

A Bibliometric Analysis of Translation Studies between 1999 and 2014

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A great deal of research has been done by translation studies scholars in order to give a comprehensive account of the development of this discipline. Due to recent advances in computing capabilities and visualization techniques, it is now possible to visualize the knowledge domains of translation studies by analyzing large-scale journal citation datasets. This empirically enhances previous descriptions of how translation studies has developed. This study presents such a map. It is based on an analysis of 32,976 references to 2,345 articles; the articles are from 8 translation studies journals indexed by the Web of Science (WoS) database from 1999 through 2014. The most prolific authors, most frequently-used title keywords, and the most frequently-cited articles are listed via HistCite, a software package developed by Dr. Eugene Garfield, founder of the Institute for Scientific Information and the inventor of the Science Citation Index. Similar to a cartographic map, the map featured in this article provides a bird's-eye view of today's translation studies landscape, so that major areas of research interest, their size, similarity, and interconnectedness are visually marked and identified. It is expected that the results will benefit translation studies and pedagogy.

Keywords: bibliometrics, translation studies, citation analysis, paradigm, discipline

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翻譯研究計量分析：1999～2014

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翻譯學科的發展長期以來為研究者所重視，相關論述不可勝數。近年來，電腦及視覺化技術突飛猛進，在科學研究中廣泛運用，藉由分析巨量期刊引文資料庫，不僅可對翻譯研究的知識領域進行更進一步詳細描述，還可為前人針對翻譯研究發展的論述提供強有力的實證依據。本研究分析了 1999 至 2014 年間收錄於核心合輯 (Web of Science) (簡稱WoS) 之中的 8 種翻譯研究期刊，擷取這些期刊中 2,345 篇論文及其參考文獻 32,976 筆。透過使用科學文獻索引發明者 Eugene Garfield 博士所開發的 HistCite 軟體套組，本研究歸納出翻譯學研究中該時期最多產的作者、最常使用的論文題目關鍵字、最常被引用的論文。另外，本研究為當前翻譯研究前景展望繪製了一個鳥瞰圖，視覺化地呈現了翻譯研究中的研究興趣、研究規模、相似性以及相關性。本研究結果希望對翻譯研究及教學有所助益。

關鍵詞：文獻計量學、翻譯學、引言分析、範式、學科

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Introduction

As pointed out by Holmes (1975), translation theory has developed through collaboration of experts from a variety of academic fields – discourse studies, linguistics (especially psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics), literature, psychology and sociology. The past 6 decades have seen remarkable advances in the field of translation studies. In their effort to develop it into a scientific discipline, scholars have applied theories from linguistics, structuralism, cultural studies, and other related areas to define translation.

After World War II, a “paradigm shift” took place in translation studies (Baker, 1998, p. 343). The language rules and the text structure in the source text were no longer seen as a static and isolated entity that did not change in translation processes, but “as an integral part of the cultural background” (Snell-Hornby, 1988, p. 2). Reaching equivalence between the source and target text was the center of the new translation studies paradigm, among which Nida’s (1964, 1975) “dynamic equivalence” and Newmark’s (1988) “communicative equivalence” were the most prominent.

In the late 1980s to 1990s, it was realized that the meaning of the text was not static. Various new research approaches shifted the focus to translators and their subjectivity such as Reiss and Vermeer’s (1984) Skopos theory, which emphasized the purpose and the function of translation. Another major development was the introduction of “descriptive translation studies” (Toury, 1985). Different definitions of translation were proposed. For example, Lefevere (1992) suggested that translation was rewriting in which “patrons” played an important role and posited the existence of a “patronage system” that included ideology, the income of translators, and their social status. Snell-Hornby (1997) argued that translation was not only cross-language but cross-

cultural communication, and that translation studies theories were culture-based, including elements of psychology, philosophy, ethnology and other areas of knowledge. Some even argued that translation was betrayal (Benjamin, 1992). To a large extent, translation studies was characterized by a deconstruction of translation theories based on structural linguistics. The field experienced both a shift, and a widening of focus, the so-called “cultural turn” (Bassnett & Lefevere, 1990). Translation studies no longer focused on a single subject, such as the translator or the text, but tended to adopt a multi-dimensional and holistic perspective, drawing on research progress in linguistics, literature, cultural studies, sociology, and many other relevant disciplines. Particular attention was paid to cultural variables such as “values,” “norms,” “power,” “conflict,” etc. to describe and explain the cultural role of translation works and provide strategies for translation practice. A notable outcome was Toury’s (1995) use of translation norms to account for the construction of translation theory. The sense of translation studies as an independent discipline became stronger in this development stage (Bassnett & Lefevere, 1990).

The deconstruction of translation studies created a broader space for constructivism to further develop in the 1990s through 2000s. During the current constructivist stage, “cultural translation” has a new focus on the “instability” and “indivisibility” of both source and target texts as a result of globalization. This new research direction redefines translation studies in terms of the cultural interface (Pym, 2001). Other contemporary developments include the application of sociological theories to translation studies, and the growing impact of new technologies on the process and product of translation. Influential theories include Bourdieu’s reflexive theory (Inghilleri, 2003, 2005b) and Latour’s social network theory (Buzelin, 2004). In recent years, orality¹ has

¹ Orality is a term associated with pre-modernist traditions, modernist representations of the past, and genre expressions of prowess like in audiovisual media (Bandia, 2011). [A rather uninformative definition]

grown into a serious field in translation studies (Bandia, 2011; Buhrig & House, 2004; Maxey, 2009; Tymoczko, 2005). According to Bandia (2011), orality has provided a fertile and interactive ground for exploring a wide range of issues in translation studies, such as translation history, post colonialism, cultural studies, social science, audiovisual translation, literacy, and translation pedagogy.

The growing use of computer aided translation (CAT) and related techniques means non-professionals are now able to translate thanks to the technology (Pym, 2003). Audiovisual translation is applauded as a new mode that facilitates exchange across languages and cultures in a global context (Gambier, 2008). It has been argued that in the near future translation studies, media translation (trans-editing of news) and multimedia translation (subtitling and localization, etc.) could be integrated because documents to be translated will inevitably contain various media components (Gambier, 2008; Orero, 2004).

