Trending topics in current interpreting research
An overview of twenty years of interpreting studies seen through the lens of T&I journals

Robert Neal Baxter
Universidade de Vigo

Abstract

This large-scale study covering nearly 1,300 investigative and descriptive research papers gleaned from over fifty journals published in European languages analyses the emerging trends in interpreting research over the period 2001-2020, indicating likely directions for the immediate future. Following a chronological overview of the growth in the number of articles dedicated to interpreting, they are classified using a thematic categorisation designed to identify the leading areas of interest and the emerging trends, effectively corroborating training and PSI as the main topics of interests alongside a burgeoning interest in technological innovation. The paper also identifies the leading researchers and their focuses.

Key Words

Interpreting, Research, Trends, Topics, Evolution.

ප ෬

Introduction

Two decades since the turn of the century, the time has come to look back and analyse the state of affairs that has begun to take shape in the most recent phase of interpreting research. The aim of this study is to provide a broad overview of the current state of interpreting studies through the lens of a wide range of academic journals with a view to identifying emerging trends.

The scope of the current paper is more ambitious than that of previous papers, including Zhang (2011), who covers the history of interpreting over half a century in China since the declaration of the People's Republic; Wang (2015),

who presents a detailed bibliometric analysis of the interpreting research papers published between 2008 and 2012 in fourteen key journals; and Yan et al. (2013), whose paper analyses 235 articles extracted from nine major T&I journals spanning 2000-2010; Monteoliva-Garcia (2018) covering the field of legal interpreting research for the period 2008-2017); Baxter (2019), covering interpreting research published in Spanish (1994-2016); Gile (2000) covering conference interpreting only from the 1960s to 1999; and earlier contributions by Gambier et al. (1997), Gile (1995) and Pöchhacker (1995; 1995b).

Unlike such previous studies that are either limited in their geographical or chronological spread, scope or in the number of journals analysed, the present study is more far-reaching. In an attempt to provide a broad, bird's eye view of the current state of both investigative and descriptive research across the board over the recent twenty-year period time spanning 2001-2020, this research casts the net more widely so as to include a broad spectrum of publications ranging from top-of-the-range journals to more modest local and online e-journals, covering a total of nearly 1,300 articles gleaned from over 50 different academic journals (see Appendix).

1. Methodology

Owing to its wide-sweeping nature and its availability as an open-access resource, this study took the continually updated online reports covering indexed T&I academic journals complied by Rovira-Esteva (2012) and Rovira-Esteva et al. (2014, 2015a, 2015b, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020) at the Department of Translation and Interpreting in collaboration with the Humanities Library of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) as the basis for the data pool[1]. These lists were drawn up based upon 24 national and international humanities citation indexes, including[2]: *European Reference Index for the Humanities* (ERIH), *International Bibliography of the Social Sciences* (IBSS), *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR), *Social Sciences Citation Index* (SSCI), *Classificació de revistes en Humanitats i Ciències Socials* (Carhus+ 2010), *Clasificación Integrada de Revistas Científicas* (CIRC), *Difusión*

---

[1] Homepage: https://www.bib.uab.cat/human/acreditacions/planes/publiques/revistes/revist escercaeticas.php [Accessed 27/10/2021].

[2] Translation of the Catalan and Spanish titles: *Classification of Journals in the Humanities and Social Sciences* (Carhus+ 2010), *Integrated Classification of Scientific Journals* (CIRC), *Dissemination and Editorial Quality of Spanish Journals in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Law* (DICE), *Information Matrix for the Assessment of Journals* (MIAR), *Spanish Journals of Social and Human Sciences* (RESH).

y calidad editorial de las revistas españolas de Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales y Jurídicas (DICE), *Matriu d'informació per a l'avaluació de revistes* (MIAR), *Revistas españolas de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas* (RESH), etc. This primary source was also contrasted as necessary with other secondary sources (Franco 2021; Hadley 2015).

For a more comprehensive overview of the entirety of the discipline, it would be advisable to take into account other types of academic literature, including collective volumes, monographs and published PhD dissertations[3]. However, as the starting point for future research, for an initial tentative study such as this, journals can be seen as the emblematic showcase for a given academic field, serving as a likely first port of call for researchers.

While striving to maintain as broad a base as possible in order to provide a sweeping overall panorama of the state of the art and emerging trends in interpreting research, the following criteria were applied, which resulted in several journals being excluded from the final study:

Firstly, only journal published in Western European languages were selected, including several published outside Europe (e.g. *Asia Pacific Translation and Intercultural Studies* and *Mutatis Mutandis: Revista Latinoamericana de Traducción*). This decision was based exclusively on the author's own limitations and inability to sort papers in Chinese, Korean and Japanese rather than on any intrinsic interest of papers contained in such journals *per se*, including 編譯論叢 *Compilation and Translation Review* (Taiwan. ISSN 2071-4858), 번역학연구 *The Journal of Translation Studies* (Republic of Korea. ISSN 1229-795X) or 翻 訳研究への招待 *Invitation to Translation Studies* (Japan. ISSN 2185-5307). For example, 통역과 번역 *Interpretation and Translation* (Republic of Korea. ISSN 1229-6074) has carried several contributions by such renowned researchers in the field as Daniel Gile and Miriam Shlesinger. Interested readers may contrast the findings of the present mainly Eurocentric study with those specifically for China as reported in Wang (2015), Yan et al. (2013) and Xu and Pekelis (2015).

Second, only papers involving spoken languages were retained, not because the topic of sign language interpreting is unworthy of interest, but because subtopics within the latter field would require a specific thematic classification system unlikely to coincide with that applicable to spoken languages. It should also be stated that although several papers on sign language interpreting were found, they tended to appear in dedicated special issues and were generally too scarce

---

[3] To this end, the *CIRIN bibliography* (https://cirin-gile.fr) could serve as a useful complementary source, despite dealing exclusively with conference interpreting.

to constitute a homogeneous subtopic in their own right within the scope of the study at large.

The list was also whittled down by removing discontinued journals that do not display on-going trends as well as purely professional journals, the contents of which were primarily anecdotal, e.g. *ITI Bulletin* (Institute of Translation and Interpreting. ISSN 0954-1799), *La linterna del traductor* (ASETRAD. Spanish Association of Translators, Proof-readers and Interpreters. ISSN 1579-5314) and *Mitteilungen für Dolmetscher und Übersetzer* (BDÜ. Federal Association of Interpreters and Translators. ISSN 1618-5595) In order to maintain coherence, non-research content such as readers' letters (e.g. notably in *Panacea: Boletín de medicina y traducción*) as well as editorials, conference reports, book reviews, etc., were also excluded when appearing in journals included in the study.

