

**Mapping Indirect Translation Research:
A Two-Tier Meta-Analysis of Traditions, Shifts, and
Uncharted Paths**

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Nayara Güercio

*I dedicate this thesis to the two extraordinary women who raised me:
my mother, and my grandmother (in memoriam).*

Their sacrifices have shaped the path I walk today,
and I carry their strength in everything I do.
This thesis is as much a reflection of their dreams as it is of my own.

ABSTRACT

Indirect translation (ITr) has long been marginalised in Translation Studies (TS), often stigmatised as a form of “cheating” or a “necessary evil” (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 205; St. André 2020: 471). Despite its negative reputation, ITr is a longstanding reality that cannot be overlooked. Recent efforts to integrate ITr research into the mainstream of TS highlight the need for a more systematic and methodologically diverse approaches. Accordingly, this thesis seeks to address the overarching question: What is the current landscape of ITr research? To answer this question, this thesis employs a dual methodological approach: a temporal-focused analysis and a topic-focused analysis. The temporal-focused approach examines the evolution of ITr research across three periods: past (1963–2016), present (2017–2022), and future (2023–2028). The topic-focused approach provides a comprehensive framework, analysing key categories, such as publication timelines, formats, (co)authorship, collaboration, themes, terminology, typologies, and methodologies. This dual approach is supported by a meta-analysis of 130 ITr studies and 49 interviews with ITr scholars, offering a nuanced understanding of the subfield’s current state and future trajectory. The findings reveal minimal evolution in ITr research from the past to the present, with more substantive anticipated in the future. A key contribution of this thesis is the development of a nonagon, a geometric figure representing the interconnectedness of ITr research. The nonagon serves as a visual representation of the synergies and patterns within ITr research, offering a novel framework for understanding its complexities. The thesis concludes with three propositions: (1) advancing ITr research requires broadening access to primary materials, including purposefully generated ITr chains; (2) ITr serves as a bridge for interdisciplinary collaboration between TS and Computer Science; and (3) the synergy between research and education can reconcile the reality of publications with scholars’ perspectives. ITr research is a dynamic and rapidly evolving field, showing no signs of reaching its conclusion anytime soon. Whether celebrated or contested, ITr is here to stay.

RESUMO

A tradução indireta (ITr) tem sido historicamente marginalizada nos Estudos da Tradução, muitas vezes vista como uma forma de “fraude” ou um “mal necessário” (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 205; St. André 2020: 471). Apesar dessa reputação negativa, nos últimos anos, tentativas de trazer a pesquisa sobre ITr para o centro dos Estudos da Tradução têm ganhado força, mas ainda esbarram na necessidade de abordagens mais sistemáticas e metodologicamente diversificadas. Diante desse cenário, esta tese busca responder à pergunta central: Qual é o panorama atual das pesquisas em tradução indireta? Para responder a essa pergunta, esta tese adota uma abordagem metodológica dividida em duas frentes: uma análise temporal e uma análise temática. A análise temporal investiga a evolução da pesquisa em ITr em três períodos: passado (1963–2016), presente (2017–2022) e futuro (2023–2028). Já a análise temática oferece um panorama abrangente, explorando categorias como cronologia das publicações, formatos, (co)autoria, colaboração, temas, terminologia, tipologias e metodologias. Essa abordagem é sustentada por uma meta-análise de 130 estudos sobre tradução indireta e 49 entrevistas com pesquisadores da área, proporcionando uma visão detalhada do estado atual e das tendências futuras desse subcampo dos Estudos da Tradução. Os resultados sugerem uma estabilidade relativa até o presente, mas também sinalizam a possibilidade de transformações expressivas em um horizonte futuro. Um dos principais achados desta tese é o desenvolvimento de um nonágono, uma figura geométrica que representa as conexões e padrões presentes nas atuais pesquisas em ITr. A tese conclui com três propostas: (1) para avançar as pesquisas em ITr, é fundamental não se limitar à descoberta de cadeias já existentes, mas focar na criação de novas cadeias por meio de experimentos controlados; (2) a ITr pode servir como ponte para colaborações interdisciplinares entre os Estudos da Tradução e a Ciência da Computação; e (3) a integração entre pesquisa e educação pode ajudar a alinhar a realidade das publicações com as perspectivas dos pesquisadores. A pesquisa em Tradução Indireta veio para ficar, desafiando paradigmas e abrindo novos horizontes para pesquisas dentro e fora dos Estudos da Tradução.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AGT	Agent-based
AVT	Audio-visual Translation
CS	Computer Science
DH	Digital Humanities
Int-TXT	Intermediary/Intermediate Text
IS	Interpreting Studies
ITr	Indirect Translation
ITr-feature	ITr as a feature of the analysed materials(s)
ITr-strategy	ITr as a translation strategy
ITr-subject	ITr as a standalone subject
LLM	Large Language Model
LT	Literary Translation
MT	Machine Translation
MR	Meta-Research
NMT	Neural Machine Translation
NT	News Translation
PCS	Process-based
PDT	Product-based
PHN	Phenomenon-based
SP	Social-political Issues
ST	Source Text
TH	Translation History
TMT	Theoretical, Methodological and Terminological Dimensions
TS	Translation Studies
TT	Target Text
TTech	Technical Translation
TTrain	Translator Training

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INTRODUCTION

Translation Studies (TS) is a dynamic, broad, and interdisciplinary field that extends far beyond the scope of Literary Translation (LT) (Fonseca 2025: 546; Zanettin, Zhu & Aryadoust 2023: 171; Jiménez-Crespo 2020: 319; Saldanha & Harding 2015: 166; Bassnett 2012: 20). However, even as TS explores other themes outside LT, one literary work has consistently featured in TS research for decades: *The Thousand and One Nights*¹ (e.g., see Muehlhaeusler 2013; Shamma 2005; Haydar 1996; Knipp 1974; MacDonald 1924). Also known as *The Arabian Nights*², this collection of Middle Eastern tales is more than just a celebrated literary book, it has a particular characteristic to it: it was translated from another translation, making it an indirect translation (ITr) (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 3; Hadley 2021: 678; Van Leeuwen 2007: 2; Borges 1997: 397; Gambier 1994: 413). First translated from Arabic into French by Antoine Galland (1646-1715), in the late 15th century, this iconic collection has since been translated from French into multiple languages, including English, Gaelic, and Japanese (Hadley 2021: 67)³. *The Arabian Nights*, however, is just one of the many cases of (literary) indirect translation which often go unnoticed or are deliberately concealed (Buts et al. 2023: 171; Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al. 2023: 826; Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 113–114; Pięta 2012: 315). This state of affairs directly impacts the academic scrutiny of these cases, which has historically been scattered, marginalised and case-study-specific (Hadley 2023: 7; Pięta 2019: 29; Pięta 2014: 16; Cardozo 2012: 434). This thesis, therefore, shifts focus

¹ The source author is unknown, and the ultimate source text's publication date is not available.

² Title in Arabic: أَلْفُ لَيْلَةٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ [Alf Laylah wa-Laylah]. Title in Persian: هزار و یک شب.

³ In 2005, Professor Mamede Mustafa Jarouche of the University of São Paulo [Universidade de São Paulo] completed *The Thousand and One Nights*' first direct translation from Arabic into Brazilian Portuguese (*As mil e uma noites*), not relying on either French or English (Torres 2019: 250-252; Cardozo 2012: 433). The translated work later won the 2006 iteration of the prestigious Jabuti Award for Best Translation in Brazil (Torres 2019: 251). Professor Jarouche attributes his invitation to join the esteemed Brazilian Academy of Letters primarily to his direct translation of *The Arabian Nights* and his receipt of the Jabuti Prize (ibid.).

from individual cases and ITr as a practice to take stock of the current state of the art of ITr as a subject of research. Thus, it asks: what is the current landscape of ITr research?

To address its overarching question, the thesis adopts a knowledge-building methodological strategy, which involves synthesising smaller units of information into a cohesive whole to build understanding (Zhang et al. 2009: 8; see Beets et al. 2021; Indrayan & Mishra 2021; Hekler et al. 2019; Bereiter & Scardamalia 2014). In other words, this thesis conducts a meta-analysis of ITr research combined with interviews with ITr scholars. This methodological strategy is examined from two perspectives: a temporal-focused approach, and a topic-focused approach. The temporal-focused approach structures the thesis around the evolution of ITr research between the past (i.e., 1963-2016), present (i.e., 2017-2022), and future (i.e., 2023-2028). Even though acknowledging the past is important to produce new knowledge in the field, it is equally important to keep the future in view (Bowker et al. 2014: vi). The topic-focused approach offers a comprehensive framework of the ITr research landscape, focusing on analytical categories, such as the evolution of publication timelines, formats, language, authorship, collaboration, themes, terminology, typologies, and methodologies.

By answering its central question, this thesis' primary aim is to develop a thorough systematic framework of ITr research. The second aim is to produce clear and reproducible results that can inform ongoing or future debates on the potential distinguishing features of ITr, and ultimately laying the groundwork for identifying potential distinguishing features of TS as well. The third aim is to examine whether the current landscape of ITr research echoes scholars' perception of it. Involving ITr scholars in the analysis offers an opportunity to explore the potential convergences and divergences in the subfield, leading to a more nuanced understanding of both the present state and possible future trajectory of ITr research. Although pre-established categories, such as publication timelines, formats, and authorship, may potentially limit nuanced analysis, categorisation facilitates discussions not only on translation features but also on translation research (Hadley 2023: 15).

Since research, much like storytelling, ties together (past) ideas and insights (Feak & Swales 2016: 77), it is fitting to return to literary practices, where ITr plays a central role, and

tell a “research story” (ibid.). While narratives often follow a structured arc with clear beginnings and endings, history resists such definitive boundaries (Hermans 2022: 8). The story behind ITr is no exception. For this reason, before unpacking the methods used to answer this question, a historical overview is in order.

If Translation is not Good Enough, then ITr is Worse

Since epistemology fundamentally involves understanding knowledge in relation to reality and its perceived manifestations (Sol & Hang 2022: 97), it is to be expected that TS and translation practices are significantly shaped by their contextual environments (Bowker & Delsey 2016: 74). Translation, indeed, has always been “an integral part of human communication throughout history” (ibid.). However, it was not until the 1970s that TS emerged as a distinct discipline, catalysed by Holmes’ seminal work *The Name and Nature of Translation Studies* (1972) (D’hulst 2022: 3; Bowker & Delsey 2016: 74; Sun 2014: 167; Bassnett 2012: 16). Many hypotheses have been proposed to explain why TS emerged as an independent academic discipline only in the latter half of the 20th century. These hypotheses include the lack of interest in translation historiography in comparison to other disciplines (D’hulst 2022: 3), the challenges of reaching a consensus on what constitutes translation (Sun 2014: 168), and the growing need to fully understand, and perhaps even control, translators and their craft (Arrojo 1998: 423). Another reason could simply be the preconception of translation as a potentially violent act. For instance, Venuti (2010: 65) argues that “translation is inherently violent because it necessarily involves reconstituting the foreign text in accordance with values, beliefs and representations that pre-exist it in the target language”.

Despite its role in expanding the reach of films to multilingual audiences, even cinematic dubbing has been deemed misleading (Sánchez-MoMpeán 2023: 2; Caillé 1960: 108). In the specific case of English-speaking countries, the dubbing of foreign films can often be viewed as “a strangely dislocating and downright weird experience” that is similar to a

“mal-functioning Alexa”⁴ (Watkins 2021: n.p.). At the very least, dubbing practices have been deemed inadequate substitutes for the film’s source language, and dismissed as just “the illusion of an illusion” (Caillé 1960: 108). There is, therefore, a consensus that translation, both as a practice and as a field of study, has historically faced a level of prejudice, often being regarded as derivative or suboptimal (Buts et al. 2023: 171; Cardozo 2012: 431; Accácio 2010: 99). Even translators themselves have not escaped this prejudice, often being seen as traitors or impostors, instead of language professionals (Anderson 2021: 171; Beebee 2010: 297-298; Lederhändler 2009: 35). Considering that this bias extends to TS as a whole, it is likely that a similar disdain is levied at ITr (Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al. 2023: 825; St. André 2020: 472). Because translation is often criticised as being a derivative practice, it follows that ITr, with its additional layer of deviation, is perceived as even more contentious (Pięta 2019: 28; Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 114). One of the reasons for ITr’s apparently bad reputation and neglect is:

[...] that ITr reportedly replicates the stigma attached to translation itself (if one assumes that a translation is a poor copy of the original, then an indirect translation is inevitably a poor copy of this poor copy) and is thus heavily loaded with negative connotations (Pięta 2014: 16).

Due to its frequent association with “cheating and deficient outcomes” (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 205), ITr is often obscured from both translation practices and scholarly studies (Pięta 2019: 29). In many cases, indirect translations are misrepresented as direct translations, particularly in literary contexts (Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al. 2023: 826; Marin-Lacarta 2012: 3-6). And when their indirect nature is acknowledged, ITr is often dismissed as a “necessary evil” (St. André 2020: 471; Marin-Lacarta 2017: 135). This phenomenon is particularly ironic, since distinguishing between direct and indirect translations is often difficult, and even impossible in many cases (Alvstad 2017: 151). Moreover, ITrs may undergo fewer semantic or grammatical changes compared to the source

⁴ Alexa is a cloud-based voice assistant, developed by Amazon to enable and streamline various digital services (Amazon.com n.d.: n.p).

text (ST) than the intermediary text on which they are directly based (Hekkanen 2014: 61-62). Therefore, it is arguable that ITr's generally negative reputation and its historically marginal position in academia (Hadley 2023: 1), may be undeserved (Pięta 2014: 16). Despite recent efforts to shift ITr from the periphery of TS, TS research still often prioritises ITr's supposed inferiority and distorted nature, particularly in the debate surrounding quality assessments (Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al. 2023: 828). Regardless of any potential value judgements, ITr is not a recent invention, but a longstanding reality. Under these circumstances, can ITr simply be overlooked? According to Hadley (2023: 12), the discomfort researchers and practitioners feel towards ITr, along with their wishful thinking that it did not exist, are not reason enough for its dismissal. Wishing it away will not erase its presence in history.

Pioneers and Paradigms: Brief History of ITr as a Practice

While it may be impossible to pinpoint the exact origins of ITr, it is deeply rooted in and intertwined with history itself (Mirzoyeva et al. 2024: 1; Pięta 2019: 26; Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 113; Ringmar 2007: 1). Commonly associated with literature (Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al. 2023: 825; Dollerup 2000: 21), ITr has been an integral part of written traditions for centuries, including biblical times (Pięta, Bueno Maia, & Torres-Simón 2023: 3; Vermeulen 2012: 120), with the Christian Bible itself being an example of ITr (Hadley 2023: 5; Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 3; Valdez et al. 2023: 430; Pięta 2019: 26). Its practice extends back to ancient civilisations, even being found in the formative centuries of Buddhism (Carlucci 2016: 56). There are records of literature, broadly conceived, being translated indirectly in different parts of the world, such as:

- Albania: e.g., see Đorđević (2022).
- Brazil: e.g., see Torezan (2023), Carlucci (2022), Montenegro Freire (2021), Tanaka (2018), Hanes (2017), Cardozo (2012), and Accácio (2010).
- China: e.g., see Zhou (2024), Xin (2021), Li (2017), and Xu (1998).
- Finland: e.g., see Ivaska & Ivaska (2022), Ivaska (2020a), Ivaska (2020b), Ivaska & Paloposki (2018), and Hekkanen (2014).
- Iran: e.g., see Hosseini (2021).

- Italy: e.g., see Baselica (2021), Cosimini (2021), Dozio (2021), Galletti & Shajiei (2021), Morini (2021), and Pennings (2021).
- Japan: e.g., see Hadley (2017).
- Kazakhstan: e.g., see Mirzoyeva (2024), Alzhanova, Balmagambetova & Bochina (2023), and Akkaliyeva et al. (2021).
- Korea: e.g., see Yu (2025), and Cheong & Lim (2023).
- Malaysia: e.g., see Zainol & Haroon (2019).
- Portugal: e.g., see Gökce Vaz de Carvalho (2021), Cheng (2020), Pięta (2018), Assis Rosa (2017); Pacheco Pinto (2013), and Bueno Maia (2012).
- Slovakia: e.g., see Tyšš & Gromová (2020).
- Spain: e.g., see Marin-Lacarta (2018), Marin-Lacarta (2017), and Pym (2011).
- Sweden: e.g., see Allwood (2022), and Alvstad (2017).
- Turkey: e.g., see Baydere (2019), and Baydere & Banu Karadağ (2018).
- Ukraine: e.g., see Kolomiyets (2019).
- United Kingdom: e.g., see Petrina (2022), Hadley (2021a), and Brodie (2018).
- United States: e.g., see Wook Huh (2021).

Besides the already mentioned *The Thousand and One Nights*, another telling example is the so-called Toledo School of translators from the 12th and 13th centuries (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 4). During these centuries, the Toledo School played a crucial role in introducing the scientific and philosophical heritage of the Islamic world to medieval Europe via Greek and Roman texts (ibid.). Other notable examples are the tales of Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875), such as *Thumbelina*, *The Ugly Duckling*, and *The Little Match Girl*, which were translated from Danish into Chinese via English (Li 2017: 181). Even though English was, and still is, a commonly used pivot language for ITr chains (Assis Rosa 2017: 445; De Swaan 2001: 6), the works of American author Edgar Allan Poe were translated from English into French before being translated from French into Spanish (Pym 2011: 80).

There are many other historical examples, but addressing them all would warrant several additional theses. However, a few key examples can be thought of as touchstones for the field: Russian audiences were first introduced to the works of Byron, Milton, and

Shakespeare in the early 18th century through French translations (Vermeulen 2012: 120). Similarly, *The Diary of a Young Girl* (1947), commonly referred to as Anne Frank's diary, was initially translated from Dutch into German, followed by French, before being published in other languages (ibid.). The literary works of Turkish author Orhan Pamuk have been translated into Brazilian Portuguese for several decades, predominantly through intermediary translations from either French or English (Torezan 2023: 13-14; Cardozo 2012: 433).

Beyond literature, even early cinema availed of ITr in the use of intertitles (Dore & De Nicola 2023: 797; Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 134). Specifically in the context of China, the majority of national films produced between the 1920s and the early 1930s were crafted for both domestic and international audiences, often featuring bilingual intertitles (Jin 2020: 719). Intertitles, however, persisted in China into later years of the 20th century, as evidenced by the film *The Cave of the Silken Web*⁵ (directed by Meng-Hua Ho 1968) (ibid.). *The Cave of the Silken Web* (1968) includes both Chinese and Norwegian intertitles, the latter likely derived from English translations (ibid.). Beyond the use of intertitles, *The Bandit*⁶ (directed by Lima Barreto 1953) was the first Brazilian film to be screened at the *Cannes Film Festival* (Galvão 2004: 386), and was probably also the first Brazilian film to be subtitled into languages other than French (Boito 2024: 157). Initially subtitled into French for its presentation at *Cannes*, it was later translated into other languages following its acquisition by Columbia Pictures (ibid.). A further historical example can be drawn, not from film, but from interpreting practices. In Soviet Estonia, Russian dubbing was used as a pivot language for the simultaneous interpreting of foreign films (Pięta et al. 2024: 765; Hoffmann 2023: 11).

Given these historical examples, it is not hard to see why ITr is often assumed to be “a thing of the past” (Ringmar 2012: 143). However, a more accurate claim would be that ITr has a long-established presence in translation practices, which continues (Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al. 2023: 831; Torres-Simón et al. 2021: 266; Ustaszewski 2021: 313; Pięta 2019:

⁵ Title in the source language: *Pán sī dòng*.

⁶ Title in the source language: *O Cangaceiro*.

21). ITr is still actively employed in contemporary settings, including advertising (see Corrius & Espasa 2024), videogame localisation (see Liu, Xiao & Liu 2025; Jiménez-Crespo 2023), technical and institutional translation (see Pięta 2024; Rivera 2024; Monterei 2019; Byrne 2006), as well as news translation (see Davier 2022; Valdeón 2022).

With the advent of translation technology, ITr has garnered extended relevance, establishing itself in contemporary spheres that require innovative modes of translation, including audio-visual translation (AVT), and interpreting practices (Cheong & Lim 2024: 105; Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 113). The use of technology for interpreting has expanded significantly across various contexts, with video relay interpreting (VRI) emerging as a prominent modality (Warnicke & Plejert 2016: 199). VRI enables communication between a signed language and a spoken language through video calls (ibid.). While Pöchhacker (2022: 491) argues that VRI does not fall under the ITr umbrella, as it involves only two languages, Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017: 119) critically examine whether definitions of ITr should be contingent on factors such as number of languages or texts/agents involved. The classification of VRI as ITr may thus depend on the researcher's theoretical perspective.

Technology has also catalysed the growth of AVT as both a practice and a study (Keating & O'Sullivan 2022: 435). Subtitling practices in cinematic productions, such as adaptations of Shakespearean plays, also often employed indirect/pivoting techniques (Corrius & Espasa 2024: 833; Zatlin 2005: 177). The Flemish cinematic production *The Memory of a Killer*⁷ (directed by Erik Van Looy 2003), for instance, was first translated into English before reaching Spanish-speaking audiences (Corrius & Espasa 2024: 834). Spanish can also serve as a mediating/pivoting language for subtitles. The Catalan-language film *Actresses*⁸ (directed by Ventura Pons 1997) strategically used ITr to broaden its audience reach (Zatlin 2005: 123). The film was initially dubbed and subtitled into Spanish before being distributed internationally with English subtitles (ibid.). Another, more popular example, of

⁷ Title in the source language: *De zaak Alzheimer*.

⁸ Title in the source language: *Actrius*.

ITr in cinematic subtitling is the Oscar-winning Best Picture Korean film *Parasite*⁹ (directed by Bong Joon Ho 2019). Similar to Erik Van Looy's film, Bong Joon Ho's film was also translated into English prior to reaching Italian-speaking audiences (Dore & De Nicola 2024: 797).

In many instances, ITr serves as the primary mode of translation for non-English-language cinematic productions in mainstream cinema, as seen in the case of China, for example (Jin, Zhang, & He 2022: 469). A case in point is the Dutch-language film *Prey*¹⁰ (directed by Dick Maas 2016), for which the Chinese subtitles were produced indirectly via an English mediating text. This mediating text featured transliterations in italics alongside English gloss translations (Jin, Zhang & He 2022: 474). Despite concerns among Chinese translation companies that public awareness of ITr might lead to doubts about translation quality, both film critics and audiences rarely detect the use of ITr (Jin, Zhang & He 2022: 469). Given that audiences typically do not perceive the so-called "translation losses" (see Ramière 2010) or recognise non-professional translations from professional translation (see Orrego-Carmona 2016), it is reasonable to assume that the same is true for ITr. This hypothesis is particularly plausible considering the widespread use of ITr in AVT (Jankowska 2024: 781; Pięta et al. 2024: 766; Casas-Tost & Bustins 2021: 97).

ITr has become so deeply rooted in AVT that researchers have characterised its use of template files as "the holy grail of subtitling" (Georgakopoulou 2019: 138; Georgakopoulou 2005), particularly in the context of streaming services (Pięta et al. 2024: 767; Choi, Kim & Evans 2023: 326). Although the quality of these templates can be (and is) subject to scrutiny (see Agulló Garcia et al. 2024: 855-857; Jankowska 2024: 155; Pięta et al. 2024: 766), with some studies presenting negative evaluations (see Oziemblewska & Szarkowska 2020), and others offering more favourable assessments (see Jankowska 2024), they remain widely used (Georgakopoulou 2019: 138). Despite persistent concerns about AVT quality, pivot templates in AVT are instrumental in enabling wide-reaching, expedited, and cost-effective distribution (Pięta 2019: 27; Choi, Kim & Evans 2023: 319; Georgakopoulou 2019: 138; Georgakopoulou 2009: 24-25; Gambier 2003: 55). Although AVT translation in cinema has mostly been

⁹ Title in the source language: *Gisaengchung*.

¹⁰ Title in the source language: *Prooi*.

associated with dubbing and subtitling (Keating & O’Sullivan 2022: 435) that are not limited to the conventional idea of translating from one language to another via an intermediary. These nuances arise because, in film, “dialogue must be translated to action and images and may be used outside the original framework” (Zatlin 2005: 178). As a result, dialogue that originates in novels or plays is transformed into cinematic dialogue, which is then presented as subtitles or dubbed versions in different languages (ibid.). This transformation blurs the terminological distinction between adaptation and translation. A similar phenomenon happens in theatre translation.

In theatrical productions the nature of ITr assumes yet another distinctive characteristic (see Glynn & Hadley 2021; Brodie 2018; Brodie 2012). Brodie (2012: 11) introduces the concept of “literal translation”, a term also used by Zatlin (2005: 25), to characterise the translation process that involves rendering a ST from Language 1 (L1) into an intermediary version in Language 2 (L2). This intermediary version is not just any translation. As Brodie explains (ibid.), it represents a “literal translation” that transcends basic content conveyance. It provides substantial annotations addressing the linguistic, cultural, and theatrical features of the ST (ibid.). The second level of translation enables the translated text to be effectively performed in the target context (Glynn & Hadley 2021: 28; Brodie 2018: 334). Though a common practice, theatre translators not always endorse the use of literal translations. Marion Peter Holt, a translator of contemporary Spanish theatre in the United States of America, argues that translating for publication and for performance are not two separate activities (Zatlin 2005: 23; 26):

Performability has always been the prime aim of every play I’ve translated. Then I assume that if it’s performed (or performable) it’s publishable. I think the old ‘performable versus publishable’ has its roots in some 19th century practices. [...] In England and also to some extent in the U.S., theatre companies insist on commissioning a new translation for a production and, sadly, these are all too often a playwright or director’s adaptation of a so-called ‘literal translation’ (Holt in conversation with Zatlin 2005: 23; 26).

Similarly to Holt, Brodie (2012: 10) demonstrates that theatrical productions often reach the London stage via intermediary processes, which are described as “one of the

hallmarks of indirect translation, although in most cases only two languages are involved” (ibid.). These examples highlight the diverse nature of translation practices, which encompass intralingual, interlingual, and intersemiotic translations (Jakobson 1959/2000: 233). Drawing on a theatrical metaphor, translation can be seen as a character that wears many masks (McCart 2009: 247). One such mask is ITr, which suggests that it is far more pervasive in people’s lives than they might consciously realise.

Translators and researchers tend to presume that ITr predominantly happens when the so-called ‘original’, or ‘ultimate ST’¹¹, is either inaccessible or non-existent (Accácio 2010: 116). There is also a tendency to believe that ITr only occurs due to a lack of linguistic competence from translators (Pięta 2019: 27; Ringmar 2007: 1), especially when working with pairings of structurally distant languages, such as Arabic and German, or Polish and Chinese (Vekshina 2023: 266; Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 114; Washbourne 2013: 611-612; St. André 2003: 62; Xu 1998: 20). However, this is not always the case (Pięta 2024: 220; Ringmar 2007: 5). Even linguistically similar languages, such as Spanish and Portuguese, are proven to avail of ITr depending on demand (see Bueno Maia 2012). ITr mostly tends to occur between peripheral languages (e.g., Irish and Basque) via a hyper-central language (e.g., English and French), or when it is financially or logistically more efficient than direct translations (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 12; Vekshina 2023: 266; Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 114; Pięta 2014: 22; Honeyman 2005: 68). In these scenarios, the mediating language is typically deemed to be dominant, more widely available, or holds a higher cultural or linguistic prestige, whereas the target language (TL) is often non-dominant or even marginalised (Prado-Fonts 2022: 15; Pięta 2019: 26; Washbourne 2013: 611-613; Boulogne 2009: 14; Ringmar 2007: 1). As a result, power relations play a pivotal role in determining the occurrence of ITr (Marin-Lacarta 2017: 134; Pięta 2016: 362; Špirk 2014: 2; Ringmar 2007: 1; Hung & Wakabashi 2005: 12).

An example of power relations in ITr is the use of English as a censorship tool during the Second World War (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 4; Witt 2017: 177). The

¹¹ ‘Ultimate ST’ is also referenced in ITr literature as the ‘ultimate original’ (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 116; Toury 1995: 129).

intermediary language was used to control and filter information between Soviet republics and countries in the Global West (ibid.). In the context of translating indirectly into European Portuguese, for instance, most translations were mediated through French (Assis Rosa 2017: 442-443). This phenomenon, however, was not particular to Portugal. From the imperial period through to the 20th century, Brazil also engaged with ITr by mostly using French as an intermediary language (Cardozo 2012: 432; Accácio 2010: 112), as exemplified by the previously mentioned film *The Bandit* (1953). French served as the intermediary language not only for the introduction of foreign literature in Brazil, but also to export Brazilian literature to non-English speaking countries, such as Finland, particularly during the 19th and 20th centuries (Ivaska & Paloposki 2018: 36). This pattern stems from the elevated status of France's cultural hegemony all over the world, including in Europe and South America (Assis Rosa 2017: 443; Accácio 2010: 113; Casanova 2007: 44).

These arguments reinforce the notion that ITr is indeed not a thing of the past, and that it is not necessarily an undesirable practice after all (Hadley 2023: 3; Pięta 2019: 26; Honeyman 2005: 78). Given that TS has historically occupied a marginal position in academia, it is important that the discipline, now firmly established, refrains from replicating similar patterns of exclusion in its own scholarly practice (Bowker et al. 2014: v). The interplay between knowledge and practice in TS is cyclical: knowledge arises from practice, while practice is continually refined by knowledge (Olohan 2017: 176). Therefore, the evolving nature of the field is connected to the evolving nature of translation practices themselves (ibid.). As the field evolves, an increasing number of sub-fields, such as Feminist Translation Studies and Information Technologies for Translation (Sdobnikov 2019: 307), are establishing themselves (Zanettin & Rundle 2022: 1). Consequently, more scholarly attention has been extended to a large variety of subfields (see Zanettin, Saldanha & Harding 2015).

Although scholars, such as Dollerup (2009), have argued that ITr, as a subfield, is unlikely to gain significant relevance beyond its general connection to TS, others, including Pięta (2012: 311), highlight that despite a notable increase in ITr research since the early 21st century, many specific topics in the subfield remain underexplored or require more systematic studies. Such systematic studies, according to Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia

(2017: 113), are characterised by their focus, for instance, on key aspects such as terminology, themes, and methodologies.

Foundations and Frameworks: ITr Research

ITr Terminology

One of the many purposes of terminology is “to assure an accurate and unambiguous understanding in the communication of a restricted professional area” (Drinóczi & Novák 2015: 115). The professional practice of translation and TS are no exceptions. Because consistency tends to be a fundamental requirement of the profession, translators are not immune to the challenges associated with terminology (Hawkins 2018: 233). Terminology, thus, is a conspicuous part of translation practices from the broader phenomenon to “the minutia of specific word choice” (Li & Hope 2021: 2; Ives & Lacorte 2010: 11). Discussions about whether to use the terms “source text” and “target text” instead of “original” and “translation”, for instance, have gained traction among translation practitioners and scholars alike (Van Doorslaer 2020: 143). Not all, but many translation experts advocate for the use of “equal-value terms”, such as ‘target’ and ‘source’, as an attempt to challenge the image of the translator as a “second-hand author” (ibid.). Although terminological standardisation can often be a goal in translation practices (Bevilacqua & Kilian 2017: 1707), the degree of standardisation can differ significantly based on the specific domain being translated (Pym 2010: 54).

Given that there are “countless definitions” for what translation itself entails (Gambier 2023: 317), it is unsurprising that a variety of terms coexists in TS (Gambier 2023: 319). Term variation is closely connected to TS because the process of translating itself often leads to “variants based on the variety of possible translation solutions and interlinguistic interferences” (Cabezas-García & León-Araúz 2023: 259). This TS phenomenon has contributed to what Gambier (2023: 319) refers to as “terminological inflation”. This inflation results from the terminological diversity introduced by different professional sectors, such as business, industry, media, and information technology, as well as other stakeholders,

including in academia (ibid.). Because of its historical presence in academia, terminology has served as a fundamental tool in scientific research (Cabré 1998: 1), including TS (Bowker & Delsey 2016: 74). As a subfield of TS, ITr research is no exception (St. André 2020: 470; Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 120; Washbourne 2013: 608). For Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017: 117-118), the terminological instability in ITr can be attributed to several factors, including:

- Uncritical and inconsistent use;
- Continuous evolving terminology, due to ITr's rapid development;
- Different countries, affiliations, and linguistic traditions often have their own preferred terms.

Even though English-speaking scholars have used a variety of terms to describe the process of translating from translations (Pięta 2014: 17), the terms 'indirect translation', 'pivot translation', and 'relay translation' are among the most widely used in research (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 2). The term 'indirect translation' is adopted in this thesis to define the process of translating from translations. This choice is grounded not in the claim of superiority or objective precision (Hadley 2023: 18), but in its broad acceptance in the ITr research community (Pięta 2024: 222; Pięta et al. 2024: 764; Allwood 2021: 59). Additionally, 'indirect translation' is considered clear and precise, owing to its distinct antonym, 'direct translation' (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 121).

Consequently, 'indirect translation' emerges as a convenient umbrella term that is able to encompass various hyponyms (Pięta 2024: 222; Ivaska 2020a: 20; Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 115). However, Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia's (ibid.) historical analysis of Anglophone publications indicates that, aside from the three predominant terms, the ITr process has been referred to by ten other terms:

Term in English	Examples in Academia
Compilative translation	Popovič (1976)
Double translation	Edström (1991)
Eclectic translation	Ringmar (2007)

<i>Indirect translation</i>	Špirk (2014)
Intermediate translation	Toury (1988)
Mediated translation	Linder (2014)
<i>Pivot translation</i>	Vermeulen (2012)
<i>Relay translation</i>	Dollerup (2000)
Retranslation (Re-translation)	Bauer (1999)
Second-hand translation	Popovič (1976)

Table 1 – ITr Terminology: Historical Usage in Anglophone Context

A review of key publications on TS terminology, such as encyclopaedias and dictionaries, including Baker & Saldanha (2020), Talaván (2016), Cowie & Shuttleworth (2014), Kittel et al. (2011), and Palumbo (2009), demonstrates a consistent inclusion of one of these three terms: ‘indirect translation’, ‘relay translation’, and ‘pivot translation’. In contrast, there is a lack of references to the other terms, including, for instance, ‘compilative translation’. Although ‘compilative translation’ has historically been used interchangeably with ITr (see Table 1, Su 2021; Popovič 1976), it has also been classified as its hyponym. ‘Compilative translation’ is defined as a process in which a target text is derived “not from one but several source texts, thus compiling different sources in one plural target text” (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 3), possibly encompassing both monolingual and plurilingual source texts (Ivaska & Ivaska 2022: 371; Ivaska 2021: 72; Ivaska 2020a: 31; Ivaska & Paloposki 2018: 43). The term is regarded not only as a hyponym of ITr, but also as “a translation strategy often used in connection with ITr” (Ivaska & Paloposki 2018: 43).

Before these more contemporary examples, there was Anton Popovič (1976), one of the first known scholars to define ‘compilative translation’ (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 115). His interpretation has since been revisited by Toury (2012), who offered an updated definition. While Popovič (1976: 20) described ‘compilative translation’ as “a translation realised upon the basis of several translations”, Toury (2012: 100) rejected this definition, arguing instead that ‘compilative translation’ involves “making use of a number of source texts”. By substituting “based on” with “make use of” and “several translations” with

“source texts”, Toury (ibid.) introduces a significant distinction. Considering, once again, that ITr is understood as “a translation of a translation”, it is possible to interpret Toury’s (2012) argument as follows:

- When a translation is “based on” a text which, in turn, is also a translation, then the second translation develops from the first translation. This means the text is not only consulted or partially used, but is fundamental to the translation process. Moreover, the ST is, in itself, another translation. Therefore, ‘compilative translation’ can be deemed a synonym of ITr.
- When a translation “makes use” of multiple “source texts”, then no text serves as the fundamental basis for the translation. These texts can simply be sources of consultation. Moreover, the STs do not have to be translations themselves. Therefore, ‘compilative translation’ can be deemed a subtype of ITr, or a term under ITr’s terminological umbrella.

