

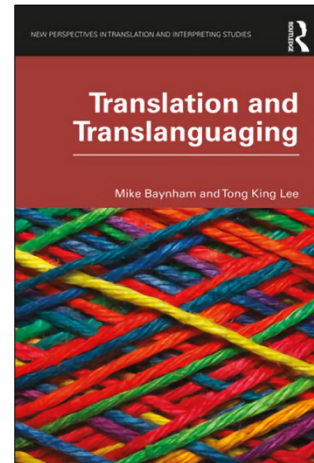
Mike Baynham and Tong King Lee, **Translation and Translanguaging**, London, UK: Routledge, 2018, 208 pp., \$108.00 (hardcover), \$36.16 (paperback).

Reviewed by

Jing Li and Lei Li

Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China

The “family resemblance” between translanguaging and translation has often caused confusion among scholars. Therefore, clarifying such confusion is necessary to facilitate the development translanguaging studies, an intriguing and emerging research field. In fact, we can further our understanding of “translanguaging” through a comparison with the more well-established concept of “translation.” However, this process needs to be undertaken with proper guidance to avoid conceptual confusion. To this end, **Translation and Translanguaging**, by revisiting translanguaging with the analytical insights from translation studies, not only explicates the interconnections and differences between the two concepts, but also reinvigorates research in translation studies. By definition, translation is the communication of meaning from one language (the source) to another language (the target); translanguaging is the process whereby multilingual speakers use their languages as an integrated communication system.



The book is composed of three parts with three chapters in each, centering around an ongoing theme of uncovering translanguaging in all possible forms and its relevance to translation. The first three chapters in part 1 present an introduction to the term *translanguaging* and an all-sided comparison between translanguaging and translation. Part 2 exemplifies four subcategories of translanguaging. Part 3 outlines translanguaging in two playful contexts, namely, cyberpoetics and text-based art.

In chapter 1, authors Baynham and Lee mainly attempt to build a connection between translation and translanguaging. On the one hand, translanguaging can be employed as a theoretical lens with which a dynamic account of translation as applied practice will be developed. A translanguaging perspective actually externalizes the “processual and emergent aspects of translation” (p. 6). On the other hand, some well-developed topics in translation studies like language ideology can enrich the understanding of the complex power relations embedded in translanguaging practices (p. 3).

Chapter 2 focuses on the definition and classification of translanguaging. The authors define it as “the creative selection and combination (verbal, visual, gestural, and embodied) available in a speaker’s repertoire” (p. 25). It acts as an infringement of the “purist monolingual ideologies” (p. 25), resistant to language ideologies and their regulation. A good illustration would be the context of an English classroom where an English-only rule is often violated by students’ subliminal blending English with their mother tongue. The institutional monolingualism, or “language from above,” fails to regulate the multilingual language practices because of the resistance of translanguaging, understood as “language from below.”

A classification of translanguaging is proposed, based on Jakobson's (1959/2012) well-known translation typology. Besides interlingual translanguaging, intralingual translanguaging, and intersemiotic translanguaging, the authors identify two other types: interdiscursive translanguaging, which involves "interplay and mediation between discourses" (p. 13), and embodied translanguaging (p. 13), which emphasizes subtextual meaning or meaning of body language.

Chapter 3 discusses in detail how translanguaging differs from translation. The comparison unveils three major differences: (1) Translation can be nominalized into a stable formation while translanguaging is always a dynamic process of "knowledge construction beyond languages" and integration of languages and language varieties (Li, 2018). (2) Translation is a then-to-now movement. It is the accrual of intercultural moments within each of which a series of translanguaging processes kick off in temporal suspension. In these processes, language varieties, registers, discourses, and modalities converge and "compete" in order to be chosen by the speaker. (3) Translation is characterized by unidirectionality typically from the source to the target, while translanguaging is embedded in numerous dots which move into a line A---B instead of A→B. The issue of directionality may best express the distinction between them.

Chapter 4 examines interlingual translanguaging understood as interlingual selections across languages by analyzing three cases. Multilingual repertoire is mainly discussed in both the first case involving Czech and English and the third case involving Lingala, French, and English. Language ideology is the focus of the second case. Specifically, the client's belief that using Czech alongside Slovak to draft his letter "won't be a problem" (p. 64) is countered by the translator's insistence on the use of standard Czech. The victory of the translator's formulation illustrates how translanguaging, as "language from below," can easily be regulated by standard language ideology.

