Keynote by Hanna Risku at the 5th International Conference on Cognitive Research on Translation and Interpreting, 3-4 November 2018 at Renmin University of China, Beijing: "Spoilt for choice: Translation and situated, embodied, distributed and extended cognition"

Abstract:

In recent decades, cognitive science has undergone some major conceptual and methodological changes with regard to how intelligence, especially the function of the human mind, is understood and studied. The computational-representational and connectionist approaches to cognition have been challenged by theories that attribute a central role in human cognition to the body and to physical and social interaction rather than to the notion of mental representation. The so-called situated approaches to cognition have increasingly gained momentum. In my presentation, I will outline and differentiate four of these orientations that are committed to the situatedness of cognition and discuss how they are embedded in cognitive translation studies: 1. situated cognition, 2. embodied cognition, 3. distributed cognition and 4. extended cognition. I will demonstrate their consequences for the study of translation, aiming to show where these concepts and approaches differ or overlap. I will show that the approaches are increasingly gaining a place in the translation studies discourse, albeit for the most part more as research desideratum or in the form of presuppositions and less as comprehensively and consistently applied approaches. Furthermore, and in addition to providing current examples of their application in translation studies, I will also endeavour in each case to include research objects and questions to which I feel they can be applied with particularly beneficial effect and would serve to extend previous research work. Overall, these approaches have led to the emergence of new ideas in cognitive translation studies, which have in turn raised new questions and introduced new terms and methods.