The development trend of translation studies has received a great deal of attention from researchers. As early as 1970s, Holmes (1975) distinguished two branches of translation studies: descriptive translation studies (DTS) and theoretical translation studies (ThTS), and gave a rough prediction of research areas under each branch. He pointed out that translation theory could only develop through collaboration of experts from a variety of academic fields – discourse studies, linguistics (especially textual linguistics, contrastive linguistics, psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics), machine-aided translation, cultural studies, literature, psychology and sociology. The later development of translation studies, as we have seen above, has more or less supported his prediction. However, translation studies scholars have from time to time made attempts to give an account of the development trend in the field. The followings are three descriptions of research trends in translation studies at the turning of this century, namely *Unity in Diversity* (Bowker, Cronin, Kenny,

& Pearson, 1998), *Introducing Translation Studies* (Munday, 2001) and *The Map* (Williams & Chesterman, 2002).

Unity in Diversity (Bowker, et al., 1998) focuses on research areas and methods in translation studies, and identifies twelve areas of research, suggesting possible research directions in each area. The areas (pp. 6-27) are:

1. Text Analysis and Translation
2. Translation Quality Assessment
3. Genre Translation
4. Multimedia Translation
5. Translation and Technology
6. Translation History
7. Translation Ethics
8. Terminology and Glossaries
9. Interpreting
10. The Translation Process
11. Translator Training
12. The Translation Profession

Munday's (2001) *Introducing translation studies: Theories and applications* gives a detailed account of the development of important concepts and practices in western translation studies up to that time, but does not describe how that development was affected by interaction with other academic disciplines.

The Map (Williams & Chesterman, 2002) divides research into a qualitative category and a quantitative category and then offers three theoretical models of translation – comparative models, process models, and causal models. The research methods outlined clarify the differences between qualitative and

quantitative research but the distinctions described are similar to those mentioned in other books on academic research (Babbie, 2007; Jendrek & Babbie, 2000; Kumar, 2002; Neuman, 2006; Nunan, 1992). Moreover, Williams and Chesterman (2002) question the claim that interdisciplinary characteristics are the essence of translation studies and dispute the existence of a general theory of translation.

Some translation textbooks also contain various levels of detail on the development of translation studies. Hatim (2001) offers complete and detailed descriptions of research concepts and research models in translation studies. He looks at it from the viewpoint of applied linguistics and discusses how to utilize linguistic theories, such as register, pragmatics, text linguistics, and genre, to form corresponding models or paradigms in translation studies. Compared with the areas of research and research methods listed in *The Map*, however, Hatim gives little attention to the interdisciplinary nature of translation studies. In general, although these authors outline the scope of translation research and give accounts of the research methods used in translation studies, few discuss in detail the relationships between research areas, or the paradigms applicable to translation studies.

Tymoczko (2005), in a systematic account of the development of translation studies, predicts that six broad areas of translation studies are likely to be productive in the coming decade. These areas are attempts to define translation, the internationalization of translation, changes in translation theory and practice associated with emerging technologies and globalization, the application of cross-disciplinary perspectives to translation, translation in cognitive science, and in neurophysiology.

It appears that despite the increasing number of translation studies adopting an interdisciplinary approach, few meta-analyses identifying topics of special interest or influence have been published. It remains debatable whether

the incorporation of other disciplines into translation studies helps it grow as a separate discipline (Bassnett & Lefevere, 1990) or reflects a lack of discipline and focus (Pym, 1998). There are also concerns that “Translation Studies tends to be proportionally strong in the smaller cultures” and weak in the larger monolingual cultures such as the United States, where scholars in the humanities talk about translation, but few recognize it as an independent field of study (Pym, 2006, p. 752). The time seems to be right, therefore, to examine the translation studies literature in order to identify its chronological development, the impact of its leading scholars, the main themes of translation and interpretation research, and the links within and between these themes. Such an examination may help detect the emergence of paradigms in contemporary translation studies, which according to Kuhn (1962) is an important indicator of an academic discipline being a fully-fledged “normal science.”

In order to achieve these aims, we applied bibliometric analysis, a technique for conducting a meta-review of the literature that can help identify both general trends in the development of a field of study and the most cited scholars and works in the field through an analysis of published scientific works. The analysis was based on the assumption that researchers ground their studies in previously published academic research and then publish their work in academic journals (Small, 1978). Such analysis has been rare in translation studies. Grbic and Pollabauer (2008) use the method to identify research topics in translation and interpreting studies, but their study is focused on scientometric methodology, and is based on a relatively small translation studies dataset. According to the authors, one of the pitfalls in such an analysis is the low number of journals in translation and interpreting studies included in the ISI Web of Science (WoS) database, which could result in incomplete citation information being retrieved. Although there are still not many WoS indexed journals dedicated to translation

and interpreting studies, we have seen a small increase of such journals in the past 15 years to at least 8 at present, which may warrant a follow-up study.

Bibliometric Analysis

The references of a scientific paper indicate the theoretical and empirical foundations of the study, and an analysis of the references cited within a body of literature makes it possible to identify the structure of a scientific discipline, the trends that developed within it, and the networks of authors and papers that belong to the same school, paradigm, or theory (Borgman, 1990; McCain, 1990; White, 1990; White & McCain, 1997). By taking the citation as the unit of analysis, bibliometric research identifies authors and papers that are cited frequently and produces a map of research streams and the relationships between and within them (McCain, 1990).