Journals from fields other than T&I but also potentially publishing scant papers on interpreting were also generally excluded from the study, owing in part to the unfeasibility of locating all interpreting-related papers possibly published in the vast array of journals currently published in the humanities and other fields, including, for example, technology, medicine, law, history, psychology, cognition, etc. It should also be borne in mind that such journals are not representative of interpreting research *per se* but of research involving certain, often niche aspects of interpreting which fall within their specific scope of interest.

Finally, very recent journals were also excluded, owing to their limited number of issues and correspondingly low potential number of interpreting-related papers, e.g. *Bridge: Trends and Traditions in Translation and Interpreting Studies* (ISSN 2729-8183: 2 issues in 2020) and *Transletters: International Journal of Translation and Interpreting* (ISSN 2605-2954: 4 issues, 2018-2020). One notable exception to this is *Asia Pacific Translation and Intercultural Studies* that was retained by dint of the 18 issues over the five years of its existence since 2014 (see Appendix).

Once the final data set of journals had been established, their respective websites were used to locate all available back issues for the period under analysis, extracting interpreting-related papers based primarily on their titles but also by resorting to abstracts and/or keywords as necessary, especially useful for the purpose of thematic classification. In several cases, other sources were used in

order to locate a full list of back issues, notably the extensive *Dialnet* searchable database.[4]

Unfortunately, despite exhaustive searches, the information available remained incomplete for three journals, namely *Między oryginałem a przekładem* and *Przekładaniec: a journal of translation studies*, both of which were both retained in order to maintain a fuller coverage of non-English language papers (in this case Polish). *Revista Tradumàtica* was also retained owing to the special issue dedicated specifically to the subject of automated interpreting. Given the breadth of the data pool, the decision to include these journals served to enrich rather than detract from the final overall picture.

This laborious process of manual extraction completed over several months enabled the author to build up a picture of the themes and issues during the initial compilation phase that later served as the basis for the topics used in the categorisation phase (see Section 2.3). In line with the inductive methodology, the taxonomy arose *a posteriori* based on the papers analysed rather than attempting make them conform to any previous, pre-established schemas that may have failed to address key current issues, notably, for example internet and other related technological innovation which would have been unthinkable in not-so-distant earlier periods.

2. The corpus

Owing to its wide-sweeping scope, the final corpus analysed is heterogeneous, covering a total of 1,267 papers gleaned from 53 T&I journals, only two of which are dedicated specifically to interpreting, namely *Interpreting: An International Journal of Research and Practice in Interpreting and The Interpreters' Newsletter*, together accounting for a staggering 276 (21.8%) of the papers under scrutiny.

The space dedicated to interpreting in the remaining journals varies widely, ranging from as few as 1 paper out of 37 issues of *Translation Studies* over 2008-2020 (average 0.03 per issue), 3 papers out of 21 issues of *Hikma* over 2002-2020 (average 0.14 per issue) and 4 papers out of 53 issues of *Cadernos de Tradução* over

---

[4] Homepage: https://dialnet.unirioja.es/ [Accessed 27/10/2021]. This extremely useful resource covering Humanities journals for the period 2001-2021 is run by the Dialnet Foundation and hosted by the University of La Rioja and allows for searches by author and journal, including a wide range of bibliographic metrics as well as a list of back issues that occasionally prove difficult to locate on an individual journal's site.

2001-2020 (average 0.075 per issue) and at the one end, as compared with 73 papers in 71 issues of *Meta* over 2001-2020 (average: 1.03/issue), 80 papers in 39 issues of *The Interpreter and Translator Trainer* in 39 issues over 2007-2020 (average 2.05/issue) or 86 papers in 36 issues of *Forum: International Journal of Interpretation and Translation* over 2003-2020 (average 2.39/issue) at the other.

The low number of dedicated interpreting journals together with the disproportionately small space occupied by interpreting within the wider field of T&I is illustrative of the ongoing marginal place generally accorded interpreting, despite a notable upsurge of interest over the period analysed (see Figure 1 below).

The data pool covers a wide range of journals, from top-ranking, international journals such as *An International Journal of Research and Practice in Interpreting*, *Target*, *The Translator*, *Across Languages and Cultures*, *Meta*, *The Interpreter and Translator Trainer*, to less prestigious and online e-publications, e.g. *New Voices in Translation Studies*, *Transfer* and *FITISPos International Journal*, the latter specialising in Public Service Interpreting and Translation.

The rationale behind maintaining such an eclectic mix is that, above and beyond reliability concerns regarding double blind peer review processes, etc., researchers today have at their disposal a much greater range of journals than they would otherwise traditionally have had access to via the subscriptions of their universities and research centres, with research papers now practically all searchable online (often, although far from always, with free access) thanks to general search motors as well as specialised academic search engines such as *Google Scholar*[5]. The set aim of this paper is not to provide a bibliometric study discriminating between journals and research papers based on their academic credentials, but to reflect as widely as possible the true scope of interest of interpreting research today. It should also be borne in mind that novice researchers may initially appear in more minor and/or local journals before going on to publish on similar topics in more prestigious, international journals, especially taking into account the difficulty involved in publishing in prestigious, top-ranking journals owing to the ever increasing number of researchers vying

---

[5] Homepage: scholar.google.com [Accessed 27/10/2021]. While acknowledging some of the shortcomings associated with and the criticisms that have been levelled against this particular search engine in some quarters (see, for example, Orduna-Malea et al. 2016; Shultz 2007), it would be disingenuous to discount it offhand as a prime resource for academia today, if only as a starting point to locate potentially interesting bibliography.

for space, with minor journals also potentially providing greater coverage for niche subjects.

3. Presentation of the results

This section provides a detailed overview of the results derived from the analysis of the data pool covering the evolution of the number of journals publishing interpreting-related papers as well as the relative space accorded the topic over time, the languages the papers are published in, a description of the main topics and trends detected and a final word on authorship, highlighting the specific fields of interests of the leading researchers in the light of the main findings.

3.1 Chronological evolution

As Figure 1 reveals, the first thing to note is the steady and sustained growth in the number of academic journals in the field of T&I which give space to various aspects of interpreting, notwithstanding a slight downturn over the last two years covered by the study (2019-2020). Not only does this provide better visibility for and coverage of specifically interpreting-related topics within the wider field of T&I, but should also make it easier in practice for researchers to have their work published and read.
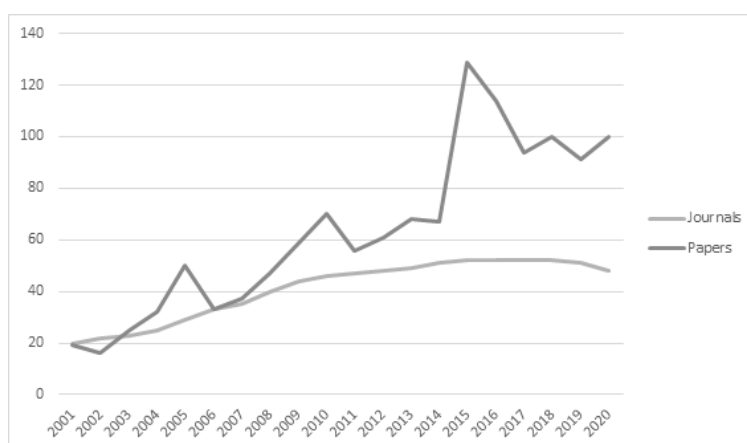

Figure 1. Number of journals and papers (2001-2020)

This steady growth in the number of journals has been accompanied by an even more dramatic increase in the overall number of papers published on interpreting (Figure 1), revealing a burgeoning interest in the subject in general, going in leaps and bounds from fewer than twenty papers in total at the turn of the millennium (2001) to a hundred papers two decades later, amounting to a five-fold increase.