The discussion above highlights that challenging the notion of a ST is neither a recent development nor limited to the field of ITr studies. This discussion has been put forth by a range of scholars, including Coldiron (2023), Young & Jean-François (2020), Davier & Van Doorslaer (2018), Dicerto (2017), and Valdeón (2015). While the topic is not new, there appears to be a growing trend of merging the concepts of ‘compilative translation’ and ‘collaborative translation’ (see Ivaska 2020a; Ivaska & Paloposki 2018). ‘Collaborative translation’ can be defined as a translation process that involves interactive input, whether simultaneous or successive, not only from translators, but also from authors, advisors, editors, and consultants (Cordingley & Manning 2017: 296). Though not a stranger to LT (see Neather 2020: 72; Huss 2019: 448) or, more recently, AVT (see Jiménez-Crespo 2022; Jiménez-Crespo 2017; Fan 2020; Kang & Kin 2020), ‘collaborative translation’ is not necessarily associated with ITr. However, owing to ITr’s collaborative nature (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 127), and the variety of terms related to it, Ivaska (2020a: 33) argues that ‘collaborative translation’ is a fundamental aspect of ITr. The term serves as both an “umbrella term” (Ivaska 2020a: 31) for specific hyponyms, such as ‘co-translation’, ‘crowd-sourcing translation’, ‘community translation’, ‘indirect fansubbing’, ‘social translation’, and ‘user-generated translation’ (García

2023: 177; Ivaska 2020a: 31; Neather 2020: 70; O'Hagan 2011: 13; Dolmaya 2012: 172), as well as an ITr hyponym itself (Ivaska 2020a: 27).

The debate on hyponyms can also be framed in terms of the degree of indirectness (Pięta 2019: 22; Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 119). Toury (2012: 129) references Kittel (1991: 26) to distinguish between 'intermediate' and 'mediated translations', both of which have historically been considered synonymous with ITr (see Table 1). By analysing the two terms as two different cogs of the same translation chain, rather than synonymous with the ITr phenomenon itself, Toury (ibid.) and Kittel (ibid.) make the following differentiation:

- 'Intermediate translations' are "first-hand" translations. This means that, in a three-text translation chain, they are the middle translation, the one that will serve as the next translation's source text.
- 'Mediated translations' are "second-hand" translations. This means that, in a three-text translation chain, they are the final translation, the one that will be considered the ultimate target text.

Dollerup (2014: 3) similarly considers the level of indirectness as a criterion for determining terminology, arguing that 'indirect translation' is a hyponym of the broader term 'relay translation'. According to Dollerup (ibid.), the distinction lies in the intended audience: 'relay translation' is produced for an actual readership, while 'indirect translation' functions as a transitional step between languages, not intended for public consumption. Building on Dollerup's theoretical foundation, Washbourne (2013: 608) introduces another umbrella term, 'T2', which does not seem to have gained traction on terminological discussions. 'T2' encompasses both 'relay translation' and 'indirect translation' (ibid.), effectively serving as a synonym for this thesis' understanding of ITr: the phenomenon of translating translations.

Terminology on the phenomenon of translating translations is not exclusive to Anglophone publications. In the specific context of Lusophone ITr terminology, the key theoretical benchmark is Accácio (2010). Accácio (2010) is the primary Portuguese-language reference for this thesis, not only because is the Lusophone reference cited by Pięta (2017), but also because it is referenced throughout all the Portuguese-language corpus analysed in

this thesis (see Chapter 3). In the Lusophone context, four distinct terms have historically been used in scholarly research to characterise ITr (Accácio 2010: 100):

Term in Portuguese	Translation¹²	Example of a Historical Source in Academia¹³
<i>Tradução de desvio</i>	Deviated translation	Albrecht (1998) ¹⁴
<i>Tradução de segunda(-)mão</i>	Second-hand translation	Cardozo (2012)
<i>Tradução intermediada</i>	Intermediate translation	Silveira (2004)
<i>Tradução indireta/indirecta¹⁵</i>	Indirect translation	Campos (2005)

Table 2 – ITr Terminology: Historical Usage in the Lusophone Context

ITr discussions on Portuguese-language terminology appear to be less developed than those in English. No established consensus on whether ITr should be understood as a process or as a final product seems to exist (Machado 2024: 19). In contrast, English-language scholarship generally acknowledges both interpretations as valid (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 115). Lusophone publications that approach the matter of terminology tend to primarily focus on analysing glossaries between specific areas or developing them (e.g., medical translation, legal translation etc) or language pairs (see Soares & Carecho 2024; Arraes 2023; Barbosa, Serpa & Pinto 2022; Bertonha & Zavaglia 2022; Santos & Castiglioni 2021; Pinto & Lima 2018; Bevilacqua & Kilian 2017; Kriegger & Santiago 2014). Beyond terminological considerations, the phenomenon can be conceptualised in multiple ways, with some definitions being more restrictive and others more encompassing (Pięta 2024: 221).

¹² Gloss translation.

¹³ Historical sources in academia are outlined by both Accácio (2010) and this thesis.

¹⁴ The author references this term in Portuguese despite the source text being a publication in German.

¹⁵ ‘*Tradução indireta*’ is the Brazilian Portuguese spelling of the term, whereas ‘*Tradução indirecta*’ is the European Portuguese spelling of the term. To simplify references, the term ‘*tradução indire(c)ta*’ will be used for both terms instead of listing them individually each time.

ITr Conceptual and Methodological Overview

Most restrictive definitions are focused on finality (i.e., the intermediate text is a standalone product), human agency, interlinguality, and intermodality (Pięta 2024: 221). These narrow definitions typically view ITr as a process that involves at least three distinct languages and materials of the same nature (e.g., written texts), all mediated by human translators (e.g., see St. André 2020; Kittel 1991). The more encompassing definitions, however, propose that ITr happens whenever mediation of any kind is involved in the translation process, including:

- Intralingual (for instance, when, within one and the same language, a text created for experts is paraphrased for the sake of non-expert audiences, and then this paraphrasis is used as a start text for further reformulations, for example, by media outlets);
- based on a translation that was created not for user consumption but only with a subsequent translator in mind (e.g., as in healthcare interpreting in consecutive relay mode, where the first translation or pivot output is only targeted at and understood by the relay taker;
- a result of a fully automated workflow, with virtually no human agency, as might be the case of an automatic speech-to-speech translation process envisaged in Pöschhacker (2022, 498), whereby “speech is first turned into text by an ASR [automatic speech recognition] system and then processed through MT [machine translation]”; or
- intermodal, as in the situation described above, where an audio source is translated into a written text [...] (Pięta 2024: 221-222).

Regardless of the theoretical framework used to conceptualise ITr, key subtopics merit further analysis, such as the typology and number of intervening languages, as well as the specific nature of the texts employed throughout the process (e.g., those intended for a wider readership, restricted to private circulation, employed continuously, or used only sporadically) (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 119). While no established guidelines exist for classifying ITr chains, Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017: 121) propose a classification system centred on the number of intervening texts and languages, as well as the selection criteria for these languages. This conceptual framework enables a broader spectrum of analytical perspectives, such as the socio-cultural and pragmatic determinants influencing language selection, the extent to which access to textual sources mediates these

decisions, and the role of both source and intervening texts in shaping the conceptual and thematic contours of future ITr research.

The conceptual and thematic landscape of ITr is characterised by diversity, reflecting ongoing debates about its scope and focus (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torrese-Simón 2023; Pöchhacker 2022, Pięta 2019; Marin-Lacarta 2017). ITr's conceptual porosity extends beyond its immediate focus, intersecting with broader themes that are pertinent to TS as a whole (Marin-Lacarta, 2017: 135). These themes include, as previously noted, the boundaries of what constitutes a ST, as well as 'translation', 'original', and 'adaptation' (ibid.; see St. André 2008; Lie 2020). Recent trends in ITr research demonstrate an increased interest in exploring a wider range of themes and methodologies (see e.g., Davier et al. 2023; Hadley 2023; Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier 2023). Other TS subfields, such as back-translation, non-translation, pseudotranslation, retranslation and self-translation are also explored in connection to ITr (Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier 2023: 846). Although LT remains a primary area of interest for ITr scholars, other themes, such as AVT, and Interpreting Studies (IS), are increasingly being explored (Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier 2023: 845, 850). Moreover, there has been a growth towards the systematic analysis of ITr research typologies and designs, including product-, process-, and participant-based approaches (ibid.). This growth in scholarly activity aligns with the overall expansion and maturation of TS as a discipline.

In general, it appears that TS research "has afforded the co-existence of different research themes and methods, which has facilitated the emergence of new theoretical and methodological approaches that have occasionally challenged previous ones (Kuhn 1970)" (Zhu & Aryadoust 2023: 171). Although scholars have approached ITr as a theoretical concept (e.g., see St. André 2020; Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017; Pięta 2017; Marin-Lacarta 2017; Washbourne 2013; Dollerup 2000; and Kittel & Frank 1991), there is no consensus on whether ITr can be considered a TS theory. According to Glynn (2021: 1), for instance, "there is, in fact, no such thing as 'translation theory' per se". Broadly speaking, formulating theories requires a thorough and "coherent explanation or interpretation of one or more phenomena" (Chiang, Jhangiani & Price 2020: 70). In this sense, it could be argued that ITr qualifies as a TS theory, especially considering that traditionally TS theories have developed as a "by-product

of research in Descriptive Studies” (Gentzler 2003: 11). Therefore, theory-building in TS, although informed by other disciplines (*ibid.*), appears to be more closely associated with translation practice and the development of operational guidelines (Williams 2013: 20-22). Another issue that hampers theory-building in TS is the tendency to treat case studies not as individual instances worthy of in-depth analysis, but as illustrative examples that support a general rule (Glynn 2021: 5; Susam-Sarajeva 2009: 41). For this reason, this thesis does not aim to formulate a so-called ITr theory or advocate for ITr’s classification as a theory in its own right. Rather, based on Chesterman (2007: 14), the thesis seeks to contribute to existing TS theory in other ways, such as:

By providing new data (in order to test existing theories), for instance. Or by offering a better interpretation of existing data; by clarifying and relating concepts and assumptions. Or by proposing a better model or a new hypothesis. Or by testing or refining a given hypothesis, or proposing a new way of testing one, a new methodology. In other words: one can contribute by suggesting a new or better answer to an interesting question, by pointing out a new path which might lead to a better answer, or by raising a new interesting question or problem” (Chesterman 2007: 14).

Although testing hypotheses through methodologies is the foundation of scientific research (Basalamah 2022: 271; Dawson 2009: 14), it was only in the last two decades that the development of scientifically rigorous and replicable methodologies became a central focus in TS (Ji 2019: 6). These methodologies, which prioritised data-driven approaches, have been instrumental in steering the translation debate away from emotional and rhetorical arguments towards a focus on data- and evidence-based research (*ibid.*).

Since methodologies pertain to the processes through which a research question is addressed (Basalamah 2022: 271; Dawson 2009: 14), they typically revolve around the question of “how”. However, ITr methodologies do not primarily focus on how to apply ITr or analyse its existing instances through experiments (Hadley 2023: 19; Ustaszewski 2021: 31). Instead, their main focus tends to be comparative analyses between intermediary text, ST, and TT, and the identification of primary materials that make up an ITr chain (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 123; Marin-Lacarta 2017: 145). The identification process can be both time-intensive and resource-demanding, as it requires the use of comprehensive and reliable

datasets (ibid.). These datasets extend beyond traditional archival research to include approaches such as paratextual analysis and the collaboration of multiple researchers with different linguistic expertise (ibid.).

While identifying ITr research poses a methodological challenge due to the lack of clear identification markers (Ivaska 2020a: 77), there is potential to expand methodologies. For instance, a systematic analysis could explore how data is handled in ITr research, focusing on whether studies create new materials (e.g., interview transcriptions) or rely on existing ones (e.g., published articles or novels). This methodological approach could shed light on research trends and practices in the (sub)field. One particular trend, for instance, shifts the focus from “how” to “why”. Why has ITr been so central to translation history, yet emerged as a key area of interest in TS only recently (Hadley 2023: 1; Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al. 2023: 828; Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier 2023: 840; Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 113; Pięta 2012: 311, Ringmar 2012: 143; Ringmar 2007: 2)?

Unlike the TS trend whereby knowledge evolves alongside practice (Olohan 2017: 176), ITr research does not appear to have developed in parallel with its practical applications (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 113). Consequently, despite its significance in TS, the development of ITr research has progressed at a slow pace (Hadley 2023: 1). While ITr has not been entirely absent from academic research in the past (Pięta 2019: 26), it has predominantly been discussed in relation to other subjects, often as a secondary (Marin-Lacarta 2017: 135) or incidental topic (Hadley 2023: 1). Although a relatively recent development, the increasing academic recognition of ITr as a distinct TS subfield is evidenced by a substantial body of scholarly publications, and dedicated conferences and panels in recent years (St. André 2020: 470), such as¹⁶:

- *Decentring Translation Studies in Portugal: Translating East Asia: Practices and Dialogues of Indirect Translation* (2017), held at University of Lisbon, in Portugal;
- *Voice in Indirect Translation* (2013), held at University of Lisbon, in Portugal;

¹⁶ For more information, visit the following website: <<https://www.indirecttrans.com/news.html>>.

- *Indirect Translation in the World We Live In*, part of the 2019 *European Society for Translation Studies (EST)* congress, held at the Stellenbosch University, in South Africa;
- *La Mediazione Differita: Traduzioni Indirette in Italia* [Deferred Mediation: Indirect Translations in Italy], held online in both English and Italian by *l'Istituto Italiano di Studi Germanici* in 2021.

Key contributions include the following Special Issues:

- “Indirect Translation and Sustainable Development” (2023), edited by Buts et al., published in *Translation Spaces*.
- “Indirect (Pivot) Audiovisual Translation: A Burning Issue for Research and Training” (2023), edited by Pięta et al., published in *Perspectives*.
- “What Can Research on Indirect Translation do for Translation Studies?” (2022), edited by Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier, published in *Target*.
- “Indirect Translation: Theoretical, Methodological and Terminological Issues” (2017), edited by Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia, published in *The Translator*.

Additionally, seminal monographs such as *Indirect Translation Explained* (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023) and *Systematically Analysing Indirect Translations: Putting the Concatenation Effect Hypothesis to the Test* (Hadley 2023), both published by Routledge, have further advanced the field. The establishment of the IndirecTrans Network in 2016 marked a pivotal moment in fostering concentrated and collaborative ITr research in multiple languages. Together, these developments underscore the increasing recognition of ITr as a relevant subfield of TS. ITr research has the potential to be particularly relevant to the broader field of TS, as it can, for instance, contribute to:

- denouncing the breach of authorial rights in the case of translators whose translations are used as source texts,
- identifying the dangerous implications and challenges of using English as an exclusive pivot language, or
- yielding insights into the consequences of the need for migrant communities to adopt *linguae francae* in an increasingly globalized world (Pięta 2019: 23).

Despite recent progress, research on ITr remains fragmented and lacks cohesive development (Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier 2023: 840; Pięta 2019: 25; Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno

Maia 2017: 113. Although Chesterman (2018: 9) laments the fragmentation of TS as a whole, he suggests that this state of fragmentation is the dominant trend, and may not be as problematic as it seems. Other scholars, however, such as Davier (2022: 395), Ivaska (2020: 14), Pięta (2017: 198), and Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017: 113) argue otherwise. In an effort to address and overcome fragmentation in ITr research, Pięta (2017) developed a comprehensive annotated bibliography of ITr publications from 1963 to 2016. For the same purpose, Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017) offered an in-depth overview of the theoretical, methodological, and terminological challenges associated with ITr research. Building on these two works, Hadley (2023) avails of the annotated bibliography to statistically advance systematic ITr research.

As mentioned earlier, this thesis is grounded in a temporal framework that explores the dynamic interplay between past, present, and future. As such, these three works, Pięta (2017), Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017), and Hadley (2023) serve as key theoretical benchmarks to represent the past of ITr studies, since they offer a systematic perspective on ITr publications from 1963 to 2016. They inform the analyses of the present period: 2017-2022. Consequently, the analyses of the present period inform the analyses of the future period: 2023-2028. This temporal framework is selected because, as previously explained, advancements in research are tied to addressing present challenges while also laying the groundwork for future research by revisiting the past:

[...] it is fundamentally through the practices of wayfaring that researchers inhabit a disciplinary landscape. Researchers integrate knowledge along a path of travel, following the contours of a land made up of the existing literature, which are affected by a range of changes in the environment, including their own traces (Zanettin, Saldanha & Harding 2015: 179-180).

The traces guiding this thesis' "path of travel" (ibid.) are the subquestions that inform its overarching research question. This thesis' central research question is further divided into three subsidiary questions which focus on publication timelines, formats, authorship, collaboration, themes, terminology, typologies, and methodologies. These subquestions are:

1. What has been the evolution of ITr research from the past period (1963-2016) to the present (2017-2022)?

2. How do the perspectives and intentions of ITr scholars correspond to the actual trends observed in the reality of publications?
3. What is the projected evolution of ITr research from the present period (2017-2022) to the future (2023-2028)?

Methodology

As argued by Gillespie, Glăveanu & Saint Laurent (2024: 173), “writing up a piece of research involves choices, especially about what is to be included and to be left out of the account, including which participant perspectives are ‘important’ or ‘valuable’ and need to be foregrounded as part of the findings”. To mitigate subjective interpretation and ensure replicability, this study adopts a systematic approach, offering a detailed, step-by-step guide to the research process (Zawacki-Richter et al. 2020: vi). As previously stated, if the findings specific to ITr can be extended to other subfields, this can help lay the foundation for a broader systematic framework for TS as a whole. As TS continues to evolve, advancing methodologies and scientific tools are necessary to “identify changes in TS research as the field progresses” (Zhu & Aryadoust 2020: 161). There are, however, at least three factors hindering significant conceptual and theoretical progress in TS (De Sutter & Lefer 2020: 2):

1. “The strong focus of corpus-based translation scholars on finding linguistic differences rather than similarities” (ibid.);
2. A lack of statistical testing, including advanced methods (ibid.);
3. Restricted forms of collaboration between TS and other fields.

For this reason, this thesis seeks to circumvent these three forms of hindrances by using the following methodological strategies:

1. Rather than examining individual linguistic differences or similarities, this thesis focuses on identifying patterns of divergence and convergence. These patterns are used to compare the two sets of materials analysed in this thesis: the ITr publications and the interview transcriptions.
2. To identify potential patterns of divergence, convergence, relationships, and variations in the data, this thesis employs basic statistical methods (Hui 2019: 3).

These include descriptive statistics, which focus on data distribution and central tendency (ibid.), and inferential statistics, which test relationships between and within data sets, offering hypotheses to interpret the results (Hui 2019: 4). Data visualisation techniques are used to communicate the collected data via graphs and charts.

3. Rather than limiting the focus to ITr research published in the TS context, this thesis also incorporates ITr research from other fields. This includes work published in journals, repositories, and platforms not explicitly linked to TS (e.g., *Across Languages and Cultures*, and the *Brazilian Institute of Science and Technology Information*¹⁷), as well as conference proceedings that encompass other fields (e.g., *Proceedings of the 55th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*).

To elaborate on each of these strategies, it is first necessary to follow a clear “path of travel” in research (Zanettin, Saldanha & Harding 2015: 179-180), a well-defined ‘methodological approach’ is needed. For each dataset:

[...] requiring analysis, someone has developed a plan for collecting the data (Step 1). After preparing the data for analysis (Step 2) and analyzing the data (Step 3), someone has to communicate the results of the analysis (Step 4) in written or verbal form to the intended audience. All four steps are important in learning from data” (Ott & Longnecker 2001: 2).

The next subsections outline the materials and their identification process (i.e., step 1), the methods of data mining (i.e., steps 2.1), data preparation (i.e., step 2.2), data analysis (i.e., and 3), and data presentation (i.e., step 4).

Step 1: Plan for Data Collection - Choosing a Meaningful Sample

The SMART framework in research establishes that studies should strive for being Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (Aldridge & Colvin 2024: 1; Fabiyi 2024: 2; Swann et al. 2022: 211; Adeoye & Adong 2023: 569). The following subsections examine how the two sets of materials meet the criteria of the SMART framework.

¹⁷ Title in Portuguese: *Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia*.

Specific Corpora

The idea of corpora was first introduced to the field of TS around three decades ago (Malamatidou 2018: 3; Baker 1993: 233). Since then, it has had major impact on the discipline and its subfields (Malamatidou 2018: 3). This thesis consistently analyses the same specific corpora in all five chapters, comprising two distinct sets of materials:

1. A set of 130 textual materials¹⁸. Among them, 110 publications are in English and 20 are in Portuguese. The format of these textual materials, also referred to as textual objects, is as follows:

81	Journal articles	6	Doctoral theses
21	Conference proceedings	5	Master's dissertations
13	Conference abstracts	4	BA theses

Table 3 – Publication Formats

2. A set of 49 transcribed interviews, totalling 55 hours and 23 minutes, featuring scholars currently or formerly engaged in ITr research. These scholars are based in 19 different countries: Austria, Brazil, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom, and The United States of America¹⁹.

¹⁸ Cheng's (2021) thesis *A Tradução Indireta de Literatura Chinesa Contemporânea para Português Europeu: O Caso de Mo Yan* [The Indirect Translation of Contemporary Chinese Literature into European Portuguese: The Case of Mo Yan] is classified under 2021, despite the document itself being dated 2020. This discrepancy is based on two main reasons: (1) The PhD viva took place in 2021, meaning the online version reflects the corrected manuscript, with revisions made in 2021; and (2) The repository of the *Universidade Católica Portuguesa* indexes the thesis under the year 2021 rather than 2020. Similarly, other two theses, Atwood (2019), and Cheng (2019), were both later published as monographs. However, in this research, they are classified as theses, as they were first produced and published as such.

¹⁹ Scholars' locations reflect their affiliations as of 2021, the year in which all interviews took place. These locations do not necessarily represent the interviewees' place of birth or their cultural identity.

Why are Interviews Relevant?

As previously discussed, the third aim of this thesis is to assess whether the publication landscape of ITr research aligns with what scholars report doing or aspire to do. Interviews are, therefore, chosen as a data-collection method to grant scholars the opportunity to share their perspectives, and freely articulate their views in a conversational manner. This approach ensures that the information gathered is not limited to interviewees' perceptions of the present, but also includes their reflections on what they believe should have been done in the past or what they hope will happen in future. Moreover, because "research is a social activity that can be powerfully affected by the researcher's own motivations and values", incorporating scholars' perspectives serves as a means of mitigating researcher bias (Blaxter, Hughes & Tight 2010: 14). Including the voices of other researchers helps ensure that the analysis remains as objective as possible.

Although interviews can be more time-consuming than surveys or questionnaires (Adams & Cox 2008: 21), particularly due to the often strenuous transcription process (Bergin 2018: 132), this method is still employed in place of other participant-oriented data collection approaches, such as questionnaires (Flick 2015: 133). Questionnaires, especially longer and more detailed ones, can increase the likelihood of participants skimming through them or losing interest (Adams & Cox 2008: 19). In contrast, interviews, particularly those that allow for some conversational flexibility, can help participants feel more engaged in the research process (Bergin 2018: 132).

As discussed in the first few pages of this thesis, like storytelling, research also tells a story (Feak & Swales 2016: 77). Research that employs qualitative methods, especially those involving human participants, is particularly linked to storytelling to some extent, making narrative analysis, or rather narrative awareness, inevitable (Brannen 2013: 48). This idea means that conducting interviews closely resembles listening to narrative accounts, as they fundamentally consist of "stories told from the perspective of the teller" (Heath et al. 2009: 84). By offering interviewees the opportunity to "tell their stories", the research can extend beyond its initial goals (Simons 2014: 462). Interviewees benefit from this process as well, because it encourages reflection on issues they may not have previously considered (ibid.).

Furthermore, real-time interaction in interviews allows the interviewer to acknowledge and address non-verbal cues from interviewees, such as facial expressions and voice intonation (Bergin 2018: 132; Lessler, Eyerman & Wang 2008: 444; Opdenakker 2006: 3), to formulate follow-up questions and explore responses in greater depth (Flick 2015: 140; Lessler, Eyerman & Wang 2008: 445).

Why are the Two Datasets Relevant?

Research with combined corpora in TS has tended towards two main areas:

The first area is the examination of the language of translation, not just to reveal potentially common characteristics across languages, but also to understand the way in which specific linguistic features are used in translated texts or by specific translators. The second area is the investigation of the relationship between translation and language change and, more specifically, the possible influence that translation might have on linguistic developments in the target language (Malamatidou 2018: 12).

This trend reinforces the notion that the interplay between knowledge and practice in TS is cyclical (Olohan 2017: 176): analysing the field is also analysing the practitioners behind it. In this context, these practitioners are not primarily translators, but researchers. Therefore, this thesis relies on two distinct sets of materials for four key reasons. First, each dataset independently offers systematic and in-depth analysis. Bibliometric analysis of research publications is already an established method for identifying the main trends in scholarly literature and assessing their scientific impact (Mourao & Martinho 2020: 2; Wang et al. 2020: 1518). Similarly, the analysis of interview transcripts potentially contributes multiple quantitative and qualitative insights, offering perspectives that are unique to the research context (Bergin 2018: 132). Thus, the main advantage of combining two datasets is that it can offer detailed information that would not be possible or easily obtained using just one corpus (Malamatidou 2018: 36; Flick 2015: 219).

Second, a dual-corpus approach is necessary to compare reality (i.e., the 130 outputs) with perspectives (i.e., the 49 interview transcriptions). This combined corpora approach seeks to gain insights into reality, as well as in first-hand researchers' experiences. This

approach grants the opportunity to test the same analytical categories in both sets of materials (Bergin 2018: 152; Love 2003: 91), identifying points of convergence and divergence across both data sets (Bergin 2018: 152; Bowen 2009: 32). Because participants' "perceptions and experiences of reality are subjective" (Hennink, Hutter & Bailey 2020: 89-90), comparing the findings from the interviews with those from the published textual materials serves as a "strategy for grounding empirical research and its results" (Flick 2015: 218).

The third reason builds on the second. Although combining datasets is not a novel methodology to TS (e.g., see Hadley 2023; Mouka, Saridakis & Fotopoulou 2015; Zanettin 2014; Kenny 2004; Bowker & Bennison 2003), this methodological strategy, particularly between datasets that are "infrequently paired, significantly contributes to both scientific and broader impacts (e.g., dissemination to the general public)" (Yu & Romero 2024: 1). This contribution is mostly related to finding patterns over different time periods (Saldanha & O'Brien 2013: 59-60), addressing the limitations of each corpus individually and then combining their advantages (Malamatidou 2018: 36).

The fourth reason is specific to ITr research. Because the subfield is only recently growing in significance, it is informative to contextualise ITr research with numerical data, and observe its evolution over time (Hadley 2023: 10). However, numbers alone are not indicative of the scope or overall academic impact of the research being published (ibid.). To address this limitation, it is worth incorporating an additional set of materials, such as interviews, to allow for comparative analysis. To effectively combine datasets, it is first necessary to define what is an appropriate and achievable corpus.

Why is The Format of the Textual Corpus Achievable?

In an effort to minimise data redundancy and duplicate publications, this thesis draws on big-data collection methodologies from Technology and Digital Humanities (see Graham et al. 2015; Van Eijnatten, Pieters & Verheul 2013; Manovich 2012). Although there are different understandings of what constitutes data and big-data (Bergin 2018: 11-12), this thesis borrows the term in order to follow the foundational principles of large-scale dataset collection: volume, variety, and velocity (Boulton & Wilkinson 2020: 2; Ghasemaghahi & Calic

2020: 147; Hofman 2015: 5108). In terms of volume, the importance of sample size for bibliometric research cannot be overstated (Rogers, Szomszor & Adams 2020: 778; Glänzel & Moed 2013: 386). Generally, a minimum of 50 samples is recommended to achieve reliable and valid results (ibid.).

In terms of variety, publishing articles in recognised journals is a standard practice in academia, as these journals serve as effective tools for researchers to share their work with a wider scholarly community (Becker & Denicolo 2012: 3). In the context of TS, journal articles are the most common publication format, far exceeding other types (Zanettin, Saldanha & Harding 2015: 163). For example, publications in journal articles are around 88% higher than in edited volumes, 90% higher than in monographs, and 97% higher than in dissertations (ibid.). In the specific case of ITr, Pięta (2017) limits her analysis to journal articles, monographs, and book chapters, excluding conference work, as well as student work such as BA theses, MA dissertations, and PhD theses. This thesis builds on Pięta's materials, while incorporating these additional sources.

There has been an increase in research highlighting the important role of students, even from all academic levels, in contributing to research projects (Sandoval & Messiou 2022: 791; see Dunlop et al. 2019). Donner (2021: 9432) argues that student work, particularly PhD theses, should not be viewed as individual efforts. PhD theses are “closely associated with the hosting university”, especially because it involves the direct involvement of at least one experienced researcher associated with the university: the supervisor (ibid.). However, while making a scientific contribution is the basic requirement of a PhD thesis, they are often “absent from the usual channels of communication of the research front”, particularly in comparison to journal articles (ibid.). For this reason, this thesis includes student work not only for its academic value, but also precisely because it tends to be overlooked. This choice is rooted in Bowker et al.'s (2014: v) argument that TS should refrain from replicating the patterns of exclusion it has faced as a discipline in its own scholarly practice. Because today's students are the researchers of tomorrow, recognising and encouraging student work reinforces the importance of continuous research that builds on past knowledge to shape the future.

In terms of velocity, this thesis faces the same limitation identified by Pięta (2017: 200): the restricted accessibility of full texts. Despite the increasing availability of complete monographs and book chapters, many remain accessible only in print format (Arroyo-Vázquez et al. 2023: 1; Anderson & Pham 2013: 40; see Slater 2010). This situation posed challenges during the data collection period, particularly because access to physical libraries was severely restricted due to the pandemic-related measures of 2021. At the same time, despite restrictions, “museums and libraries have offered many new digital services and strengthened existing ones” (Chiu & Ho 2022: 1204).

While the number of open-access online journal expanded (Owens & Thaw 2022: 26), the number of published books per capita decreased by at least 31% (and up to 54%) across all disciplines between 2011 and 2019 (Savage & Olejniczak 2022: 1). Naturally, this data does not suggest that the same conditions automatically apply to TS. However, to maintain methodological rigour and avoid selectively including only a limited number of book chapters, these sources are excluded from the analysis. Given these constraints, prioritising readily accessible primary sources, such as journal articles and student work deposited in online academic repositories, is a strategic approach to minimising the potential exclusion of relevant materials.

Why is the Analysed Period Time-bound?

The Time-bound criterion encompasses two related aspects: the timeframe of the analysis and the deadline for completing the research (Aldridge & Colvin 2024: 3). Based on the SMART framework, research must be conducted within a defined timeframe to ensure both depth and completion within a reasonable period (Adeoye & Adong 2023: 570). In this thesis, the data collection period is constrained by the PhD timeline. The six-year period concludes a little over two years before the end of the project to ensure manageability. This timeframe is, thus, selected to ensure that the data analysis process is done thoroughly, allowing for both feasibility and depth.

To ensure the structured collection of the two corpora, a clearly defined timeline is implemented (Creswell & Creswell, 2018: 51). Defined timelines help anticipate future trends,

as forecasting software, such as Microsoft Excel, uses past data to make mathematical predictions (Wang et al. 2020: 1515). Due to its frequent accuracy and ease of use, this method “has been widely applied in various fields” (ibid.), and is applied in this thesis as well. Both Pięta (2017), and Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017) analyses cover the period from 1963 to 2016. To advance and build on their foundational work, this thesis analyses the period from 2017 to 2022, continuing where their research concluded. The analysis considers both the entire period as a whole and each year individually.

Why 49 Interviewees? The Measurable Advantages of This Sample Size

The number 49 might, at first, seem to hold specific significance in data collection methods. However, there is no disclosed unique or universal minimum sample size for qualitative interviews (Marshall et al. 2013: 11; Guest, Bunce & Johnson 2006: 59). Rather, the aim is to collect a sample size that is able to supply sufficient new data (Marshall et al. 2013: 11; Thomson 2011: 47; Strauss & Corbin 1998: 212). Although defining ‘sufficient new data’ is subjective and dependent on the specific objectives of a research project, some authors suggest that there may be a minimum number of data points. For example, Guest, Bunce & Johnson (2006: 74) argue that a minimum of 12 interviewees is typically adequate to identify patterns that can later evolve into analytical categories. Marshall et al.’s (2013: 18) bibliographic analysis suggests that the number of interviewees typically ranges between 20 and 50. Similarly, recent studies in the Humanities indicate that participant-based research generally involves between 20 and 60 interviewees (Bekele & Ago 2022: 42). Thus, the selection of the 49 participants is grounded in the following criteria:

- The number surpasses the minimum threshold of 12 participants;
- The number falls within the range of 20 to 60;

The number accurately reflects the number of reachable scholars who consent to participate in the research after finalising the data-collection method, which is explained in subsection ‘Step 2: Identifying and Collecting the Corpora’.

Why is it SMART to Combine Anglophone and Lusophone Publications?

The decision to include both Anglophone and Lusophone textual materials is guided by three main questions:

- Why English?
- Why not just English?
- Why Portuguese?

To answer the first question, English is chosen not only because it is the *lingua franca* of the world, but also the language of science (Jalongo 2023a: 3; Hyland 2021: 15; Kuteeva 2020: 288; Ramirez-Castañeda 2020: 2; Solovova, Santos & Veríssimo 2018: 1; Feak & Swales 2016: xi; López-Navarro et al. 2015: 940; Wolters 2015: 190; House 2013: 60; Snell-Hornby 2006: 144-145). Expanding beyond science in general, English is also the *lingua franca* of ITr studies (Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier 2022: 349). Since English is the so-called scientific language, meeting the minimum threshold of 50 materials is more readily achievable in this context, especially in light of the “increase of publications and conferences entirely in English – even within the discipline of Translation Studies” (Snell-Hornby 2006: 144). Therefore, disregarding the relevance of Anglophone publications in the field would be a missed opportunity to develop meaningful insights into ITr research.

To answer the second question, focusing on a single language, particularly a dominant one such as English, can reinforce an “Anglo-American bias”, constraining the analysis to Anglophone-related themes, materials, and questions (Snell-Hornby 2006: IX-X). Because TS has traditionally focused on central languages, such as English or French, little research is available about ITr practices in other regions outside the European or North-American contexts (Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al. 2023: 828; Đorđević 2022: 114). Even though scholars working with languages other than English can and do contribute to a broader range of themes, materials, and questions, they often report feeling marginalised, and discouraged from “joining the debate” (Snell-Hornby 2006: 144). Research focused only on high-resource languages has, in part, hindered the development of ITr research (Marin-Lacarta 2018: 309;

Pięta 2016: 354; Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al. 2023: 828²⁰). This constraint is further compounded when research is centred around languages, such as Portuguese, which can be considered “non-dominant” (Pięta 2016: 355) or even “dominated” (Seruya 2015: 24; Casanova 2002: 8). For these reasons, it is methodologically logical to include at least one additional language in this thesis’ analysis, particularly one that is not as dominant as English or French. The inclusion of one more language is an attempt to circumvent any potential Anglophone-related biases, thus amplifying the robustness of the analysis.