Chapter 5 addresses intralingual translanguaging and interdiscursive translanguaging. First, the authors illustrate intralingual translanguaging by featuring the shift between Slovak-inflected Czech and Czech and using ordinary, everyday English to "explain complex legal terms" (p. 82). Then, the authors outline interdiscursive translanguaging where multiple discourses are in play. According to them, interdiscursive translanguaging "occurs when there is an unfamiliar discourse that needs to be negotiated" (p. 84), so interpretation or mediation is necessary for outsiders of the discourse. As in one of the two examples—"answering questions on sexual orientation" (p. 84), identity questions like "are you homosexual" (p. 84), commonplace to the questioner from the UK, triggers discomfort to the answerer in the Czech culture. In turn, the answer "normal" by the same answerer to the question "do you have any religion" (p. 86) makes little sense to the asker, which actually refers to Catholicism in the Czech Republic. In this situation, interdiscursive translanguaging featuring cultural brokering as repertoire is therefore needed.

In all the examples discussed in the previous chapters, language remains the central means of communication involved, whereas in chapter 6, the authors introduce intersemiotic translanguaging with a focus on extralinguistic repertoire covering the visual, the gestural, and whatever can be communicated with or by the body. The conceptualization of intersemiotic translanguaging in this book is significantly influenced by the previous multimodality research. However, as is emphasized by the authors,

multimodality studies, which have been greatly shaped by “social semiotics,” values materiality of signs and their social meanings (p. 98), while intersemiotic translanguaging focuses more on the process of “the creative bringing together of meanings” (p. 98).

Chapter 7 investigates translanguaging in cyberpoetics by means of an experiment on poetry translation. In the experiment, translations are digitally engineered by using an algorithm called transliteral morphing. It replaces English letters with an alternate letter from another language based on their phonological or typographical similarities. The authors argue that the algorithm functions just like a language user’s repertoire, out of which the random transformations of translations are generated. Those transformational moments can be seen as translanguaging moments in which boundaries are crossed among various languages, language varieties, registers, and discourses. In this example, creativity of translanguaging disturbs translation as a material practice framed by norms.

Chapter 8 looks at translanguaging in text-based art (i.e., the imagetext), where the visual and the verbal can operate simultaneously. In this respect, an attempt is made to take translanguaging into the realm of literary art. Three exemplars of spectacular and incomprehensible writing in the form of language art discussed in this chapter break the normal rules and “push against the logic of system” (p. 152). Counternormativity and creativity embedded in these practices are in accord with the authors’ account of translanguaging.

The concluding chapter presents the authors’ reflection on the interrelatedness of translation and translanguaging also in the form of a dialogue, echoing chapter 1. Lee concludes that translanguaging is unconstrained, opposite to structured translation, which is always framed by rules and ideologies, with an emphasis on its creativity and dynamics. Baynham holds from a different angle that translanguaging opens up promising ways of thinking about the coexistence of different modalities, registers, and discourses. Their different yet ultimately complementary perspectives broaden the concept of translanguaging and give additional impetus to the development of translanguaging studies at large.

Baynham and Lee’s work is a rare example of its kind devoted to translanguaging from the perspective of translation, and to translation from translanguaging. For one thing, this book well illustrated the vast and varied landscape of translanguaging with multiple translation practices involving a number of languages, such as Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Czech, Lingala, and varieties of English. For another, the authors uncover aspects of translation that may otherwise remain neglected when exploring translanguaging and presenting the interdisciplinary research between psycholinguistics, bilingualism, and literacy studies on the one hand and aesthetic practices on the other in part 3.

Regrettably, the authors do not elaborate on intersemiotic translanguaging in part 2 the same way they deal with the other types of translanguaging. Furthermore, intersemiotic translanguaging and embodied translanguaging seemingly share almost the same or highly overlapping notions based on the given explanations, which might confuse readers. In addition, the book’s readability is somewhat compromised by several low-resolution illustrations in chapter 7. Nevertheless, *Translation and Translanguaging* is an essential reading for researchers and graduate students or those who are interested

in sociolinguistics, multimodal studies, and applied linguistics, especially translation studies and related areas.

References

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