Nevertheless, it should also be stated that many of the articles on interpreting are contained in the only two journals specialising specifically in the field, namely *Interpreting: An International Journal of Research and Practice in Interpreting* and *The Interpreters' Newsletter*, together accounting for slightly over a fifth of the papers (21.8%). What this means in real terms is that, despite a general growth of interest across the board, interpreting still remains relegated to a relatively marginal place within published academic research in the overarching field of T&I; the lesser partner eternally overshadowed by written translation.

Indeed, bearing in mind the caveat regarding special issues (see below), as few as 13 out of the 51 remaining T&I journals carry an average of at last one paper or more on interpreting per issue, with only 5 carrying two or more:

FITISPos (2.57)

Forum (2.39)

Translation and Interpreting (2.38)

The Interpreter and Translator Trainer (2.05)

Linguistica Antverpiensia (2.05)

Monti (1.83)

Current trends (1.64)

Sendebar (1.60)

Entreculturas (1.44)

inTRAlinea (1.32)

Translation and Interpreting Studies (1.16)

REDIT (1.08)

Meta (1.03)

Furthermore, upon closer inspection, Figure 1 belies a rather more erratic situation on the ground, with the interest in interpreting topics relying heavily on special issues dedicated to specific aspects of interpreting, beyond which many general T&I journals include few if any interpreting papers. Notable examples of such special issues include:

Interpreting in situations of situations, war zones, etc. (*Linguistica Antverpiensia* 15, 2016)

Corpus-based studies (*inTRAlinea*, 2018)

Public Service Interpreting (*Translation and Interpreting* 7(3), 2015; *Linguistica Antverpiensia* 5, 2006)

Intercultural issues (*Cultus* 8, 2015)

Interpreting for international organisations, i.e. EU, UN, etc. (*CLINA* 3(2), 2017 & 4(1), 2018; *Équivalences* 42(1-2), 2015)

Legal and court interpreting (*MonTI* 7, 2015)

Orality (*Translation and translanguaging* 5(3), 2019)

Research methods (*Translation and Interpreting* 9(1), 2017)

Research methods, sight translation, technologies (*JoSTrans* 34, 2020)

Technological innovation (*Revista Tradumàtica* 17, 2019)

Training (*Translation and translanguaging* 6(2), 2020)

3.2 Languages

Rather unsurprisingly given its status as the main language of global academic research, English has a clear lead, accounting for three quarters of all of the papers, followed a long way behind by Spanish at 12.6% (160 papers), to which can be added the other co-official languages of the Spanish State (i.e. Basque, Catalan and Galician), totalling 1.3% (16 papers), which taken together rank higher than Polish, Italian and Portuguese. The preponderance of these languages is easily ascribed to the fact that there is an inordinately high number of over twenty universities also serving as research centres offering T&I courses in the Spanish State today (see Baxter 2014). Interestingly, despite one of the journals being based in Flemish Belgium, namely *Linguistica Antverpiensia* linked to the University of Antwerp, Dutch ranks lowest, even lagging considerably

behind Basque, Catalan and Galician, with only one paper. This can probably be explained by a desire for researchers to appeal to as large an international audience as possible, whereas researchers writing in languages such as Basque, etc. tend to be equally if not more interested in language normalisation.

That being so, the range of languages discussed in the papers themselves goes far beyond the languages that they are published in, also covering most notably Chinese, together with Arabic, Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian, Japanese and Korean as well as indigenous languages such as Quechua.
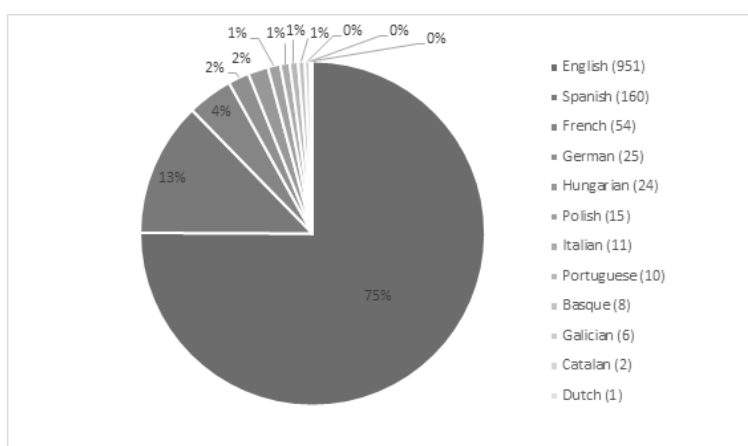

Figure 2. Breakdown of publications by language

3.3 Thematic Categorisation and Ranking

3.3.1 Major topics

Unlike Yan et al. (2013) whose study was limited to only nine journals over a ten-year period allowed only for a three-way descriptive classification, viz. Interpreting Practice, Interpreter Training and Assessment, and Review of Interpreting Research, the considerably broader scope of the data pool in hand allows for a much more detailed thematic classification and analysis.

Although largely similar to that used in Baxter (2019), as noted above the thematic classification presented below emerged out of the compilation phase based on the topics detected rather than being forced into a previously-existing

taxonomic mould, with the main topics further broken down for a more finely grained analysis (see Section 2.3.2).

Before going on to present the main categories, it should also be borne in mind that most papers deal with more than one subject, e.g. training for public service interpreters, the application of new technologies for note taking, etc. What this means in practice is that there is inevitably a significant overlap between several of the main categories, whereby the total for all of the categories is inevitably greater than that of the sum of the number of papers.

Description of the thirty-three main categories in alphabetical order with the corresponding numbers of papers in brackets:

Aptitude (20): Involving the propensity of would-be interpreters, especially with a view to selection either as students or to work in specific institutions.

Business (13): Interpreting for business and commerce.

Cognition (15): Covering a range of mental processes, especially the concept of cognitive load, excluding memory, which is counted separately.

Conflict (21): Papers focusing on interpreters in war zones and other military conflicts.

Dialogue (13): Articles dealing with dialogue and liaison interpreting in general, excluding PSI which is dealt with separately.