The bibliometric analysis in this study comprised a detailed examination of bibliographic data, usually accessed in the form of an electronic database. Data was obtained in January 2014 from the ISI Web of Science (WoS) database, consisting of the Science Citation Index – Expanded (SCI), the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), and the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI). In order to obtain a full picture of research in the new century, the timeframe for the search was set to 15 years (1999 to 2014). The following publications devoted to translation and interpreting studies were included in the search:

1. *Translator*
2. *Interpreter and Translator Trainer*
3. *Target*
4. *Meta*
5. *Translation Review*
6. *Translation and Literature*

7. *Translation Studies*

8. *Translation and Interpreting Studies*

The search retrieved a total of 2,345 articles, and these were exported to the HistCite software package for analysis. HistCite (ver. 12.03.17) is a software tool that aids researchers in visualizing the results of literature searches in the WoS. It can identify key literature in a research field including works that might be missed by a search in a standard electronic database, identify the most cited authors within a field, and reconstruct the history and development of a research field. For each work listed, the HistCite output records the following information (Garfield, 2014):

1. Primary Key: unique record number of each article
2. Author(s): names and order of all authors
3. Title: title of the article
4. Source: detailed journal information, including volume, issue number, and page numbers
5. Date: year and month of the publication
6. Language: the language of the article
7. Address: address of the corresponding author and the affiliations/ addresses of additional authors
8. Abstract: full abstract
9. Cited References: all citations in the bibliography, footnotes, and endnotes
10. Total Location Citations (TLC): total number of citations of a paper from other articles within the retrieved article collection. This shows the relevance of a work to other articles in the retrieved collection.
11. Total Global Citations (TGC): total number of citations of the paper

from all available databases. This shows the overall research impact of an article.

Results and Discussion

The retrieved dataset consists of 2,345 articles representing 1,731 authors in the 8 journals. There are a total of 32,976 references, with 4,739 unique words included in the titles and abstracts. Table 1 lists country-of-origin information in order of the number of articles collected in WoS. Countries scoring less than 20 records are not listed. The country-of-origin² information of 967 articles is

Table 1

Locations of Articles

#	Country	Recs	TLCS	TGCS
1	Unknown	967	247	659
2	UK	307	86	203
3	Canada	272	76	147
4	USA	170	20	67
5	Spain	85	15	35
6	Peoples R China	74	17	41
7	Belgium	72	15	40
8	France	51	8	17
9	Italy	37	9	18
10	Australia	36	9	23
11	Germany	33	9	17
12	Austria	28	10	18
13	Finland	24	6	8
14	Ireland	24	1	1
15	Poland	22	0	0

Note. Compiled by the authors.

marked as “Unknown.” We manually examined these entries and found that they mainly came from Arts and Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI) indexed journal, e.g. *Meta, Translation Review, Translation and Literature*, and *Target*, indicating possible incompatibility between A&HCI and SSCI index systems, resulting in country information being not captured by the HistCite program. However, despite this deficiency, we believe that the remaining 1,378 articles still constitute an unusually large sample size in this field.

Based on articles with valid

² The country-of-origin refers to the address of the correspondence author.

country information, the United Kingdom was found to be the location of record for most authors (307), followed by Canada (272), and the United States (170). In addition, the Total Local Citation Scores (TLCS) and Global Citation Scores (TGCS) of these three countries were the highest among all countries, indicating that studies generated from these countries were cited most frequently. With extraordinary research output (high Recs) accompanied by strong influence (high TLCS and TGCS), there is little doubt that researchers in these three countries are playing a leading role in translation studies. Except for USA and the People's Republic of China, countries with big population sizes such as Japan and India are not found in the table. This result echoes Pym's (2006) observation that some smaller countries outperform bigger ones in translation studies. It appears that there is huge potential for these countries to increase their research output in translation studies.

A comparison of the translation studies research output of Taiwan and other Asian countries shows that, except for mainland China (including Hong Kong) which ranks 6th in Table 1, no other Asian countries has recorded more than 10 articles in the past 15 years as shown in Table 2. The ranking information in Table 2 suggests that Taiwan's research output in this field is well above that of our major rivals such as South Korean and Singapore. Although our absolute research output number is lower than that of India and Japan, our productivity is not necessarily second to them if the huge population differences are taken into account.

Table 2

Research Output in Asia (Excluding PRC)

#	Country	Recs	TLCS	TGCS
22	India	9	1	7
26	Japan	5	0	1
31	Taiwan	4	1	2
44	Singapore	2	0	0
51	Indonesia	1	0	0
57	South Korea	1	2	6

Note. Compiled by the authors.

Between 1999 and 2004, no more than 100 translation and interpreting studies papers were collected annually by the WoS. After 2004, the field of study started to flourish from 2005, with peaks in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 (more than 200 papers each), as shown in Figure 1. However, the annual publication count fell to less than 200 after 2012.

One obvious reason for the decline of translation studies publication in WoS database is *Meta* being no longer indexed from 2012 for unknown reasons. The journal used to contribute 50 to 70 articles per year to the WoS database. However, the decrease in research output from 2012 to the present may also reflect a return of the level of research interest in translation studies towards a long-term norm after many years of unusually rapid growth. As the data for this study was collected at the beginning of 2014, the 15 papers published up to that time in 2014 do not give enough information to project publication levels in 2014. We would suggest that regular periodical examinations of publication data in WoS are conducted in the future to gain a longitudinal picture of further development in translation studies.

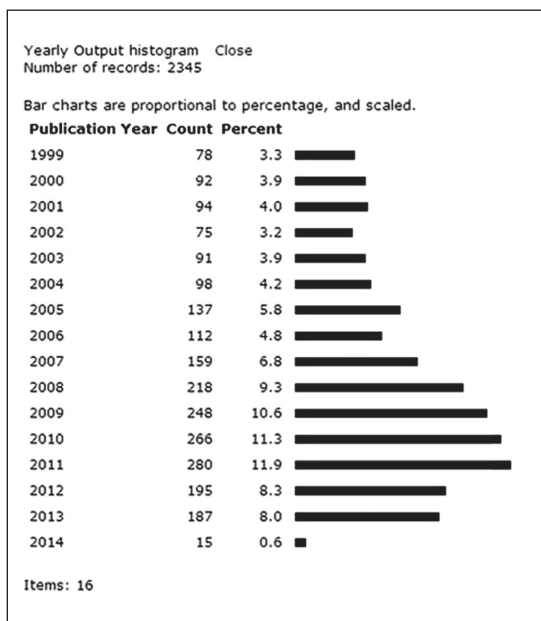


Figure 1. Yearly research output

An examination of the most commonly used title words gives some indication of the aspects of translation and interpreting studies that have most interested scholars. Table 3 listed 30 most frequently used title words, each being used more than 40 times. Except for three titles words (shown as crossed words in Table 3) that could be variously interpreted, the rest appeared to speak for themselves, and thus were intuitively categorized into the following themes:

1. Research Subjects: Process, Translator/Translators, Translation/Translations, and Interpreting/Interpretation
2. The Language and Culture: Language, English, French, Chinese, Spanish, and Cultural
3. The Text Types and Genre: Text, Literature, Literary, Poetry, Poems
4. Research Methods: Approach, Theory, Case, and Corpus
5. Research Objectives: Training, Teaching, and Research

The categorization gives us an overview of interesting topics in translation studies over the past 15 years. Translation studies has developed to include studies on translation, translators, interpreters, and the translation process. Cultural translation remains a research focus, and researchers have shown great interest in the translation of literature/literary, poetry and poems with particular interest in the translation of English, French, Chinese, and Spanish. Corpus translation has become a popular research method, while case studies are still favored by many researchers. Translation studies is not limited to theoretical research but also includes the practical teaching and training of translators and interpreters.

Table 3

Most Common Title Words

#	Word	Recs	#	Word	Recs
1	translation	1065	16	research	55
2	translating	220	17	approach	51
3	English	177	18	history	51
4	translator	116	19	poetry	51
5	language	114	20	theory	49
6	translations	91	21	Chinese	46
7	interpreting	89	22	interpretation	45
8	French	85	23	century	44
9	translators	74	24	teaching	44
10	literature	70	25	text	44
11	case	64	26	process	43
12	cultural	61	27	poems	42
13	literary	61	28	Spanish	42
14	new	59	29	introduction	41
15	training	58	30	corpus	40

Note. Compiled by the authors.

Most Cited Authors

HistCite provides two ways of determining which authors are most cited: first, by the number of total local citations (TLC) from other authors in the 8 journals retrieved in this study and second by the number of total global citations (TGC), including citations by authors whose articles are collected in the whole WoS database. Table 4 ranks the top most cited 15 authors in descending order of TLC scores, and Table 5 lists the top 15 authors in descending order of TGC scores. Next to each author's name in both Tables 4 and 5 is the number of articles (Recs) by that author for the period of 1999 to 2014.

Table 4

Most Cited Authors 1999-2014 by TLC

#	Author	Recs	TLCS	TGCS
1	Inghilleri M	7	37	66
2	Tymoczko M	5	19	27
3	Buzelin H	8	18	26
4	Pym A	5	13	24
5	Boeri J	5	11	14
6	Gouanvic JM	2	10	16
7	House J	3	10	26
8	Baker M	4	9	14
9	Beeby A	2	9	20
10	Fernandez M	1	9	20
11	Fox O	1	9	20
12	Kozlova L	1	9	20
13	Meylaerts R	8	9	16
14	Neunzig W	1	9	20
15	Presas M	3	9	20

Note. Compiled by the authors.

Table 5

Most Cited Authors 1999-2014 by TGC

#	Author	Recs	TLCS	TGCS
1	Inghilleri M	7	37	66
2	Tymoczko M	5	19	27
3	Buzelin H	8	18	26
4	House J	3	10	26
5	Pym A	5	13	24
6	Danan M	1	0	21
7	Zethsen KK	7	8	21
8	Beeby A	2	9	20
9	Fernandez M	1	9	20
10	Fox O	1	9	20
11	Kozlova L	1	9	20
12	Neunzig W	1	9	20
13	Presas M	3	9	20
14	Rodriguez R	1	9	20
15	Romero L	1	9	20

Note. Compiled by the authors.

We have noticed that the 15 entries in the two tables are not the same. Some articles have been cited more often by translation studies scholars as

reflected by their high LCS and others are cited more often by researchers whose articles are published in other WoS indexed journals. The first three authors in both tables are the same indicating that their works are of interest not only in translation studies but also in other research fields. To take some specific examples, Moira Inghilleri published 7 articles (Inghilleri, 2003, 2005a, 2005b, 2008, 2010a, 2010b; Inghilleri & Harding, 2010) during 1999-2014 in the 8 translation studies journals, which were cited 37 times and 66 times respectively by articles published in the 8 translation studies journals and in other WoS indexed journals. Among these articles, Inghilleri (2005a) alone has been cited 14 times by other articles collected in the 8 translation studies journals (see Appendix 1) and 21 times by articles collected in other WoS indexed journals (HistCite does not provide detailed information on the 21 articles). The second most cited author was Maria Tymoczko, who published 5 articles (Tymoczko, 2005, 2009, 2012, 2014; Tymoczko & Gentzler, 2010) and was cited 19 times and 27 times respectively by articles published in the 8 translation studies journals and in other WoS indexed journals. Among her 5 articles, Tymoczko (2005) has been most cited, 12 times by other articles in the 8 translation journals and 19 times by articles in other WoS indexed journals. H el ene Buzelin ranked the third most cited author with 8 articles (Buzelin, 1999, 2004a, 2004b, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012) published in the 8 translation studies journals. Her most cited article was Buzelin (2004), which has been cited 11 and 15 times respectively by other articles in the 8 translation studies journals and articles in other WoS indexed journals.

Based on the assumption that the more an issue is written about in a research field the more important it is to that research field, when an author is heavily cited by articles in the 8 translation studies journals (locally cited), it suggests that what he/she writes about is of local importance to translation

studies. However, when an author is heavily cited by articles outside the 8 translation studies journals (globally cited), it may suggest that his/her topics are of importance to a broader research field. A further inspection of the most cited articles written by authors in both tables thus shed some light on important issues of interest to translation studies as a research field and to translation studies as part of a broader research field (Table 6 and Figure 2).