In this context, to answer the third question, translation, including ITr, play:

[...] a vital role in cultural exchanges between so-called (semi-) peripheral languages
[...] This, however, has not led to any specific attention being paid to this type of language in translation studies. In fact, investigation in this discipline has traditionally been centred on translations involving the so-called central languages” (Pięta 2016: 354).

With approximately 250 million speakers spanning 10 countries worldwide²¹ (Santos & Pardo 2024: 1), Portuguese ranks as one of the most widely spoken native languages globally (Špirk 2014: 1; Samuelsson-Brown 2010: 26). However, Portuguese remains a non-dominant language (Assis Rosa 2017: 448), particularly in academic publishing, where Lusophone researchers often feel pressured to “publish in English or perish in Portuguese” (Solovova, Santos & Veríssimo 2018: 1). Despite this systemic bias towards English, Portuguese-language publications experienced a comparatively higher growth rate between 2008 and 2017 (Solovova, Santos & Veríssimo 2018: 12). This trend suggests that, while Portuguese may not play the same central role as English for scholarly communication, it continues to serve as a meaningful language in academic publishing. Moreover, IndirecTrans, an “international network of researchers interested in translations from translations” (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 15) operates its main hub in Portugal, where five²² of its

²⁰ Marin-Lacarta is one of the interviewees in Davier et al. 2023.

²¹ The ten countries in which Portuguese is one of its official languages are: Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, East Timor, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Macau, Mozambique, Portugal, and São Tomé and Príncipe.

²² There are three coordinators and two network advisors in the IndirecTrans network. Of the three coordinators, two are based in Portugal: Hanna Pięta and Rita Bueno Maia. The two network advisors are also Portugal-based:

leaders are based (www.indirectrans.com n.p., n.d.). For these reasons, Lusophone outputs have been incorporated into the textual materials analysed in this thesis.

Step 2: Identifying and Collecting the Corpora

Textual Materials

The identification and collection of the textual materials follows a three-step process:

1. First: a systematic search of 30 online databases, including general bibliographic databases (e.g., Scopus), TS journals (e.g., Babel), the IndirecTrans network website, and institutional repositories (e.g., Education and Training Boards Ireland Digital Library).
2. Second: a systematic search of the reference lists of the textual materials selected in the first step.
3. Third: the incorporation of relevant recommendations by interviewees.

The consulted databases are primarily selected based on the lists provided by Valdeón (2019: 764), Pięta (2017: 199), Aixelá & Rovira-Esteva (2015: 275). Institutional online repositories are selected through a combination of prior awareness of their availability, and insights gathered from interviewees. The sources are the following:

Source	Webpage
Across Languages and Cultures	https://akjournals.com/view/journals/084/084-overview.xml
Babel: International Journal of Translation	https://www.jbe-platform.com/content/journals/15699668
<i>Biblioteca Digital Brasileira de Teses e Dissertações</i> [Brazilian Digital	https://bdtd.ibict.br/vufind/

Alexandra Assis Rosa and Alexandra Lopes. This information can be found in the following webpage: <https://www.indirectrans.com/network/members.html>.

Library of Theses and Dissertations] ²³	
<i>Bibliotecas Digitais Lusófonas</i> [Lusophone Digital Libraries] ²⁴	https://biblioteca.ulusofona.pt/bibliotecas-digitais
Belas Infiéis [Unfaithful Beauties]	https://periodicos.unb.br/index.php/belasinfiéis
Bibliography of Interpreting and Translation (BITRA)	https://dti.ua.es/en/bitra/introduction.html
<i>Cadernos de Tradução</i> [Translation Journals]	https://periodicos.ufsc.br/index.php/traducao
<i>Cultura e Tradução</i> [Culture and Translation]	https://periodicos.ufpb.br/index.php/ct
Education and Training Boards Ireland Digital Library – English-language Repositories	https://library.etbi.ie/resources/open/repositories
Google Scholar	https://scholar.google.com/
IndirecTrans Website: List of Publications	https://www.indirectrans.com/research-publications/comprehensive-list-of-publications.html
Interpreting: International Journal of Research and Practice in Interpreting	https://www.jbe-platform.com/content/journals/1569982x
<i>Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia</i> [Brazilian	https://www.gov.br/ibict/pt-br/assuntos/tecnologias-para-a-informacao/copy_of_repositorios-digitais

²³ Brazil is home to 63 federal universities, each of which has its own scientific repository (Baggio & Blattmann 2023: 350).

²⁴ The Brazilian Institute of Science and Technology Information provides a list of scientific repositories in Portuguese, encompassing publications not only from Brazil, but also from other Lusophone countries.

Institute of Science and Technology Information] ²⁵	
JSTOR	https://about.jstor.org/librarians/journals/
Meta: Translator's Journal	https://www.erudit.org/en/journals/meta/
New Voices in Translation Studies	https://newvoices.arts.chula.ac.th/index.php/en
Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/rmps20
Project Muse	https://muse.jhu.edu/
<i>Repositórios Científicos de Acesso Aberto de Portugal</i> [Open Access Scientific Repositories in Portugal]	https://www.rcaap.pt/
<i>Rónai – Revista de Estudos Clássicos e Tradutórios</i> [<i>Rónai - Journal of the Classics and Translation Studies</i>]	https://periodicos.ufjf.br/index.php/ronai/about
Scopus	https://www.elsevier.com/products/scopus#content-overview
Target: International Journal of Translation Studies	https://benjamins.com/catalog/target
The Interpreter and Translator Trainor	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/ritt20
The Journal of Specialised Translation (JoSTrans)	https://www.jostrans.org/
The Translators	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/rtrn20
Tradterm	https://www.revistas.usp.br/tradterm/index
Translation and Interpreting Studies	https://benjamins.com/catalog/tis
Translation Review	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/utrv20

²⁵ The Lusophone Digital Libraries website provides a list of both literary and scientific repositories, as well as scholarly journals, encompassing publications not only in Portuguese, but in other languages.

Translation Studies	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/rtrs20
Web of Science	https://www.webofscience.com/

Table 4 – Sources and Webpages

Given the “often-fuzzy conceptual boundaries that hinder a clear delimitation” of ITr’s scope (Pięta 2017: 198), a piece of textual material was considered relevant if ITr was integrated into the research either as a focal point or as a contributing element of analysis. Specifically, materials are included if ITr²⁶ is:

- Used as a translation strategy (ITr-strategy);
- Explicitly identified as a feature of the analysed materials (ITr-feature);
- The central subject of the study (ITr-subject).

The process of curating the materials follows three stages:

1. Conducting a keyword search in both English and Portuguese to identify relevant research materials. The complete list of search terms is outlined in Appendix 2.
2. Identifying all instances of the term(s) and analysing their contextual usage to determine whether they referred to ITr in the broad sense of translations of translations or were used in an alternative context (e.g., a commemorative reprint of older translations). Therefore, all textual materials need to either define or explain term usage at least once.
3. Reviewing the abstracts of long-listed materials to confirm their relevance to ITr.

After completing this three-step process, the 130 textual materials are selected. The complete list of textual materials is outlined in Appendix 1²⁷.

Interviewees

Research which includes direct participants “involve a phase of recruitment, explanation of the study, and ethics protocols” (Potter & Robles 2022: 98). Therefore, protecting

²⁶ These categories are closely analysed in Chapter 4: Systematic Typologies of ITr Research (pp. 200-242).

²⁷ Due to the comprehensive nature of this list, it has been made available for easier access on a link that can be found in Appendix 1 (page 363). Appendix 2 starts in page 364.

participants' identities, building trust, ensuring research integrity, and addressing potential challenges before and during the interview process (Creswell & Creswell 2018: 144) are the primary concerns before recruiting interviewees for this thesis. To address these concerns, the primary strategy is to guarantee anonymous participation for all potential candidates. With a view to upholding ethical standards and ensure participant confidentiality, no identifying information, such as names, institutional affiliations, or publication lists, is disclosed in this thesis. To mitigate the risk of identification through word-choice, linguistic patterns or specific contextual details, the interview transcripts are not included in the appendix. Once approval is obtained from the ethics committee, the process of recruiting interviewees begins.

Sampling, an effective strategy often used in research involving corpora (Curry & McEnery 2025: 2; Saldanha & O'Brien 2013: 105), is needed to gather participants to be interviewed (Curry & McEnery 2025: 2). In keeping with the SMART criteria, the 'specific' category of this thesis requires non-probability sampling methods, rather than probability sampling methods, such as choosing participants at random. The aim is to build a corpus of scholar who are actively engaged or have been engaged with ITr research throughout their academic careers. For this reason, three non-probabilistic sampling methods are used: quota sampling, purposive sampling, and snowball sampling. To ensure the inclusion of scholars actively engaged in ITr research, quota sampling, a method defined as "convenience sampling within specific population groups" (Blaxter, Hughes & Tight 2010: 169-170), is an obvious choice. This method involves contacting all scholars listed on the IndirecTrans website, as well as every author from the collected textual materials, given that all of them had published works on ITr²⁸. To ensure that scholars from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds, as well as at various stages of their careers, are involved, both seasoned professors and undergraduate students are included as interviewees. Consequently, purposive sampling, which involves "hand-picking supposedly typical or interesting cases" (ibid.) is also applied. This sampling method involves reviewing pre-selected candidates, examining their

²⁸ Due to anonymity requirements it is not possible to disclose the identities of those who responded or agreed to participate as interviewees.

publication history, and analysing other relevant details about their academic background available online. The third and final method is snowball sampling, defined as “building up a sample through informants” (ibid.). As interviews progress, participants are asked to nominate other researchers they know who are engaged in ITr research but might not have many publications yet. This approach is particularly important for recruiting PhD candidates, as they are often viewed as “transient population” that is not fully integrated in academia (Oliver & Morris 2022: 610).

After establishing the sampling methods and gathering participants, the next step is to ensure that ethical considerations specific to participant-based research are followed. A key principle of ethical research practices is providing interviewees with “informed consent, which means people know that they are part of a study, have agreed to be studied and had the necessary knowledge for deciding for or against participating” (Flick 2022: 1235). All interviewees are informed that participation in the research is voluntary (Lessler, Eyerman & Wang 2008: 444), and would not involve any financial compensation or other benefits, such as promotion opportunities. Interviewees are also informed that they could stop the interview at any given time, and that questions could be skipped without penalty (ibid.). Prior to scheduling the interviews, each participant is given time to review and sign the consent form. Because interviewees were geographically dispersed across different parts of the world, and the interviews took place during a period of social isolation in 2021, all sessions were conducted virtually using the Zoom online meeting platform²⁹. The interviews were recorded exclusively for the purpose of transcription and analysis.

Interview Questions

The interviews follow a semi-structured format, including a predefined set of questions, while also extending to both researchers and participants the flexibility to explore a broader set of topics or issues (Bergin 2018: 132). Unstructured interviews risk overlooking important information and making it more difficult to identify patterns (Adams & Cox 2008: 22). On the other hand, fully structured interviews often limit participants’ ability to give detailed and

²⁹ <https://www.zoom.com/>.

subjective responses (ibid.). To strike a balance, the questions asked for this doctoral project are designed to grant interviewees room to elaborate on their answers while ensuring that key topics are addressed. In particular, the questions focus on the three main academic responsibilities: research, teaching, and administration (Davidovitch & Cohen 2024: 1; Valdeón 2019: 773; Oshagbemi 2000: 124).

To ensure transparency and accuracy, the same set of forty questions is presented to each interviewee. The questions are as follows:

- **General Questions**

1. Could you share a bit about your academic journey?
2. What inspired you to pursue this career path?
3. Have you ever worked as a professional translator?
 - If yes: What languages did/do you work with?
 - If not: Do you work exclusively in research and/or teaching, or do you have other professional responsibilities as well?
4. What languages do you speak?
5. What languages do you primarily work with in your research?
6. What languages do you usually publish in?

- **Indirect Translation – Personal Perspective**

7. How did you arrive at indirect translation research?
8. What, if anything, specifically draws you to indirect translation research?
9. What, if anything, discourages you from pursuing indirect translation research?
10. How would you briefly describe the process of translating from translations?
11. How would you *not* define or describe the process of translating from translations?
12. What is your preferred term in English to describe the process of translating from translations (e.g., indirect, relay, pivot, intermediary etc)?
13. In other languages you speak, what is your preferred term to describe the process of translating from translations?
14. What prompted your terminological choices?

15. Are there any terms you dislike or would not use for any reason?
16. How would you characterise the current state of ITr research in the country where you are based?
 - How does it compare to other regions globally?
17. What do you think the future holds for both indirect translation research and practice?
- **Indirect Translation – Research Focus**
18. Could you tell me about your current research project(s)?
 - What languages are involved?
 - How did you come to focus on this topic?
 - What have you discovered so far?
19. Are you part of any research networks or study groups focused on indirect translation?
 - If yes: Which ones?
 - If yes: How often do you meet, and how do these collaborations work exactly?
20. Have you ever collaborated with others on an indirect translation project?
 - If yes: How did that collaboration work?
 - If not: Is there a reason why?
21. How important is collaboration in your work as both a researcher and an indirect translation researcher specifically?
22. Do you find collaboration in indirect translation research different from collaboration in other (sub)fields?
 - If yes: How exactly?
23. Do you have any preferred research methodologies?
24. Could you describe the research methodologies you typically use in indirect translation (e.g., close reading, historical research etc)?
25. How easy or challenging was/is it to find relevant texts or resources for your indirect translation research?
26. Has any recent indirect translation research caught your attention in any way?

- **Indirect Translation – Future Research Directions**

- 27. Are there any specific topics you are planning to explore in the next few years?
- 28. What topics/themes or types of research in indirect translation would you like to do or see more research on in future?
- 29. What methodologies in indirect translation would you like to do or see more research on in future?

- **Indirect Translation – Teaching and Education**

- 30. Have you ever supervised any students working on ITr-related topics?
- 31. Does your department actively teach students about indirect translation?
 - If yes: Could you share more about how it is incorporated into the curriculum?
 - If not: Do you think this might change in the future?
- 32. In an ideal world, what themes would you want to teach students related to indirect translation?
 - At what level (e.g., undergraduate, postgraduate etc)?
 - Would it be part of another module/course/workshop, or has its own entire module/course/workshop?
- 33. What teaching techniques or strategies would you use?
- 34. In an ideal world, what would you liked to have learned about indirect translation when you were a student at any level?

- **Indirect Translation – Institutional and Administrative Perspectives**

- 35. As far as you know, does your university actively support or promote indirect translation research?
 - If yes: How exactly?
 - If not: Why do you think that is?
- 36. As far as you know, has your university created any positions specifically for indirect translation research?
 - If yes: When was this?
 - If yes: What level was the position for (e.g., Master's scholarship, researcher grant, lecturer, professorship)?

- If yes: Was this position tied to a specific project?
37. In an ideal world, what actions or initiatives could be implemented to potentially increase awareness of indirect translation in universities?
 38. In an ideal world, what actions or initiatives could be implemented to potentially increase awareness of indirect translation to the general public?
 39. How, and how often, do you connect with others who are also researching indirect translation (e.g., conferences, projects, PhD *viva voces* etc)?
 40. In an ideal world, how would you go about fostering connections and collaboration among researchers studying indirect translation?

Although all 40 questions are systematically asked to the interviewees, they are not necessarily asked in an identical order. This flexible approach is underpinned by three reasons. The first reason is to mitigate “response bias”, also known as “the good-subject effect” (Nichols & Maner 2008: 152), a phenomenon that happens when interviewees respond accordingly to what they believe the interviewer is expecting to hear (ibid.; Sanderman, Sonderen & Coyne 2013: 1; Dell et al. 2012: 1321). This situation often stems from the discomfort participants may feel during the early stages of the interview (Sanderman, Sonderen & Coyne 2013: 1), or their desire to contribute positively to the research process (Nichols & Maner 2008: 152). The second reason is to avoid “respondent fatigue”, a phenomenon occurring when interviewees become tired before completing the interview, potentially compromising response quality (see Jeong et al. 2022; Sanderman, Sonderen & Coyne 2013). The third reason is that interviewees’ interpretation of each question is shaped by social context, and the way questions are presented to them (Schwarz et al. 2008: 21). Thus, the order in which the questions are asked impacts the extent and depth of interviewees’ elaboration in their responses (Holbrook et al. 2007: 326). Because the mind does not operate in a strictly chronological or linear manner (Schwarz et al. 2008: 29), interviewees often give answers that moved back and forth between topics. As a result, the questions are adapted to the flow of each interview. For example, if an interviewee is asked about terminology, but then shifts to discussing research methodologies mid-answer, the interviewer allows them to exhaust their reasoning by exploring the topic of

methodologies, rather than interrupting their train of thought. The conversation then returns to terminology at a later point when it feels natural to do so. This flexible approach requires a degree of sensitivity and subjectivity on the part of the interviewer to ensure the conversation remains coherent and comfortable for all interviewees. Once all interviews are collected, the transcription process begins, leading to the next two steps: data mining preparation and data analysis.

Step 3: Data Mining and Analysis

Data or text mining “is the art of turning” textual information into numerical variables, identifying patterns, and then analysing them with statistical techniques (Schonlau & Guenther 2020: 866). Text mining is useful for categorising or clustering information, including open-ended questions in surveys or interviews (ibid.). Essentially, data or text mining is the process of curating data, which involves identifying patterns through statistical analysis using specific methods and techniques (Hui 2019: 6). In this thesis, the chosen method is meta-analysis, and the specific technique employed is keyness analysis via n-grams, which tends to be the most popular approach to text mining (Schonlau & Guenther 2020: 866).

Meta-analysis, also referred to as meta-synthesis, is a systematic review that synthesises the results of previous research by developing analytical categories (e.g., themes, methodologies etc) through statistical methods (Levitt 2018: 316; Flick 2015: 84; Cheung et al. 2012: 129; Shelby & Vaske 2008: 96; Theall 2002: 416; Williams & Chesterman 2002: 91). Although keyness analysis is “most often used to investigate differences by comparing two or more corpora against a reference corpus (rather than directly comparing them to each other)” (Taylor 2018: 23), this is not the only way to apply the technique. This thesis, for example, directly compares the two corpora with each other, examining not only differences but also similarities between them. Keyness analysis, therefore, involves counting word occurrences and analysing their concordance (i.e., contextual usage) (Prentice et al. 2021: 306; Gabrielatos 2018: 225). For example, rather than just quantifying occurrences of the term ‘indirect’ in both sets of materials, the analysis examines its contextual function

(Prentice et al. 2021: 307), determining whether it modifies 'translation', 'approach', or serves an alternative role. Simply put, concordance in keyness analysis means not just how many times a term is used, but also in what way. It is not enough to know, for instance, that a given term appears 51 times, it is also necessary to understand in what context and what proportion 51 represents. Consequently, the analysis also focuses on the frequency of a given term in each textual object (Egbert & Schnur 2018: 169).

These terms are organised into n-grams, which are clusters of a fixed length (ibid.). For instance, "with N = 2, the n-grams for the phrase 'The cat sat on the mat' would be: 'The cat', 'cat sat', 'sat on', 'on the', and 'the mat'" (Anthony 2018: 213). This technique is particularly useful for identifying terms like 'indirect translation' or 'pivot translation'. For this reason, this thesis uses both 1-gram and 2-gram analyses to ensure a comprehensive framework for term usage and to allow the identification of key information for further analysis, such as themes or methods. Simply put, just identifying the 1-gram term 'statistical', for instance, may not be sufficient. It may also be necessary to identify the frequency of the 2-gram term 'statistical analysis'. If the term 'statistical analysis' does appear in a given textual object, its usage is then analysed through concordance to determine whether it refers to the methodological approach employed in that particular output or is mentioned for other purposes, such as in the context of a literature review. If the term represents the method of data analysis used in a given textual object, this textual object is then grouped with others that employ the same method, in this case, 'statistical analysis'. However, if the term is referenced only as an example or for another purpose, the search for the method of data analysis used in that textual object continues by examining other 1-gram and 2-gram terms.

Before identifying these patterns, however, two preparatory steps are necessary to ensure the data is ready for analysis: data cleaning and format transformation (Boulton & Wilkinson 2020: 5). In this thesis, these two processes occur almost simultaneously. To begin, all textual materials and interview transcriptions are converted into editable documents (ibid.). Specifically, they are first transformed from PDF to DOC for editing and then into TXT, the format required by the AntConc³⁰ program designed to count and identify word patterns

³⁰ <https://www.laurenceanthony.net/software.html>.

(Curry & McEnery 2025: 5; Anthony 2018: 207; Gabrielatos 2018: 234). The purpose of data cleaning is to prepare documents for analysis by retaining only essential information and removing extraneous content (Boulton & Wilkinson 2020: 5).

The data cleaning process used in the interviews primarily involves transcription. This step ensures that all information provided by interviewees is accurately recorded, with proper spelling to facilitate the AntConc program's ability to detect word patterns. Despite advancements, fully automatic sound-to-text transcription is not yet a fully reliable solution (Peivandi et al. 2022: 5; Setton 2013: 56). Consequently, in this thesis, manual corrections are necessary to ensure lexical accuracy, correct spelling, and completeness of information. Additionally, the transcription process includes manually annotating instances where interviewees left sentences unfinished due to a stream-of-consciousness response or where their intended meaning differed from the literal transcription. For example, an interviewee might state ironically that they 'love' something when they mean they 'hate' it.

To ensure an accurate representation of their views, these nuances are documented for the data mining process. After this stage is concluded, a spreadsheet with 60 information categories (e.g., 'arrival at ITr', 'academic background', 'preferred term', 'disliked term' etc) is created, structured around the original questions and the answers given by the interviewees (see Appendix 3, page 365). For example, initially, the topic of English as a *lingua franca* is not included in the original set of research questions. However, due to its frequent mention by interviewees, it is then incorporated as a category in the data organisation spreadsheet. Because this thesis primarily compares transcriptions with textual objects, not all interview data is analysed, but the information was nonetheless collected and separated into categories to ensure the comprehensiveness of the study.

As previously stated, meta-analysis has been selected as the data analysis method for the textual materials. Although no researcher can be "an entirely neutral and objective observer of the world or of other human beings" (Bergin 2018: 30), and no statistical method is devoid of human subjectivity, systematic analysis minimises overreliance on the researcher's personal knowledge or observational skills (Hadley 2023: 26). This methodological approach potentially uncovers a broader range of patterns, which can later

be examined in greater depth by future research using complementary methodologies (ibid.). Although meta-analytical methods have been part of scholarly studies for over half a century (Levitt 2018: 368), bibliographical methods in general, including meta-analysis, are still seldom applied in the field of TS (Dong & Chen 2015: 1112). Systematic research focusing on TS outputs “has only just emerged in recent years when the publication Perspective, a renowned journal in translation studies devoted an entire issue to studies using meta-bibliometric and bibliometric methods” (ibid.). The “dramatic boom” in TS publications has attracted scholarly attention in the field (ibid.), but it is still in its infancy when it comes to ITr (Pięta 2017: 206).

Although meta-research is widely regarded as the highest scientific standard for synthesising findings across corpora, it is also subject to potential biases, including the risk of misrepresenting results (Luchini et al. 2019: 185-186). To address these methodological challenges and ensure the reliability of the findings, this thesis follows a structured 10-step process after the format transformation stage. These steps aim to systematically identify and categorise key information related to themes, terminology, typologies, and methodologies.

STEP 1	Preparation	Removing non-essential textual elements from the text-proper, including acknowledgements, disclosure statements, funding information, ORCID numbers, author names, and repeated instances of the research title or journal name appearing on multiple pages. References were also extracted into a separate file to prevent them from influencing the keyness analysis, as the focus of analysis was the text-proper, rather than bibliography.
STEP 2	Key terms English	Systematically identifying 1-gram and 2-gram occurrences in Anglophone outputs using AntConc.
STEP 3	Key terms Portuguese	Systematically identifying 1-gram and 2-gram occurrences in Lusophone outputs using AntConc.

STEP 4	Identifying Concordances	Determining the concordances related to the key terms identified in the previous steps. This approach aims to offer clear and organised guidance for identifying relevant information in the content of each textual object. The goal is to reduce dependence on subjective interpretation by establishing a structured framework for analysis.
STEP 5	Curating Information	Curating the sentences gathered in the previous steps and assessing the ones that provide relevant information on themes, terminology, typologies, and methodologies. Each of these categories is analysed in a dedicated chapter, with a specific focus on the set of terms pertinent to that chapter. Each chapter explicitly outlines the specific set of terms targeted to identify relevant information.
STEP 6	Critical Assessment	Identifying pertinent information that may not have been identified in the preceding stages. For example, an article might not explicitly use terms such as method, methodology, or strategy, yet it may describe the analytical approach using alternative phrasing. This process requires an extra degree of critical assessment to uncover implicit information.
STEP 7	Separating Categories	Separating information into each category related to themes, terminology, typologies, and methodologies. Each chapter explicitly outlines the specific set of terms targeted to identify relevant information.
STEP 8	Separating Groups	Separating information into groups for each category. For instance, for the 'terminology' category, groups were separated into terms that define ITr, such as 'indirect translation', 'pivot translation' or 'relay translation' among

		others. Each chapter explicitly outlines the specific set of terms targeted to identify relevant information.
STEP 9	Identifying Patterns (Quantitative)	Identifying statistical patterns across categories to quantify the data, relying on basic descriptive statistics. Descriptive statistics entails concisely summarising data through numbers and proportions via tables or graphs to inform interpretation and decision-making (Pickering 2017: 576; Church 2008: 51; Larson 2006: 76). This step, therefore, focuses on three key aspects: 1) the most represented groups, 2) the least represented groups, and 3) potential gaps in the dataset (i.e., null numbers).
STEP 10	Interpretation (Qualitative)	Interpreting numerical data by developing hypotheses. This process relies on the process of making estimations, which are necessary for making informed predictions that can later become data for theory revision (Morey et al. 1290). This approach is particularly instrumental in meta-analysis (Fidler & Cumming 2014: 1292), by recognising that such interpretations are provisional hypotheses rather than absolute truths (Schwen & Rueschenbaum 2018: 4).

Table 5 – Data Mining Steps

To determine additional details such as publication dates, authorship, and output formats, it is not necessary to conduct a keyness analysis, because this information can be found in the title pages of each publication. This process involves identifying the publication outlets (e.g., journals or conferences), listing the years of publication, and documenting the authors listed, including their frequency of appearance throughout the textual corpus.

Step 10 requires closer examination. To interpret the numerical data and formulate hypotheses, the information from the two sets of materials is triangulated. Triangulation, a concept borrowed from navigation and trigonometry, “refers to calculating an unknown point

by drawing a triangle with two known points and then using trigonometry to determine the unknown location” (Gillespie, Glăveanu & Saint Laurent 2024: 77). In this thesis, triangulation involves comparing the statistical results obtained in Step 9 across the two sets of materials to extract meaning and develop hypotheses in Step 10. As previously discussed, comparing perspective-based information with publication-based information helps identify contradictions and improves the overall understanding of a phenomenon (Malamatidou 2018: 36). While these interpretations are estimations drawing from multiple data collection methods and different corpora increases confidence in the results and can uncover insights that extend beyond the initial categories of analysis (Bergin 2018: 29; Malamatidou 2018: 36). As explained earlier, this thesis adopts a temporal framework:

PAST 1963-2016	Results from previous research	This historical overview aims to establish a perspective of the ITr landscape before the present period. This section aims to serve as a benchmark to evaluate the development and progression of past ITr research. The past period explores the results already outlined by Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017), Pięta (2017), and Hadley (2023).
PRESENT 2017-2022	130 textual materials and 49 interview transcription	Entails examining the data garnered from interviewees and comparing their viewpoints and observations with the findings and developments evident in the textual materials. This section compares the findings from the present period with the ones from the past period, incorporating interviewees’ perspectives. Topics not explicitly addressed by Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017), Pięta (2017), and Hadley (2023), but indicated by interviewees, are also examined. Because they hold significance for interviewees, these topics have the potential to

		identify research gaps and inform future research avenues on ITr research.
FUTURE 2023-2028	Speculative in nature	Seeks to project and anticipate what state of ITr research might look like in the upcoming years. This section aims to provide insight into the potential trajectory of ITr research in the six years following the present period. Since the corpus covers a duration of six years, the same timeframe is used for future projections. This choice aims to ensure numerical consistency.

Table 6 – Temporal Framework

Future projections are included because “if it is important to remember the past, the future too should not be forgotten” (Bowker et al. 2014: vi). As argued by Einstein (1923: 28), the laws of mathematics are not flawless pictures of reality, as “real-world phenomena are often much more complex for these commonly known basic statistical distributions to provide adequate fit” (Famoye & Lee 2014: 1). However, projection models “are good approximations of reality given that reality itself is unknowable” (Kelchner & Thomas 2007: 87). Despite being valuable analytical tools, no forecasting software can yield perfectly accurate predictions (Armstrong & Green 2018: 104; Shepperd & Kadola 2001: 349). Thus, the accuracy and validity of mathematical estimations depend not only on computational models, but also on the researcher’s critical assessment and evidence-based decision-making (Nadler & Kros 2008: 80).

Moreover, it is impossible to predict the potential discoveries that future researchers may make, which could fundamentally alter the predictions this thesis makes on the future landscape of ITr research. Focusing exclusively on numbers offers a temporal framework that emphasises the probabilistic nature of mathematical estimations, rather than attempting to forecast specific and detailed future outcomes, such as which year will witness the greatest

shift in terminological usage, or which unknown specific theme may eventually surpass the current ones).

In order to make approximate predictions, this thesis' projections are calculated using Excel's forecast functions. The software projects estimates based on existing historical data (ibid.; Nadler & Kros 2007: 212). Although there are many software options available for forecasting, Excel is chosen due to its efficient, user-friendly mathematical model (Nadler & Kros 2008: 80; Alvarez, González-González & Trujillo-de Santiago 2021: 2; Turner et al. 2015: 76). Excel's forecast function makes predictions that consider both the best-case scenario (higher confidence) and the worst-case scenario (lower confidence) in the projected timeline (Nadler & Kros 2007: 212; Microsoft Support n.d.: n.p.), which for this research is between 2023 and 2028. It then calculates the average between the two³¹, which is the most likely scenario (ibid.). Using the real total, the number of publications already recorded on an annual basis, the software predicts future trends for the coming years (ibid.). To accurately interpret the data, the following criteria are used:

- If the average values exceed 100%, it indicates that the projected volume of publications is higher than the actual recorded figures. A value of 100% represents the *real total*, meaning any percentage above this reflects an expected increase. For example, an anticipated average of 130% suggests a 30% growth in that particular category in future.
- Since the real total is defined as 100% of the publication count, a percentage below 100% implies that the sum of the real total and the projected total is less than the real total alone. As it is not possible for the number of publications in the future to be lower than the current count, negative values are disregarded, and increases below 100% are interpreted as no additional publications.

The projections are acquired using the mathematical formula:

³¹ Further information and examples can be found on Microsoft's support webpage: <<https://support.microsoft.com/en-au/office/forecast-ets-confint-function-6d4a7557-11fa-4678-9e6a-dbcc31a7c7df>>.

$$b = \frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})(y - \bar{y})}{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2}$$

Figure 1 - Excel's Forecast Mathematical Formula

This mathematical formula is represented by the corresponding computational expression: *FORECAST.ETS(target_date, values, timeline, [seasonality], [data_completion])*. Each variable is explained as follows:

Variable	General Explanation	Specific Explanation
Target_date	The data point to be predicted (support.microsoft.com n.d.: n.p.).	Here, each <i>Target_date</i> represents a year covering the range from 2023 to 2028.
Values	The historical range of known data (ibid.).	Here, the variable is fixed, and it aligns with the data corresponding to the 2017-2022 timeframe.
Timeline	Pertains to the independent array of numeric data (ibid.).	Here, it represents the sequence of projected years, that is: from 2023 to 2028.
Seasonality	Detects potential data fluctuations according to seasonal demands (ibid.).	Here, the variable used is the number "1" indicating that <i>seasonality</i> is to be calculated in the forecast.
Data_completion	"[...] accounts for missing points by completing them to be the average of the neighbouring points" (ibid.).	Here, the variable used is the number "1" indicating that <i>data_completion</i> is to be calculates in the forecast.

Table 7 – Variables Explained

While this mathematical formula provides quantitative insight based on historical trends, it does not account for external influences that could determine the outcome. External influences could encompass many different factors, such as lack of funding opportunities, delays in the publication process, emerging trends in the publication market, or unforeseen global events. Given the inherent nature of published textual materials as whole quantities, any fractions in the results are adjusted to the nearest whole number.

Step 4: Data Presentation

The data is presented according to the following logic:

- Each chapter begins with at least two quotations from an external publication, not included in the thesis' corpus, which are directly relevant to the chapter's subject matter. These quotations serve to establish the thematic tone of the chapter, highlight gaps in the existing literature, and engage the reader with the central focus of the discussion.
- Next, the chapter introduces the research questions that will guide its analysis. The chapter then progresses by first outlining past results, followed by an analysis of the present, and concluding with projections for the future. The plan is to consistently address questions regarding scholars' perceptions, and the evolution across past, present, and future periods. However, Chapters 4 and 5 do not include research questions related to shifts between the past and the present, as the scholarly sources referenced as benchmarks for the past period do not directly engage with the categories analysed in these two chapters. As a result, Chapters 4 and 5 each focus on only two research questions, centred on scholars' perceptions and the potential evolution from the present to the future.
- Finally, the chapter offers a set of conclusions based on the topics discussed. Graphs and tables are used to visualise the statistical findings in each chapter. Given that the triangulation of the two sets of materials results in estimations and speculative analysis, it is important to recognise that the triangulated analysis offers

interpretative insights, rather than definitive conclusions. Collectively, the chapters represent a systematic analysis of the data, divided into topic areas.

The division of topic areas among the five chapters occurs in the following sequence:

Chapter	Overall Subject	Explored Topics
ONE	Panorama	• Timeline: i.e., 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022. • Authorship: e.g., Main authors. • Collaboration: e.g., Co-authorship. • Language: i.e., English and Portuguese. • Publication Formats: e.g., Journal articles.
TWO	Themes	• Overarching themes: e.g., Literary Translation. • Specific themes: e.g., Social-political issues.
THREE	Terminology	• Anglophone Terminology: e.g., ‘pivot translation’. • Lusophone Terminology: e.g., ‘tradução indire(c)ta’.
FOUR	Typology	• ITr as a focal point in research: e.g., ITr-subject. • TS research models in ITr research: e.g., Product-based.
FIVE	Methodology	• Primary material type: e.g., existing, produced. • Method of data analysis: e.g. curatorial analysis.

Table 8 – Chapter Summary

Like the *Arabian Nights*, if this thesis were a collection of stories, at this stage, we would transition from the prologue to the first constituent tale. In this respect, the first chapter examines the panorama of ITr’s publishing landscape.

CHAPTER 1:

PANORAMA OF ITR RESEARCH

- “It seems that the lion’s share of empirical research on this subject is produced in languages other than English, thereby not receiving the wide scholarly attention it deserves” (Pięta 2016: 355).
- “[...] the importance of indirect translation is undeniable in a globalized world, as reflected in the numerous academic events, scientific projects, and publications that have now started to address this topic” (Cabezas-García & León-Araúz 2023: 262).
- “The call for more teamwork was motivated by the need for competences in multiple languages and cultures to map and analyze different indirect routes. Indeed, it is hard to expect that a single researcher will have perceptual access to numerous languages that may form ITr chains” (Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier 2023: 844).