Disfluency (27): Research discussing various types of breaks or disturbances to fluency of delivery, including prosody, including pauses, omissions, etc.

Documentation (36): Covering preparation, terminology, corpus linguistics, databases and other similar ancillary resources.

Ear-voice-span (6): All papers specifically addressing the issue of *décalage*.

Gender (6): Specifically gender-related not associated with gender violence included as a subtopic under the wider heading of PSI.

History (52): Covering both the history of interpreting as well as the role of interpreting in historical events.

Identity (19): Largely, although not exclusively, related to professional practice, covering such issues as interpreters' self-identity, as well as the way they are perceived by others, including media portrayals.

Informal (26): Broadly covering all aspects of non-professional and *ad hoc* interpreting, including language brokering, often in conjunction with community interpreting.

Institutions (33): Papers discussing various aspects of interpreting within the specific context of international institutions, e.g. EU and UN.

Language (82): A catch-all category including all language-related and linguistic issues (e.g. lexical interferences, word order, language acquisition, etc.), often within the context of specific working pairs, as well a broader issues such as interpreting into a B language and the challenges posed by English as a *lingua franca.*

Legal (109): Overwhelmingly involving interpreting for the courts and other criminal proceedings, including –albeit to a lesser extent– international and military tribunals. Many of the papers concern the situation in a specific country or jurisdiction.

Media (30): Interpreting for the audio-visual media, namely radio and, primarily, various television settings.

Medical (36): Including both physical and mental health (psychology and psychiatry), but excluding healthcare interpreting within the context of PSI.

Memory (15): Research into the role played by short-term and working memory.

Note-taking (21): Various aspects of note taking, essentially for consecutive interpreting.

Politics/Ideology (14): Interpreting in highly politicised contexts as well as ideology in the source text, particularly political speeches.

Profession (32): Covering a range of topics concerning professional practice, especially overviews of the market in specific countries and interpreter certification for regulated sectors.

Public Service Interpreting (206): Involving all kinds of intercultural mediation often, although not exclusively, for migrants.

Quality (53): The issue of quality in interpreting from a theoretical point of view, together with specific ways of gauging quality.

Remote interpreting (42): Broadly taken to involve any kind of off-site interpreting, englobing telephone interpreting as well as video interpreting.

Respeaking (4): Intra- and interlinguistic real-time voice-to-text captioning.

Role (82): Papers discussing the behaviour expected of interpreters, covering neutrality and invisibility as well as professional ethics, norms and codes of practice. Unlike most of the research, papers of this kind can have a prescriptive bent rather than adopting an investigative or descriptive approach.

Sight translation (16): Both from the point of view of a training tool and in professional practice

Speed (6): Involving the problems posed by the delivery rate of the original.

Stress and Anxiety (15): Covering papers discussing various aspects of interpreter psychological resilience and well-being, including vicarious trauma.

Style (4): Stylistic variation.

Technology (39): The role played by different kinds of technology and technological innovation, especially new technologies.

Theory and Research (75): Involving pure theoretical reflections and methodological considerations when carrying out research as well as papers having research as their main focus.

Training (272): Covering a wide spectrum of areas, ranging from training for specific types of interpreting (legal, business, PSI, etc.), to curricular design, student testing and assessment, distance, blended and online teaching, etc.

Finally, it should also be noted that a total of 78 papers could not be grouped into any broader thematic categories, including, for example, interpreting in religious contexts, photographic archives, creativity, public speaking, visual imagery, etc.

As Figure 3 shows, in the top group, we find Legal, Language-related issues, Interpreter role and Theory at more or less level pegging in second place, lagging considerably behind Training and PSI, which together clearly lead the field. This initial leader-board is followed by what could be ranked as topics of middling, minor and marginal interest.

The second group of topics ranging from between 53 and 26 papers apiece includes Quality, History, Remote interpreting, Media interpreting and Informal interpreting. Given the interest in emerging technologies over the period under study, it should perhaps come as little surprise that the use of technologies and remote interpreting, especially video interpreting, rank relatively highly. It is perhaps somewhat more surprising, however, to find them outflanked by

research with a historical bent, a topic already extensively covered in earlier periods.

The third group of minor interest encompasses such topics as Note taking which, despite its intrinsic interest to consecutive interpreter training and practice, has already been extensively dealt with in previous periods, possibly accounting for its relatively low ranking here. The topic of Interpreting in war zones and other situations of military conflict from a non-historical perspective is highly contemporaneous, which partially helps to explain its relative low ranking, covering such events as the Iraq war and interpreting in Afghanistan. The recent situation and high profile of the plight suffered by interpreters following the withdrawal of NATO troops from Afghanistan may well be expected to spawn a spate of papers on this topic in the near future. Interpreting specifically for the business sector seems to have sparked very little interest, possibly because it too has been extensively written about in the past and is also largely covered by the skills required for dialogue interpreting in general as well as those called for by PSI. It is noteworthy that speed or rate of delivery brings up the rear, trailing alongside Ear-voice-span, with the dearth of the interest in the latter possibly ascribable to the fact that it has been widely discussed in earlier periods, combined with the fact that it is notoriously difficult and laborious to measure and analyse in any meaningful way. Although respeaking was first broached as early as 2007 in this data pool, it is surprising that this topic has as yet apparently failed to capture the imagination of researchers working in the field of interpreting despite involving emerging new speech-to-text technologies and accessibility for deaf and hearing-impaired people. Finally, despite its low ranking in the period analysed, it might well be forecast that remote interpreting could enjoy a boom in the near future in the light of the imperious need to resort to various kinds of remote interpreting experienced owing to the lockdowns due the COVID pandemic (2019) which falls beyond the chronological range of the present study.
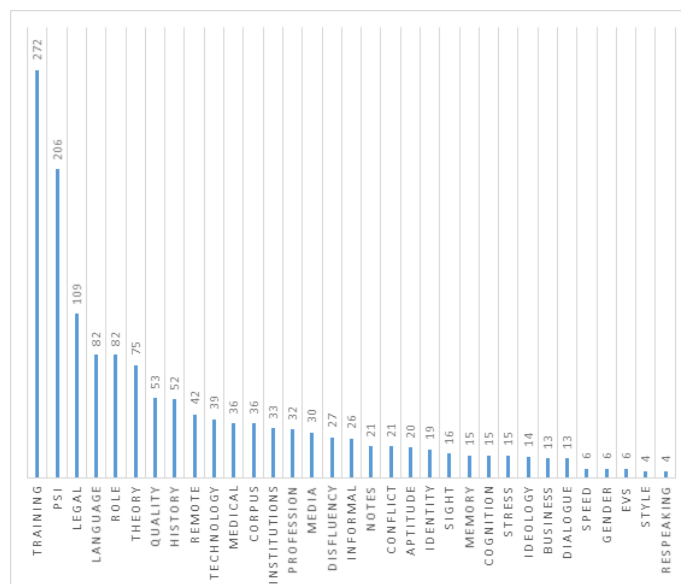
Figure 3. Number of papers per topic