Table 6

Issues of Translation Studies as a Research Field and as Part of a Broader Research Field

	Core issues of translation studies	Core issues of a broader translation studies
1	Inghilleri (2005a): Bourdieu's reflexive sociological theory in translation studies	Inghilleri (2005a): Bourdieu's reflexive sociological theory in translation studies
2	Tymoczko (2005): the development trend of translation studies	Tymoczko (2005): the development trend of translation studies
3	Buzelin (2004): Bruno Latour's and Bourdieu's sociological theories in translation studies	Buzelin (2004): Bruno Latour's and Bourdieu's sociological theories in translation studies
4	Pym (2003): translation competence	House (2001): translation quality assessment
5	Boeri (2008): conference interpreting	Pym (2003): translation competence
6	Gouanvic (2005): a Bourdieusian theory in translation	Danan (2004): captioning and subtitling
7	House (2001): translation quality assessment	Zethsen (2008): professional translators social status
8	Baker (2010): interpreter and translator identity	Beeby (2005): translation competence
9	Beeby (2005): translation competence	Fernandez (2005): translation competence
10	Fernandez (2005): translation competence	Fox (2005): translation competence

Table 6

Issues of Translation Studies as a Research Field and as Part of a Broader Research Field
(continued)

11	Fox (2005): translation competence	Kozlova (2005): translation competence
12	Kozlova (2005): translation competence	Neunzig (2005): translation competence
13	Meylaerts (2010): habitus and self-image	Presas (2005): translation competence
14	Neunzig (2005): translation competence	Rodriguez (2005): translation competence
15	Presas (2005): translation competence	Romero (2005): translation competence

Note. Compiled by the authors.

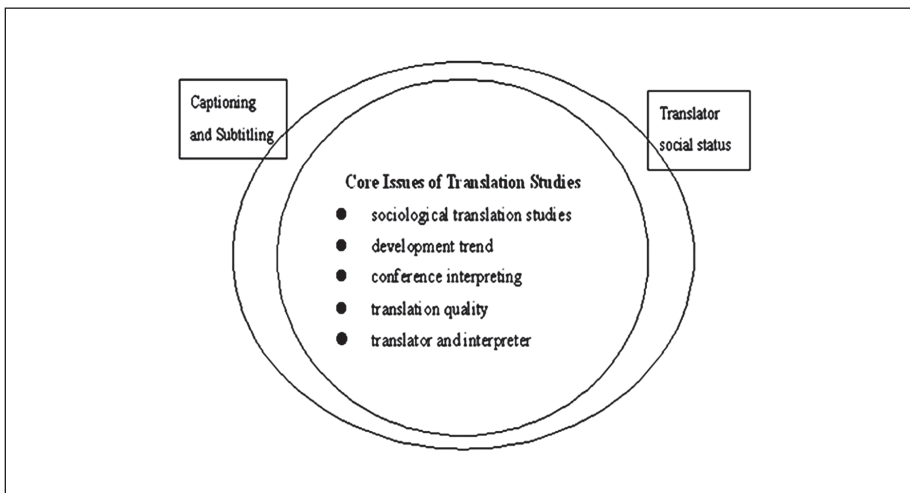


Figure 2. Visualized important translation studies issues from 1999-2014

The subjects about which the most cited authors write highlight some of the important issues in translation studies over the period. It appears that among them the most important three are sociological translation studies, development trends in translation studies and translation quality.

Sociology emerged as a popular topic in translation studies during this period. Buzelin (2004) combined Bruno Latour's actor-network with Bourdieu's reflexive theory to develop her own agent-oriented and process-oriented translation research approach. Introducing Bourdieu's reflexive sociological theory, Inghilleri (2005a) discussed the relevance of Bourdieu's theory of habitus, field, capital and *illusio* to translation studies.

Unsurprisingly, translation scholars maintained their ongoing interest in the development of translation studies during this period, with Tymoczko's (2005) description of, and predictions for research trends a notable contribution.

Translation quality remained of interest to translation scholars during the sample period, continuing a line of enquiry that saw the development of various criteria-based translation evaluation models in the 1990s, such as House's (1997) translation quality assessment (TQA) model and the works of Toury (1995) and Chesterman (1993). House (2001) introduced the concept of a "cultural filter" to discriminate between translation versions and proposed a functional-pragmatic model for translation evaluation.

The other identified foci of interest in translation studies that emerged from our analysis (listed above) will not be detailed here since they have been well documented in Tymoczko (2005).

It is worth noting that while interpreting studies have been largely subsumed under translation studies since the 1990s, mainly because "recruiting professional interpreters for experimental research is a sensitive, often frustrating exercise" (Shlesinger, 1998, p. 2), the above analysis suggests that interpreting studies has finally emerged as a major interest in its own right. In addition, some of the recent research areas identified in the introduction section, such as subtitling and sociological translation studies, have also been confirmed as major research interests in the field.

It should also be noted that, although LCS and GCS citation rankings indicate a scholar's activity in terms of their publication of research articles, it should not be used as the sole measure of the author's research reputation, productivity, quality or quantity. As is shown below, authors could publish many articles in journals not indexed by WoS, which would not appear in this analysis.

The Core Literature in Translation Studies

The importance of a work to the development of a research field is often assessed by the number of times that it has been cited, since scientific research is traditionally based on, and acknowledges preceding work. In the previous section, we have identified the most cited authors in the field of translation studies by examining which articles published in the 8 journals have been cited most often either by TLC or TGC scores during the period. It is possible that other kinds of works, e.g. books, may have a greater number of citation records even though they are not indexed by WoS database. Therefore, we used HistCite's function, *Cited References*, to look at this situation.

Table 7 shows the works sorted by the number of citations in the 8 journals. We only included works that had been cited more than 30 times during 1999 and 2014. For example, item 1 is a book (Toury, 1995) which has been cited 143 times in the 8 journals, so it is very relevant to translation studies. The table shows that apart from one journal article (Simeoni, 1998), all of the works are manuscripts, containing the underlying translation studies theories that are undoubtedly widely familiar to researchers in the field, whatever their research interests are.

