THE ROLE OF CORPUS LINGUISTICS IN MODERN TRANSLATION STUDIES

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Abstract: This article examines the role, significance, and practical applications of corpus linguistics in modern translation studies. In the era of globalization, translation activities are no longer limited to linguistic competence alone; they also require the use of digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and large-scale text databases. Corpus linguistics is considered one of the most important scientific fields that addresses these needs. The article discusses the concept of corpus, its types, functions in translation processes, and its contribution to improving translation quality. Particular attention is given to the role of parallel and comparable corpora in translation theory and practice, their importance in identifying translation equivalence, and their usefulness in solving terminological problems. The study highlights the advantages of corpus technologies as fast and reliable sources of information for translators. Furthermore, the article analyzes the significance of corpus linguistics in machine translation, computer-assisted translation tools, and artificial intelligence-based systems. The research demonstrates that corpus linguistics occupies a crucial theoretical and practical position in the development of modern translation studies.

Key words: corpus linguistics, translation studies, parallel corpus, comparable corpus, translation equivalence, machine translation, computer-assisted translation, linguistic analysis, translation quality, terminology.

Introduction

Corpus linguistics has become one of the most important approaches in modern translation studies. With the development of technology, artificial intelligence, and digital communication, translation is now closely connected with computer tools and electronic language databases. Corpus linguistics helps translators improve translation quality, analyze language patterns, and use authentic language examples in their work.

A corpus is a large electronic collection of texts used for linguistic analysis. It may include books, newspapers, scientific articles, spoken language transcripts, and translated texts. Unlike traditional methods that depended mainly on intuition, corpus linguistics introduced a data-based and scientific approach to studying language. This has greatly influenced translation studies.

One of the main advantages of corpus linguistics is that it provides translators with real examples of language use. Translators can study collocations, grammar structures, phraseological units, and terminology in authentic contexts. As a result, translations become more accurate, natural, and contextually appropriate.

Parallel corpora are especially important in translation studies. A parallel corpus contains original texts and their translations aligned sentence by sentence. This allows translators to compare source and target texts directly and identify suitable translation equivalents, idioms, and stylistic features. Comparable corpora are also useful because they include texts in different languages that belong to similar genres or topics. They help translators understand discourse patterns and cultural differences between languages.

Corpus-based translation studies examine translated texts with computational tools and large language databases. Researchers study common translation features such as simplification, explicitation, normalization, and interference. These features can be analyzed more effectively through corpora than through traditional qualitative methods.

Corpus linguistics also plays an important role in terminology management. Translators working in medicine, law, engineering, or technology often face specialized vocabulary. Corpora help identify accurate terms and show how they are used in professional contexts. In addition, corpora improve phraseological competence by helping translators understand idioms, collocations, and fixed expressions.

Modern computer-assisted translation tools rely heavily on corpus linguistics. Translation memories, concordancers, terminology databases, and alignment tools help translators work more efficiently and consistently. Machine translation systems, including neural machine translation, are also trained on large bilingual corpora. These systems analyze millions of translated sentences to learn language patterns and improve translation quality.

Corpus linguistics is equally valuable in translator education. Students use corpora to explore authentic language examples and develop data-driven learning skills. This method improves critical thinking, linguistic awareness, and translation competence. Instead of memorizing vocabulary mechanically, students learn how language functions in real communication.

Despite its advantages, corpus linguistics has some limitations. The quality of results depends on corpus size, design, and representativeness. Corpora mainly provide quantitative information, while human translators still need cultural understanding and critical interpretation. Ethical issues such as copyright and data ownership must also be considered.

Overall, corpus linguistics has transformed translation studies into a more technological and empirical discipline. It supports literary, technical, legal, medical, and audiovisual translation while improving machine translation and translator training. As technology and artificial intelligence continue to develop, corpus linguistics will remain one of the key foundations of modern translation theory and practice.

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