1. Introduction

In the three quotations above, Pięta (2016), Cabezas-García & León-Araúz (2023), and Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2023) engage with the topics of authorship, collaboration, the position of the English-language, and publication formats in the context of ITr research. Building on this discussion, this chapter aims to answer the following three questions:

1. Is there evidence of a past - present evolution in the academic publishing landscape of ITr?
2. Do scholars’ opinions and perceptions align with the observable nature of the academic publishing landscape?
3. Which present - future shifts in the academic publishing landscape of ITr can be anticipated?

Scientific publications play a key role in sharing and preserving information “by combining the efforts of many individuals (or groups) at any given time” (Mallett 2020: 49). Advances in science and technology have led to an increase in the global access to knowledge (ibid.), accompanied by an exponential rise in the annual output of scientific journal articles

(Hyland 2021: 15; Burbules 2020: 655). As discussed in the introduction to this thesis, Translation Studies (TS) has not been exempt from this trend, undergoing rapid expansion over the past two decades (Zhu & Aryadoust 2023: 157). Between January 2001 and December 2020, for instance, over 6007 journal articles were published in the field of TS, not to mention other formats, such as books (Zhu & Aryadoust 2023: 162). The rapid expansion of TS had an impact on ITr research as well:

By the early years of the twenty-first century, when the field had moved to focus relatively squarely on cultural and sociological aspects of translation, at least one, and up to six new publications relevant to indirect translation were appearing annually, with an average of 3.9 between 2003 and 2016 (Hadley 2023: 8).

Thus, it is worth looking at the panorama of ITr research. However, a key question underpinning any such panoramic observation is a key question: which aspects are worth considering? Several dimensions of academic publishing warrant analysis (Hadley 2023: 7; Serpa et al. 2021: 354), including the ones that are analysed in this chapter:

- Authorship;
- Language;
- Timeline Progression;
- Publications Format.

Analysing authorship reveals whether ITr tends to be a one-time subject of study or a recurring theme in researchers' work. Analysing the languages used in publications helps identify which language is most prevalent and encourages further exploration of the potential reasons behind these trends. Analysing timeline progression reveals whether ITr research is experiencing growth, a plateau or a decrease in terms of the number of outputs appearing, as well as what influences any such trend could have over TS research. Analysing publication format has the potential to identify the relative positions of each form of research outputs in which ITr research is published, along with any associated shifts over time.

2. Methodology

2.1.1. Textual Materials

The analyses of authorship and collaboration, timeline progression, and publication format here are structured around four key question-words: *who*, *how*, *when*, and *where*³².

- Who: focuses on authorship. It aims to identify *who* the most prominent authors are, as well as classifying authors as either single-time contributors and recurring authors.
- How: focuses on languages. It aims to identify *how* the ratio of Anglophone and Lusophone publications varies across the present period (i.e., 2017-2022).
- When: focuses on the Timeline progression. It aims to identify *when* each textual object appears in the publication landscape, highlighting annual variations.
- Where: focuses on publication format. It aims to identify *where* each textual object is published. Table 9 outlines the assessment criteria in detail.

Publication Format	Publication Medium	Examples
Academic article	Online journals	Routledge's Translation Studies
Conference Abstracts	Conference Programmes	European Society for Translation Studies (EST) website
Conference Proceedings	Conference Proceedings Database	Conference Proceedings Citation Index (CPCI)
Student Work: • Undergraduate Thesis • Doctoral Theses • Master's Dissertations	Institutional Online Repositories	• TARA: Trinity College Dublin's Access to Research Archive • <i>Repositório Institucional da UnB (RIUnB)</i>

Table 9 – Publication Format, Venue, and Examples

³² Italics added for emphasis.

Because raw numbers alone may not offer a comprehensive understanding of the publishing landscape (Prymachuk & Richards 2007: 44), this chapter adopts a focused analysis that specifically examines materials of the same format. As a result, academic articles are analysed separately from the broader textual corpus. Additionally, given that the past period covers a 54-year span while the present period spans only six years, direct statistical comparisons between the two are made using the last six years of the past period (i.e., 2011–2016) to ensure a fair and balanced analysis.

2.1.2. Systematically Analysing the Interviews

The responses to the following seven core questions are used to analyse the results from the interviews:

Number	Question
4	What languages do you speak?
5	What languages do you primarily work with in your research?
6	What languages do you usually publish in?
17	What do you think the future holds for both indirect translation research and practice?
20	Have you ever collaborated with others on an indirect translation project? - If yes: How did that collaboration work? - If not: Is there a reason why?
21	How important is collaboration in your work as both a researcher and an indirect translation researcher specifically?
22	Do you find collaboration in indirect translation research different from collaboration in other (sub)fields? - If yes: How exactly?

Table 10 – Core Questions (Chapter 1)

While interviewees are asked about collaborating with other scholars, several also mention collaborating with other types of participants (e.g., translators, publishing houses,

and supervisors), and receiving formal or informal support from other scholarly figures, such as supervisors, colleagues, or students. However, the scope of collaboration analysed in this chapter is confined to direct scholarly collaborations, specifically co-authorship. This decision is driven by the unfeasibility of accurately identifying potential contributors who are not explicitly referenced in the published research.

Since no interview questions specifically address publication formats, a comparative analysis between the reality of publications and interviewees' perceptions is not feasible here. However, as Pięta (2017) raises this issue in the context of past publications, this chapter does engage with the point to address the first and third research questions.

3. Language and Timeline Progression

3.1. Past (1963-2016)

According to Pięta (2017: 210-216) Hadley (2023: 8)³³:

- Most ITr publications are in English (Pięta 2017: 200).
- ITr publications will tend towards a gradual uptrend and are expected “to fluctuate between around three and six each year, reaching an average of around 4.82 by 2020” (Hadley 2023: 8).
- There were 27 ITr publications distributed between 2011 and 2016, as indicated by Table 11 (ibid.).

Year	Number of Publications
2011	5
2012	3
2013	5
2014	6
2015	5

³³ Both of Hadley's (2023: 8-9) 'Indirect Translation Publications Per Year' graphs can be found in Appendix 4: 'Past in Graphs', on page 369. The first graph depicts ITr publications from 1963 to 2016, and the other depicts the trend from 1963 to 2021.

2016	3
2011-2016	27

Table 11 – Timeline Progression (2011-2016)

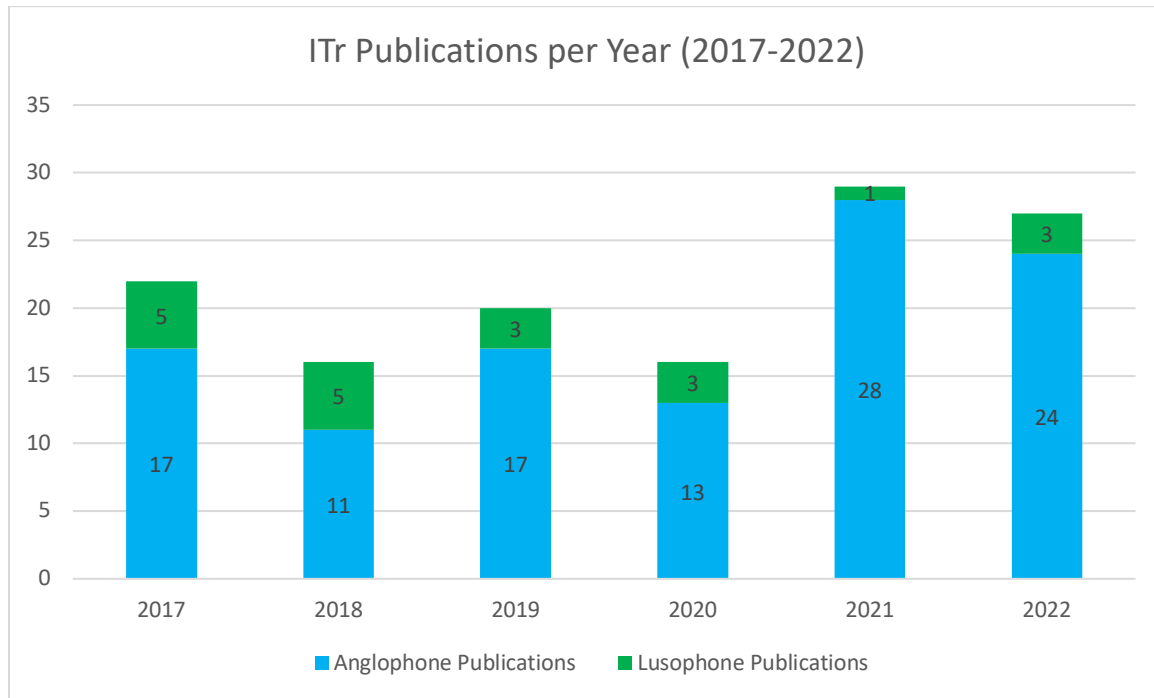
- There were 15 ITr-related scholarly articles published between 2011 and 2016, as indicated by Table 12 (Pięta 2017: 210-216).

Year	Number of Articles	Publications
2011	2	Cardozo (2012) Paul & Sumita (2011) ³⁴
2012	2	Pięta (2012) Vermeulen (2012)
2013	3	Coll-Vinent (2013) Washbourne (2013) Witt (2013)
2014	2	Linder (2014) Schultze (2013)
2015	4	Boulogne (2015) Penas Ibáñez (2015) Ringmar (2015) Zubillaga Gomez (2015)
2016	2	Hadyna (2016) Kandiu (2016)
2011-2016	15	All of the above

Table 12 – Timeline Progression - Articles (2011-2016)

³⁴ Paul & Sumita (2011) can be considered a conference proceedings publication (see bibliography), but it is included in Pięta's (2017) framework as an academic article. Therefore, in this chapter, it is also regarded as an academic article.

3.2. Present (2017-2022)



Graph 1 – Timeline Progression – Anglophone and Lusophone Publications (2017-2022)

Graph 1 indicates that most (84.61%) ITr publications are in English, while Portuguese accounts for only 15.38%. This data suggests a lack of evolution in the distribution of publication languages over time. In 2021, the gap between Lusophone and Anglophone publications widens even further, with Lusophone outputs accounting for only 3.44% of the total. This major discrepancy may be due to the highest-impact journals being Anglophone publications (Feak & Swales 2016: xi; López-Navarro et al. 2015: 942). For instance, “[...] 98% of publications in science are written in English, including researchers from English as a Foreign Language (EFL) countries” (Ramírez-Castañeda 2020: 1). English has solidified its position as the hypercentral language in global communication (Monteiro & Hirano 2019: 15; De Swaan 2001: 17, as cited by Assis Rosa 2017: 442), extending its influence to interpreting practices (Pöchhacker in Davier et al. 2023: 830) and ITr as a discipline (Heilbron 1999: 435).

Heilbron (ibid.) observes that “the more central a language is in the translation system, the more it functions as an intermediary or vehicular language”. This observation

explains why English frequently serves as the intermediary language in various translation practices, including audio-visual translation (Valdez et al. 2024: 442), game localisation (Agulló Garcia et al. 2024: 851), and literary translation (Pięta 2021: 323). Consequently, English has also become the *lingua franca* of ITr studies (Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier 2022: 349), hindering, in parts, the wide development of ITr research (Marin-Lacarta 2018: 309; Pięta 2016: 354; Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al. 2023: 828³⁵). Given this context, it is reasonable to expect the prevalence of Anglophone-related research compared to its Lusophone counterpart.

Interviewees, however, offer varying perspectives on the predominance of English in research, extending beyond the specific context of ITr. For instance, Interviewees n° 06 (00:08:16) and n° 29 (01:16:54), both Computer Science (CS) scholars, argue that, especially in the specific context of Machine Translation (MT)³⁶ research³⁷, “there is in the near future no alternative to English as *lingua franca* [...]” (Wolters 2015: 190). Interviewee n° 6 (00:08:16), more specifically, believes that English is and it will continue to be the only language capable of ensuring communication worldwide.

Interviewee n° 09 (00:18:10; 00:19:56), also a CS scholar, argues that using English in academia, especially in the context of MT research, follows a circular pattern. Researchers are inclined to choose English as a pivot/intermediary language due to the greater availability of resources and datasets it offers (Interviewee n° 09 – 00:18:10). This choice enables researchers to streamline their research processes, minimising the time elapsed from research completion to publication (Interviewee n° 09 – 00:19:56). As a result, the expanded availability of datasets and ITr literature in English further entrenches its position as the dominant language in both scholarly publications and pivot language in ITr chains. Beyond MT, Davier (in Davier et al. 2023: 829-830) illustrates this circularity in the context of News Translation (NT) as well. Davier (ibid.) suggests that the need to publish in English, and thus

³⁵ Marin-Lacarta is one of the interviewees in Davier et al. 2023.

³⁶ Overarching themes, such as MT and Literary Translation (LT), are analysed in Chapter 2.

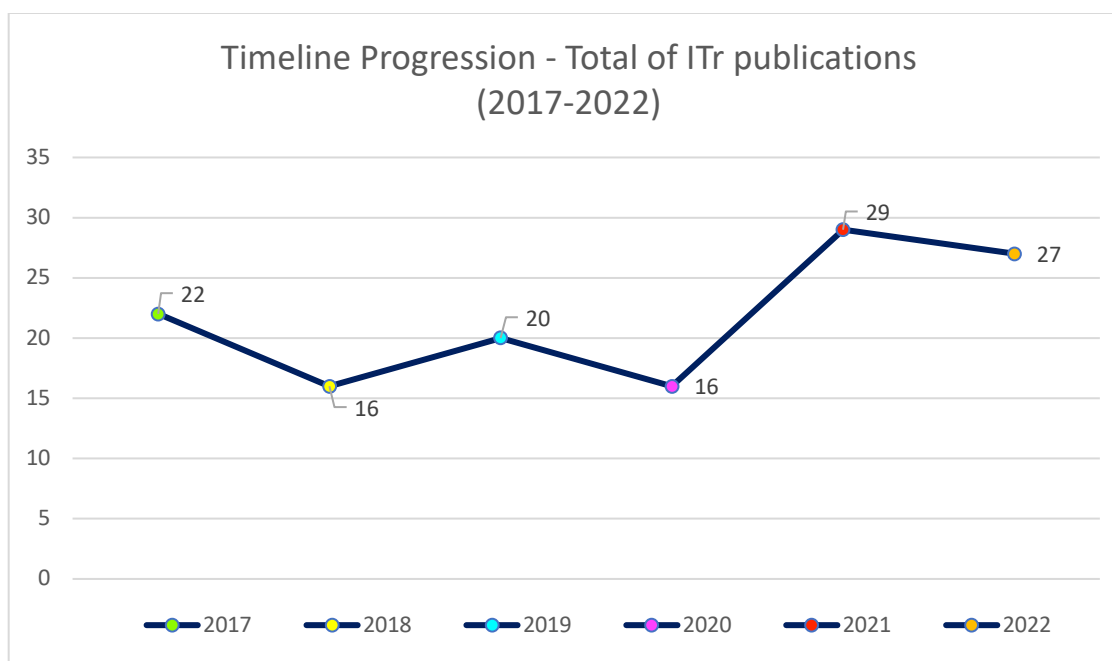
³⁷ Although MT, LT, News Translation etc are often termed as ‘subfields’ or ‘domains’ (e.g., Bielsa 2020: 369; Palumbo 2009: 11: 20), in this thesis, they are referred to as ‘overarching themes’.

to provide gloss translations for non-English passages, may create a bias, encouraging scholars to select textual materials in which English already serves as a source, intermediate, or target language.

The perspectives of interviewees nº 06 and nº 29 resonate with that of 20 (40.81%) other interviewees regarding the need to publish in English. They harbour concerns that their scholarly work would not receive equal recognition if published in other languages³⁸. Neglecting to publish in English, according to them, could potentially lead to a degree of academic isolation (Monteiro & Hirano 2019: 15; Canagarajah 2002: 29). The phenomenon known as “publish or perish” (Jalongo 2023d: 343; Heron, Gravett & Yakovchuk 2020: 538-539; López-Navarro et al. 2015: 942), which extends to the broader field of TS as well (Valdeón 2019: 761), appears to have taken the more updated nuance of “publish in English or perish” (Li 2023: 130; Di Bitetti & Ferreras 2017: 123). For Lusophone speakers, the centrality of English in academic publications introduces an additional layer of complexity. As discussed in the introduction to this thesis, Lusophone scholars sometimes argue that publishing in English is the only viable option, otherwise, they face the risk of “perish[ing] in Portuguese” (Solovova, Santos & Veríssimo 2018: 1).

However, the centrality of English in academic publications can also be seen as a positive development (Wolters 2015: 190). By refraining from considering it “an unfortunate event for scholarly communication” (Li 2023: 132), scholars may expand their reach to a wider audience, establish cross-cultural partnerships (Monteiro & Hirano 2019: 16), and promote interlingual collaboration. Despite recognising its potential drawbacks, Interviewee nº 47 stresses the value of having English as the *lingua franca* of scientific production, especially in ITr research: “We are all writing in English, not just in Indirect Translation, but across Translation Studies. And this is great, because we’re more easily read” (Interviewee nº 47 – 00:52:12).

³⁸ Although the interviewees were not directly asked for their views on English as a *lingua franca*, they were asked about their language skills and the languages they typically write in. The full list of questions can be found in the introduction to this thesis.



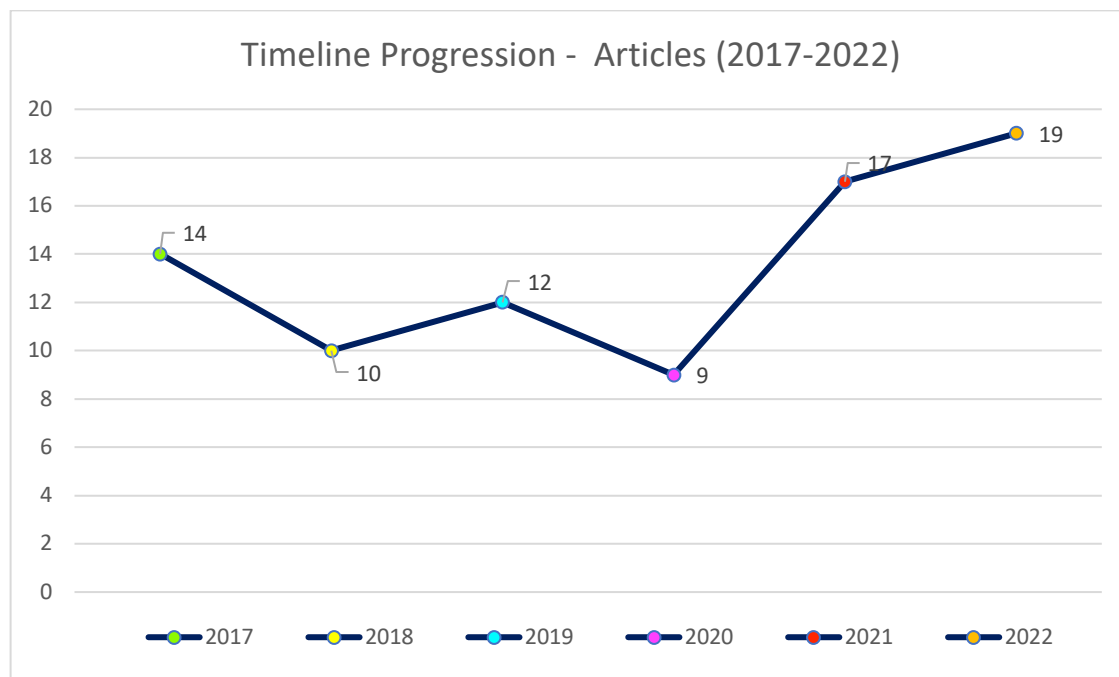
Graph 2 – Timeline Progression – Total ITr Publications (2017-2022)

Period	Average: Article Publications (Anglophone & Lusophone)	Total Average: ITr Publications
2011-2016	2.5	4.5
2017-2022	13.5	21.66
2011-2022	8	13.08

Table 13 – Average of Publications (2011-2016, 2017-2022, and 2011-2022)

Building on Interviewee nº 47's opinion, the growth of Anglophone publications, coupled with the potential for an expanded readership, could partially explain the evolution of ITr research between past and present. As illustrated in Graph 2 and Table 13, there is a nearly five-fold increase in outputs between the two periods. This surge corroborates Hadley's (2023: 8) forecast of an upward trend, indicating an evolution over time. Relative to the previous four years, both 2021 and 2022 see a substantial growth in publications. When juxtaposing the annual average publication rate of 21.66 (see Table 13) across the six-year period (i.e., 2017–2022), a 38% increase is observed in 2021, and a 28% increase in 2022 (see Graph 2). The Special Issue on Indirect Translation published in the *Translation Studies* journal

represents the most concentrated effort in ITr publications (Hadley 2023: 7) until 2017. It also appears to be the inaugural multi-authored initiative of its kind published in English (Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier 2023: 839). For these reasons, it could be that this Special Issue catalysed further research on ITr in the following years (Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al. 2023:825), peaking four years later, in 2021 (see Graph 2). However, as previously discussed, relying on raw numbers alone may not offer a complete view of the publishing landscape.



Graph 3 – Timeline Progression - ITr Articles (2017-2022)

A closer look on article publications reveals a three-fold increase between past and present (see Table 13 and Graph 3). ITr research continues to exhibit a consistent upward trend, highlighting the evolution from one period to the next. Though Hadley (2023: 8) accurately predicted the gradual rise of research outputs, his projection underestimated the potential growth of ITr research. In 2020, the average number of publications totalled 18.5, exceeding Hadley's (ibid.) prediction by over three times. Even when exclusively focusing on academic articles, the average remains over two times higher (see Graph 3). These results indicate that ITr research has indeed gained traction, and garnered attention from scholars only recently (Hadley 2023: 1; Assis Rosa, Bueno Maia & Pięta 2017: 113), especially after

2017 (Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier 2023: 840). The predictions put forth by Hadley (2023: 8) are consistent with the discussion in the introduction to this thesis regarding the nature of projections (see page 53). While projections based on previous data are indicative of the likely trajectory of future publications, they do not precisely measure scale (Armstrong & Green 2018: 104; Kelchner & Thomas 2007: 87). Instead, they are better at indicating whether a trend will rise or fall rather than determining its exact extent (ibid.). Consequently, although Hadley (2023: 8) did not precisely predict the scale in which ITr research was likely to increase, he correctly anticipated its upward trajectory³⁹.

Comparable findings concerning the rise in scholarly attention to ITr are also apparent in the interview data. For instance, nine (18.36%) interviewees express their involvement in ITr research due to a genuine interest in the topic itself for multiple reasons, including the belief that scholars have “strong opinions about it” (Interviewee n° 04 – 00:18:51). These nine interviewees are motivated by the very fact that ITr tends to be marginalised in academia. Pleasure, including that of debunking preconceived ideas, can serve as a strong motivator for academic research (Burbules 2020: 659-660). Meanwhile, 34 (69%) interviewees mention academic necessity as the reason for their involvement. They explain that their first or main encounter with ITr occurred while conducting research on other topics or materials, which consequently prompted them to examine ITr specifically. This newfound academic need may indicate a transition from “avoiding perishing” towards “actively *flourishing*”⁴⁰ (Heron, Gravett & Yakovchuk 2021: 545), where research is pursued not only for the sake of self-preservation, but due to a possible novel interest in exploring ITr.

The surge in publications could also be attributed to the launch of the IndirecTrans Network in 2016⁴¹, as supported by both Interviewee n° 20 (00:18:03) and Interviewee n° 30

³⁹ It is important to underscore, once again, that the predictions advanced in this thesis are grounded in the same underlying logic. Projections “are good approximations of reality given that reality itself is unknowable” (Kelchner & Thomas 2007: 87).

⁴⁰ Italics added by authors.

⁴¹ For more information on the IndirecTrans Network, see the “about us” section on the following website: <<https://www.indirectrans.com/network/about.html#:~:text=The%20IndirecTrans%20Network%20was%20set,the%20practice%20of%20indirect%20translation>>.

(01:17:14). It is both predictable and arguable that network members are actively involved in producing a growing number of studies specifically focused on ITr. For instance:

- 14 (17.28%) journal articles stem from Special Issues' dedicated to ITr.
- 12 (92.30%) conference abstracts are taken from dedicated conferences or panels focusing on ITr.
- 34 (26%) outputs, either single authored or co-authored, are written by at least one acknowledged member of the IndirecTrans Network⁴².

These focused efforts may be fostering more opportunities for collaboration and, as a result, increasing academic awareness of the phenomenon. An additional hypothesis addresses the influence of awareness. As articulated by Interviewee n° 43 (00:35:21), increased awareness of the ITr phenomenon leads researchers to detect its presence in their data, prompting further exploration. This perspective is consistent with Hadley's (2023: 1) observation that scholars often encounter ITr incidentally while conducting case study research. Building on the second hypothesis, the increase in publication output could be attributed to scholars' growing interest to engage with topics often seen as marginal or peripheral, such as ITr (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 13). This perspective is echoed by Interviewee n° 17 (00:38:01), Interviewee n° 19 (00:00:58), Interviewee n° 21 (00:13:01), Interviewee n° 23 (00:47:22), and Interviewee n° 27 (00:48:17).

The status of ITr as a mainstream phenomenon in translation practices while still being a niche subject in TS (Hadley 2023: 1; Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 206; Kadiu 2016: 3; Ringmar 2007: 4), surfaces as an issue among interviewees as well. Nine (18.36%) of them, for instance, explicitly use the term 'niche' and argue that ITr still seems to be a marginal/peripheral subfield of TS. On the other hand, interviewees' views on the so-called niche status of ITr vary. Interviewee n° 19 (00:19:48), for instance, argues that the current niche nature of ITr is precisely what draws attention to the subject and contributes to its significance in TS. In their perspective:

If you're doing something that is a bit niche, it is not only that people will remember it, but I think you can be truer to the subject than if you were doing something which

⁴² A full list of members can be found at: < <https://www.indirectrans.com/network/members.html> >.

has already been done a million times. [...] when it comes to something that hasn't been researched before, then you can be kind of confident that whatever you say, is going to make some contribution to knowledge. And I feel like that's the point of academic study. So, for indirect translation, it's niche enough (Interviewee n° 19 – 00:19:48).

Interviewee n° 16 (03:31:00) holds a different stance from that of Interviewee n° 19. They express concern about the number of research outputs still being published in the subfield. From their perspective, ITr cannot be considered a niche yet due to its limited number of publications (*ibid.*). They claim that before attaining niche status within TS, ITr must first achieve “something really important, a milestone, or have introduced a twist in any of the paradigms” (*ibid.*). The question of what constitutes importance or milestones is open to debate. It seems unlikely that there would be an established quantitative threshold that defines an ideal or a sufficient number of publications for ITr to be officially recognised as having achieved a milestone. The 91 ITr outputs published between 2001 and 2020 (Hadley 2023: 9) may appear modest when juxtaposed with the total of 6007 journal articles published in the field of TS during the same period (Zhu & Aryadoust 2023: 162). However, given the more than fivefold increase in article publications during the present period compared to the last six years of the past period, it could be argued that ITr has indeed reached a milestone as a subfield in terms of publication-based engagement (see Table 13).

Interviewees express differing perspectives on the current status of ITr and its future trajectory as a subject or subfield in academia. Three (6.12%) interviewees believe that ITr research will eventually reach a point where there are no further topics to explore, leading to a natural decrease in research outputs. Conversely, 31 (63.26%) interviewees anticipate that ITr research is poised to increase in future⁴³. Although differing opinions are inevitable when working with people, particularly those from diverse cultural backgrounds, they appear especially pronounced in the context of ITr research. Interviewees even disagree on whether ITr qualifies as a niche subfield, a debate that shapes their perceptions of its current

⁴³ The remaining 15 interviewees either state that they do not have enough knowledge to make an informed guess or simply do not answer the question when asked about their expectations for ITr's future in academic contexts.

publishing landscape. Consequently, it makes sense that they would also hold differing views on the future of the subfield.

This discussion raises an important question: do such divergent opinions influence scholars' willingness to continue researching this topic? If so, can ITr research sustain itself as a subfield if only a small number of scholars continue to pursue it? These questions are addressed by Interviewee nº 19 (00:39:14), who argues that ITr research is currently not self-sustaining. From their perspective, most ITr research addresses the topic merely because the analysed texts "just happen to be indirect translations" (ibid.). Nevertheless, they argue that a pivotal moment for ITr research will arise if or when scholars interested in it sustain their interest and establish connections with like-minded individuals (ibid.). Such collaboration, in their opinion, would pave the way for a robust body of publications in the field (ibid.). The projections will determine which scenario is more likely to happen.

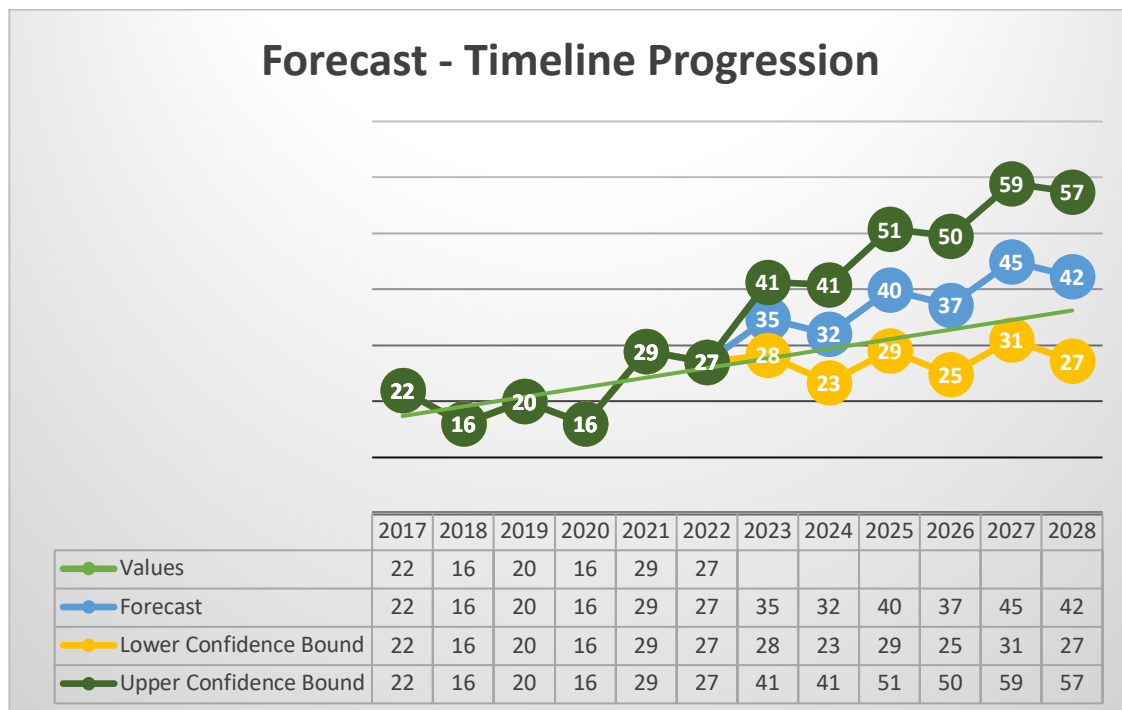
3.3. Future (2023-2028)

	Anglophone Publications	Lusophone Publications
Real Total (2017-2022)	110	20
Projected Total (2023-2028)	232	-4
Real + Projected Total (2017-2028)	342	16
Lower Confidence Percentage Total	252%	30%
Higher Confidence Percentage Total	370%	129%
Average Percentage Total	311%	79%

Table 14 – Forecast – Anglophone and Lusophone Publications

As depicted in Table 14, there is an anticipated surge in Anglophone publications, while Lusophone publications are anticipated to decrease. When viewed alongside the

present results (i.e., 2017-2023) these results reflect a partial shift from past to present. As previously discussed (see introduction to this thesis, page 54), the total number of ‘real + projected’ publications must not fall below the number of real publications. Existing publications do not cease to exist simply because the projected numbers may decrease in the future. Therefore, referring to projected values below 100% effectively means a decrease. The projected 79% increase in Lusophone publications implies negative inflation. In other words, it implies a decrease in output between 2023 and 2028. These findings could simply suggest a broader shift in Lusophone research focus toward other subject matters besides ITr. They could also suggest that scholars who do not consider themselves proficient in Portuguese may become less inclined to engage with Portuguese-language primary materials.



Graph 4 – Forecast – Timeline Progression

Parallel to the previous discussion, there may also be a trend among Lusophone scholars transitioning from publishing in Portuguese to exclusively publishing in English, possibly in an effort to provoke impact and expand readership. For example, in Brazil, academic publications tend to follow global trends, which are heavily influenced by the

English language (Machado 2024: 76). This phenomenon is not exclusive to Lusophone countries. In Spain, for instance, scholars in the Humanities often prefer to translate their articles into English to increase their opportunities for publication in higher-impact journals (Cussel, Aran & Barranco 2023: 440).

As explained in the introduction to this thesis, Portuguese, despite having a large number of speakers, is often regarded as a non-dominant or semi-peripheral language (Assis Rosa 2017: 448; Špirk 2014: 1; Samuelsson-Brown 2010: 26). In academic careers, where research funding is constrained and promotion opportunities are uncertain, scholars are required to take a strategic approach to budget allocation and their choices of publication venues (Guevara et al. 2016: 1698). Because “subscription journals are less likely to be accessible in countries in which so-called peripheral languages are used” (Davier in Davier et al. 2023: 828), Lusophone scholars might perceive publishing in Portuguese as lacking prestige and unlikely to significantly contribute to their academic progression. Academic progression is directly related to the notion of credibility:

The more credible a scientist is deemed by his/her peers, the better access s/he is likely to have to resources (such as funding), which, in turn, influences the ability of the scientist to undertake more research and come up with further ideas (Smith 2010: 182).

Given the overwhelming nature of scholarly duties, encompassing research, teaching, and administration (Davidovitch & Cohen 2024: 1; Valdeón 2019: 773; Oshagbemi 2000: 124), scholars are possibly hesitant to invest time in projects that are perceived as high-risk or perhaps even unlikely to succeed (Jalongo 2023b: 28). This hesitation seems especially pronounced when addressing so-called niche topics in non-dominant languages, such as Portuguese, further limiting scholars’ engagement. Regardless of what the language status of Portuguese may be, the expectation of exclusively publishing in English hinders the opportunity to recognise the extent to which the history of translation is intertwined with the ITr phenomenon (Toury 2012/1995: 130). If this trend continues and:

[...] English becomes the sole compulsory language for conference papers and contributions to scholarly journals, there is a danger that the discipline of Translation Studies, having once emancipated itself from linguistics and

comparative literature, may finally turn into a province of globalized English departments (Snell-Hornby 2006: 174).

	Total ITr Publications
Real Total (2017-2022)	130
Projected Total (2023-2028)	231
Real + Projected Total (2017-2028)	361
Lower Confidence Percentage Total	226%
Higher Confidence Percentage Total	330%
Average Percentage Total	278%

Table 15 – Forecast – Publication Timeline

As argued by Cronin (2003: 3), if “[...] all translation is a vivid demonstration of interdependency, then any real independence of spirit, it is argued, can only come about through a grateful acknowledgement of our many cultural and linguistic dependencies”. Ironically, although output numbers are projected to grow (see Graph 4, page 73), limiting publications to English may imply an oversight in acknowledging the “cultural and linguistic dependencies” (ibid.) behind translation practices and, consequently, TS. According to Smith (2010), as discussed by Heron, Gravett & Yakovchuk (2020: 540), scholars often grapple with the choice between pursuing their own research interests and engaging with “already established ideas to advance their academic credentials”. While Smith’s (2010) study primarily focuses on interviews with British scholars, the same dynamics may be relevant for Lusophone scholars.