Table 7

Most Cited Works

#	Author / Year / Works	Recs
1	Toury G., 1995, <i>Descriptive Translation</i>	143
2	Venuti L., 1995, <i>Translators Invisibility</i>	112
3	Venuti L., 1998, <i>Translation Scandals</i>	68
4	Gile D., 1995, <i>Basic Concepts Model</i>	53
5	Baker M., 2006, <i>Translation Conflict</i>	47
6	Kiraly D., 2000, <i>Social Constructivism</i>	47
7	Nord C., 1997, <i>Translating Purpose F</i>	46
8	Hatim B., 1990, <i>Discourse Translator</i>	42
9	Hatim B., 1997, <i>Translator Communication</i>	41
10	Hermans T., 1999, <i>Translation Systems</i>	41
11	Cronin M., 2003, <i>Translation Globalization</i>	39
12	Lefevere A., 1992, <i>Translation Rewriting</i>	39
13	Tymoczko M., 2007, <i>Enlarging Translation</i>	39
14	Kussmaul P., 1995, <i>Training Translator</i>	36
15	Catford J., 1965, <i>Linguistic Theory Translation</i>	35
16	Bhabha H. K., 1994, <i>Location Culture</i>	33
17	Nord C., 1991, <i>Text and Translation</i>	33
18	Taber C., 1969, <i>Theory Practice Translation</i>	31
19	Toury G., 1980, <i>Search Theory Translation</i>	31
20	Simeoni D., 1998, <i>Target</i> , Vol. 10	30
21	Snell-Hornby M., 1988, <i>Translation Studies</i>	30

Note. Compiled by the authors.

Gideon Toury's *Descriptive Translation Studies and Beyond* (Toury, 1995) and Lawrence Venuti's *Translators Invisibility* (Venuti, 1995) are deservedly the most important core translation studies works. Since it was first proposed by Holmes (1975), descriptive translation studies has been systematically applied and elaborated by many scholars (Bassnett, 1980; Hermans, 1985; Van Leuven-Zwart & Naaijken, 1991) and is considered an important force in translation

studies (Bassnett & Lefevere, 1990). The major contribution of Toury (1995) to translation studies is that it provides different kinds of norms in action for different stages of the translation process based on a socio-cultural perspective of the source text (ST) and target text (TT) culture. Although it is criticized for being over generalized (Gentzler, 1993) and not being able to provide all of the variables and laws in translation (Hermans, 1996), it still has had “a major impact on translation studies” (Gentzler, 1993, p. 133). Venuti’s (1995) *The Translator’s Invisibility* interrogates the notion of the “visibility” of translators in translation history, and argues that the translator is a visible agent and translation is a rewriting involving negotiations between the source text and the translation, as well as between various agents in the process. It presents “foreignizing” as a counter translation strategy to the then prevailing translation practice of “domesticating,” and provides the theoretical foundation that enables subsequent studies to look at the difference between the source and target languages and cultures.

Table 7 makes it very clear that the core literature in translation studies focus on theories rather than empirical studies, with many of the former being the “standard” references that are cited whenever researchers conduct translation studies. These works have often been the underlying theory on which empirical translation studies are based and so are deservedly important. It is interesting to find that the linguistic approach to translation theory dating back to the 1960s, with its focus on meaning, equivalence and shift, is still used by contemporary researchers. For example, Catford’s *A Linguistic Theory of Translation: An Essay in Applied Linguistics* (Catford, 1965) ranked the 15th in the table, indicating that the approach still attracted a certain amount of attention. A similar observation applies to Eugene Nida and Charles Taber’s *Theory and Practice of Translation* (Nida & Taber, 1969), which incorporates linguistic and scientific approaches,

and is also widely cited by researchers in contemporary translation studies. The importance of these “old” theories has been acknowledged by translation theory’s leading figures such as Mona Baker and Susan Bassnett who place linguistic issues in the context of cultural and other factors (Baker, 2006; Bassnett, 1980).

It should be noted that statistical bias may exist in the data, since older works have a greater chance to accumulate citation scores due to the longer time they have had to become familiar to practitioners in the field (Hicks, 1987, 1988). As shown in Table 7, of the 21 core literature citations in translation studies only 4 works (Baker, 2006; Cronin, 2003; Kirly, 2000; Tymoczko, 2007) were published after 2000, with Maria Tymoczko’s *Enlarging Translation, Empowering Translators* (Tymoczko, 2007) being the most recent publication. On the other hand, given the relatively short time these recent works have taken to reach high citation rankings, it would be expected that the theories proposed in these works would continue inspiring more translation research in the coming years.

The identification of the core literature in translation studies gives us a better understanding of the academic achievements and influence of these works, which need to be treated as the most important literature in teaching or doing research in translation and interpreting. They can also be recommended to practicing translators and interpreters who wish to improve their professional competence levels.

Mapping the Development of Translation Studies between 1999 and 2014

One of the goals of this study was to explore the links between the themes of translation studies through bibliographic analysis in order to form a comprehensive overview of its development. To achieve this goal we applied

the citation mapping technique, which presents in a visual form how research articles were cited over the years and the direction in which research was heading (Small, 1978, 1999). We conducted a mapping analysis of 20 articles using the local citation scores (LCS) in the 8 journals, as shown in Figure 3. The vertical axis in the figures represents the timeline from 1999 to 2014, and each node represents an article in the database. The size of the circle for each node in Figure 3 is proportional to the importance of that article to translation research as measured by LCS. An arrow from one node to another represents a citation of the second article by the first; Table 8 provides a key to the nodes in Figure 3.

