Mapping metaphor research in translation and interpreting studies: A bibliometric analysis from 1964 to 2023

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Responding to the increasing interest in metaphor as a translation problem in Cognitive Translation Studies (Wang 2021) and beyond (Hong and Rossi 2021), this article presents a bibliometric analysis of metaphor translation research based on citation data gleaned from the online citation databases *Bibliography of Interpreting and Translation* (BITRA) and *Translation Studies Bibliography* (TSB) to identify the historical developments, trends, and potentials of this relatively niche area from an interdisciplinary perspective. As of 18 May 2024, 756 records from BITRA and 570 records from TSB were collected from 1964 to 2023 through the searchable keywords function of both databases. Each item was then independently screened and crosschecked by the authors — based on the title, the abstract, and sometimes even the article itself — to ascertain their relevance to metaphor translation and to remove duplicate records. Eventually, 1044 valid records were identified and analysed under predefined categories such as research approach and authorship. Data visualisation tools such as Tableau and Gephi were employed to present the results. Preliminary results show that the trajectory of metaphor translation research can be divided into three phases: the preparatory phase (until 1983), the initial phase (from 1984 to 1993), and the rising phase (from 1994 to the present). Moreover, it was found that, most notably, (a) interpreting research was overwhelmingly scarce compared to translation research; (b) process-oriented research was significantly less well-represented than product-oriented research; (c) single-authored publications were more typical than co-authored publications; (d) research predominantly adopted a cognitive(-linguistic) approach compared to other approaches. These results, combined with Translation Studies' insights on metaphor research (Schäffner and Shuttleworth 2013), point to the need for greater collaboration between Translation Studies and Metaphor Studies, translation and interpreting scholars, humanities and social sciences research, and product- and process-oriented approaches to bolster the cognitive investigation of metaphor translation methodologically, hence advancing this research area that is indeed interdisciplinary in nature.

Keywords: metaphor translation, bibliometric analysis, translation studies, interpreting studies, process-oriented research

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