However, what Figure 4 below reveals is that training and PSI have both maintained a steady increase of attention, albeit more sustained in the case of training and more erratic in the case of PSI, where interest has waned over recent years following a series of sporadic spurts. On the other hand, however, barring a notable spike in 2015, the increase in the number of papers with a focus on legal interpreting is merely in line with the overall increase in the number of T&I journals giving space to interpreting-related topics in general.
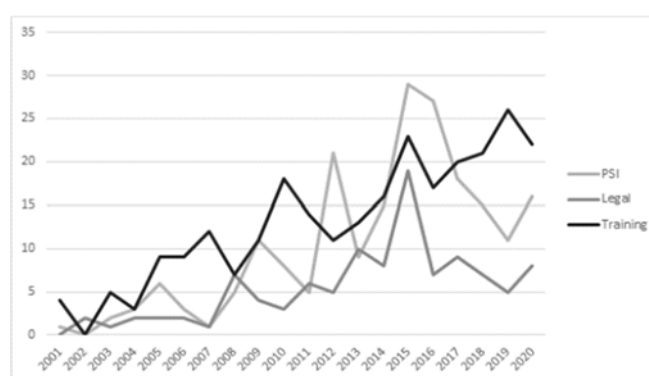

Figure 4. Relative increase of interest in the three main topics

What this means is that while PSI and in particular Training look likely to be set to continue as leading trends in the field in interpreting research in the near future, the same cannot be said of legal interpreting, which may well be overtaken by other topics of more relatively marginal interest during the period analysed. Indeed, as Figure 5 indicates, while much more modest based exclusively on the raw number of research papers in each case when compared with legal interpreting, topics such as remote interpreting and technological innovation, especially in combination with the leading field of teaching, both show signs of holding out the promise of continuing as trends in the near future owing to their recent relative upsurge in growth.

Figure 5. Examples of upturn as an indication of possible future trends in lower ranking topics

3.3.2 Detailed breakdown

The wide range of the data pool allows for a more granular breakdown of some of the broader, main categories into specific subtopics discussed here in relative order of importance, highlighting the overlap between categories.

Training

Technological innovation and the application of new technologies (19) is the foremost training-related subtopic, followed by the issue of online and blended teaching (13). Notable fields of specialisation are PSI (23), Legal (10) and Medical (10), with only 4 papers dedicated to training for international institutions (4). It

is also worth noting that over twenty papers specific address training programs and curricular design in a specific country or university.

PSI

There has been a steady upsurge in the interest in PSI over the last twenty years. The two main topics dealt with are the interpreter's role (23) and specific training (10). The main sectors and target receptors, with considerable mutual overlap are as follows: Refugees and asylum seekers in general (23); Healthcare (62); Education (5); Prisons (3); Police (12) and Gender violence (8).

Language

A bulk of the language-related papers (33) involves the problems that arise when interpreting with a specific language or language pair. Other key topics include processing numbers (10) often involving cognition-related factors, the issues surrounding interpreting into a B language (9) and the challenges posed by the use of English as a *lingua franca* (9).

Theory

Typically, theory-oriented papers include discussions of models such as Skopos theory, deverbalisation and Gile's efforts model together with proposed new models for information processing. A further 18 papers are concerned with discussing various aspects of interpreting research, such as ethnography, anthropology and ethics and biometrical studies as well as procedural and methodological considerations.

Historical

Over a quarter (28%) of the papers with a historical focus are devoted to interpreting and colonisation (15 papers), especially concerning the Americas but also –albeit to a lesser extent– Africa, Australia, the Dutch Indies and Portuguese India. Other topics include the aftermath of World War II and Nazi war crimes and the Cold War period, especially focused on the USSR, as well as the place of interpreting in Chinese history.

Remote

Although not always considered as a type of remote interpreting *per se*, as an off-site mode, telephone interpreting accounts for 45% of the papers (19) under this heading, covering such areas as road-side assistance, legal interpreting between a lawyer and client and interpreting for migrants and medical emergencies. Conversely, papers specifically dealing with video interpreting (11) are primarily concerned with conference interpreting.

War zones

As far as interpreting in war zones and other military conflicts is concerned, slightly over half of the contributions (11 in total) come from a special issue of *Linguistica Antverpiensia* (15: 2016) entitled 'Interpreting in conflict situations and in conflict zones throughout history'. Periods and conflicts covered include World Wars I and II (excluding Nazi war crimes included under History) and the conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Lebanon as well as more general papers detailing with the part played by interpreters in such situations.

Institutions

Regarding interpreting for public institutions, the vast majority (21 papers, i.e. 63.6%) is devoted to various aspects of interpreting for the EU and related bodies (Council of Europe, Court of Justice of the European Union, European Commission, European Parliament), covering a range of issues such as relay interpreting, the challenges posed by multilingualism, specific training and stress. Only 5 papers focus on the United Nations (including UNESCO), with the remainder discussing specific countries, namely the parliaments of Malaysia and Canada as well as more general discussions of interpreting for public bodies and administrations.

Media

Half of the papers in this field centre on various situations of television interpreting (15), ranging from chat shows to awards ceremonies, with press conferences also ranking relatively prominently (10).

Profession

Papers discussing professional aspects of interpreting address such issues as booth etiquette and teamwork and job satisfaction as well overviews of the market, with 28% of all such papers being country-specific.

Technology

This covers different kinds of technological innovations and hardware such as digital pens for note taking (3), portable interpreting devices, tablets and software as well as the way technology can be deployed to enhance interpreter training.

Gender

Finally, while still in its infancy, there seems to be a burgeoning interest in gender-related issues since 2019 with 6 papers unrelated to the field of gender-violence in PSI, e.g. impoliteness in interpreting and norms and gender in simultaneous interpreting.

3.4 Researchers

It is worth citing some of the most outstanding authors over this period and the area to which they have contributed, whilst at the same time paying special attention to some of the up-and-coming names in the field.

By far and away the most prolific author is Andrew K. F. Cheung (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University). Primarily writing alone, this researcher has authored 17 papers (2001-2020) on a broad range of issues, ranging from legal interpreting, to language-related issues such as number processing, prosody, omissions and word order and training. He is closely followed by Carmen Valero Garcés (University of Alcalá, Madrid) with 15 papers over a slightly shorter period (2006-2020), with a focus on PSI, including gender violence.

With thirteen papers apiece are the following researchers (in alphabetical order):

Bart Defrancq (Ghent University). Especially noteworthy for having published all 13 papers in a brief, four-year period, writing primarily in conjunction with other authors on a wide range of topics, including gender with Cédric Magnifico,

cognitive issues with Koen Plevoets and police and courtroom interpreting with Sofie Verliefd (13 papers: 2016-2020. Average: 3.25/year).