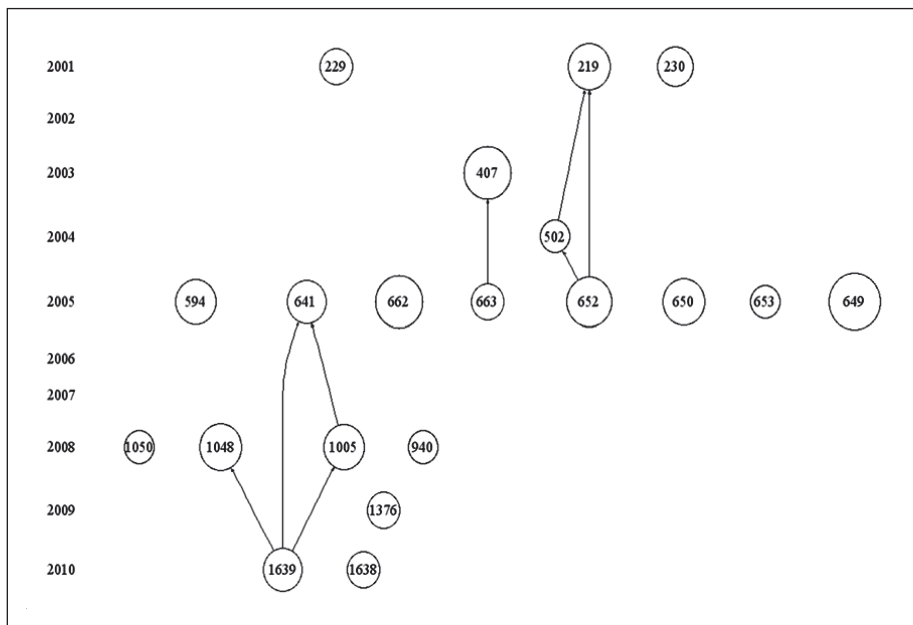


Figure 3. LCS citation mapping (Nodes: 20; Links: 8; LCS: 20; Min: 5, Max: 14)

Table 8

Key to LCS Mapping Nodes

219 House J	Translation quality assessment: Linguistic description versus social evaluation	<i>Meta.</i> 2001; 46(2): 243-257
229 Kurz I	Conference interpreting: Quality in the ears of the user	<i>Meta.</i> 2001; 46(2): 394-409
230 Pochhacker F	Quality assessment in conference and community interpreting	<i>Meta.</i> 2001; 46(2): 410-425
407 Pym A	Redefining translation competence in an electronic age: In defence of a minimalist approach	<i>Meta.</i> 2003; 48(4): 481-497
502 Buzelin H	Translatology, ethnography and production of knowledge	<i>Meta.</i> 2004; 49(4): 729-746
594 Beeby A, et al.	Investigating translation competence: Conceptual and methodological issues	<i>Meta.</i> 2005; 50(2): 609-619
641 Inghilleri M	Mediating zones of uncertainty – Interpreter agency, the interpreting habitus and political asylum adjudication	<i>Translator.</i> 2005; 11(1): 69-85
649 Inghilleri M	The sociology of Bourdieu and the construction of the “object” in translation and interpreting studies	<i>Translator.</i> 2005; 11(2): 125-145
650 Gouanvic JM	A Bourdieusian theory of translation, or the coincidence of practical instances – Field, “habitus,” capital and “illusion”	<i>Translator.</i> 2005; 11(2): 147-166
652 Buzelin H	Unexpected allies – How Latour’s network theory could complement Bourdieusian analyses in translation studies	<i>Translator.</i> 2005; 11(2): 193-218
653 Blommaert J	Bourdieu the ethnographer – The ethnographic grounding of habitus and voice	<i>Translator.</i> 2005; 11(2): 219-236
662 Tymoczko M	Trajectories of research in translation studies	<i>Meta.</i> 2005; 50(4): 1082-1097
663 Kiraly D	Project-based learning: A case for situated translation	<i>Meta.</i> 2005; 50(4): 1098-1111
940 Alcina A	Translation technologies: Scope, tools and resources	<i>Target.</i> 2008; 20(1): 79-102

Table 8

Key to LCS Mapping Nodes (continued)

1005 Inghilleri M	The ethical task of the translator in the geo-political arena from Iraq to Guantanamo Bay	<i>Translation Studies</i> . 2008; 1(2): 212-223
1048 Boeri J	A narrative account of the Babels vs. Naumann controversy: Competing perspectives on activism in conference interpreting	<i>Translator</i> . 2008; 14(1): 21-50
1050 Dam HV	Translator status: A study of Danish company translators	<i>Translator</i> . 2008; 14(1): 71-96
1376 Tymoczko M	Why translators should want to internationalize translation studies	<i>Translator</i> . 2009; 15(2): 401-421
1638 Inghilleri M	“You don’t make war without knowing why:” The decision to interpret in Iraq	<i>Translator</i> . 2010; 16(2): 175-196
1639 Baker M	Interpreters and translators in the war zone: Narrated and narrators	<i>Translator</i> . 2010; 16(2): 197-222

Note. Compiled by the authors.

Figure 3 shows three clusters in which two or more than two nodes are linked by arrows: one consists of nodes [641], [1048], [1005] and [1639], another, nodes [407] and [663], and the other, nodes [219], [502], and [652]. Since each node represents a top-20 highly cited article and an arrow represents the citation of one article by another, a cluster forms when multiple researchers are writing about a common topic. By manually examining the three clusters in Figure 3, it is found that the common topic of one cluster, consisting of nodes [641], [1048], [1005] and [1639], is the professional ethics of translators and interpreters with two articles by Inghilleri (2005a, 2008) ([node 641] and [node 1005]), one article by Boéri (2008) ([node 1048]), and one article by Baker (2010) [node 1639]. Inghilleri (2005a, 2008) notes that translators often face professional ethics issues when getting involved in special social, ethical and political activities

such as “war on terror;” she proposes an analytic framework to account for interpreter habitus, a concept that is based on Bourdieu’s sociological theory and has received a great deal of attention from translation studies in recent years. Boéri (2008) is concerned with the stance that interpreters should take in social activities. The study provides an array of strategies for conference interpreters to adopt in some controversial situations related to volunteering, activism, and professionalism. Baker (2010) looks at professional translator/interpreter ethical issues from a training perspective, and argues for the importance of adding ethics components to translation and interpreting curricula. In relation to these four articles, researchers have examined translation ethics in various difficult social situations, making professional translator and interpreter ethics a potential paradigm in translation studies. The situations include violent conflict (Tipton, 2011), international criminal tribunal at Hague (Elias-Bursac, 2012), war on terror (Hess, 2012), interviews with asylum seekers (Tipton, 2008), Bosnian and Serbian wars (Jones, 2010), and Nazi concentration camps (Wolf, 2013). Since some of the articles were published in recent years, more evidence may be needed to confirm the existence of this paradigm.

