have lent themselves to CIS research with greater difficulty. Despite this, DI scholars now can count on increasingly larger data sets and the time has come to supplement qualitative, micro-analyses with a more quantitative approach and systematic queries. Issue 22 of the Interpreters' Newsletter aims to redress the balance in CIS and open the way to more DI research benefiting from the use of the corpus-based approach.

Publication: December 2017

Issue 23 will be composed of selected papers from the International Conference *Translation and Interpreting: Convergence, Contact, Interaction* held 26th-28th May 2016 at the SSLMIT in the Department of Legal, Language, Interpreting and Translation Studies, University of Trieste. Because translation and interpreting scholars often attend different conferences, or different sessions within the same conference, the Trieste Organising and Scientific Committee decided to offer an opportunity for contact and comparison between specialists in the two disciplines. Furthermore, Translation and Interpreting are ever more frequently found in relations of overlap, hybridity and contiguity, often constituting two interlingual processes performed by the same person in the same communicative act or in different situations. Translation and Interpreting were therefore presented as a binomial (T&I) at the conference, where experts from both disciplines were able to meet to exchange opinions, discuss research and find a common space for reflection. From the various sessions on T&I in law, politics, econom-

ics, medicine, television and more, the editors of issue 23 will select a sample of papers focussing on interpreting to explore several topics such as: required knowledge and competence, linguistic and ethical aspects, research methodologies, professional practice and associated constraints, the use of information technology and training.

Publication: Spring 2018