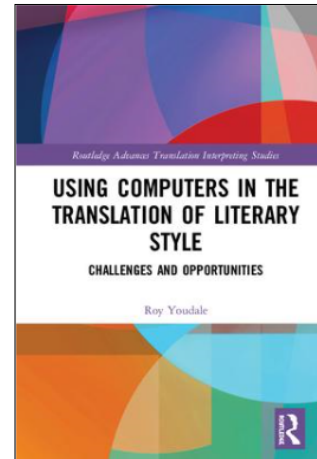


Roy Youdale, **Using Computers in the Translation of Literary Style: Challenges and Opportunities**, New York, NY: Routledge, 2020, 259 pp., \$109.93 (hardcover).

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Using Computers in the Translation of Literary Style: Challenges and Opportunities is the 42nd volume in the book series *Routledge Advances in Translation and Interpreting Studies* and the first monograph in this series to aim directly at the analysis and translation of literary style. This book presents an innovative approach in translation studies, which is driven by the combination of traditional close reading and distant reading, involving corpus-linguistic analysis and text-visualization to make the book highly interdisciplinary. The author, in fact, directs his efforts toward investigating a variety of stylistic features with an integrative approach, bearing in mind the intended readership in the fields of literary translation, corpus linguistics, corpus stylistics, and narratology.



This book consists of an introduction and eight chapters. The introduction tackles a central issue in the translation of literary style—the notion of style. The author draws on some previous work and proposes a more comprehensive definition of style. Then the strengths and limitations of traditional close reading are discussed in order to draw forth the introduction of distant reading. This is closely followed by presenting an introduction to the benefits of a close and distant reading (CDR) approach and a description of the limitations and potential risks of this approach. With this approach in mind, the author finally explains the selection criteria of the case study.

Chapter 1 starts with an overview of the uses of computer in literary translation, including the development, impact, and use of translation technologies. It then examines current literature regarding the application of computer-aided translation tools and machine translation in literary translation, with a focus on the role of these technologies in literary translation. It also provides a detailed introduction of computers and the CDR approach to the translation of style, including the philosophy of CDR, the use of corpus linguistics and corpus stylistics to translate literary style, the comparison of the functionalities of the specific software programs, and a provisional four-stage model of the process of literary translation. Discussed also is the relationship of the methodology to other neighboring disciplines.

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Chapter 2 starts off by providing a fundamental introduction concerning the author Mario Benedetti, his novel *Gracias por el Fuego*, and its commercial and critical reception. This chapter proceeds with the application of the four-stage model to *Gracias por el Fuego* to perform a set of “standard” CDR analyses of the source text, including corpus summaries, word lists, keyword lists, n-grams, and lexical richness. Finally, it deals with two specific features of the text (the title and characterization) by applying the CDR approach.

Chapter 3 first presents the author’s approach in translating *Gracias por el Fuego*, with a special focus on the foreignizing approach, and then returns to the equivalence of stylistic effect and the creation of an “English Benedetti,” bringing in an analysis of the two examples of an English Benedetti. The last section of the chapter presents a comparative analysis of the multiple translations into English of Benedetti’s novel *Familia Iriarte*. After this comparison, two useful conclusions are drawn.

Chapters 4–7 apply the methodology to the case study translation, constituting the better part of the book. The author deals with the practical application of the methodology, such as the translation of culture in chapter 4, the translation of punctuation in chapter 5, the comparison between source text and draft translation in chapter 6, and the auto-analysis of translator style in chapter 7. Chapter 4 is devoted to the study of three cultural elements, which include culture-specific items, literary multilingualism, and the use of *usted* and its formal interpersonal register. Chapter 5 systematically reviews the studies on punctuation and translation and clearly elaborates on the sentence length in *Gracias por el Fuego*, the impact and translation challenges of short sentences and the narrative significance and translation challenges of long sentences. The main objective of chapter 6 is to use CDR methodology to compare source text and draft translation, leading the reader into the comparison of sentence length, repetitions, and the use of “small” words respectively. Chapter 7 carries out an analysis of a translator’s own translation style, then turns its attention to the assessment of auto-analysis of translator style, and ends with a discussion of possible methodologies for future stylistic auto-analysis.

Chapter 8, the concluding chapter, is divided into two sections. The first section makes an assessment of the strengths and limitations of the methodology discussed in the book. The second section suggests future development and its relevance for translation scholars, students, and professional literary translators.

One of the stronger points in this book is the methodological innovation in the analysis and translation of literary style. To be exact, the author delves at length into the literary style within the CDR approach. Therefore, it has refined the traditional methodology of close reading as the basis of text analysis, and also brought a completely new idea, which enables the application of translation technology in the study of literary style. Translators of the 21st century are expected to make efficient use of new technologies in an ever-demanding market/society (Alcina, Soler, & Granell, 2007, p. 230). Therefore, we agree upon the feasibility of the CDR approach to translation studies and propose that researchers and students are supposed to have a good command of translation technology. Another strong point lies in the empirical application of the CDR approach, which is conducted in a reader-friendly manner. It’s particularly suitable for using a number of detailed examples to facilitate a better understanding of the methodological underpinnings of the analysis and translation of literary style. However, it is better for each chapter to end with a sound conclusion, which may help targeted readers review the above-mentioned points and findings

and then offer practical guidelines for future research. And this book would be improved if it had incorporated a tools' manuals to elaborate on corpus linguistics software in chapter 1, which may have helped readers understand how to use the tools in addition to having useful introductions to the functionalities of the specific software programs.

All in all, the scope and depth of this book will offer significant insights for its intended readership who want to gain new and valuable perspectives on the analysis and translation of literary style.

Reference

Alcina, A. , Soler, V. , & Granell, J. (2007). Translation technology skills acquisition. *Perspectives: Studies in Translatology*, 15(4), 230–244.