The common topic of another cluster, consisting of nodes [407] and [663], is the definition and acquisition of translation competence. Pym (2003) [node 407] and Kiraly (2005) [node 663] both take a cognitive approach to the translation process. Pym (2003) points out that translation/interpreting training should teach learners how to theorize their skills and knowledge, and he argues that translation and interpreting training needs to treat theorization as an important component of translation competence to help translators adapt to a world of fast changing technology. Kiraly (2005) argues that translation learning is a social-cognitive reflective process and presents a project-based learning case study based on cognitive science. It appears that these two studies have formed

another potential paradigm in translation studies, supplemented by subsequent studies on teaching translation and interpreting (Biel, 2011; Li, 2013; Rundle, 2008; Scott-Tennent & González Davies, 2008).

The third cluster, consisting of nodes [219], [502] and [652], concerns the cultural and social relations between various participants in the production of translation. House (2001) [node 219] introduces a “cultural filter” to build her “functional-pragmatic model” for translation evaluation. In addition to traditional cultural elements, the cultural filter includes some newly emerging cultural elements such as English as a lingua franca. Buzelin (2004) and Buzelin (2005) [nodes 502 and 652] applies Bruno Latour’s ethnographic perspective to the role of intermediaries in the translation process. The two articles further demonstrate how to apply Latour’s sociological theory to redefine translation norms that reflect the relations between the translated text and various intermediaries participating in its production process. The cultural and sociological theories introduced by the three articles in this cluster provide another potential research paradigm for the ethics issues raised by Toury’s (1995) descriptive translation studies. Latour’s sociological theory and the functional-pragmatic model have since been adopted by an increasing number of studies (Abdallah, 2012; Abdallah & Koskinen, 2007; Jiménez-Crespo, 2013; Risku & Windhager, 2013; Tahir-Gürçağlar, 2007).

As discussed above, three potential paradigms in translation studies have emerged since 1999: the professional ethics of translators and interpreters, translation competence, and social and cultural relations. Of these, professional ethics appears the best developed with more extensive links with other nodes, indicating sustained interest from researchers who themselves are cited frequently by other researchers. The development of the other two apparently stopped by 2005. The study of social and cultural relations was only “hot”

between 2001-2005, and the study of translation competence, between 2003-2005. The research interest in these two themes faded, reflecting shifts in the foci of interest over the past decade with the frequent appearance of so-called “turns,” such as the “cultural turn,” “return of ethics,” and “social turn.”

As for other themes in translation studies over the period represented by nodes in Figure 3, it appears that they are little related with one and another and develop separately in translation studies (no arrows between nodes). This may indicate that most of the themes are not receiving focused attention from the members of the research community because few important works are visibly developing from them. This echoes the result of our previous analysis of the global citation scores (Table 7). Table 7 shows that Toury’s (1995) descriptive translation studies stands out as the most cited work (143 times), suggesting that the theory is widely applicable in translation studies. Eventually descriptive translation studies became established as a paradigm (Hermans, 1999; Pym, 2001). However, its potential has apparently not been fully realized, since few of the 20 most cited journal articles in translation studies in the past 15 years actually applied the descriptive translation model or adopted its methodology as shown in Figure 3. The situation is the same as it was in the 1990s when Pym (1998, p. 15) questioned whether “there is or ever was a coherent group of scholars carrying out a doctrinally descriptive translation studies.”

According to Kuhn (1962), in an established academic discipline, research first starts from a single paradigm, and then extends to other paradigms when the current paradigm fails to answer the research questions. Although this study has identified several *potential* paradigms in contemporary translation studies, none of them has become a predominant paradigm. Therefore, this study argues that translation studies is still in an early era of developing into what Kuhn (1962, p. 24) called a fully-fledged “normal science.”

Conclusion

Over the past decade translation studies has developed rapidly. The theories of many academic disciplines have been applied in translation studies and formed different themes. This study has identified general trends in the development of translation studies, the most cited authors and the core literature in the field through an analysis of published scientific works. This study finds that the core issues in translation studies over the period include sociological translation studies, trends in translation studies development, conference interpreting, translation quality, translator and interpreter identity, translation competence, captioning and subtitling, and translator social status. An array of core literature has been identified, mostly published in the last century, which provides the theoretical underpinnings for translation studies.

Three potential research paradigms have emerged during the period, including the professional ethics of translators and interpreters, translation competence, and social and cultural relations. The professional ethics paradigm appears the latest development in translation studies, in which researchers are applying Bourdieu's reflexive sociology to give an account of the complex ethical issues when translating and interpreting in various difficult social situations. Although three potential paradigms have formed, it appears that translation studies currently lacks a predominant paradigm.

Some of the limitations of the present study should be mentioned here. First of all, there may be unintentional bias in the selection of journals used in the analysis, partly on account of the author's selection of journals, and partly because the search was restricted mainly to English language journals that are found in the WoS database. Journals that are not in English and journals that are not indexed in the WoS database were excluded from the analysis. In addition,

potential errors in the WoS database make it impossible to ensure that the citation information on each work is correct. This may result in some works of an author being omitted from the analysis. This study is also subject to the common bias of all bibliometric studies, namely, that older publications are more likely to be cited than newer ones (Hicks, 1987, 1988). This is reflected in Table 7 above, in which only four works out of the top 21 cited works were published after 2000.

Nevertheless, a HistCite analysis of research in translation studies since 1999 has shed some light on the development of the field. A visualization of the citation information reveals the interconnectedness of the articles, which can help researchers identify influential research in the development of the field, and areas with potential to develop into paradigms.

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Appendix 1

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File Analyses View Tools Help	
Untitled Collection List Totals:	
List of 14 Records citing 649 Inghilleri M The sociology of Bourdieu and the construction of the 'object' in translation and interpreting studies TRANSLATOR. 2005 NOV; 11 (2): 125-145	
Records: 2345, Authors: 1731, Journals: 8, Cited References: 32976, Words: 4739 Yearly output Document Type Language Institution Institution with Subdivision	
#	Date / Author / Journal
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1	919 Meylaerts R "La Belgique vivra-t-elle?" Language and Translation Ideological Debates in Belgium (1919-1940) TRANSLATOR. 2007 NOV; 13 (2): 297-319
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