Franz Pöchhacker (University of Vienna). A well-known name in interpreting research, writing on a range of subjects, including quality, assessment and training and aptitude related issues, as well as technology (13 papers: 2001-2019. Average: 0.72/year).

Lucía Ruiz Rosendo (University of Geneva). Focusing primarily on aspects of interpreting for the medical and healthcare sectors, including training and assessment (13 papers: 2004-2019. Average: 0.87/year).

In a slightly lower production bracket, we find the following researchers:

Mariachiara Russo (University of Bologna). Various topics, notably aptitude and assessment, as well as corpora and remote interpreting (12 papers: 2007-2018. Average: 1.09/year).

Marta Arumí Ribas (Autonomous University of Barcelona). Focused primarily on training and PSI, the latter often in conjunction with Mireia Vargas-Urpí (11 papers: 2009-2020. Average: 1.00/year).

Sandra Hale (University of New South Wales, Sydney). Publishing mainly in conjunction with a range of other researchers on court interpreting (11 papers: 2010-2020. Average: 1.10/year).

Chao Han (Southwest University, Chongqing). Particularly noteworthy for having produced so many papers over such a short period, thereby holding out significant potential for the future. Published papers cover a variety of topics ranging from surveys of the profession in China, to quality and testing, often in conjunction with other researchers (11 papers: 2015-2020. Average: 0.73/year).

Jieun Lee (Ewha Womans University, Seoul), with a special interest in court interpreting and interpreter training. (11 papers: 2007-2018. Average: 1.00/year).

Mireia Vargas Urpí (Autonomous University of Barcelona). One of the leading researchers focused on PSI. (11 papers: 2011-2019 Average: 1.38/year).

The middle-range bracket includes the following:

Claudia V. Angelelli (Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh). Notably PSI, especially brokering and training (9 papers: 2006-2015. Average: 1.00/year).

María Isabel del Pozo Triviño (University of Vigo). Mainly with other researchers on PSI, with a special focus on gender violence (9 papers: 2009-2020. Average: 0.82/year).

Aurora Ruiz Mezcua (University of Cordoba). Especially training and new technologies, including remote (9 papers: 2010-2019. Average: 1.00/year).

Robert Neal Baxter (University of Vigo). Most notably interpreter training (8 papers: 2012-2019. Average: 1.14/year).

Jim Hlavac (Monash University, Melbourne). Notably PSI, with a special focus on brokering (8 papers: 2010-2018. Average: 1.00/year).

María Amparo Jiménez Ivars (University Jaume I, Castelló). Especially interpreter training, usually in conjunction with other researchers (8 papers: 2001-2020. Average: 0.42/year).

Sonja Pöllabauer (University of Vienna). PSI with a focus on asylum seekers, usually in conjunction with other researchers (8 papers: 2004-2019. Average: 0.53/year).

Finally, based on their recent track record, some names to look out for in the future include the following:

Sijia Chen (Southwest University, Chongqing). Cognitive processes and computer-assisted interpreting(7 papers: 2016-2020. Average: 1.75/year).

James Chonglong Gu (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University). Political discourse, especially with regards to China (3 papers: 2019-2020).

Francisco J. Vigier-Moreno (Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville). Legal translation and bilateral court interpreting (3 papers: 2019-2020).

Eloísa Monteoliva-García (Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh). PSI, especially in collaboration with the police and court interpreting (2 papers: 2020. Average: 2/year).

Esperanza Macarena Pradas Macías (University of Granada). Quality in interpreting (2 papers: 2020. Average: 2/year).

Miranda Lai (RMIT University, Melbourne). PSI, including policing and vicarious trauma (2 papers: 2020. Average: 2/year).

Przemysław Janikowski (University of Silesia, Katowice). Psycho- and neurolinguistic aspects of interpreting and their applications for training (2 papers: 2020. Average: 2/year).

Qin Fan (Southwest University, Chongqing). Fluency and trainees self-assessment (2 papers: 2020. Average: 2/year).

These researchers –many of whom are women– can be seen to play a leading role in interpreting research and tend to corroborate the main trends described above, with a strong emphasis on training, PSI and legal interpreting, but also with new horizons possibly opening for other areas thanks to more novice researchers, including political discourse and perhaps a renewed interest in cognitive processes employing up-to-date methodologies and technologies.

It is also interesting to note that 177 of the researchers (17.1%) are of Asian origin or Asian or mixed-Asian heritage based on their names and the research centres where they are based and who may well take a leading role in defining the future directions of interpreting research, *viz.* Chinese (135): Japanese (22) Korean (20). Apart from those already cited above, other relatively prolific researchers from Asia include Jungwha Choi (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul), with a special interest in interpreter training and Xiangdong Li (Xi'an International Studies University), focused primarily on training.

4 Conclusions

Although a wider variety of sources and additional journals[6] would be needed to corroborate the findings in order to provide an exhaustive study, this extensive, broad-based –albeit tentative– study conducted over the most recently available two decades spanning 2001-2020 reveals that Training and PSI clearly lead the way as the most highly researched topics, both emerging as clear on-going trends likely to continue to mark the future of interpreting research, especially so in the case of training which displays a consistently sustained growth as compared with PSI, which has experienced as slight down-turn over more recent years following a series of erratic growth spurts.

Training and PSI both more than double the number of papers focused on the next-ranked topic of legal and court interpreting, which has not registered a significant growth of interest and cannot therefore be described as a likely trend for research in the near future. Language-related issues, alongside topics such as the role played by interpreters, theoretical and methodological questions, quality,

---

[6] Additional journals might include some of the more recent ones excluded from the study as well as others with a specific focus such as *HERMES: Journal of Language and Communication in Business* (ISSN 0904-1699) and the *International Journal of Interpreter Education* (ISSN 2150-5772).

remote interpreting and history in the next bracket of medium interest all considerably lag behind the top three.

Significantly less attention has been paid to such matters as media interpreting, note taking, interpreting in war zones, memory, cognition and business interpreting, with a range of substantially more marginal interest such as style, speed of delivery and respeaking only dealt with very anecdotally in the literature analysed.

The research interests of both well-established, leading researchers as well as emerging newcomers tend to bear out the main trends involving training and PSI, whilst at the same time holding the door open to possible growth in fields such as political discourse and a renewal of interest in cognitive processes, together with a likely increase in the number of papers involving new technologies, including their application to remote interpreting and online teaching.

References

Baxter, R.N. (2014) 'Undergraduate interpreter training in the Spanish State. An analytical comparison.' *Sendebar*, 25 pp. 219-246.

Baxter, R.N. (2019) 'An overview of Interpreting in Spanish. Past, present and future.' In Valdeón, R. A. and Vidal, A. (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Spanish Translation Studies.* London: Routledge, pp. 196-210.