Irrespective of language specificity, ITr publications are still anticipated to experience an increase in the forthcoming years (see Graph 4 and Table 15). The projections range from 226% (conservative projection) to 330% (optimistic projection), resulting in an anticipated

average increase of 278%. The projected data aligns with Interviewee n° 16's predictions, who believes ITr research is far from reaching its conclusion (00:16:39). This data, however, does not align with the predictions of the three interviewees who anticipated a decrease in ITr research over the years. Because this forecast only extends to year 2028, the predictions made by the three interviewees could still materialise in the more distant future. These results neither confirm nor refute Interviewee n° 19's assertion that ITr research is not yet self-sustainable. Once again, the issue of precise definition emerges, as it would be necessary to define self-sustainability prior to assessing its potential absence. However, building on Interviewee n° 19, it is arguable that the sustained growth in outputs could be partially attributed to scholars maintaining their interest in ITr and fostering connections with "like-minded individuals" (Interviewee n° 19 – 00:39:14). This hypothesis is examined in the forecasts for authorship and collaborative efforts (see page 88).

4. Authorship and Collaborative Efforts

4.1. Past (1963-2016)

The findings related to the 1963-2016 period are:

- "The overwhelming majority of publications has been authored by a single scholar (which may suggest that team efforts in the field are extremely rare)" (Pięta 2017: 200).
- The majority of the recurring authors appear twice (Hadley 2023: 9).
- A much smaller group of scholars, "for whom indirect translation could safely be assumed to be a key research focus" engage with it more consistently (ibid.).
- ITr appears to be an incidental topic that scholars add to "the framework of their wider areas of expertise" (Pięta 2017: 200).
- Scholars could invoke ITr regularly, "even though the phenomenon in general is not something they would describe as a key focus of their research" (Hadley 2023: 10).

4.2. Present (2017-2022)

As indicated in Table 16, there are 21 scholars who have authored at least two ITr publications in the 2017-2022 period, 8 (38.09%) of which have published exclusively in collaboration. The top three published scholars are: Ivaska, Pięta, and Hadley. Although employing different criteria for data collection, Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2023: 845) arrived at results that corroborate these findings. They similarly identified these three scholars as the most prolific authors in the same timeframe⁴⁴.

Author⁴⁵	Total ITr Publications	Single-Authored Publications	Co-Authored Publications	Years
Ivaska	9	5	4	2018, 2019, 2020 (3x), 2021, and 2022 (3x).
Pięta	7	3	4	2017 (2x), 2018 (2x), 2019, 2021, and 2022
Hadley	6	3	3	2017, 2020, 2021 (3x), and 2022
Allwood	3	3	0	2021, and 2022 (2x)
Assis Rosa	3	2	1	2017 (2x), and 2021
Bueno Maia	3	0	3	2017, 2018, and 2021
Casas	3	0	3	2018, and 2019 (2x)
Costa-jussà	3	0	3	2018, and 2019 (2x)
Ahmadnia	2	0	2	2017 (2x)
Akkaliyeva	2	0	2	2021 (2x)
Bravo	2	2	0	2022 (2x)

⁴⁴ In Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2023: 845), Bueno Maia is tied with Hadley as the third most published ITr scholars in the 2017-2022 timeframe.

⁴⁵ In descending order. For equivalent numbers: in alphabetical order.

Buts	2	1	1	2022 (2x)
Carlucci	2	2	0	2017, and 2022
Escolano	2	0	2	2019 (2x)
Gökce Vaz de Carvalho	2	2	0	2019, and 2021
Hanes	2	2	0	2017, and 2019
Marin- Lacarta	2	2	0	2017, and 2018
Miura	2	1	1	2017, and 2018
Torres-Simón	2	0	2	2018, and 2021
Serrano	2	0	2	2017 (2x)
Ustaszewski	2	2	0	2018, and 2019

Table 16 – ITr Authorship

Given that ten authors, including the top three (see Table 16) are part of the IndirecTrans Network⁴⁶, it can be inferred, in accordance with Hadley (2023: 9), that a smaller cohort of researchers, for whom ITr represents “a key research focus”, remain consistently engaged with it. The consistent engagement of this cohort is underscored by the fact that, with the exception of Buts, their outputs extend over at least two different years and are not limited to Special Issues or conferences centred specifically on ITr (see Table 16, and Appendix 1). The concept of “like-minded” academics, brought up by Interviewee n° 19 (00:39:14), is reintroduced. Because writing is a “relational and social practice” (Heron, Gravett & Yakovchuk 2020: 540), academics can gravitate towards like-minded individuals who share common professional experiences or goals (Fabius & Krogan 2021: 2271). Accordingly, it is unsurprising that ten authors, including the leading three, are all associated with the IndirecTrans Network.

⁴⁶ As of January 2025: Allwood, Assis Rosa, Bueno Maia, Buts, Hadley, Hanes, Ivaska, Marin-Lacarta, Pięta, and Torres-Simón.

While the top three authors published more than six co-authored outputs in the present period, most scholars engaging in co-authorship restricted their works to only two publications. Specifically, 13 recurring scholars (61.9%) published only twice in co-authorship, indicating a consistent pattern in ITr publishing practices between past and present in this context. These findings suggest that although output in the field is growing overall, it remains largely driven by a relatively small group of scholars whose names recur time and again, raising the possibility that if these scholars were to slow down or cease publishing, the current upward trajectory of ITr might slow or reverse. This pattern mirrors broader trends in TS publications, where, despite efforts to foster collaboration, the number of researchers has increased over time, yet most have not sustained long-term productivity (Zhu & Aryadoust 2022: 161).

All interviewees concur on different levels that collaboration in academic writing can yield benefits on different levels, which include exposure to different perspectives, and increased motivation to sustain the writing process (Becker & Denicolo 2012: 15). On the other hand, concerns regarding the challenges associated with collaborating with peers are also mentioned. Specifically, seven (14.28%) interviewees express the view that collaboration and co-authorship are not always the most effective approaches. Interviewee n° 20, a TS scholar who works with MT, for instance, argues that:

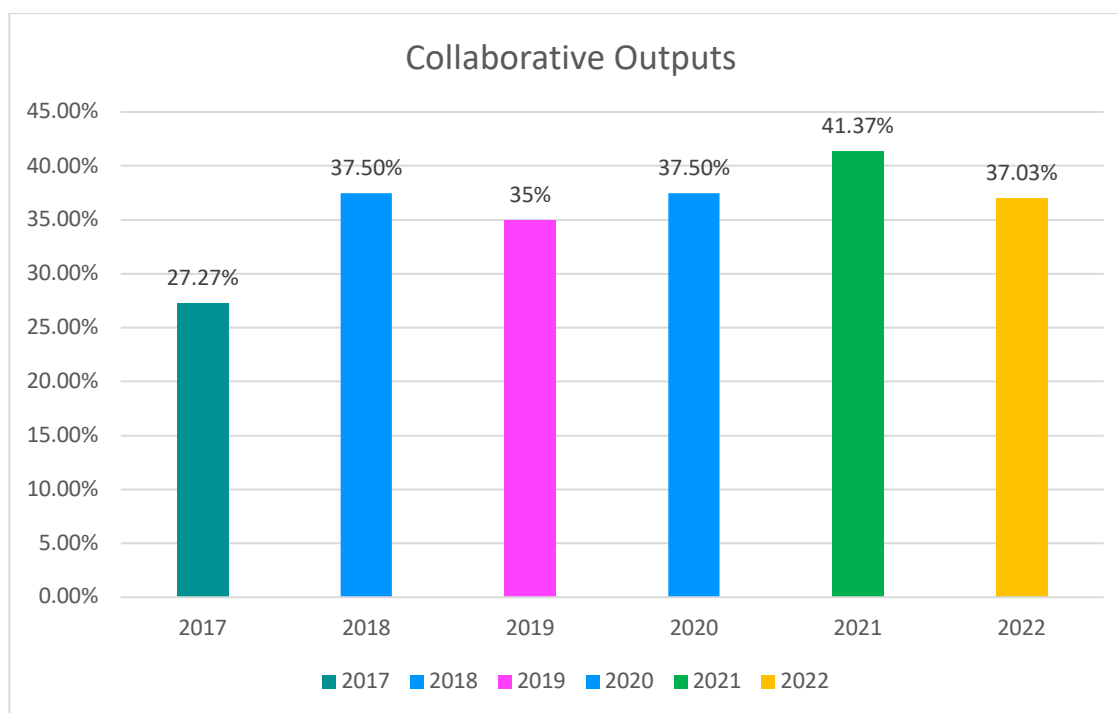
Collaboration is a difficult thing, and in many cases, slower than doing things on your own. [...] And so we try to write papers together with people who are in Machine Translation, but you have very different kinds of mindsets, you have very different goals that you want to achieve. And on top of that, you don't understand what they are saying (Interviewee n° 20 – 00:40:12).

Interviewees n° 09 (00:06:24), however, a CS scholars specialising in MT research, emphasises the overlooked importance of interdisciplinary collaboration between CS and both scholars and other professionals in Linguistics and Translation. This collaboration would aid the identification of areas within the MT processes that need improvement (ibid.).

Other challenges to collaboration are elaborated by Interviewees n° 35 (00:44:45). They claim that universities fail to encourage researchers to actively pursue it: “institutions push for single authorship articles, and that is a detriment to advancing on any fields. [...]

Even some granting schemes, single authorship is more important than collaboration. That does not lead us anywhere” (ibid.). In line with Interviewee nº 35, Interviewee nº 11 (00:33:15) alludes to the notion of credibility discussed by Smith (2020: 182). They argue that scholars often feel under pressure to demonstrate their ability to publish their research as single authors: “my preferred mode of work [collaborative]⁴⁷ is highly discouraged by my current academic setting, which is problematic” (Interviewee nº 11 – 00:33:15).

Slightly differing from Interviewee nº 20, Interviewee nº 03 (00:22:40) argues that the notion of co-authorship as a hindrance to publishing is more prevalent in the field of Humanities than in the Hard Sciences: “You can take it for granted that you will find people who will be interested in this kind of collaboration [...] I think this is also a part of our academic culture. [...] We cannot collaborate in the Humanities, we work all alone” (00:22:40).



Graph 5 – Collaborative Outputs

⁴⁷ Added for clarification of Interviewee’s statement.

Irrespective of the factor potentially impeding collaboration in the specific context of ITr research, the empirical evidence indicates that the scenario described by Pięta (2017: 200) persists. Although the precise statistical definition of the term “overwhelming” majority (ibid.) is ambiguous, most (63.84%) of the present publications remain single-authored. Graph 5 and Table 17 indicate that collaborative outputs are indeed the minority, representing 36.15% of the total. This minority status figure appears to indicate that there has been no evolution in this respect from the figures associated with the past and those of the present. On the other hand, Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2023: 844), report that 7% of the outputs produced in the past period were written as products of shared authorship. Therefore, a degree of evolution between past and present can be observed, showcasing a roughly five-fold increase. An updated assessment suggests, not that collaborative efforts are seldom encountered in ITr overall, but that they are rarer in Lusophone publications compared to Anglophone publications (see Table 17).

Year	Total: Collaborative Publications	Anglophone Publications	Lusophone Publications
2017	6	6	--
2018	6	5	1
2019	7	7	--
2020	6	6	--
2021	12	12	--
2022	10	9	1
2017-2022	47	45	2

Table 17 – Collaborative Outputs (Anglophone and Lusophone)

As previously discussed, this discrepancy may stem from Anglophone centrality in both ITr research and scientific discourse in general. Thus, it is expected that collaboration in ITr research would predominantly take place in English and, as a result, that the language of the outputs would also be English. However, there is a detail which warrants attention. All of

the 21 outputs centred on MT are Anglophone publications, and 18 (85.71%)⁴⁸ of them are co-authored. These findings differ by roughly 14% from Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2023: 844), who reported a 100% co-authorship rate in MT-related research. Conversely, these findings are consistent with Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (ibid.) regarding Literary Translation (LT), since co-authored outputs are predominantly non-literary. In total, 29 (61.7%) of these outputs are either research on MT, Audio-visual translation (AVT), Interpreting Studies (IS), Meta-research (MR), or Translator Training (TTrain)⁴⁹ (see Appendix 1). There is, therefore, evidence, not only of a prevalence of collaborative efforts in non-literary overarching themes, but also of collaborative efforts among Anglophone research on MT. Of the 47 co-authored outputs, 18 (38.29%) are focused on MT. Despite representing fewer than half of the outputs, MT's statistics are still significant. To achieve a higher percentage of co-authorship beyond 38.29%, it would be necessary to combine the other overarching themes. These numbers suggest a triangulated correlation between co-authorship, MT research and publications in English (see Figure 2).

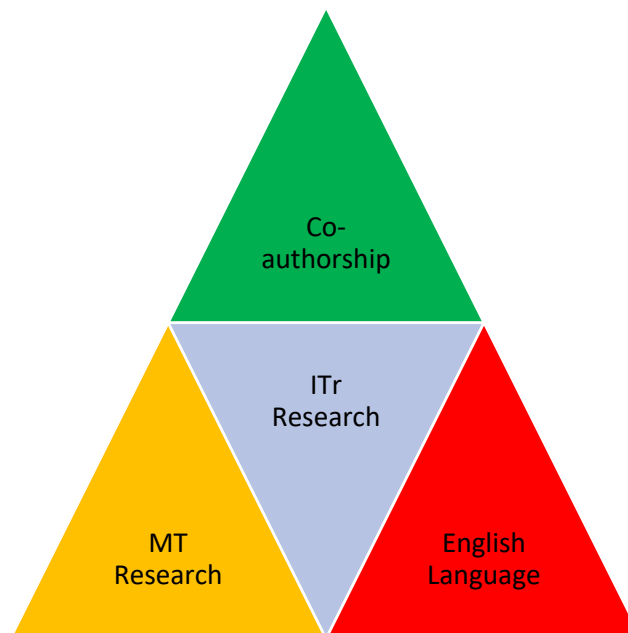


Figure 2 – Triangle

⁴⁸ A link to the comprehensive list of all publications analysed in this thesis can be found in Appendix 1 (pg. 363).

⁴⁹ Overarching themes are explained in Chapter 2 (pp. 103-148).

This triangulation hypothesis does not imply that MT research is invariably published in English and through co-authorship. Rather, it suggests the existence of a trend, at least within ITr research, in which these three elements appear to be interconnected. However, this hypothesis does not take into account the nuances of the collaboration process. While a high rate of collaboration is evident in this triangulated hypothesis, it does not necessarily suggest interdisciplinary engagement. MT researchers publishing in English may predominantly collaborate with colleagues from their own disciplines (e.g., TS scholars collaborating with TS scholars only, and CS scholars with CS scholars only). This potentially siloed form of collaboration could point to a lack of interdisciplinary engagement between the Hard Sciences and the Humanities, even in the context of MT research, which could be a thematic bridge between the two fields of expertise. Co-authorship may also be driven by the English language itself. In such contexts, English serves, not as a shared tool for communication between authors, but as the central reason for collaboration. Because one or more authors may have limited English-language proficiency, it may be advantageous to seek collaboration to pursue publication in an Anglophone context (Cussel, Aran & Barranco 2023: 450). Still, considering the centrality of English in academia, it is worth hypothesising that the more obvious association could be between MT research and co-authorship.

Drawing on the insights of Interviewees nº 06 and nº 29, who articulate that there appears to be no viable alternative to English in CS, especially in the context of MT, it is possible that English may function as a catalyst for fostering collaboration between researchers engaged in MT research. Therefore, MT research, co-authorship, and the English language could be equally interconnected in the context of ITr research, regardless of what might be the stronger links. Despite the interconnection of these three dimensions, it is worth exploring the possibility that the triangle could be developed into a square: might there be a publication format that engages all three?

4.3. Future (2023-2028)

As observable in Graph 6 and Table 18, there is an anticipated surge in collaborative efforts in the coming years. The projections range from 258% (conservative projection) to 341%

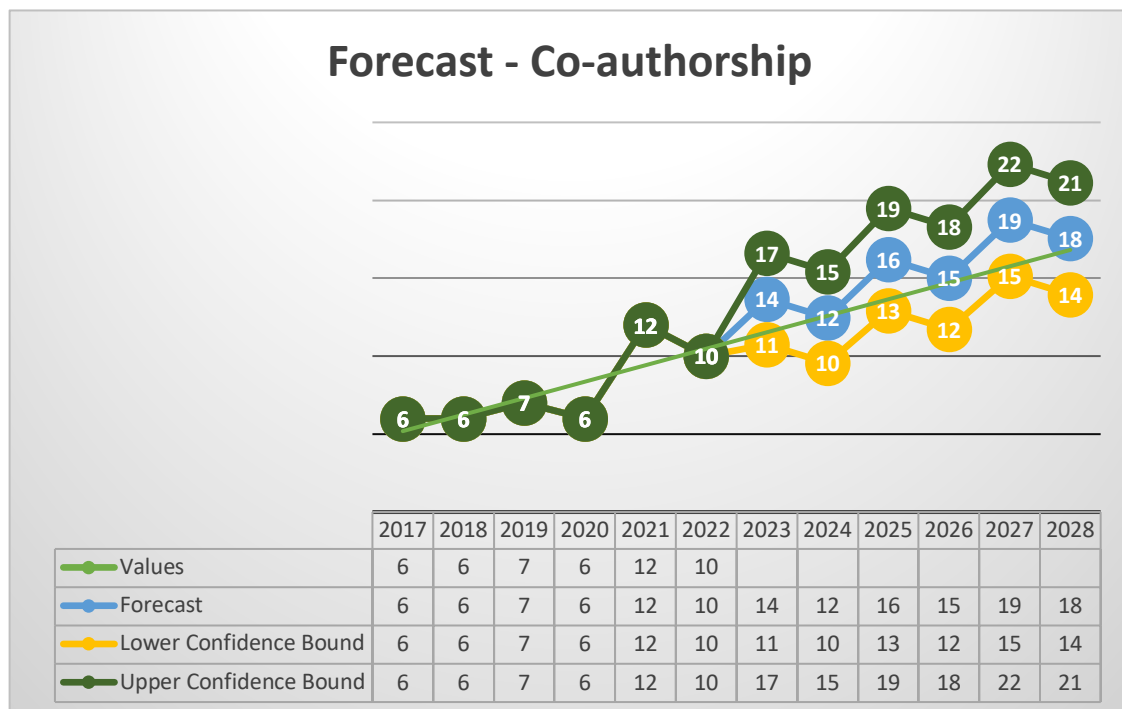
(optimistic projection), resulting in an anticipated average increase of 299% (see Table 18). The anticipated rise in co-authorship may be directly linked to the overall surge in ITr publications. It may also reflect the broader trend in TS research identified by Rovira-Esteva, Aixelá & Olalla-Soler (2020: 173). According to their bibliometric study of TS publications from 1961 to 2015, there has been a persistent upward trajectory in the number of co-authored publications (ibid.). This trend may persist in the future and consequently impact ITr research. Another possibility is that this rise in co-authorship could be attributed to the increasing number of Anglophone outputs. However, this hypothesis leads to a “chicken-and-egg” dilemma: are more publications forecasted to be co-authored due to the anticipated growth in Anglophone outputs, or is the anticipated growth in Anglophone outputs driven by the forecasted rise in co-authored publications?

	Co-Authored Outputs
Real Total (2017-2022)	47
Projected Total (2023-2028)	94
Real + Projected Total (2017-2028)	141
Lower Confidence Percentage Total	258%
Higher Confidence Percentage Total	341%
Average Percentage Total	299%

Table 18 – Forecast – Co-authored Outputs

There is a potential for a higher degree of interdisciplinary collaboration to take place between TS and CS scholars within the ITr-MT subfield. The potential collaboration between TS and CS could primarily be caused by MT being a multidisciplinary overarching theme at its core (Giammarresi & Lapalme 2016: 218). This hypothesis would further substantiate the

argument that ITr-MT research could bridge potential gaps between these two fields of knowledge. It is also possible that collaborative efforts will expand, but remain limited to scholars from the same field of expertise. Despite being multidisciplinary, research in MT “has not always seen equal participation of experts across disciplines” (Giammarresi & Lapalme 2016: 218). If restricted forms of collaboration were to occur, it does not imply that collaboration would be less significant. Given the different correlated fields (e.g., Digital Humanities, Comparative Literature, and Linguistics), and overarching themes (e.g., LT, AVT, and IS) within TS, there are many opportunities for collaboration. However, restrictions could result in missed opportunities for development. For instance, as research in Digital Humanities (DH) transitions its focus from print to multimodality by exploring both experimental and established computational methods (Dolmaya 2024: 1-2; Tanasescu 2021: 33), CS could play the specific role of advancing digital methodologies for TS.



Graph 6 – Forecast – Co-authorship

The emergence of Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT (Dolmaya 2024: 250), creates opportunities for collaboration in areas such as computer-assisted literary translation (see Rothwell, Way & Youdale 2023; Youdale & Rothwell 2022), human-computer

interactions (see Kolb & Miller 2022), qualitative coding (Dolmaya 2024: 111; see Omizo 2024), stylometry (Dolmaya 2024: 121; see Schuster et al. 2020), and prompt engineering (see Cain 2024; Qian & Kong 2024; Aljanabi et al. 2023). These opportunities have the potential to further develop coding for software used in both CS and TS research. The future also holds opportunities for both CS scholar and computer programmers to learn from TS (St. André 2024: 208), particularly in the refinement of computational methods (Giammarresi & Lapalme 2016: 205). Refinement encompasses not only improving quality, but also addressing ethical considerations, such as translation biases related to gender and minoritized groups (Aljanabi et al. 2023: 155). Furthermore, there is potential for refining the application of pivot strategies in MT software, such as *Google Translate*. Conversely, if the primary goal of the research is to render direct translations, refining computational methods may be advantageous to reduce reliance on pivot strategies.

5. Publication Format

5.1. Past (1963-2016)

According to Pięta (2017: 200), “journal articles appear to prevail over other publication formats [...]” in the 1963-2016 period⁵⁰.

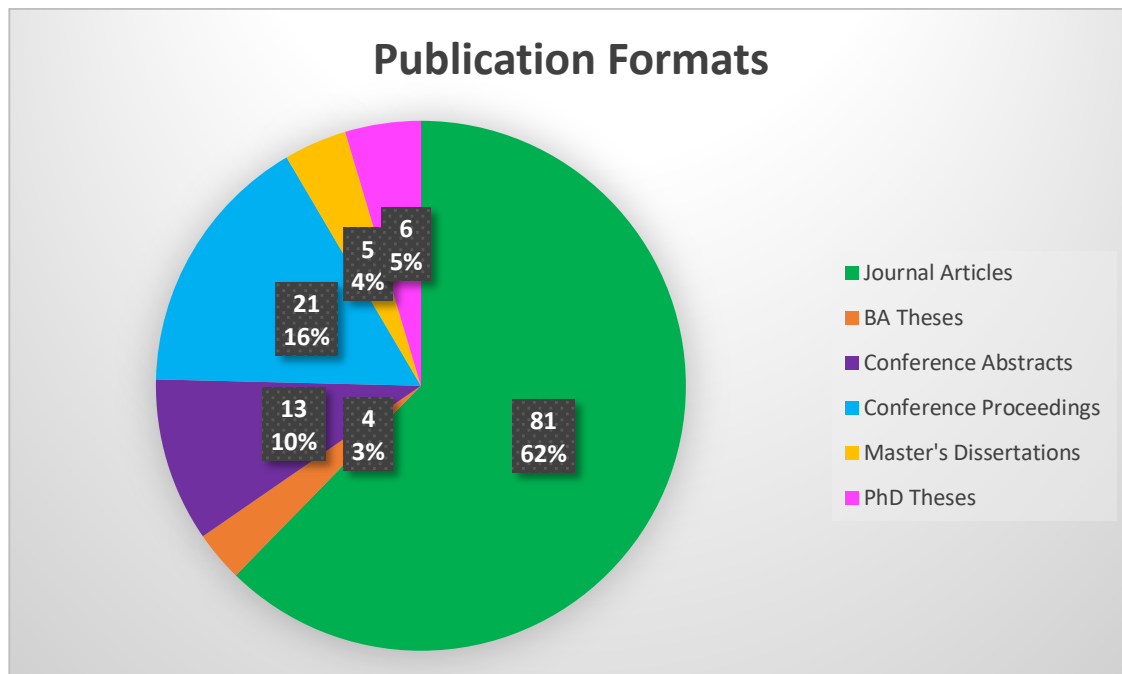
5.2. Present (2017-2022)

Although student work (i.e., BA theses, Master’s dissertations, and PhD theses) do not make up the majority of the outputs, they still represent 15 (11.53%) of the total (see Graph 7, next page). This proportion is even more pronounced in the interviews. Over a third of the

⁵⁰ Pięta (2017: 200) further argues that most publications are dispersed among secondary journals and publishing houses. However, she does not specify what is considered to be secondary journals. For this reason, this chapter refrains from analysing this finding in comparison to the present period. Categorising journals as mainstream versus secondary could result in a biased analysis that disregards the quality and impact of research published in deemed to be lesser known journals. Consequently, this analysis could be misleading, and fail to accurately portray the evolution of ITr’s publication landscape.

interviewees, specifically 19 (38.77%), consider themselves students and do not (yet) hold a doctoral degree⁵¹. These findings suggest that ITr is a topic of interest not confined to seasoned scholars, as it is also pursued by researchers at different academic levels. Although not explicitly referring to the period from 1963 to 2016, these findings are consistent with Pięta’s (2019: 24) argument that:

[...] MA and PhD theses on ITr seem to be becoming more common, thus supporting the characterisation of ITr as an emerging research trend: scholars seem to be increasingly embarking on projects of greater magnitude, and more early-stage researchers appear to have found an interest niche in this topic (Pięta 2019: 24).

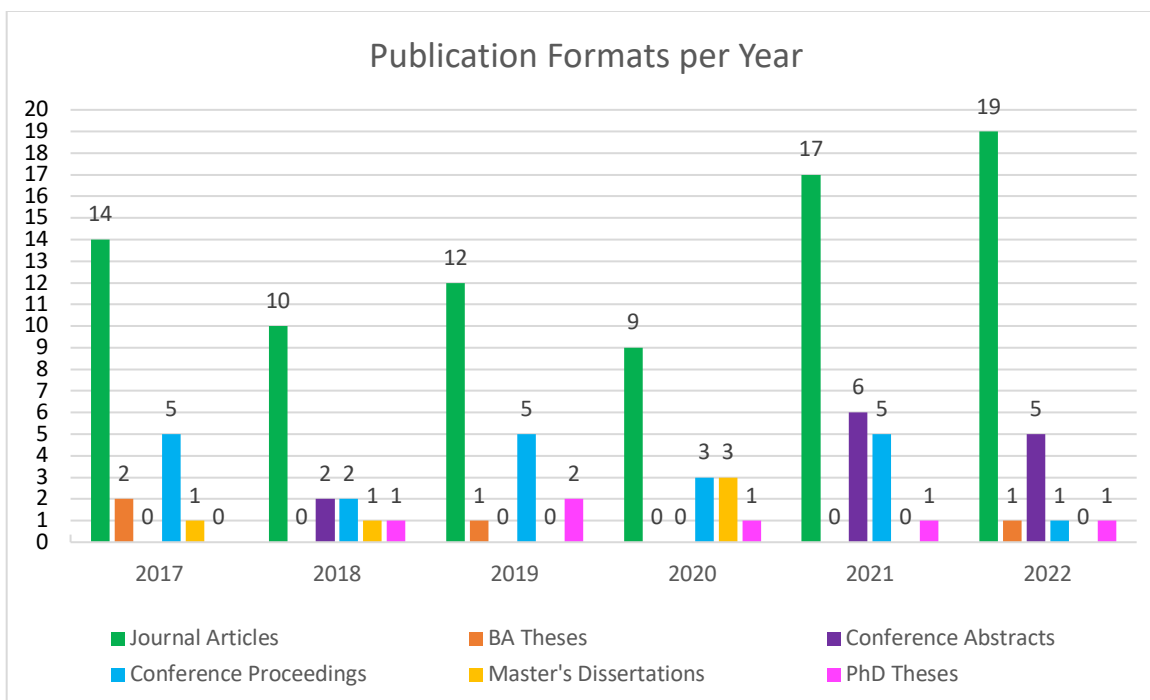


Graph 7 – Publication Formats

Despite the “ever-shifting terrain” of scholarly publishing (Jalongo 2023a: 4), certain aspects of the ITr publication landscape have remained unchanged (see Graph 7 and Graph 8, next page). Journal articles, for instance, continue to prevail over the other publication formats, amounting to 62% of the 2017-2022 outputs. The journal article is the only

⁵¹ This data exclusively corresponds to the time when all the interviews were conducted, which means that these interviewees’ status may likely have changed since then.

publication format that consistently features every year (see Graph 8). This trend reflects the ongoing importance and may also support the purported increasing proliferation of journals, particularly specialised ones (Hyland 2021: 15; Burbules 2020: 655; Mallett 2020: 49), including those dedicated to TS.



Graph 8 – Publication Formats per Year

In academic settings in TS, publishing journal articles is standard practice, valued for its role in helping researchers expand their professional networks and ensure their work reaches a broader scholarly community (Becker & Denicolo 2012: 3). Thus, it is logical that most indexed journals are predominantly Anglophone (Cussel, Aran & Barranco 2023: 448). However, it is possible that this trend is also related to the notion of credibility. Credibility levels have become easier to measure and verify with platforms such as *Google Scholar* and *Scimago Journal & Country Rank*⁵², which use statistical metrics to assess the scientific impact of scholarly journals (Heider 2023: 49). Because of platforms like these, researchers can now more readily assess whether their published work is being accessed, read, and cited.

⁵² <https://www.scimagojr.com/>.

Consequently, many scholars from all disciplines, including TS (Cui & Liu 2023: 161), aim to publish extensively, particularly in high-impact journals, largely motivated by the pressures associated with securing funding, safeguarding academic positions, achieving tenure, and pursuing promotions (Heider 2023: 49-50; Zhu & Aryadoust 2020: 160; Valdeón 2019: 762; Guevara et al. 2016: 1698; De Bellis 2014: 39; Freyne et al. 2010: 124). These pressures are fundamentally connected to the ‘publish or perish’ academic culture. The existence of a high number of publications, however, does not automatically equate to high-quality research (Cui & Liu 2023: 162; Valdeón 2019: 761-762). Ironically, despite the pressure to publish frequently, it is widely recognised among scholars that articles, even in well-established journals, often face long delays between submission and publication (Thomas 2018: 99; Shopovski & Marolov 2017: 350)⁵³.

Research on long wait times in the publication process and their possible causes across various fields can be traced back several decades, including the 1990s, 1980s, and even the 1970s (see Pressman 1994; Preston 1992; Yohe 1980; Mahoney 1977). Extended waiting periods may be attributed to several factors, including the high volume of submissions (Zabala et al. 2022: 206), the quality of the reviewers (Björk 2018: 274), lack of institutional incentives for reviewers (Thomas 2018: 100), conflicts of interest (Thomas 2018: 99), and the time required for authors to receive feedback and polish their articles (Finlay 2020: 29). The challenges associated with the need to publish extensively and rapidly could explain the annual occurrence of conference proceedings, the second most prevalent output in ITr research (see Graphs 7 and 8). Conference proceedings offer the advantage of being published more expediently than journal articles, particularly in rapidly evolving fields where the pace of innovation is high, which is the case of CS (Gupta, Kumar & Bhalla 2023: 7, 17; Zhou & Aryadoust 2020: 357; Freyne et al. 2010: 126).

Even though Purnell (2020: 355) focuses on the Southeast Asian context, and Vanecek & Pecha (2020: 16-17) on the European context, their findings collectively indicate a rise in the publication of conference proceedings. This increase may be attributed to several factors,

⁵³ These delays have become so prevalent that the issue has extended beyond academic circles and has also been covered by the media (e.g. Powell 2016).

including cost efficiency, broader thematic coverage of conferences, and the concerted efforts for leading citation databases to include them (Purnell 2020: 355). In academic circles, it is widely recognised that conferences are instrumental in cultivating relationships founded on shared interests and collaborative effort aimed at advancing knowledge (Oliver & Morris, 2022: 614). However, scholarly impact assessments often prioritise journal publications, which leads to conference proceedings being underrepresented in citation databases (Vrettas & Sanderson 2015: 2675). This disparity may account for the positioning of conference proceedings in second place, despite their recognised contributions to knowledge.

Also given this disparity, it is unsurprising that conference abstracts are positioned at the lower end of the hierarchy in the context of ITr. Nevertheless, they constitute a notable segment of research outputs, representing exactly 10% of the total, despite their comparatively low prestige and the limited critical attention they receive from the research community (Gupta, Kumar & Bhalla 2023: 7). While researchers from other fields often regard journal articles as more prestigious, CS scholars tend to favour publishing in conference proceedings instead (Zhou & Aryadoust 2020: 357; Vrettas & Sanderson 2015: 2674; Freyne et al. 2010: 124-126). Interviewee n° 29, a CS scholar, supports this argument by claiming that, when it comes to MT research:

[...] journal articles are not very important in terms of publication. So people normally try to publish in conferences, where you have to publish. Because journals are so slow, nobody wants to publish in journals. And normally, the research that is written in journals is totally outdated. [...] People just don't pay attention to journals, and they pay attention to conferences. [...] Normally, journals being closed is not a problem for Machine Translation in general, because everything is published in conferences, and all the conferences are open (Interviewee n° 29 – 00:22:17; 01:00:38).

The fact that 16 (76.19%) of the conference proceedings are MT outputs, and the same proportion of MT outputs are conference proceedings (see Appendix 1), suggests a correlation between the two in the context of ITr research. Beyond this correlation, conference proceedings appear to also be correlated with both co-authorship and Anglophone outputs (see Table 19).

Conference Proceedings in Co-Authorship	17 outputs	80.95 %
Conference Proceedings in English	21 outputs	100%

Table 19 – Conference Proceedings + Co-authored + Anglophone Publications

Earlier in this chapter, a triangular relationship was proposed between MT, co-authorship, and English language in the context of ITr research (see Figure 2, page 82). The question was then raised as to whether this triangle could be developed into a square with a publication format that could engage with all three dimensions (see Figure 3).

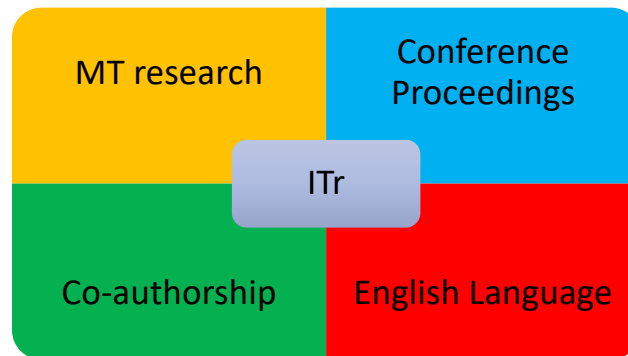


Figure 3 – Square Configuration

In acknowledging the existence of this quadrilateral relationship, it is possible not only to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of ITr research, but also to consider practical implications. As noted by Hadley (2023: 42-43), the involvement of computers in contemporary TS research by TS scholars extends beyond the mere documentation of their work. Since the “technological turn” (Jiménez-Crespo 2020: 318; Cronin 2010: 1), technology-oriented research in TS has continued to grow, making the field even more interdisciplinary than it used to be (Jiménez-Crespo 2020: 319). Therefore, recognising both the presence and frequency of this quadrilateral relationship has the potential to encourage collaborative engagement between TS, and CS or DH. These collaborative engagements could expedite the publication process via conference proceedings, while helping to maintain technology-oriented findings in TS current and relevant. Because digital tools can quickly become obsolete, long-term studies using them

may be challenging to conduct or replicate (Dolmaya 2024: 9). The expedited publication timeline of conference proceedings enables MT-focused TS researchers to remain abreast of developments in digital tools. As a result, they have the opportunity to make adjustments to their digital tools, as well as their research methodologies, without sacrificing valuable time.

