

Corpus-Assisted Translation Research in China: Progress, Problems and Prospects

Li Defeng

Shandong University / SOAS University of London

Since Mona Baker (1993, 1995) published her seminal articles on application of corpus technology in translation research (commonly known as corpus-based translation studies) approximately 15 years ago, there has been a growing interest in this research in China as well, culminating in publication of a number of research reports along with several major conferences devoted to the topic. At the junction of another major conference on the issue of corpus in translation and language studies such as the present one, it may be deemed most appropriate to critically examine the studies that have been conducted on this topic to date in the country. The purpose of such an examination is three fold: to identify major issues that have/have not been dealt with in corpus-assisted translation research (in China); to examine the research methods and designs employed in such studies; to suggest future directions for corpus-assisted research in China. Though the recommendations shall be made with special reference to English-Chinese translation and particularly in the Chinese context, they should also have implications for corpus-assisted translation research in general in other parts of the world.