Franco, Javier. 2021. *BITRA. Bibliografía de Interpretación y Traducción.* [Online] [Accessed on 28th October 2021] https://aplicacionesua.cpd.ua.es/tra_int/usu/buscar.asp?idioma=es

Gambier, Y., Gile, D and Taylor, C. (1997) *Conference Interpreting: Current Trends in Research.* Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Gile, D. (1995) *Regards sur la recherche en interprétation de conférence.* Lille: Presses Universitaires de Lille.

Gile, D. (2000) 'The History of Research into Conference Interpreting: A Scientometric Approach.' *Target*, 12(2) pp. 297-321.

Hadley, J.L. (2015) *List of Journals Publishing Translation Studies Research List of Journals Publishing Translation Research.* [Online] [Accessed on 28th October 2021] https://www.academia.edu/11919672/List_of_Journals_Publishing_Translation_Studies_Research

Monteoliva-Garcia, E. (2018) 'The last ten years of legal interpreting research (2008-2017): A review of research in the field of legal interpreting.' *Language and Law / Linguagem e Direito*, 5(1) pp. 38-61.

Orduna-Malea, E., Martín-Martín, A., Ayllón, J.M. and Emilio Delgado López-Cózar, E. (2016) *La revolución Google Scholar: Destapando la caja de Pandora académica.* Granada: Universidad de Granada.

Pöchhacker, F. (1995a) '"Those Who Do...": A Profile of Research(ers) in Interpreting.' *Target* 7:1 pp. 47-64.

Pöchhacker, F. (1995b) 'Writings and Research on Interpreting: A Bibliographic Analysis.' *The Interpreter's Newsletter*, 6 pp. 17-31.

Rovira-Esteva, S. (2012) *Document informatiu sobre la indexació de revistes acadèmiques de l'àmbit dels Estudis de Traducció i Interpretació.* [Online] [Accessed on 7th May 2021] https://www.bib.uab.cat/human/acreditacions/planes/publiques/revistes/reviste scercaeticas.php

Rovira-Esteva, S., Coré, R., Lopo, A. and Varona, M. (2014) *Índice h de las revistas de Traducción e Interpretación de acuerdo con el Google Scholar Metrics (2008-2012).* [Online] [Accessed on 28th October 2021] https://core.ac.uk/reader/19577362

Rovira-Esteva, S., Coré, R., Lopo, A. and Varona, M. (2015a) *Índice h de las revistas de Traducción e Interpretación de acuerdo con el Google Scholar Metrics (2009-2013).* [Online] [Accessed on 28th October 2021] https://core.ac.uk/reader/78528520

Rovira-Esteva, S., Coré, R., Lopo, A. and Varona, M. (2015b) *Índice h de las revistas de Traducción e Interpretación de acuerdo con el Google Scholar Metrics (2010-2014).* [Online] [Accessed on 28th October 2021] https://core.ac.uk/reader/78528521

Rovira-Esteva, S., Coré, R., Lopo, A. and Varona, M. (2016) *H-index Translation and Interpreting Journals according to Google Scholar Metrics (2011-2015).* [Online] [Accessed on 28th October 2021]. https://core.ac.uk/reader/78545646

Rovira-Esteva, S., Coré, R., Lopo, A. and Varona, M. (2017) *H-index of Translation and Interpreting Journals according to Google Scholar Metrics (2012-2016).* [Online] [Accessed on 28th October 2021] https://core.ac.uk/reader/132092209

Rovira-Esteva, S., Coré, R., Lopo, A. and Varona, M. (2018) *H-index of Translation and Interpreting journals according to Google Scholar Metrics (2013-2017).* [Online] [Accessed on 28th October 2021] https://core.ac.uk/reader/189877098

Rovira-Esteva, S., Coré, R., Lopo, A. and Varona, M. (2019) *H-index of Translation and Interpreting journals according to Google Scholar Metrics (2014-2018).* [Online] [Accessed on 28th October 2021] https://core.ac.uk/reader/224835495

Rovira-Esteva, S., Coré, R., Lopo, A. and Varona, M. (2020) *H-index of Translation and Interpreting Journals according to Google Scholar Metrics (2015-2019).* [Online] [Accessed on 28th October 2021] https://portalrecerca.uab.cat/en/publications/h-index-of-translation-and-interpreting-journals-according-to-goo-2

Shultz, M. (2007). 'Comparing test searches in PubMed and Google Scholar.' *Journal of the Medical Library Association*, 95 (4) pp. 442-445.

Wang, B. (2015) 'A bibliometrical analysis of interpreting studies in China: Based on a database of s published in the CSSCI/CORE journals in recent years.' *Babel*, 61 (1) pp. 62-77.

Xu, Z. and Pekelis, L. (2015) 'Chinese Interpreting Studies: a data-driven analysis of a dynamic field of enquiry.' *PeerJ* 3:e1249. [Online] [Accessed on 21st November 2021] DOI 10.7717/peerj.1249

Xiu Yan, J., Jun P., Hui W. and Ying W. (2013) 'Mapping interpreting studies: The state of the field based on a database of nine major translation and interpreting journals (2000-2010).' *Perspectives*, 21 (3) pp. 446-473.

Zhang, W. (2011) '口譯研究五十年綜述：回顧與展望' [Fifty Years in Interpreting Studies: Reviews and Prospects]. *翻譯學報 Journal of Translation Studies*, 14 (1-2) pp. 53-76.

Appendix

This appendix provides a complete list of the journals analysed in this study, including their full title and ISSN for ease of reference and an English translation of the title where appropriate (Column 1) as well as the period under scrutiny in each case (Column 2), bearing in mind that some are more recent than others and thus span a shorter period, together with the total number issues released over the period analysed (Column 3). For the sake of completeness, biometric information is provided in Column 4 (Quartile: 2021-2022) and Column 5 (Five-year impact factor: 2021-2022) as and when applicable. Column 6 shows the total number of interpreting-related papers for the period covered. The resulting interpreting ratio based on the average number of interpreting-related papers per issue (Column 7) is intended to be taken as a rule-of-thumb indication of the attention paid to interpreting in each case. However, this ratio should be contrasted with the fact that the overall actual average ratio could be substantially lower in the case of those journals primarily or exclusively covering interpreting in special issues as discussed in the paper.