From a methodological standpoint, staying abreast of collaborative ITr-MT research developments can yield innovative outcomes. Hadley (2023: 139) argues that it is not currently viable to have a “formula into which one could plug any number of different tests, with each examining a discrete aspect of an indirect translation chain”. While Hadley (2023) focuses on experiments related to the *Concatenation Effect Hypothesis*, his methodological framework can be extended to research on both ITr-MT and MT in general. It is arguable that collaborative approaches between TS and CS have the potential to create purpose-specific formulas. These formulas that could be applied:

- To render new ITr-MT chains.
- To conduct analyses of existing ITr-MT chains.
- To discover ITr chains beyond MT.

For instance, despite its rapid advancements, MT continues to face challenges in translating complex and culturally nuanced language (Memushaj & Klosi 2024: 642). Therefore, when focusing on quality and software improvement, both ITr-MT research and MT research in general could move beyond the overfocus on word-order (Parthasarathi et al. 2021: 3205) or “grammatically sound” translations (Hadley 2023: 141). Instead, it could shift its emphasis towards more nuanced aspects of translation (Parthasarathi et al. 2021: 3205), and develop specific formulas focused on target(ed) audiences or intended outcomes (Hadley 2023: 141).

Similarly, MT research could develop formulas that would be able to identify whether there are key features that effectively differentiate direct and indirect translations (Hadley 2023: 142), and thus create strategies for translation practices. It could then assess whether these supposed similarities or differences in MT correspond to those potentially found in human translations. Beyond MT translation, identifying ITrs, mediating languages and texts, as well as ultimate STs (Ivaska & Ivaska 2022: 371; Ivaska & Huuhtanen 2020: 314), has been

a major barrier to the systematic studies of ITr (Ivaska & Ivaska 2022: 371). Therefore, advancing purpose-specific formulas holds the potential to refine both translation strategies, and data collection, as well as data analysis methodologies⁵⁴ in TS research.

From a pedagogical standpoint, designing data collection methodologies through purpose-specific formulas can support ITr and TS research for both seasoned and novice scholars. Additionally, recognising the quadrilateral relationship above can assist TS university programmes in tailoring modules and assignments to prepare students to submit their work on MT or ITr for publication in Anglophone conference proceedings. These adaptations might motivate students to participate in TS conferences, and possibly even in CS conferences, as well as to publish earlier and more frequently. Given that 38.77% of the interviewees are students, all but one of whom claim to be proficient in English⁵⁵, it becomes even more pertinent to acknowledge, and possibly even reinforce, this quadrilateral relationship in ITr research. This approach can inspire students to collaborate with different technology-oriented fields, actively engage in MT research, and share their findings in ways that encourage timely feedback and publication.

5.3. Future (2023-2028)

The projections indicate that the forthcoming period is anticipated to witness a greater volume of published articles and conference abstracts than the present period (see Table 20, and Graphs from 9 to 12).

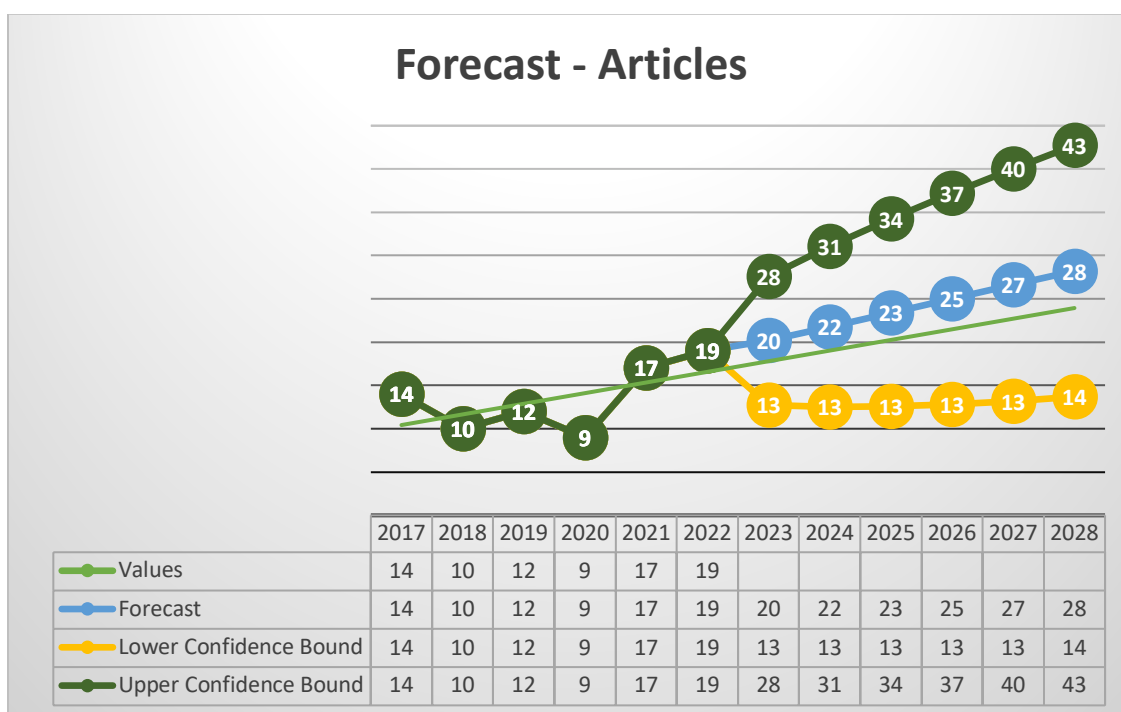
	Articles	Proceedings	Abstracts	Student Work (BA, MA, PhD)
Real Total (2017-2022)	81	21	13	15
Projected Total (2023-2028)	145	15	56	8

⁵⁴ Half of Chapter 5 is centred on methods of data analysis in ITr research.

⁵⁵ Interviewee n° 45 claims to be able to speak English, but does not consider themselves proficient in the language.

Real + Projected Total (2017-2028)	226	36	69	23
Lower Confidence Percentage Total	196%	132%	370%	82%
Higher Confidence Percentage Total	363%	212%	697%	222%
Average Percentage Total	279%	172%	533%	152%

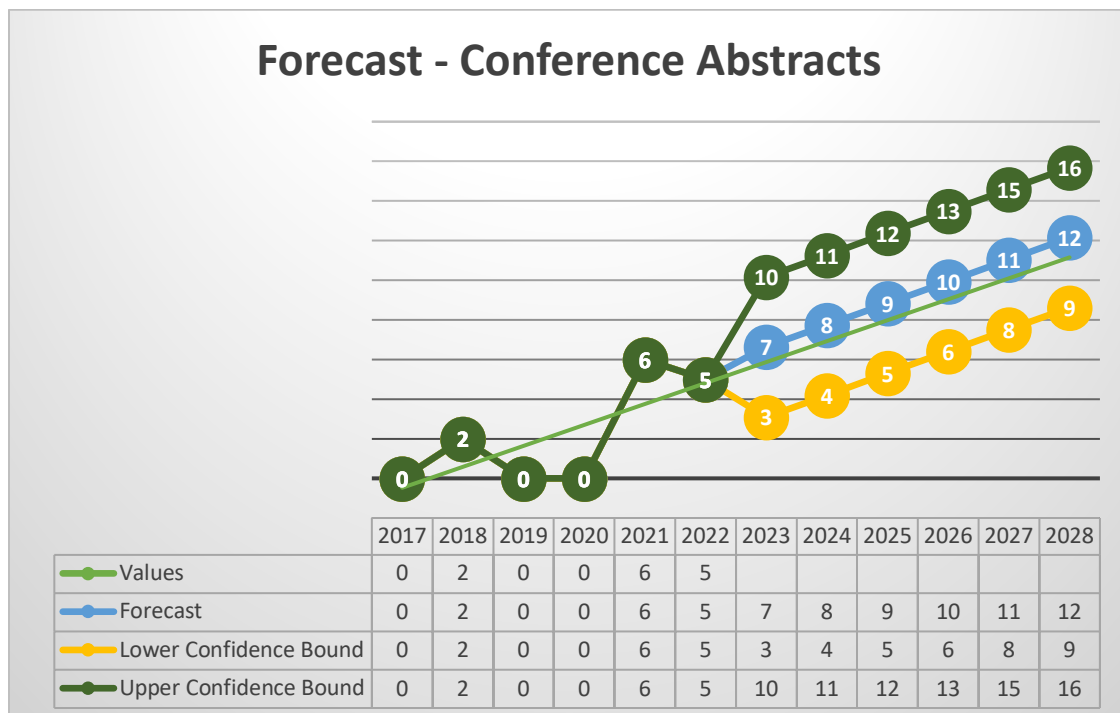
Table 20 – Forecast – Publication Formats



Graph 9 – Forecast – Articles

While abstracts are anticipated to show the greatest percentage increase, potentially signalling a growth in ITr research presented at conferences, the number of new conference proceedings is predicted to be lower in the future than at present (see Table 20, and Graph 11, in page 96). Taking into consideration the quadrilateral relationship between conference proceedings, MT research, co-authorship, and the English language in the context of ITr, it is expected that both co-authorship and Anglophone outputs will increase (see pages 75, 81,

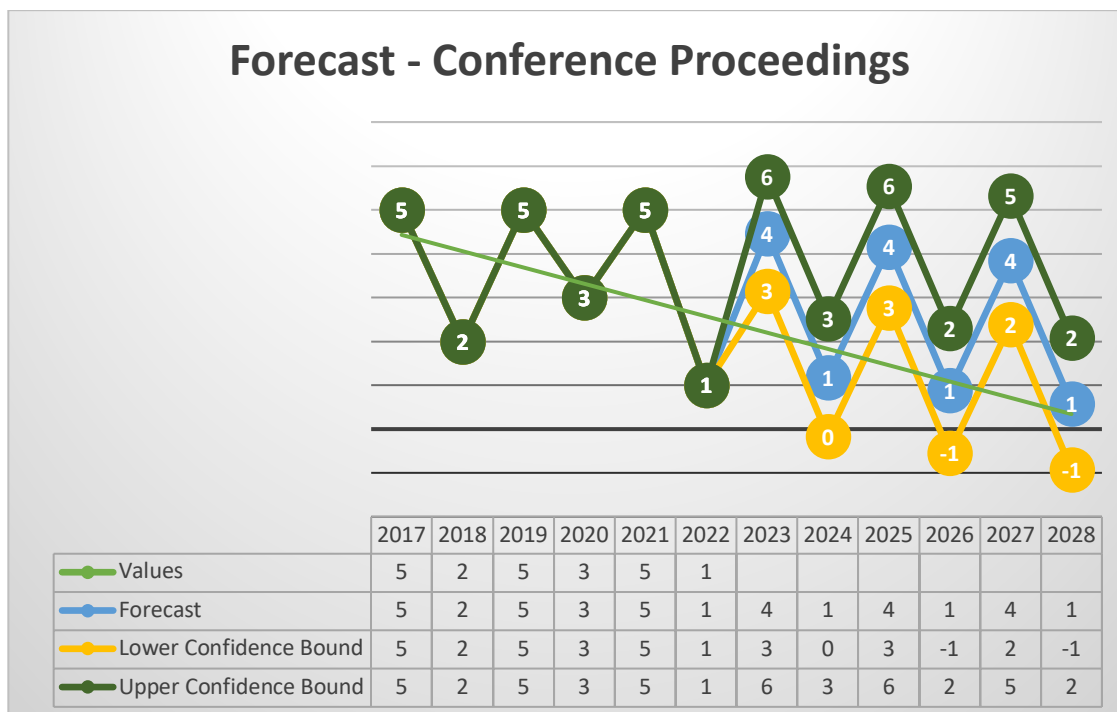
and 84). These projected increases, coupled with the decrease in conference proceedings, suggest that the existing quadrilateral relationship may gradually weaken, potentially reverting to a triangular configuration that encompasses only MT, co-authorship, and the English language (see Figure 2). These results indicate a potential pattern where authors present ITr research at conferences to foster collaboration, yet continue to focus on publishing in academic journals. The expected average increase of 279% in journal articles may reflect this trend (see Graphs 9 to 13, and Table 20).



Graph 10 – Forecast – Conference Abstracts

Similar to the findings related to conference proceedings, student engagement with ITr is expected to decrease in the coming years (see Graph 12 on page 96, and Table 20 on page 93). Although data on the proportion of modules dedicated to or mentioning ITr in academic settings appears to be lacking, “indirect translation is still lagging behind when it comes to training. It seems largely overlooked at the institutional level and there are not many opportunities to learn how to translate indirectly, whether within or outside a university” (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 14). Consequently, the anticipated

reduction in student work suggests that ITr may receive even less attention at the institutional level.



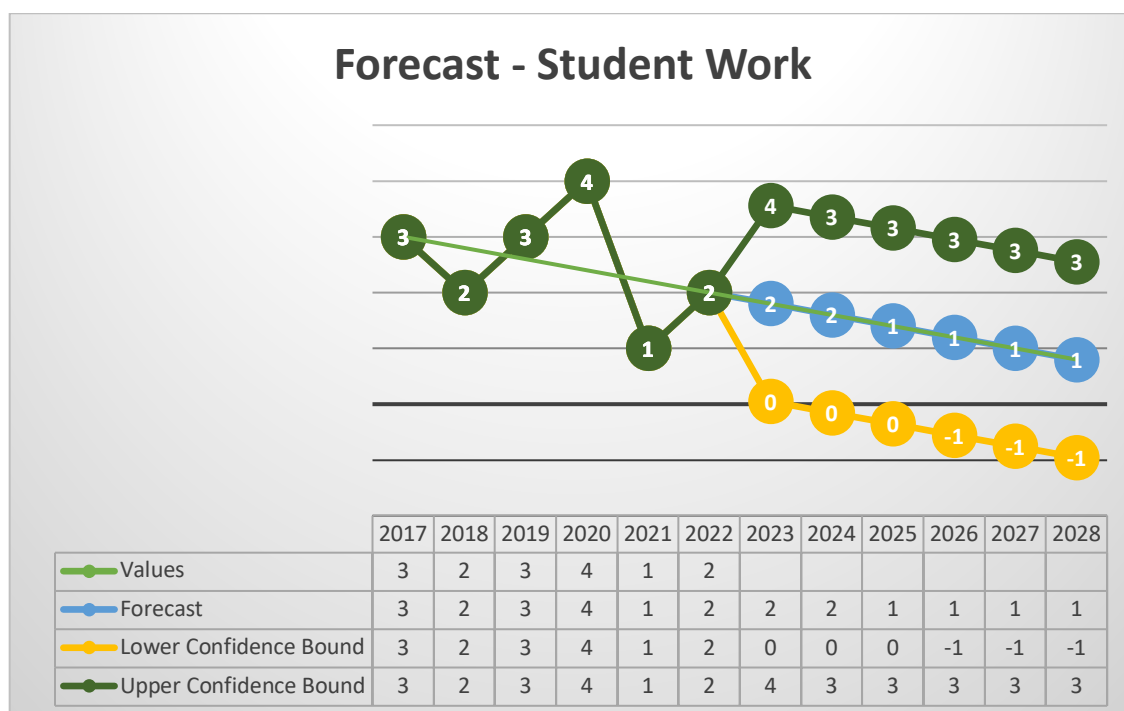
Graph 11 – Forecast – Conference Proceedings

Only a minority of the interviewees, specifically seven (14.28%), acknowledge that the topic was occasionally addressed in class during their time as students. However, it was never formally taught. They emphasise that most of their understanding on the topic stems from independent research for either academic or professional purposes. Interviewee nº 39, for instance, a PhD candidate, argues that when the topic was mentioned in class, it was typically framed in an unfavourable manner:

We would sometimes hear about it *en passant*, right? Some professors complained that there were many literary works that didn't come from the original language. So we would already see this preconceived idea among some professors too, you know? Mainly the literary translators themselves, who complained that

Dostoyevsky was mostly translated this way into Portuguese” (Interviewee nº 39 – 00: 00: 15)⁵⁶.

If ITr remains underrepresented in academic curricula (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: xv) or is primarily presented in a negative light, it is reasonable to expect a decline in student involvement with the topic.



Graph 12 – Forecast –Student Work

While journal articles are open to contributions from scholars at all experience levels, the forecasted decrease in student engagement with ITr research prompts the question of whether scholars will continue to encounter ITr only incidentally (Hadley 2023: 1). If this trend continues, despite a projected rise in ITr research, could imply that:

⁵⁶ Quotation in the source language (Portuguese): “A gente, às vezes ouvia en passant, né? Alguns professores que reclamavam que tinha muita obra literária por aí que não veio da língua original. Então a gente já vê esse preconceito entre alguns professores também, né? Principalmente o pessoal mais da tradução literária mesmo, que reclamava que Dostoiievski, muito do que a gente tem é em português” (Gloss translation).

1. Only the same cohort of scholars will remain active in this area, potentially increasing collaboration between them, but not necessarily extending opportunities to new generations.
2. Despite concentrated efforts to integrate ITr into translator training and TS (see Agulló Garcia et al. 2024; Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023; and Torres-Simón et al. 2021), programmes will begin/continue to overlook this subject.
3. Students will only develop an interest in ITr until later in their academic or professional careers.

6. Conclusion

This chapter posed three research questions, with the first addressing whether there are observable indications of evolution within the academic publishing landscape. The analysis demonstrates that there was minimal evolution between past and present. The data indicates no evolution at all in the distribution of publication languages, with English remaining the predominant language of outputs, particularly when compared to Portuguese. Research in ITr demonstrates a steady upward trajectory, consistent with prior expectations, but surpassing them in terms of numerical outcomes. Most scholars engaged in co-authorship, however, remain limited to just two publications. The most frequently published authors are affiliated with the IndirecTrans Network, indicating that ITr is not an incidental topic for them, though it might still be for other scholars. This situation raises the hypothesis that if these authors were to reduce their concentrated output, research in ITr might face a significant decline in the future. Although collaboration remains less prevalent in Lusophone publications than Anglophone ones, the publication landscape shows consistency in terms of format. In the present, journal articles accounted for 62% of outputs, with a consistent presence each year. Recent trends reflect a slight shift in publication formats in the academic landscape. Although scholarly articles remain the predominant format, conference proceedings have become increasingly prevalent, possibly due to their expedited publication process. This format appears particularly favoured in rapidly advancing fields such as CS, addressing the pressures for updated and timely publications.

The second question this chapter has asked was whether scholars' perceptions align with the academic publishing landscape. The analysis demonstrates that scholars' perceptions mostly match the reality of publications. Although interviewees tend to agree that English is the language to publish in for academic recognition, there is a divergence of opinion regarding whether this trend is advantageous. Some are in favour of having a *lingua franca* to increase collaboration opportunities and expand readership, whereas others express concerns that this trend may disadvantage speakers of other languages and non-proficient scholars. The majority of interviewees anticipate continued growth in ITr research. Empirical evidence indicates an increase from the past to the present, and an upward trajectory is expected to persist into the future. Although the potential benefits of collaboration are recognised by interviewees, they also articulate reservations regarding its efficacy, particularly when collaborators have differing goals.

The third and final question this chapter has asked was whether future shifts in the academic publishing landscape are anticipated. The analysis concludes that there will be important shifts in the ITr publishing landscape. Although the growth of Anglophone publications is anticipated to persist, a decrease in Lusophone publications is predicted. This outlook may stem from the perception among scholars that publishing in Portuguese, and other non-English languages, lacks prestige and is unlikely to substantially advance their academic careers. The expected rise in co-authorship could be correlated with the overall increase in ITr publications. As the volume of publications increases, the likelihood of collaborative efforts is also expected to grow. However, it is worth considering that such collaborations may be constrained, with scholars in the field of TS primarily collaborating with other TS scholars, while those in CS may predominantly engage with their peers only. Forecasts indicate that the number of published articles and conference abstracts is expected to rise in the near future, with a particularly significant increase anticipated in abstracts. Conversely, a decrease in the number of new conference proceedings is expected. These findings suggest a future trend in which scholars will increasingly opt to present their interdisciplinary research at conferences to foster collaboration, while concurrently prioritising the publication of their work in academic journals. In summary, the future

landscape of ITr publications suggests greater potential for evolution compared to the experiences observed between past and present.

The quadrilateral relationship between conference proceedings, MT research, co-authorship, and English language in the context of ITr research suggests the potential for developing methodological and pedagogical strategies. Given that MT serves as a multidisciplinary theme, increased interdisciplinary collaboration between TS and CS scholars within the ITr-MT subfield may bridge knowledge gaps. There are opportunities for CS scholars to gain insights from TS, particularly in the refinement of computational methods, while also addressing ethical concerns such as translation bias.

There is also potential for the improvement of pivot strategies in MT software. If the primary goal of an experimental research is to perform direct translations, collaborating with scholars in TS to assess nuanced results may yield methodological robustness for CS MT-focused research. Collaborative methodologies between TS and CS may give rise to purpose-specific formulas that could be employed to generate and analyse ITr-MT chains, as well as to identify ITr beyond the context of MT.

This chapter exclusively examined Anglophone and Lusophone publications, which naturally imposes linguistic constraints on the analysis. Should the focus shift from Portuguese to other languages of arguably higher-resources, such as French or Spanish, the observed disparity in ITr publications in English may not be as stark. Therefore, future research could explore whether the dominance of Anglophone publications is a direct result of English's preeminent status as a global language or whether it simply reflects underlying distinctions between English and Portuguese.

As explained in this chapter's introduction, while interviewees reference various forms of collaboration, including mentorship and student support, these elements have not been included in the analysis. This exclusion is based on the rationale that a fair comparison with the textual objects cannot be achieved, given that such forms of collaboration are not consistently or explicitly articulated by authors. Although this approach may constrain the full understanding of the underlying dynamics of collaborative practices, it offers a foundational framework for further exploration in both ITr research and in TS in general. This chapter

reveals that while scholars acknowledge the advantages of collaborating with peers, there remains a degree of ambivalence regarding its potential benefits. It would be pertinent to analyse whether similar reservations exist concerning other forms of collaboration, particularly in partnerships with individuals outside of academia, such as translators.

This chapter did not take into consideration the nationalities or affiliations of the authors associated with the outputs. With these outputs now assembled, future research could explore other models of collaborative research, such as academic hierarchies among co-authors, the dynamics of cross-institutional partnerships, and the multiple interlingual forms of collaboration aimed at developing co-authored outputs. Considerations for future research may include the following questions:

- Can the efficacy of these collaborative models be systematically assessed across various academic disciplines, including TS and CS?
- What strategies do researchers use to establish connections with peers?
- How do linguistic skills interfere in collaborative efforts?
- Do advancements in technology affect collaborative practices among researchers?
- Are publication formats a point of discussion in ITr research or do they predominantly emerge as a consequence of specific calls for papers?

Because no specific interview questions were asked about publication formats, it was not possible to make a direct statistical comparison between interviewees' perceptions and the reality of publications. Insights into researchers' choice of publication format could contribute to developing a framework for understanding:

- The factors that contribute to researchers' decisions regarding the choice of publication formats.
- The extent to which research themes or methodologies inform scholars' choice of publication format, and vice versa.

For future research employing interviews as a methodological approach, the following questions may be considered:

- What is your preferred publication format?
- Do you tend to publish in your preferred publication format or in other formats?

- To what extent do time constraints influence your choice of publication format?
- Does your preferred publication format differ when engaging in collaborative research efforts?
- Do the languages you speak impact your choice of publication format?
- Does the theme of your research impact your choice of publication format?

Due to the participant anonymity requirement, the specific collaborative connections of the interviewees could not be disclosed. However, future research not requiring the same level of anonymity could examine the network connections that interviewees report and juxtapose these with publication outputs. Depending on future outcomes, it may be valuable to determine the advantages, as well as the deficiencies within these collaborative connections. These findings may provide insights into the questions asked earlier: specifically, whether only a consistent cohort of scholars will remain active in the subfield of ITr and whether students generally develop an interest in it later in their academic or professional careers. Depending on the outcomes, and the aims of the research, it may be possible to identify targeted strategies to promote engagement and sustained interest in ITr.

One of the hypotheses presented in this chapter posits that fostering collaboration between scholars from different disciplines, particularly TS and CS, may expand methodological approaches in ITr and MT research between both fields. As a result, it would be worth for future research to examine how such interdisciplinary collaboration could be extrapolated to encompass other overarching themes beyond MT, including LT, among others. Given the overarching themes mentioned in this chapter, along with the identified quadrilateral relationship involving one of them, MT, a more detailed exploration of both overarching and specific themes is warranted. Thus, the next chapter brings thematic connections into focus by asking: What (new) patterns emerge in the evolving landscape of ITr research when viewed through the lens of both specific and overarching themes?

CHAPTER 2:

THEMATIC LANDSCAPE OF ITR RESEARCH

- “[...] little knowledge has been produced on the correlation between ITr and [...] (ii) the currently *disparate concepts* (such as censorship, hybridity, post-colonialism, or voice in translation, to name but a few)” (Pięta 2014: 18)⁵⁷.
- “[...] a crucial research prospect in indirect translation is expanding its study beyond literary texts and developing this subfield even further in relation to news translation, interpreting, audiovisual translation, localisation, technical translation, institutional translation, etc” (Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al. 2023: 834).

1. Introduction

In the two quotations above, Pięta (2014), and Marin-Lacarta (in Davier et al. 2023) critically engage with both specific themes⁵⁸, such as censorship, and overarching themes, such as audio-visual translation, to discuss the deficiencies in thematic knowledge in the context of ITr research. Building on this foundational discussion, this chapter seeks to address the following three research questions:

1. Is there indication of a past - present evolution in the thematic scenario of ITr research?
2. Do scholars’ opinions or perceptions of research themes align with the observable reality of publications?
3. Which shifts in ITr’s thematic landscape are anticipated from present to future?

1.1. Context and Justification

In the passage above, Pięta (2014) addresses the concept of *disparate concepts*. *Disparate concepts* are understood here as themes that are not necessarily intrinsically related to ITr,

⁵⁷ Emphasis added.

⁵⁸ To prevent undue repetition, the terms ‘themes’ and ‘topics’ are used interchangeably in this chapter.

but are approached in relation to it. These concepts are, therefore, understood as the ‘Thematic landscape of ITr research’. The ‘Thematic landscape of ITr research’ is analysed as two lines of enquiry: overarching themes and specific themes.

The decision to undertake this thematic analysis stems from two driving factors. The first one is the fact that recent publications on ITr have specifically approached the subject of potential research avenues within ITr research (e.g., see Hadley 2023; Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023; Davier et al. 2023). Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al.⁵⁹ (2023: 833), for instance, proposes five possible research avenues related to specific themes in ITr research, including Sociological Studies, Postcolonial Studies and TH. Hadley (2023: 136-148), in the last chapter of *Systematically Analysing Indirect Translations* (2023), puts forward at least 10 potential research avenues, which include overarching themes such as MT, TTrain, and LT.

The second driving factor is based on Dong & Chen’s (2015: 1122) study, which analyses research on TS published between 2000 and 2015. According to their results, TS and IS often interact with other fields of knowledge, as well as different academic journals, termed ‘intermediate’. This includes academic fields such as Pragmatics, Language Learning, and Applied Linguistics. When it comes to ITr specifically, researchers state that “research on indirect translation has rapidly expanded its scope in recent years” (Buts et al. 2023: 171). For these reasons, exploring the ‘thematic landscape of ITr research’ can help achieve all three goals of this thesis. In particular, it supports the second goal: to produce clear and reproducible results that can contribute to ongoing and future discussions on what may distinguish TS from other fields of knowledge.

1.1.1. Specific Themes

Specific themes are narrowly focused, representing the direct topics addressed. Based on Pięta’s (2017) findings, ‘Translation History’ (TH), and ‘Theoretical, Methodological, and Terminological Dimensions’ (TMT) are two of the subcategories included for analysis. Even

⁵⁹ Davier et al. (2023) is an article in which interviews were conducted with three researchers: Davier, Marin-Lacarta, and Pöchhacker. For this reason, references statements made by these interviewees in this article will be cited in this way.

though Pięta (2017) does not explicitly mention ‘Socio-political Issues’ (SP), this specific theme is included in this chapter’s analysis. The decision to include SP stems from the observation that all interviewees, at different points during their interviews, express varying degrees of concern about these issues⁶⁰. Moreover, it is worth noting that 15 (30.61%) of the interviewees claim to have worked or express interest in working with this specific theme in TS research. When combined with the number of interviewees who propose research questions on this topic, the total of participants interested in this topic reaches 21 (42.85%). They are explained as follows:

Specific Theme	Description	
Translation History (TH)	The simultaneous examination of how translation evolves over time, and how it is interpreted within a given historical context (Hermans 2022: 26-27).	
	To be categorised under ‘TH’, an object’s title, abstract, and/or research question/hypothesis must explicitly address at least one of the following:	
	Markers	Examples
	Specific marking terms.	“history”, “historical” or “translation history”.
	A specific period or era.	“the nineteenth-century”, “between 1970 and 2000” or “the Renaissance”.
	A specific country or polity which no longer exists.	“the Soviet Union”, “Yugoslavia”, or “the Holy Roman Empire”.

⁶⁰ It is worth emphasising that all interviews were conducted in 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, it is possible that the global social and political climate of the time may have had an impact on interviewees’ overall concerns about these issues.

	A time-specific religious or philosophical movement.	“the Reformation”, “the French Enlightenment”, or “the Cultural Revolution”.
Social-Political Issues (SP)	Based on the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ⁶¹ (UN.org n.d.: n.p.), ‘Social-political issues’ involve the intersection of societal and political concerns, where they intertwine and mutually impact one another. These concerns centre on topics related to inequalities and human rights.	
	An object is classified as SP if its focal point is at least one of the topics below, which serve as SP’s subcategories:	
	Power asymmetry	Social situations in which political agents “play a very significant role in constraining or promoting agency/action” (Patnaik 2019: 50). These constraints encompass power disparities between languages or among nations and/or populations. As noted by Cortés & Monzó-Nebot (2021: 1), “any discussion of translation is a discussion of asymmetry of some sort”. However, it would not be practical to frame every discussion about translation as an instance of power asymmetry in the analysis conducted in this chapter. Such an approach would lead to categorising every subtopic within the SP theme as ‘power asymmetry’. For this reason, the decision to analyse each subtopic separately in this chapter is driven by the aim of conducting a more precise examination.
	Refugee/ Immigrant	Issues related to humanitarian crises, asylum-seeking, and planned human migration. This means that it does

⁶¹ More information on the United Nations’ 17 SDGs is available at the following website: <

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals> >.

		not encompass subjects such as travel, tourism, or the importation of cultural products.
	Environment/ Sustainability	Based on Cronin's (2017: 2) concept of 'eco-translation', 'environment/sustainability' issues pertain to "the challenges of human-induced environmental change", encompassing efforts to address and rectify these changes in order to protect and sustain the environment.
	Gender/ Sexuality	Issues related to gender identities (e.g., cisgender, transexual, male, female, non-binary etc) and sexuality (e.g., heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, asexual etc). The terms 'queer' and 'queering' are also covered by this category, because they include non-normative intersectionality, and represent "other marginalised sexual identities" (Raymond 2003: 98).
Theoretical, Methodological And Terminological Dimensions (TMT)	Research focused on proposing or discussing theory, methodology or terminology specifically related to ITr research or practice. Here, 'theory' refers to the fundamental principles or concepts of ITr, while 'methodology' refers to the set of procedures used to study or render ITr. Research addressing theoretical, methodological, or terminological dimensions in other subfields within TS or any different academic area is excluded.	
	An object is classified as TMT if it explicitly references in its title and/or research question/hypothesis, any lemmatisation of the words 'theory', 'methodology', or 'terminology' in connection with ITr ⁶² .	

Table 21 – Specific Themes

⁶² There is one exception to this rule: Hadley (2017). Despite the absence of explicit references to the terms 'theory', 'methodology', or 'terminology' in its title or hypothesis, Hadley (2017) is still included as a TMT object. This decision stems from two reasons. The first is due to the observation that the *Concatenation Effect*

Overarching themes refer to broad areas in TS, such as Literary Translation. Also known as subfields of TS, these themes can encompass a wide range of specific themes. They are as follows:

Overarching Theme	Description
Audio-Visual Translation (AVT)	The study of practices, processes, and outcomes related to the transfer of multimodal and multimedia content across languages and cultures (Pérez-González 2020: 30). AVT encompasses research on voice-over, dubbing, subtitling, and audio description for various mediums, including films, plays, podcasts, advertisements, YouTube videos, and television shows.
Interpreting Studies (IS)	“Oral translation”, referring to real-time utterances that can be conveyed through speech, body language, or sign language (Pöchhacker 2010: 154).
Literary Translation (LT)	The examination of written literary works, including both fiction and non-fiction products, such as novels, letters, poetry, plays, and paratexts (i.e., book covers, tables of contents, forewords etc).
Machine Translation (MT)	The automated conversion of text from one language to another through the use of digital applications (Kenny 2020: 305). It should be clarified that the use of digital software does not automatically label an object as MT research. To classify an object as MT research, the

Hypothesis “follows the pattern of theoretical formulation that has characterised translation studies research for decades” (Hadley 2023: 27). This hypothesis introduces new terminology designed for flexible methodological application, allowing translations to be sorted into different categories (ibid.). The second reason is that Hadley (2017) is considered by Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2023: 846) as *conceptual research*, which “discusses how concepts or theories yield new ways of understanding ITr”.

	examination of the digital method or the software itself is required.
Meta-Research (MT)	The systematic study of research itself, its theories, “methods, reporting, reproducibility, evaluation, and incentives” (Ioannidis 2018: 1). The focus is on examining fundamental aspects of research, encompassing publications pertaining to theories, methodologies, and literature review related to ITr.
News Translation (NT)	The multiple processes involved in communicating the news across linguistic boundaries, including news production and distribution through various media outlets (Bielsa 2020: 365).
Technical Translation (TTech)	Explores how specialised translation of scientific knowledge is put into practice (Byrne 2006: 8).
Translator Training (TTrain)	The study of translation and interpreting as a professional and academic discipline (Cerezo Merchán 2019: 468).

Table 22 – Overarching Themes

Neither overarching themes nor specific themes are predetermined, meaning they are not actively sought in each textual object prior going through the keyness process. Instead, they emerge organically during the analysis, guided by patterns and insights that arise from the process. As outlined in the introduction to this thesis, keyness analysis allows categories to surface, which are then systematically grouped. While narrowed taxonomies tend to reduce nuanced and varied features for the purposes of categorisation, they remain valuable for structuring discussions (Hadley 2023: 15).

2. Methodology

The methodology employed in this chapter follows the same reasoning outlined in the thesis’ introduction. It involves triangulating the statements provided by interviewees (perceptions/expectations) and the information extracted from the textual materials (reality

of publications). To ensure the systematic identification of thematic information and improve the reliability of estimations in triangulating results, specific methodological strategies are applied.

To ensure clarity and avoid relying on subjective interpretations, the analysis of specific and overarching themes adopts a methodological focus on the examination of titles, hypotheses or research questions, and explicitly articulated goals taken from the abstracts or introductions of each object (see Appendix 1). The process of extracting these elements entails the isolation of sentences that explicitly articulate this information. The method used to analyse the interviews bears similarities with the one used for exploring the textual materials.

Although there are 49 interviewees, they are not limited to providing a single response to each question. The total number of research questions contributed by interviewees amounts to 154. The analysis of the interview transcriptions also entails the identification of sentences that reference hypotheses and/or research questions. However, hypotheses and research questions are not always phrased as such. Interviewees' responses are often framed as affirmative statements, rather than being explicitly posed as questions. To establish consistency and comparability across interviewees' responses, their articulated ideas are converted into questions. The thematic landscape of ITr research is shaped by their responses encompassing not only their individual study interests, but also what they deemed to be emerging or potential areas of research within future ITr scholarship⁶³. The questions from which interviewees' responses are sourced are questions nº 18, 27, and 28:

- Could you tell me about your current research project(s)?
- Are there any specific topics you are planning to explore in the next few years?
- What topics/themes or types of research in indirect translation would you like to do or see more research on in future?

⁶³ To ensure participant anonymity, specific themes related to future developments of their current or past research are omitted. Quotations pertaining to specific information, such as languages, cities or countries are generalised to encompass their respective language families or geographic locations. Whenever such substitutions are made, square brackets are employed as indicators.

Since most of the questions raised by interviewees overlap with multiple overarching themes, making direct statistical comparisons between perception and reality would require arbitrarily assigning questions to overarching themes. This approach risks introducing excessive subjectivity and failing to accurately reflect interviewees' perspectives, as they are not explicitly asked about overarching themes. Therefore, statistical analysis is applied exclusively to the textual materials. However, when interviewees refer to overarching themes, their perspectives are considered in the analysis together with the textual materials.

To strengthen the reliability of triangulation interpretations, the Google Trends tool is periodically used for comparative analysis. This tool allows for inferences about the potential factors influencing the choice of specific themes in textual materials and interviews. The data obtained from Google Trends represents an unfiltered sample of search queries submitted by users to Google's search engine (Brodeur et al. 2020: 2). The platform supplies an index that measures the intensity of searches by topic or term over a specified period in a given geographical area, which could be the entire world (ibid.). The result is a number on a scale of zero to 100, where 100 represents the day or month with the highest search activity for a particular term (ibid.). In contrast, zero indicates that on the specific day or month, the search volume for a term was insufficient (ibid.). The Google Trends search terms used in this chapter encompass the period from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2022.

3. Thematic Landscape of ITr Research: Specific Themes

3.1. Past (1963-2016)

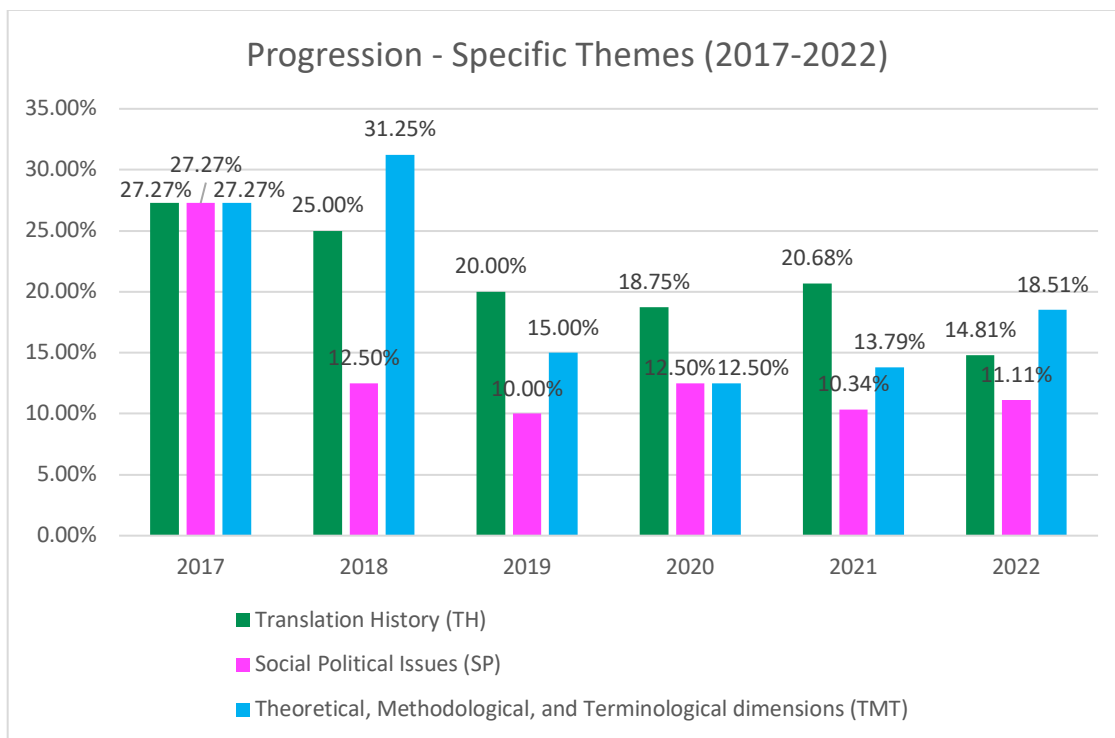
Pięta's (2017: 200) results are outlined as follows:

1. Most published ITr research focuses on historical aspects of translation.
2. Research that mainly explores the theoretical, methodological, and/or terminological dimensions of ITr studies has been "far less frequent" when compared to historically-oriented research.

3.2. Present (2017-2022)

3.2.1. Statistical Overview

Similarly to the past, in the present, TH remains statistically more prevalent than TMT in terms of total numbers. However, this pattern is not consistent throughout the entire period. TMT surpasses TH twice, in 2018 and 2022, and it matches it once in 2017. These results indicate that while TH remains statistically more substantial, it is not consistently so. As evidenced by Graph 13, the three specific topics maintain a steady presence in the present period, with minimum fluctuation.



Graph 13 – Annual Progression – Specific Themes

With TS research increasingly interacting with other fields of knowledge (Dong & Chen 2015: 1122), the lack of a ubiquitous dominance among the three topics can be due to the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of TS (Zhu & Aryadoust 2023: 171; Venuti 2021: 3; Bowker & Delsey 2016: 75; Venuti 2000: 4). When thinking about ITr specifically, it could be argued that this volatile thematic scenario might mean that ITr is still trying to establish itself

as a subfield in TS. One argument does not cancel out the other, however. In this regard, it is reasonable to consider thematic multiplicity as a factor contributing to the perpetuation of ITr's image as a subfield of seemingly scattered efforts (Pięta 2019: 27; Hadley 2023: 7). Simultaneously, thematic multiplicity can be viewed as a driving force behind the emergence of ITr as a distinct subfield within TS.

There are, however, two major exceptions. SP experiences a sharp decrease of over 50% between 2017 and 2018. Similarly, TMT experiences a drop of over 50% from 2018 to 2019. One possible hypothesis to account for the decrease in TMT publications is the 2017 *Special Issue on Indirect Translation*. Researchers may have shifted their focus to other specific themes, as the Special Issue had already systematically addressed TMT-related topics. This hypothesis reinforces the importance of the systematic work published in the Special Issue. However, it is also possible that the spike observed in the first two years is exceptional rather than standard. Based on the proportions found in the other years, it can be hypothesised that the apparent decrease in TMT publications may not be a significant decrease, but rather a return to its regular state. Similarly, the same could be argued about the decrease in SP. If this hypothesis is correct, it may suggest that ITr research only shifts focus when there is a specific trigger, such as a call for papers for a Special Issue. On the other hand, if the hypothesis is incorrect, it could imply that TMT and SP research are still developing and may lead to future publications. In this latter case, what might the future of ITr research look like for these two specific themes? To address this and other questions, and better understand each specific theme, the following three subsections provide an in-depth analysis of TH, SP, and TMT.

3.2.2. Translation History (TH)

When comparing past and present, it can be observed that the focus of ITr research has shifted to some extent. While historical contexts in ITr research remain relevant, it is no longer correct to claim that most ITr research is about TH, as only 27⁶⁴ (20.76%) of the textual

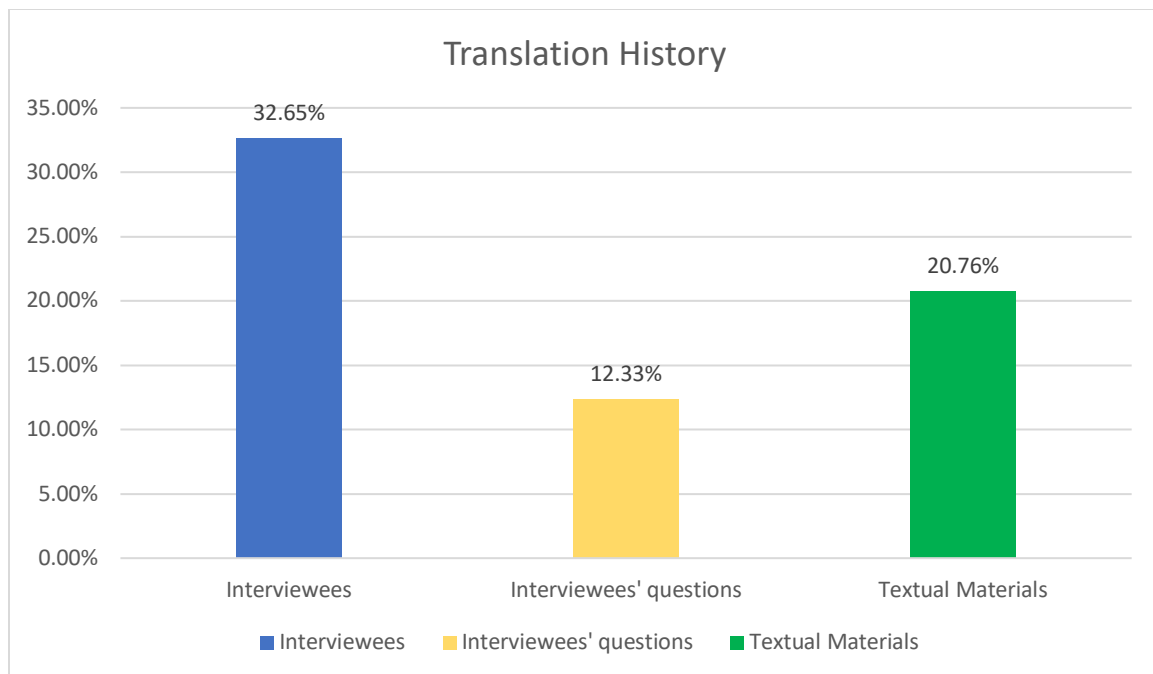
⁶⁴ While both Rabinovich, Ordan & Wintner (2017) and Shamsian & Crane (2022) make use of terms such as “history” or “historical” within their hypotheses, they do not fall under the category of Translation History (TH)

objects directly engage with it. Although one fifth of the outputs may still be considered a relevant proportion, it does not reflect the majority. In contrast, interviewees tend to favour the notion that “no historically oriented study of a culture where indirect translation was practiced with any regularity can afford to ignore this phenomenon and fail to examine what it stands for” (Toury 2012/1995: 130).

Among the 49 interviewees, 16 (32.65%) propose a total of 19 research questions (12.33%) where ITr and TH intersect. Additionally, 28.57% (14 interviewees) recognise the importance of this intersection, seeing it as relevant, promising, and even inevitable in TS. These 14 interviewees collectively hold the view that history is intricately intertwined with ITr. Interviewee nº 23 even claims that “when studying Translation History, [...] you have to study Indirect Translation because it plays a significant role in Translation History” (00:54:55). All of these 14 interviewees give specific examples of how, in their opinion, ITr cannot be disassociated from a country’s cultural and translation history⁶⁵. Moreover, half (14.29%) of these interviewees offer detailed examples of how they came to learn about ITr through the study of history. As a result of this shared perspective, eight interviewees (16.32%) go further by advocating for the integration of ITr into TH modules in TS curricula. This idea echoes Torres-Simón et al.’s (2021: 269) findings that 10% of surveyed scholars teaching Translation Theory and/or History require students to practice translating explicitly for further translation. Despite the interviewees’ emphasis on the interrelationship between ITr and TH, the prevailing publication landscape does not fully correspond to their perspectives (see Graph 14, next page).

research. In the case of Rabinovich, Ordan & Wintner (2017), they employ the term “history” to denote language genealogy, and Shamsian & Crane (2022) refer to the term “historical” as an adjective to describe the Persian language. Similarly, Kavalir & Chudoba (2020) is not included as TH despite making reference to a particular time span. The reason for this exclusion is that the specified period only describes the duration of their research project.

⁶⁵ Among these countries are Brazil, Finland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Poland, Portugal, and Turkey.



Graph 14 – Translation History

The relative underrepresentation of TH-focused research contrasts with interviewees' demonstrated interest in this specific theme. The persistence of TH-oriented outputs (exceeding 20%), however, reflects ITr's established historical trajectory (Mirzoyeva et al. 2024: 1; Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 3; Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 113). Given the open-ended nature of the interview protocol, the observed 12% discrepancy between published research and proposed questions at the ITr-TH intersection may stem from three potential factors:

- I. Availability of primary materials;
- II. Personal interests;
- III. Awareness of emerging areas within ITr studies.

Regarding the first hypothesis, interviewees may not have fully considered the availability or accessibility of primary materials when proposing research topics during the interview process, allowing them to be more ambitious in their suggestions. The second hypothesis complements the first, suggesting that participants were likely guided by their personal research interests rather than by identified gaps in existing scholarship. This interpretation is supported by the fact that over 25% of interviewees viewed the ITr-TH

intersection as fundamental, potentially considering its exploration inherently valuable. Finally, the third hypothesis is based on a temporal advantage: interviewees likely had greater exposure to contemporary developments in ITr research compared to authors of earlier or concurrent textual outputs⁶⁶.

While the future development of the ITr-TH research remains open, further engagement with this intersection could contribute to advancing research on SP. This perspective is supported by both Interviewee nº 36 and Interviewee nº 32. Interviewee nº 36 (00:37:42) argues for increased research into “how cultural, social, and political forces are transmitted through networks via indirect translation”. In a similar vein, Interviewee nº 32 (01:01:27) argues that translation, history, and politics are fundamentally linked: “I have this political stance on giving voice to silence, or the silenced ones. And so, I think Translation History does that. So many translators are still absent from cultural studies, from cultural histories”.

3.2.3. Social-Political Issues (SP)

Among the 49 interviewees, eight (16.32%) propose a total of 13 (8.44%) research questions related to SP. In contrast to the ITr-TH intersection, the data on SP extracted from textual materials shows minimal variation when compared to the interview data. A total of 18 (13.84%) textual sources address SP-related topics. These results suggest that research at the ITr-SP intersection is progressing without major hindrances. However, a more detailed analysis reveals distinctions when SP is broken down into the following subtopics: ‘gender/sexuality’, ‘environment/sustainability’, ‘refugee/immigrant’, and ‘power asymmetries’. The results are outlined in Table 23.

	Textual Materials	Interviewees	Questions
Gender/Sexuality	Yu (2017) Hosington (2019) Sousa Carvalho (2022)	nº 02, 03, 10, and 40	5

⁶⁶ All interviews were conducted in 2021.

Environment/ Sustainability	Othmani (2022)	nº 16 and 19	2
Refugees/ Immigrants	Wook Huh (2021)	nº 10 and 37	3
Power Asymmetries	Alvstad (2017) Assis Rosa (2017) Henitiuk (2017) Neto (2017) Witt (2017) Marin-Lacarta (2018) Pięta (2018) Kolomiyets (2019) Footitt (2020) Tyšš & Gromová (2020) Akkaliyeva et al (b) (2021) Gallien (2021) Wook Huh (2021) Baydere & Karadağ (2022)	nº 40 and 43	3

Table 23 – Social-Political Themes

While ‘power asymmetries’ dominate SP-related outputs (77.77%), this emphasis is not equally reflected in the interview data. Only two interviewees (25%) and three research questions (23.07%) directly examine this topic, suggesting that research outputs on SP are disproportionately higher than the research interests expressed in interviews. When broadening the scope to include all 49 interviewees and 130 textual materials, the overall discrepancy in numbers is less pronounced. However, the gap remains notable when comparing research questions to published materials. ‘Power asymmetries’ account for just 1.94% of proposed research questions, with only 4% of interviewees addressing the topic, whereas textual materials reflect a significantly higher proportion (10.76%).

Both comparisons suggest that publications on ‘power asymmetries’ within ITr are more prevalent than interviewees’ stated intentions or perceptions. Similar to the ITr-TH intersection, a discrepancy emerges between what researchers aim to study and what they ultimately publish. However, despite this reversal in trends, the divergence may still be attributed to two of the three factors previously mentioned: the availability of primary

materials and awareness of emerging areas within ITr studies. The relative lack of emphasis on ‘power asymmetries’ in interviews does not necessarily imply disinterest but may instead reflect the greater research potential afforded by other subtopics. Whether explicitly foregrounded or not, power asymmetries remain a recurring theme in ITr research: “one of the many questions addressed by ITr is the need for migrant communities in an increasingly globalized world to adopt *linguae francae*⁶⁷, and the consequences therefrom” (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 125).

In the context of SP-related research, two interviewees (25%) and three research questions (23.07%) directly address the subtopic of refugees and immigrants. However, only one publication (5.55%) explicitly explores this area. This imbalance between interview data and published research may indicate a growing scholarly engagement with the ‘refugee/immigrant’ subtopic in recent years. When analysing data collected from Google Trends (see Figures 4, and 5), covering the period from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2022, it is evident that search on Google for the terms ‘refugees’ reached its peak twice: in 2017 and 2022. On the other hand, the term ‘immigrants’ reached its peak only in 2017 and declined in the subsequent five years.

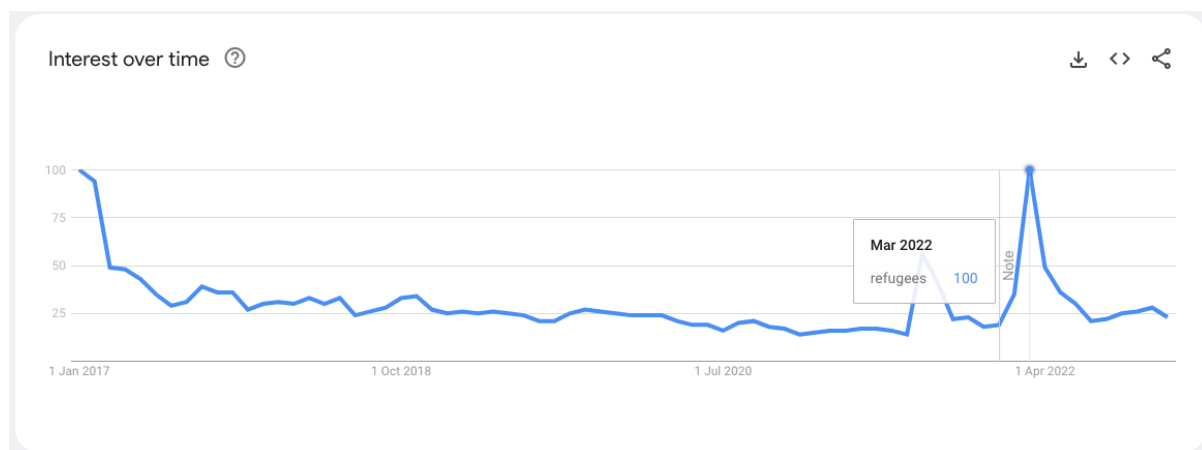


Figure 4 – Screenshot – Google Trends: ‘Refugees’ (01/01/2017 – 31/12/2022)⁶⁸

⁶⁷ Italics added.

⁶⁸ This information is available at: <https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=2017-01-01%202022-12-31&q=refugees&hl=en-GB>.

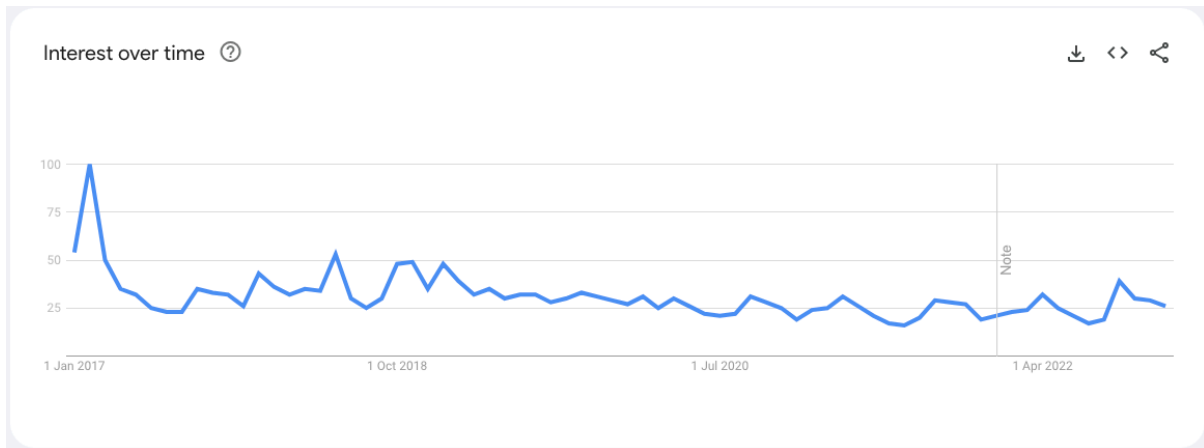


Figure 5 – Screenshot – Google Trends: ‘Immigrants’ (01/01/2017 – 31/12/2022)⁶⁹

The differing search trends between the terms ‘refugees’ and ‘immigrants’ suggest that global social-political dynamics have spurred an increased interest in the subtopic of ‘refugees’, but not of ‘immigrants’. It could be that immigrant-related issues in ITr research may be more deeply rooted in historical contexts (e.g., African diasporas), as exemplified by Wook Huh (2021). It is possible, however, that the debate around the suppression and persecution of academics, intellectuals, activists, and translators in parts of the world (Gould & Tahmasebian 2020: 1) have played a role in bringing the combined subtopic of ‘refugee/immigrant’ issues to the forefront among interviewees. In a similar vein to the hypotheses concerning TH, the differences here in the statistics between researchers suggestions and published research could be linked to challenges in accessing primary materials, particularly in research involving direct human participation or proprietary records.

Interviewee n^o 08, a TS scholar, suggests that a potential avenue for conducting TS research involving human participation in the context of refugee/immigrant issues is the examination of ‘child language brokering’. ‘Child language brokering’ refers to the practice in which children assume the role of translators or interpreters for their immigrant parents and extended family members who lack proficiency in the host country’s language (Morales &

⁶⁹ This information is available at: <https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=2017-01-01%202022-12-31&q=Immigrants&hl=en-GB>.

Hanson 2005: 472). This informal practice can involve ITr in cases where, for example, the host country is characterised by linguistic diversity, or when parents do not come from the same cultural or linguistic background.

The notion of informality in translation is also approached by Interviewee nº 07 who, like Interviewee nº 08, is also a TS scholar. They argue that the increasing global presence of immigrants and refugees, often driven by factors such as conflict and environmental crises, is likely to lead to a surge in translations, including ITrs, marked by a growing tendency towards informality. While not explicitly proposing a specific research question, Interviewee nº 07 implies that informal translations can bridge research on ‘refugee/immigrant’ issues and (indirect) Translation Studies. As mentioned by Interviewee nº 07, ‘refugee/immigrant’ issues can be linked to another subtopic: ‘environment/sustainability’. While five interviewees highlight the relation between ITr and this subtopic, only two (25%) put forward two (15.38%) research questions related to it in the SP domain. Among the textual materials, Othmani (2022) stands as the only⁷⁰ (5.55%) object to explicitly address it⁷¹. This means that despite academic awareness, there is a limited presence of systematic consideration and publication on ‘environment/sustainability’ issues within the field of ITr. ITr academic awareness in this subtopic might be a direct result of the increased global attention it has received. When analysing data collected from Google Trends (see Figures 6, and 7), covering the period from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2022, it becomes clear that search on Google for the terms ‘environment’ and ‘sustainability’ reached their peak in 2022.

⁷⁰ Although this chapter does not include 2023 in its analysis, it is noteworthy that a Special Issue on ITr and sustainability was published in *Translation Spaces: Indirect Translation and Sustainable Development* (2023). Three articles from this Special Issue in particular can be highlighted: *Is indirect translation a friend or a foe of sustainable development? - Pivot subtitlers’ perspective* (Torres-Smón et al. 2023), *Indirect translation and its influence on term variation - A pilot study on climate action* (Cabezas-García & León-Araúz 2023), and *Indirect translation and sustainable development* (Buts et al. 2023).

⁷¹ Though Bueno Maia, Pięta & Torres-Simón’s 2018 abstract is not specifically about sustainability, it was presented at the 1st International Conference entitled “Translation and Cultural *Sustainability*: Foundations, Fundamentals and Applications” in Salamanca. Italics added.

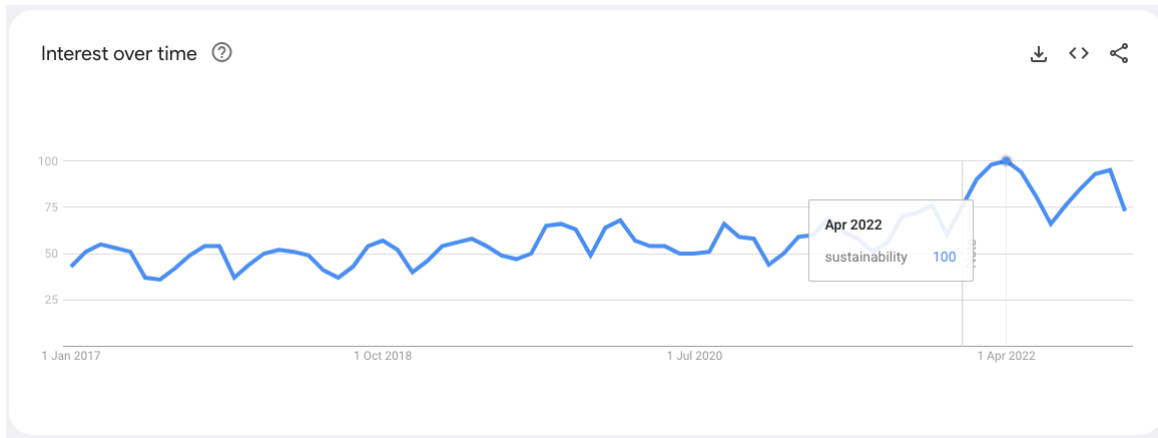


Figure 6 – Screenshot – Google Trends: ‘Sustainability’ (01/01/2017 – 31/12/2022)⁷²

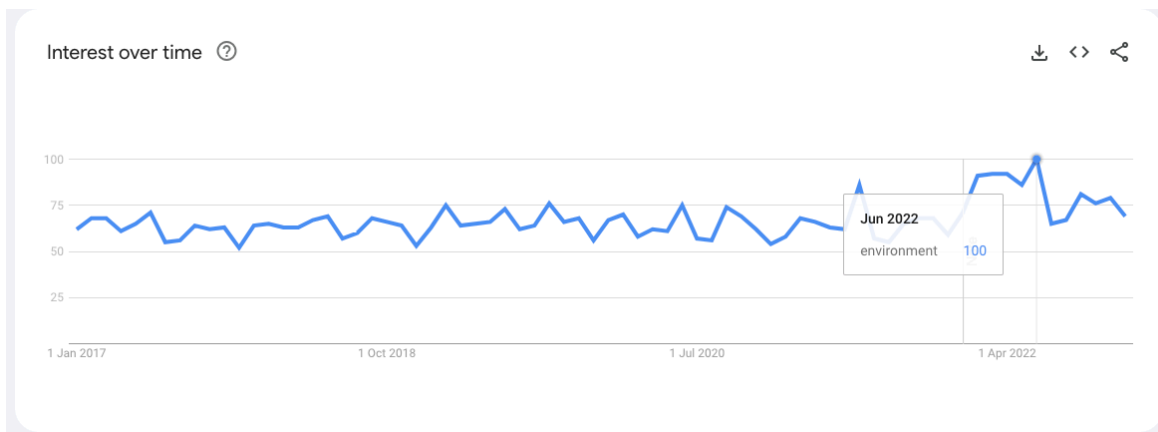


Figure 7 – Screenshot – Google Trends: ‘Environment’ (01/01/2017 – 31/12/2022)

As depicted in Figure 7, search interest in the term ‘environment’ has consistently remained above 50 since 2017, reaching a peak of over 75 in 2021. While this increase suggests a surge in public attention to the topic, it does not appear to have significantly influenced ITr research. The relatively limited focus on ‘environment/sustainability’ in textual materials when contrasted with interview data may be linked to interviewees’ commitment to addressing ‘real-life’ challenges and driving meaningful social change through their work. Six interviewees (n^{os} 01, 11, 16, 36, 40, and 47) assert that TS and ITr should actively engage with real-world issues and assess their societal impact. Interviewee n^o 40, for instance, argues

⁷² This information is available at: <https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=2017-01-01%202022-12-31&q=Sustainability&hl=en-GB>.

that separating academic production from their broader real-life context is counterproductive, as both translation and scholarship operate beyond theoretical abstraction.

The intersection of sustainability and geopolitics serves as a framework for linking these so-called 'real-life' issues with TS. Interviewees n°s 16 and 19 put forward research questions that not only highlight the importance of sustainable (indirect) translation but also stress the role of academia in fostering proactive engagement. Rather than focusing only on the effects of geopolitics on translation practices, these interviewees formulate questions aimed at actively mitigating such effects. Their proposed questions aim to identify ITr strategies that actively contribute to environmental sustainability.

While 'environment/sustainability' issues have the lowest number of proposed research questions among the SP subtopics, 'gender/sexuality' issues emerge as the most prominent, with five (38.46%) questions put forward by four interviewees. This number accounts for 50% of the interviewees who engage with SP and 8.16% of the total interviewees. Among publications addressing SP, three (16.66%) focus on the subtopic of 'gender'⁷³. Expanding the scope to include all 49 interviewees and 130 textual materials, not just those related to SP, reveals that 3.24% of interviewees propose research questions on 'gender/sexuality', while corresponding textual materials account for 2.37%. While the gap between interviewees' intentions and the reality of publications on just SP exceeds 20%, in the broader context, this discrepancy is just over 1%. Focusing on SP alone, 'gender/sexuality' appears to hold the greatest perceived relevance. However, more broadly, this subtopic does not appear to carry the same statistical weight in interviewees' proposed questions, nor in the reality of publications. Of the five proposed research questions related to 'gender/sexuality', three (60%) focus on women translators, one (20%) on queering translations, and one (20%) on Gender Studies in a broader sense. This strong emphasis on women translators, however, is not proportionally represented in the publications. Although

⁷³ Although Henitiuk (2017: 253) briefly touches on the subtopic of 'gender', it is not classified under the subcategory 'gender/sexuality', because the discussion involving gender is not central to the analysis conducted in the article.

Yu (2017) and Hosington (2019) explore writings about women and feminism, and Sousa Carvalho (2022) discusses queering translations, any of these outputs directly engage with the topic of women translators.

While none of the Computer Science (CS) interviewees directly address the topic of women translators, all three of them mention gender biases, particularly in relation to the marginalisation of feminine terms in gendered language in MT strategies. Interviewee nº 09 (00:02:37), for instance, a scholar in CS, observes that the issue of gender has increasingly gained traction in MT research, largely as a result of advancements in Deep Learning methods in Natural Language Processing (NLP). These advancements encompass a range of gender-related topics, including the identification and correction of gender biases in MT⁷⁴, the development of pivoting techniques (Lardelli 2025: 5), as well as the broader pursuit of “gender-fair language” in AVT techniques (Lardelli 2023: 1147).

3.2.4. Theoretical, Methodological, and Terminological Dimensions (TMT)

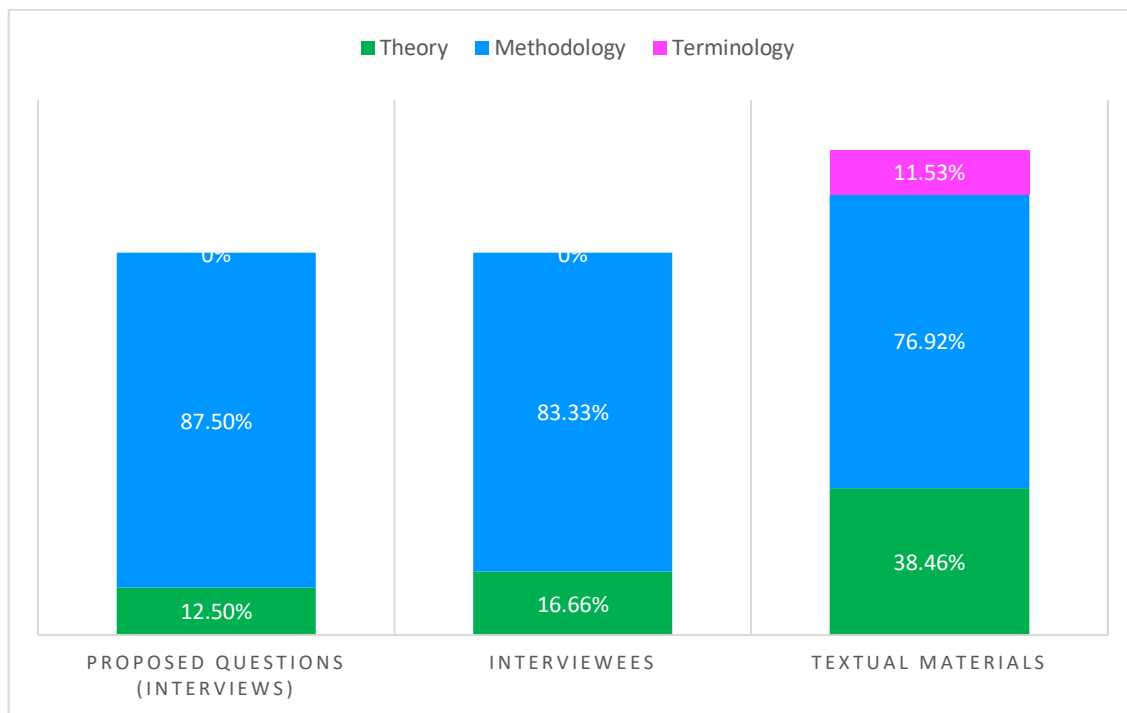
When compared to the past, the situation remains consistent in the present. Research primarily exploring TMT remains “far less frequent” in comparison to historically-oriented research (Pięta 2017: 200). Despite 15 (30.61%) interviewees mentioning TMT as a specific theme, fewer than half of them, specifically 6 (12.24%), propose questions related to it. These six interviewees collectively present a total of 8 (5.19%) questions. The distribution is as follows:

	Interviewees	Questions
Theory	1	1
Methodology	5	7
Terminology	0	0

Table 24 – TMT: Interviewees and Proposed Questions

⁷⁴ Recent publications, outside the scope of the analysed period, address gender biases in MT and/or AI, including works by Hall & Ellis (2023), Molino (2023), and Vanmassenhove (2025).

As can be observed in Table 24, Methodology emerges as the most relevant aspect from TMT, whereas Terminology appears to have no relevance at all. This pattern is similarly reflected in the textual materials when it comes to Methodology, but it differs significantly when compared to the other two dimensions. Among the 130 textual materials, 26 (20%) explore TMT: 10 look into Theory, 20 into Methodology, and three into Terminology (see Appendix 1)⁷⁵. The statistical distribution of each dimension within TMT in the textual materials and the proposed questions by interviewees is illustrated in Graph 15:



Graph 15 – Statistical Distribution: Theory, Methodology, and Terminology

The prevalence of Methodology across both sets of materials suggests a strong alignment between interviewees' perceptions and the reality of publications. This finding implies that scholarly output reflects researchers' expectations. For instance, Interviewee nº 36 (00:37:42) argues that ITr research is ready to move beyond TMT-related topics, given that

⁷⁵ There is a discrepancy in the sum because six textual objects explore more than one aspect, namely Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017), Hadley (2017), Pięta (2017), Pimentel (2018), Atwood (2019), and Hadley (2021).