Full title	Period	Issues	Q	IF	Int.	Ratio
1611: Revista de historia de la traducción [Journal of the History of Translation] ISSN 1988-2963	2007-2020	14	4	0.026	4	0.29
Across Languages and Cultures: A Multidisciplinary Journal for Translation and Interpreting Studies ISSN 1585-1923	2001-2020	38	1	1.584	22	0.58
Asia Pacific Translation and Intercultural Studies ISSN 2330-6343	2014-2019	18			6	0.33
Babel: Revue internationale de la traduction/ International Journal of Translation ISSN 0521-9744	2001-2020	79	1	0.435	50	0.63
Cadernos de Tradução [Translation Notes] ISSN 1414-526X	2001-2020	53	4	-	4	0.08
CLINA: an interdisciplinary journal of translation, interpreting and intercultural communication ISSN 2444-1961	2015-2020	11	-	-	10	0.91
Cultus: the journal of intercultural mediation and communication ISSN 2035-2948	2008-2018	13	-	-	9	0.69
Current trends in translation teaching and learning ISSN 2342-7205	2006-2020	11	-	-	18	1.64
Entreculturas: Revista de traducción y comunicación intercultural [Journal of Translation and Intercultural Communication] ISSN 1989- 5097	2009-2020	9	-	-	13	1.44
Équivalences : revue de traduction et de traductologie [Equivalences: Journal of Translation and Translatology] ISSN 0779-5599	2001-2020	39	-	-	9	0.23
Estudios de traducción [Translation Studies] ISSN 2174-047X	2011-2020	10	4	0.017	4	0.40
FITISPos International Journal	2014-2020	7	1	0.170	18	2.57

[Training and Research in Public Services Interpreting] ISSN 2341-3778					
Fordítástudomány [Translatology] ISSN 1419-7480	2005-2020	32	-	-	24	0.75
Forum: International Journal of Interpretation and Translation ISSN 1598-7647	2003-2020	36	3	-	86	2.39
Hermēneus. Revista de Traducción e Interpretación [Journal of Translation and Interpreting] ISSN 1139-7489	2001-2020	20	3	0.103	13	0.65
Hikma: Estudios de traducción/Translation Studies ISSN 1579-9794	2002-2020	21	2	0.165	3	0.14
Interpreting: An International Journal of Research and Practice in Interpreting ISSN 1384-6647	2004-2020	34	1	1.667	160	100
inTRAlinea: Rivista online di Traduttologia ISSN 1827-000X	2001-2020	19	3	0.032	25	1.32
JoSTrans: Journal of Specialised Translation ISSN 1740-357X	2004-2020	34	1	1.849	24	0.71
Linguistica Antverpiensia New Series. Themes in Translation Studies ISSN 2295-5739	2002-2020	20	2	0.500	41	2.05
Meta. Journal des Traducteurs [Translators' Journal] ISSN 0026- 0452	2001-2020	71	2	0.309	73	1.03
Między oryginałem a przekładem [Between the Original and the Translation] ISSN 1689-9121	2013-2020	33	-	-	11	0.33
Monti: Monografías de Traducción [Translation Monographs] ISSN 1889-4178	2009-2020	18	2	0.334	33	1.83
mTm: A translation journal ISSN 1791-8421	2009-2019	11	-	-	5	0.45
Mutatis Mutandis: Revista Latinoamericana de Traducción	2008-2020	26	2	0.212	8	0.31

[Latin American Translation Journal] ISSN 2011-799X						
New Voices in Translation Studies ISSN 1819-5644	2005-2020	23	2	0.386	10	0.43
Panacea: Boletín de medicina y traducción [Bulletin of Medicine and Translation] ISSN 1537-1964	2001-2020	44	3	0.139	17	0.39
Parallèles : Cahiers de l'Ecole de Traduction et d'Interprétation de l'Université de Genève [Parallels : Journal of the School of Translation and Interpreting of the University of Geneva] ISSN 1015-7573	2001-2020	17	-	-	4	0.24
Perspectives: Studies in Translatology ISSN 0907-676X	2001-2020	84	1	1.455	37	0.44
Polissema. Revista de Letras do ISCAP [Humanities Journal of the Higher Institute of Accounting and Administration of Porto] ISSN 1645-1937	2001-2020	20	-	-	18	0.90
Przekładaniec: a journal of translation studies ISSN 1425-6851	2006-2020	23	4	0.053	1	0.04
Quaderns. Revista de Traducció [Notes. Translation Journal] ISSN 1138-5790	2001-2020	22	4	0.101	10	0.45
REDIT. Revista Electrónica de Didáctica de Traducción e Interpretación [E-journal of Translation and Interpreting Didactics] ISSN 1989- 4376	2008-2019	13	-	-	14	1.08
Revista Tradumàtica [Journal of Automatic Translation] ISSN 1578-7559	2010-2020	11	2	0.143	8	0.73
Rivista internazionale di tecnica della traduzione/ International Journal of Translation ISSN: 1722-5906	2001-2020	17	-	-	8	0.47
Rocznik Przekładoznawczy	2005-2020	15	-	-	9	0.60

[Transaltion Annual] ISSN 1896-4362						
Sendebar. Revista de la Facultad de Traducción e Interpretación [Journal of the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, University of Granada] ISSN 1130-5509	2001-2020	20	2	0.236	32	1.6
Senez. Itzulpen aldizkaria [Translation Journal] ISSN 1132-2152	2001-2020	29	-	-	8	0.28
SKASE Journal of Translation and Interpretation ISSN 1336-7811	2005-2020	19	3	0.024	8	0.42
Skopos: Revista internacional de traducción e interpretación [International Journal of Translation and Interpreting] ISSN 2255-3703	2012-2020	11	3	0.042	6	0.55
Studia translatorica [Transaltion Studies] ISSN 2084-3321	2010-2020	11	-	-	7	0.64
Target. International Journal of Translation Studies ISSN 0924-1884	2001-2020	48	2	1.000	23	0.48
The Interpreter and Translator Trainer ISSN 1750-399X	2007-2020	39	1	1.849	80	2.05
The Interpreters' Newsletter ISSN 1591-4127	2001-2020	15			116	100
The Translator: Studies in Intercultural Communication ISSN 1355-6509	2001-2020	51	1	0.507	29	0.57
Trans. Revista de Traductología [Journal of Translatology] ISSN 1137-2311	2001-2020	21	3	0.087	14	0.67
Transfer: Revista electrónica sobre traducción e interculturalidad [E-journal on Translation and Interculturality] ISSN 1886-5542	2006-2020	27	4	0.021	1	0.04
Trans-kom: Zeitschrift für translationswissenschaft und fachkommunikation [Journal of Translation Studies and Specialist Communication]	2008-2020	27	-	-	17	0.63

ISSN 1867-4844						
Translation and interpreting studies: the journal of the American Translation and Interpreting Studies Association ISSN 1932-2798	2006-2020	37	1	0.585	43	1.16
Translation and Interpreting: The International Journal of Translation and Interpreting Research ISSN 1836-9324	2009-2020	24	1	0.749	57	2.38
Translation and translanguaging in multilingual contexts ISSN 2352-1805	2015-2020	16	-	-	10	0.63
Translation studies ISSN 1478-1700	2008-2020	37	1	0.449	1	0.03
Viceversa: Revista galega de tradución [Galician Translation Journal] ISSN 1135-8920	2001-2014	14	-	-	6	0.43