“a considerable body of work has already been developed on research methodology in indirect translation”. This consistency between the two sets of materials, coupled with Interviewee nº 36’s perspective, suggests that researchers are not encountering major obstacles in conducting methodology-focused research. It could also suggest that researchers are strategically focusing on three fundamental methodological aspects before advancing to other specific themes. These key aspects are:

1. Developing methods for identifying ITrs;
2. Establishing methods for effectively rendering ITrs;
3. Formulating methods for analysing ITrs.

Both the textual materials and the questions proposed by interviewees explore these three key aspects related to Methodology. Even though there is compatibility between perception and reality, Interviewee nº 16 (00:21:44) argues that methodologically rigorous research is still lacking in ITr research, even though it is warranted to strengthen it as a subfield. They emphasise the importance of:

[...] more methodologically aware research, where people actually explain their methods well and facilitate replication so that we can have more and more studies with improved insights. Because what I’m seeing lately is many really exciting ideas that just don’t get out there, then they don’t get published. Or they don’t get presented at conferences because they’re methodologically unclear, or potentially flawed. And I think this is really a huge problem not just for Indirect Translation research in general, but for Translation Studies (Interviewee nº 16 – 00:21:44).

If Interviewee 16’s claim about the scarcity of methodologically rigorous research in ITr studies proves to be true, the available data suggest this gap is gradually being addressed. Specifically:

- Among interviewees: 10.24% raise methodological concerns, proposing questions that make up 4.54% of all proposed research questions;
- In published research: 15.38% of the 130 textual materials analyse methodological dimensions in ITr research.

In contrast, Theory remains underexplored compared to Methodology across both datasets, even in the TMT framework. The contrast is striking: methodological questions

outnumber theoretical ones by a factor of seven, while interviewees addressing methodology exceed those focusing on theory fivefold. This pattern persists in published research, with methodological studies appearing twice as frequently as theoretical works (see Table 24). The relative scarcity of Theory-based topics in TMT resonates with conventional scientific epistemology, which views theory-building as secondary to empirical verification (Borsboom et al. 2021; Meister 2017: 66). This trend may reflect an intentional delay in theory-building until more data is empirically gathered, or a methodologically cautious approach, typical of emerging fields (Poulis & Christodoulou 2024: 687-688; Coule, Dodge & Eikenberry 2020: 478; Stanford 2019: 3915).

The data on Terminology is even more limited than that for both Theory and Methodology across the two sets of materials. However, an alternative hypothesis can be proposed. It is possible that researchers are not adopting a cautious approach, preferring to gather more data before developing new terminology, but rather that they have moved beyond terminological discussions for now. The fact that only 12% of outputs in TMT address Terminology, coupled with the lack of research questions on the subtopic, suggests that contemporary research prioritises Theory and Methodology over Terminology. Interviewees nºs 03, 39 and 43, for instance, though appreciative of Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia's (2017) work, express concerns about overschematising terminology in ITr research. Interviewee nº 43 adds that too much emphasis on structuring research might hinder academic reflections on the subject:

[...] often, for me, research end up falling short because they try to overly structure, try to reinforce a dynamic onto indirect translation. I think sometimes [things] can't be fitted into categories, that things aren't so clear-cut. And I understand [...] because there isn't enough reflective work on indirect translation, there's a need to try to create a map, a framework, to systematise it. Creating these categories can be useful in our reflective process, but I think that sometimes there's too much categorisation. The reflection itself can end up being ineffective (Interviewee nº 43 – 00:35:21).

Alternatively, it may also be the case that the available data on ITr Terminology has already contributed to a well-developed foundation for further research.

3.3. Future (2023-2028)

In contrast to ITr-SP and ITr-TMT, both of which exhibit negative values in some lower-bound projections, ITr-TH maintains exclusively positive values across all conservative estimates. TH is also the only specific theme among the three to likely yield a greater number of published objects in future compared to the present. The future projections for the ITr-TH intersection range from 134% (conservative projection) to 290% (optimistic projection), yielding an average anticipated increase of 212%. This increase implies that historically-focused research will likely continue to play an important role in ITr research (see Table 25).

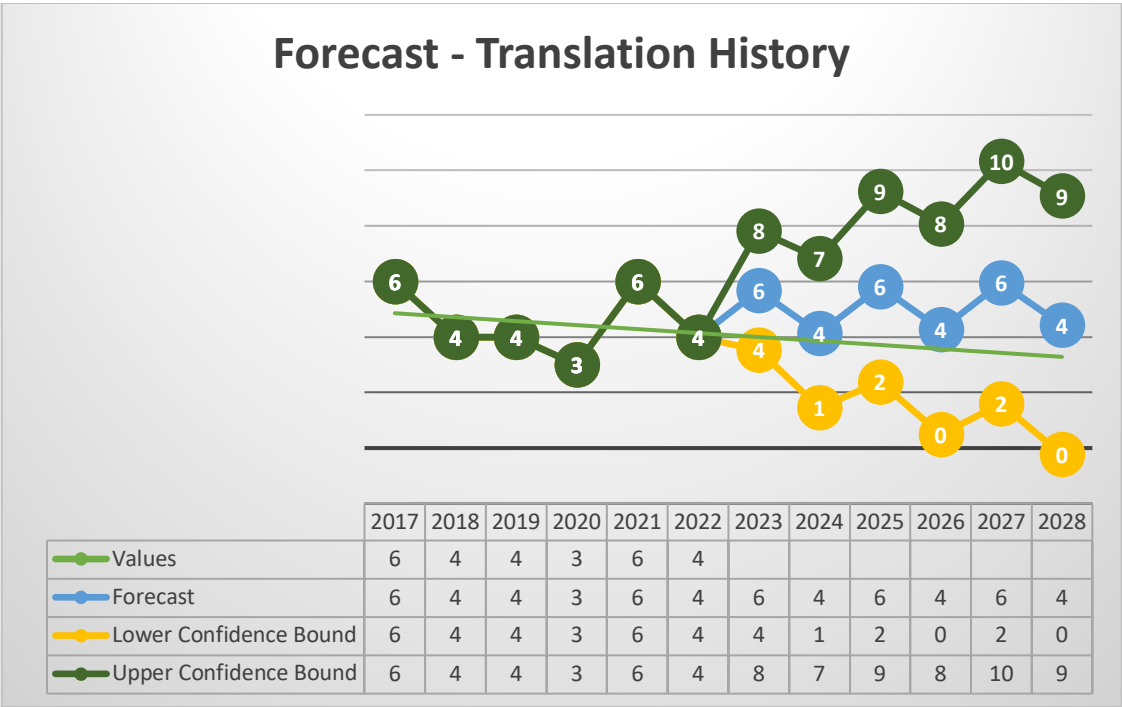
	TH	SP	TMT
Real Total (2017-2022)	27	18	26
Projected Total (2023-2028)	30	15	24
Real + Projected Total (2017-2028)	57	33	50
Lower Confidence Percentage Total	134%	3% (null)	75% (null)
Higher Confidence Percentage Total	290%	369%	313%
Average Percentage Total	212%	186%	194%

Table 25 – Forecast – All Three Specific Themes

As explained in the introduction to this thesis, while projections provide quantitative insight, they are restricted to mathematical data based on historical trends, not accounting for external influences. While this progression is purely mathematical, and does not take into account external non-numerical factors, two hypotheses can be posited to elucidate possible reasons behind this projected large increase that go beyond mathematics.

According to Hermans (2022: 101), Memory Studies, an academic branch of History Studies, has only recently begun paying attention to translation as a practice, and,

consequently, as a field of study. Considering these newfound links between TS and Memory Studies, the ITr-TH intersection seems to be positioned for growth in the upcoming years. Memory Studies could benefit from Genetic Translation Studies (GTS), and, consequently, from ITr genealogy.



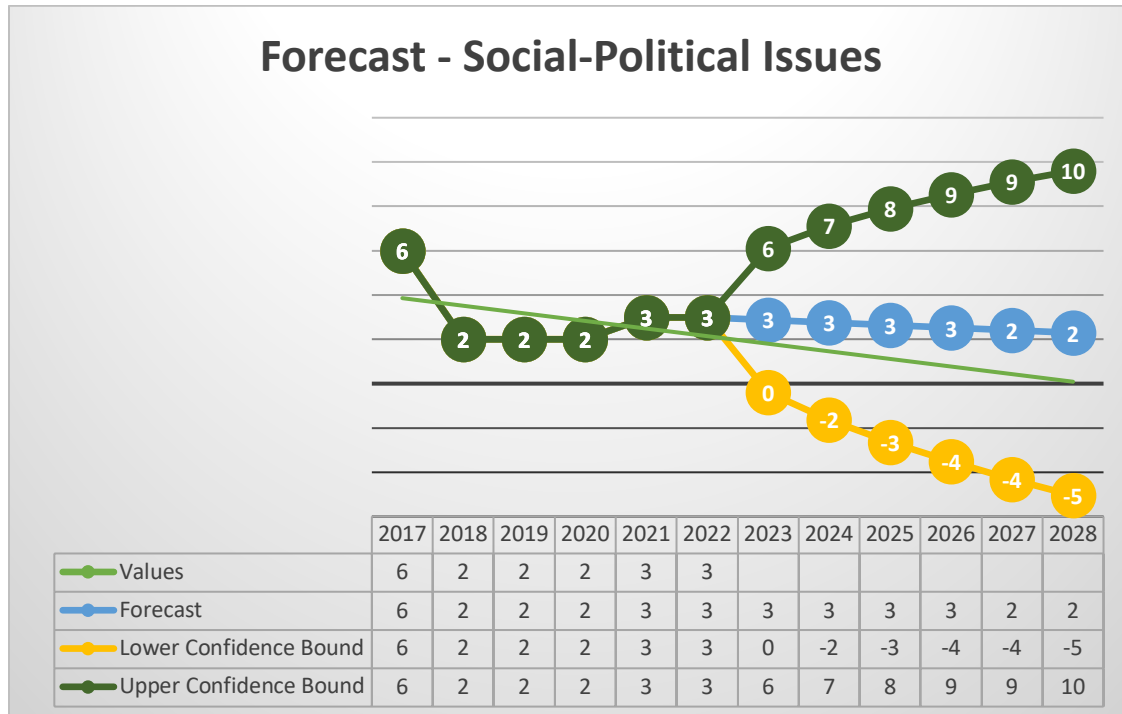
Graph 16 – Forecast – TH

In GTS, *endogenetic*⁷⁶ materials, such as drafts or manuscripts, or *exogenetic*⁷⁷ materials, such as letters or interviews, are used to trace the different phases of the translation process (Nunes, Moura & Pacheco Pinto 2021: 2). Ivaska (2021: 71), for instance, addresses GTS as an avenue in identifying the genesis of compilative translations, which also involves ITr chains. Hadley (2023: 20) even suggests that assessing the relative probability of a given translation being indirect would be a major contribution to knowledge to ITr research and, by extension TS in general. Given that translations play an important role in the “migration, mutation and maintenance of memories” (Hermans 2022: 108), and that

⁷⁶ Italicised for emphasis.

⁷⁷ Italicised for emphasis.

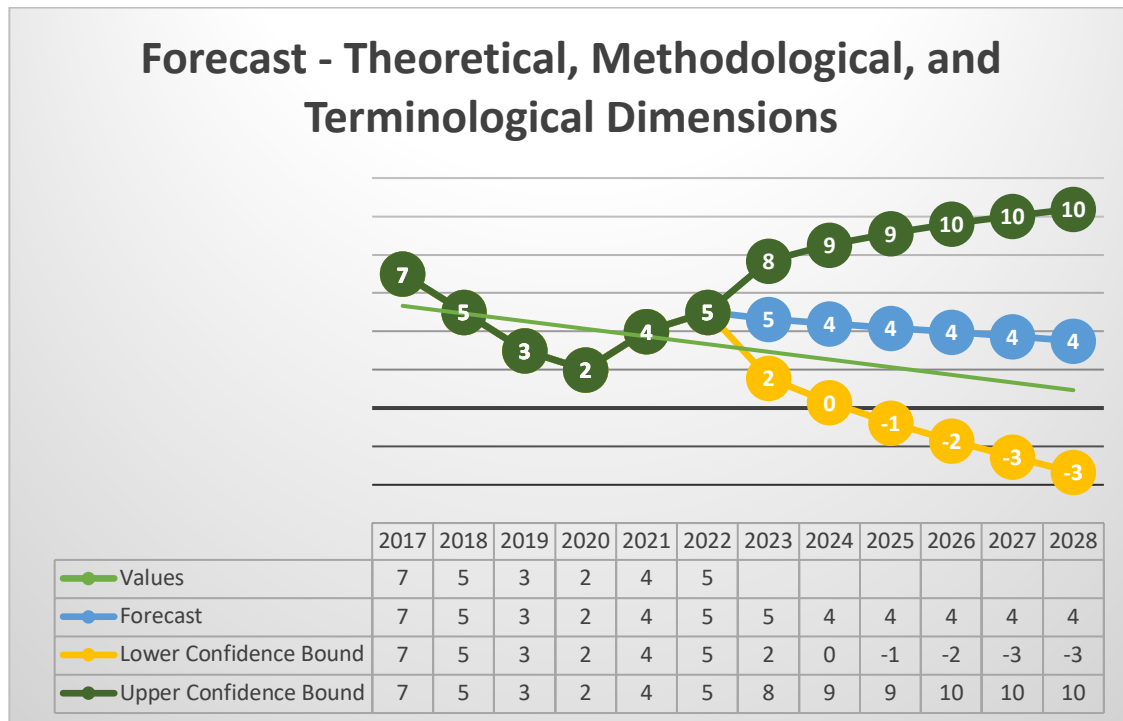
memories and “source texts can exist in immaterial forms” (Ivaska 2021: 84), exploring ITr genealogy, and, consequently, ITrs as primary materials, to collect data on facts and memories of historical events seems reasonable. Therefore, it could be argued that GTS will emerge as a viable research avenue connecting Memory Studies, Historical Studies and ITr research in future.



Graph 17 – Forecast – SP

The second hypothesis is related to Microhistory. Microhistory is a small-scale approach to history writing that focuses on previously neglected facts or individuals to shed light onto larger issues (Gleeson 2024: 25; Atefmehr & Farahzad 2021: 56; Burke 2008: 262). Hermans (2022: 56) argues that Microhistory is an “attractive path to take for students of translation”. Due to its reduced scale, “Microhistory offers a convenient format for Master’s dissertations, doctoral theses and other relatively inexpensive research projects of short to medium duration” (ibid.). Because 15 of the 130 textual materials are student works, including Master’s dissertations, BA theses, and Doctoral theses, and that projections align with this trend, it can be inferred that Microhistory may emerge as a topic of study in TH that

intersects with ITr in future⁷⁸.Cordingley (2020: 212) argues that GTS and Microhistory are complementary methodologies that can both be applied to “counter hegemonic narratives that have marginalized or neglected persons, minorities or cultures”. Neglected persons, minorities or cultures are part of SP themes. SP themes, however, do not appear to be on a trajectory of statistical growth in the coming years, nor does TMT.



Graph 18 – Forecast – TMT

When comparing the real number of published studies at the ITr-TH intersection (i.e., 27) with those at the ITr-TMT intersection (i.e., 26), the projected research growth may initially appear counterintuitive, given the minimal difference in existing publications. Despite their nearly identical publication counts, TH is expected to experience an average increase of 212%, whereas TMT is expected to increase by 194%, resulting in an 18% difference between their anticipated trajectories. A similarly counterintuitive pattern emerges when comparing

⁷⁸ One notable example from the textual corpus is the abstract by Galletti & Shajiei (2021). It deals with Microhistory and ITr in the context of Persian literature.

TMT and SP. Although the total number of publications in these two subtopics differs significantly, the projected growth difference is only 8% (see Table 25). To account for these discrepancies, three hypotheses are proposed.

As discussed earlier, it is possible that future studies focusing on TMT will not experience a substantial growth due to the thorough systematic-review-oriented publications in the preceding six years, especially in the 2017 Special Issue. Expanding on this hypothesis, it is possible that terminological discussions are likely to decrease, while methodological and theoretical research could expand, driven by the increasing volume of ITr studies (see Chapter 1). As a result, the total number of ITr-TMT outputs may experience a slight decrease, going from 26 (present) to 24 (future) (see Table 25). Lastly, it is possible that other dimensions of ITr-SP research will garner attention in the upcoming years, diverging from the ones proposed by interviewees and, therefore, not included in this chapter. For instance, intersections between ITr and studies on race, age, or disabilities may diversify SP-related research. As a result, it is not that SP-related research will generally decrease. Rather, research focusing on the specific subtopics analysed in this chapter, such as ‘gender/sexuality’, may experience an overall decrease.

4. Thematic Landscape of ITr Research: Overarching Themes

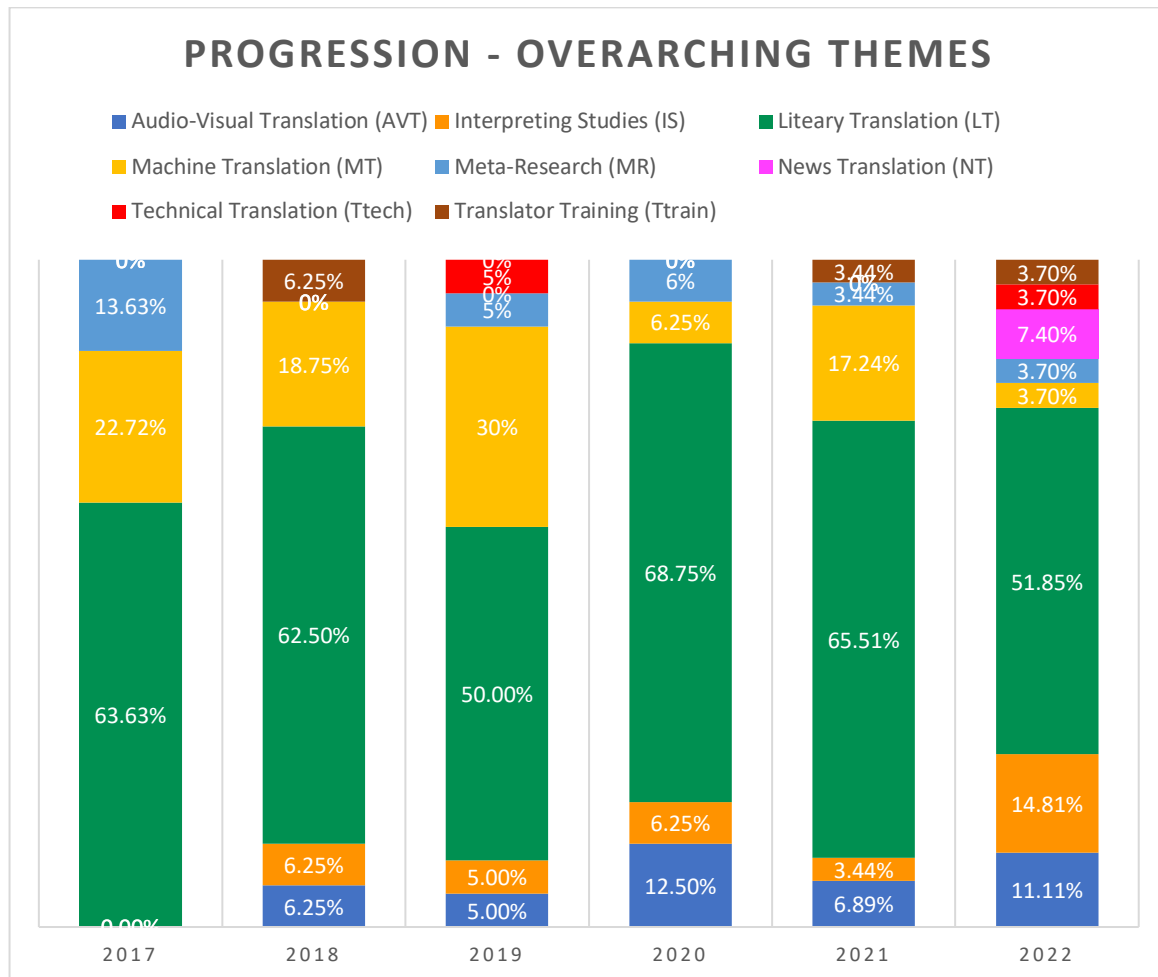
4.1. Past (1963-2016)

Pięta’s (2017: 200) results are outlined as follows:

1. Most published ITr research is about the translation of literature.
2. ITr studies focusing on indirect audio-visual translation are sparse, and they have emerged only recently (i.e., after the 2000’s).
3. ITr research on subjects such as scientific and technical translation are nearly absent from this period.

4.2. Present (2017-2022)

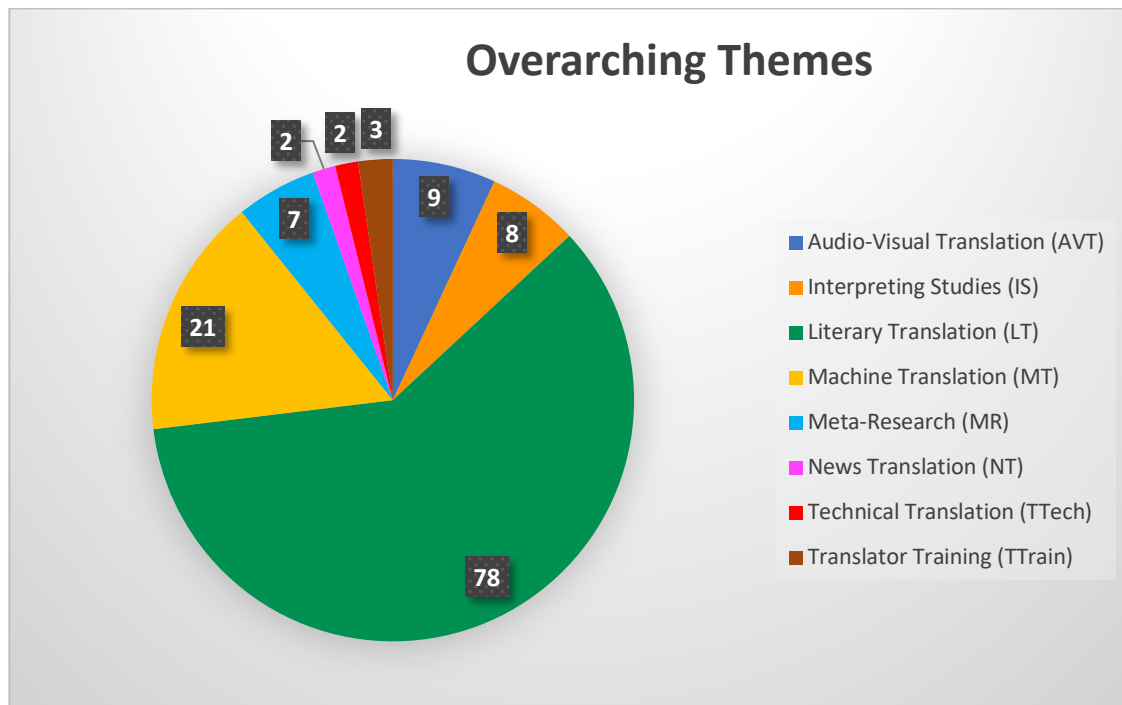
4.2.1. Statistical Overview



Graph 19 – Overarching Themes – Statistics

Unlike the specific themes, there is a clear ubiquitous dominance in the overarching themes. As depicted in Graph 19, LT maintains its position as the predominant overarching theme throughout the present period, consistently accounting for 50% or more of the total publications, in line with the past period. However, in both 2019 and 2022, there is a decrease of more than 12% in LT-focused research. This decrease seems logical considering that 2019 marks the year when MT reaches its highest volume of publications. In that year, the

combined contributions of LT and MT represent 80% of all ITr publications. However, in 2022, this pattern does not persist. 2022 stands out as the year with greater thematic diversity. It is the only year to encompass all eight overarching themes. Although LT remains the predominant overarching theme in 2022, the thematic variety observed that year may suggest a potential trend towards incorporating a wider range of thematic combinations in future ITr research.



Graph 20 – Overarching Themes – Total Numbers

In the context of thematic diversity, Meta-Research (MR) emerges as another overarching theme of particular significance. MR is regarded as the highest scientific level for synthesising results from various analyses (Luchini et al. 2021: 185-186), potentially paving the way for research to bridge different overarching themes and specific topics. MR's consistent presence across most years, with the exception of 2018, suggests a steady interest in examining the ITr subfield as a subject in its own right, potentially to identify its strengths and gaps.

4.2.2. Literary Translation (LT)

The past trend of LT being the predominant overarching theme in ITr research continues into the present period. This pattern mirrors the broader trend in Translation Studies, where LT has consistently been the most prominent overarching theme in publications since at least 1997 (Zanettin, Saldanha & Harding 2015: 173). In the textual materials, 78 (60%) are devoted to LT, making its proportion nearly four times greater than that of the second most dominant overarching theme, MT. LT's dominance is further corroborated by Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2023: 845), who found that 58% of their corpus from the same 2017-2022 period was dedicated to LT. Interviewee n° 39 (00:20:30) argues that LT remains the most explored overarching theme in ITr research, claiming there is "greater openness towards indirect translation within the field of Literary Translation than in other areas". This view contrasts sharply with that of Interviewee n° 11 (00:15:24), who argues that both scholars and translators working in LT tend to reject the concept of intermediary texts, and consequently, ITr. Interviewee n° 39's perspective aligns more closely with the publication trends.

Drawing from Rothwell, Way & Youdale (2024: 1), the long-standing perception of LT as an ancient and traditional domain supposedly resistant to other intersections, such as technologies, may play a role in its dominance among the textual materials. It is, therefore, plausible that LT's centrality in ITr research reflects its broader influence in the broader field of TS, rather than being confined to ITr alone. According to Jones (2020: 295), LT's centrality, and perhaps even its monopoly within TS, allows for the development of translation theories due to its vast cultural scope, encompassing multiple languages and millennia-long corpora. Although Cronin (2003: 2) argues that LT does not "enjoy a monopoly of attention and prestige in the academy", he also acknowledges that his experience as a teacher and external examiner has consistently exposed him to the "marked predominance of literary topics in dissertation and thesis work". Similarly, Koster (2014: 140) claims that even in cultures where translation is considered a marginal practice, LT remains the most prestigious form of translation, carrying the greatest cultural significance. As a result, from a quantitative perspective, LT is "historically the most discussed form of translation" (*ibid.*). For this reason, considering that LT is an established practice in academia with an increasing number of

schooled practitioners emerging from it (Wright 2016: 3), it could be argued that many scholars are only familiar with ITr as a direct result of their experience with LT. This hypothesis is supported by the fact that 31 (63.26%) interviewees claim to have LT brought them to ITr research. However influential LT may be on TS as a whole, it is also possible to raise two hypotheses that are specific to ITr: methodological challenges, and overspecialisation.

The prevalence of LT as the dominant overarching theme might also be attributed to the methodological challenges in finding primary sources across ITr research (Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier in Davier et al. 2023: 826). If translation as a whole is an “ill-defined category” even in the largest bibliographical databases (Hermans 2022: 28-29), then identifying ITrs and gathering them as primary materials becomes further complicated. While identifying ITrs in literature can be difficult due to mistrust towards paratexts and contradictory paratextual information (Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al. 2023: 826), it nevertheless appears to be the overarching theme with more readily available research resources. Davier (in Davier et al. 2023: 827), for instance, explains that, contrary to LT, scholars working on News Translation (NT)⁷⁹, do not have the readily available option of searching through archives to try to ascertain whether their primary materials are ITr. For Davier (in Davier et al. 2023: 824), it “is possible that product-oriented research does not have enough tools to identify indirect translations. Even in process-oriented research, the ‘hunt for traces of indirect translation still entails much time-consuming guess work’ (Davier, 2022c)”. The findings of the present period corroborate Davier’s (ibid.) claim, with NT appearing in only two instances, representing 1.53% of the textual corpus. Readily available options do not seem to be a problem for Interpreting Studies (IS), however. Despite it being “beset with methodological challenges much more so than studies of written or audiovisual translation”, in general, it benefits from the immediacy that come with relay interpreting scenarios (Pöschhacker in Davier et al. 2023: 826). Since relay interpreting tends to happen synchronously, documenting ITr practices and identifying source and pivot languages is not usually a challenge (ibid.).

Beyond methodological challenges, another potential factor contributing to the predominance of LT is overspecialisation, which may lead researchers to overlook ITr.

⁷⁹ A more recent NT article that falls outside the scope of this thesis is Tovar & van Doorslaer (2024).

Interviewee nº 32 (00:54:51), for instance, suggests that TS researchers often explore topics that fall within or relate to ITr without realising it. Interviewees nº 16 (00:35:02) and nº 30 (01:22:35), however, argue that even when researchers intentionally engage with ITr, they often remain bound to their familiar areas of expertise, limiting their exploration of the phenomenon's broader nuances and, ultimately, leading to overspecialisation. While specialisation in all fields of knowledge contributes to the establishment of normative standards and promotes methodological rigour in experimental research, excessive specialisation (or overspecialisation) carries the risk of “monopoly, monotony, and isolation” (Casadevall & Fang 2014: 1355), or continuously reinventing the wheel (Basiri 2021: 502). Although it may be premature to conclude that overspecialisation is a defining characteristic of TS or ITr research, it is possible that LT's dominance is a natural consequence of researchers operating in their areas of expertise or personal interest. Neither of these reasons is necessarily detrimental. However, it is worth monitoring whether ITr research will become overly confined to LT, potentially leading to a subfield that is increasingly monopolised, monotonous, and isolated.

4.2.3. Audio-Visual Translation (AVT) and Machine Translation (MT)

Another recurring overarching theme, present in almost every year except for 2017, is AVT. While there has been a growing interest in AVT research over the past two to three decades (Keating & O'Sullivan 2022: 435; Doorslaer 2020: 140), Interviewee nº 47 (00:43:24) argues that the intersection between ITr and AVT is “just now beginning” to be explored in academia. However, the phrase “just now beginning” may carry different interpretations. Agulló Garcia (in Agulló Garcia et al. 2024: 3), for instance, offers a more detailed account, suggesting that ITr has gained significant relevance in the AVT industry over the past five to eight years. Despite these claims, verifying ITr-AVT's evolution through statistical analysis proves challenging, since there is no statistical evidence on the past period. While it can be seen from Graph 19 that there are no ITr-AVT outputs in 2017, this overarching theme is consistently present in the years that follow. This observation suggests that research into the ITr-AVT intersection may indeed be in its early stages.

In the past period, AVT research was relatively limited, but experienced growth after the 2000s. However, in the present period, there appears to have been little evolution, as only 6.92% (9 in total) of the textual materials focus on AVT. Conversely, over double the proportion of interviewees explicitly mention having conducted research on the intersection between ITr and AVT, that is: 16.32% (8 researchers in total). A comparable pattern is observed in the findings of Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2023: 845), with a slight variation of 2.51%, as 9.43% of textual materials in their study are dedicated to AVT. In contrast to Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier's (ibid.) findings, AVT does not emerge as the second most frequently analysed overarching theme in this thesis, but as the third. Instead, MT ranks as second, with a total of 21 (16.15%) outputs, more than double the number of outputs dedicated to AVT. Even though MT research experiences major fluctuations in the present, aside from LT, it is the only overarching theme to maintain its presence throughout the entire period. Four hypotheses can be proposed to explain the greater focus on MT compared to AVT.

Although both domains are related to technology, technology alone cannot explain the discrepancy between AVT and MT. However, nuance can be explored in this regard. Based on Mohsen, Althebi & Albahooth (2023: 2-3), it is observable that the fast-evolving pace of MT is an important nuance to emerging technologies. The advent of Neural Network-based approaches to MT, for instance, marked a transformative moment in the MT landscape: "[...] from 2016 the neural approach became the preferred method for automatic translation systems in almost all use-cases [...]" (Rothwell, Way & Youdale 2024: 7). For this reason, it is possible to speculate that further research on the subject is in progress, particularly in light of Large Language Models (LLMs), such as DeepSeek or ChatGPT, which are attracting great academic interest (Rothwell, Way & Youdale 2024: 9). A direct consequence of research on software development is research on fixing performance bugs. For Tufano et al. (2019: 19), researchers have proposed many approaches aimed at automatically repairing programs to assist practitioners, specifically programmers, in their activity. It might, therefore, be the case that research on improving the use of technology in AVT is not as prominent as it is in MT. Mohsen, Althebi & Albahooth (2023: 13) have found that the major thematic cluster in MT research focuses on how MT can simulate human translations and achieve comparable

quality. This does not seem to be the case for research on AVT. This hypothesis raises the question: Is the discussion of translation quality in AVT research limited to human translation? While outputs such as Georgakopoulou (2019) and Oziemblewska and Szarkowska (2020) examine quality concerns in subtitling templates, their work does not explicitly address technological applications.

This discrepancy between MT and AVT in ITr research might also be explained by the potential communication gaps between scholars and practitioners. For instance, Torres-Simón et al. (2021: 274), one of the outputs of the textual corpus, addresses the gap between academia and industry when discussing TS curricula. A more recent publication, not encompassed in the textual corpus, also addresses the (lack of) relationship between scholars and practitioners:

[...] close collaboration between the industry and academia can be useful, as long as it recognizes that all stakeholders in the exchange have different aims and goals. Inter-sector collaboration should understand that the role of universities is not limited to providing highly trained translators but critical language professionals who are independent and can act as decision-makers in the market (Orrego-Carmona in Agulló Garcia et al. 2024: 14-15).

The hypothesis of a communication gap between scholars and practitioners is supported by the following statement made by Interviewee's nº 47, a TS scholars and audio-visual translator:

I think it cannot be stressed enough that it is very important, and especially in pivot translation in the audio-visual sector, to narrow the gap between academics and those who actually do subtitling. [...] We can shed light on both sides and make them understand each other's challenges and questions. This can lead to a sort of mentoring system where they help each other out (Interviewee's nº 47 – 00:55:28; 00:03:55).

Parallel to the LT dominance hypothesis, another possibility emerges: practitioners themselves may lack awareness of their use of intermediary texts or templates, potentially creating barriers for AVT scholar-translator collaboration. This hypothesis is supported by Interviewee nº 47:

I could tell [that I was doing an indirect translation] since the template was in English and the original series or film was in a language I didn't have any command of. [...]

As I already knew what an indirect translation was, I knew that was the case, but I was never told that I was going to do one. Originally, I was just going to translate from a template. No one informed me that it was an indirect translation, not the company, not the client, it was all me. Because of the knowledge I already had, I realised what it was (Interviewee's n° 47 – 00:01:42; 00:02:03).

It could be argued that even when aware of ITr in AVT, translators, and perhaps even scholars, may be too sceptical about ITr as a practice to intentionally create a demand for further research to improve it. Once again, according to Interviewee n° 47 (00:03:55), “translators and subtitlers often have a negative attitude towards indirect translation. They think it has no quality, and that it shouldn't be done”. A different perspective on MT research is offered by Interviewee n° 6, a CS scholar, who suggests that pivoting techniques in MT research do not seem to face resistance, as they are a common practice. Based on this statement, it appears that AVT may be more confined to the field of TS, whereas MT is approached from a range of interdisciplinary perspectives. These include Literary Translation (e.g., Castilho & Resende 2021; Rothwell, Way & Youdale 2024), Computational Linguistics (e.g., Andrabi & Wahid 2021), Language Teaching (e.g., Resende & Way 2021), Localisation and Training (e.g., O'Brien & Rossetti 2021), and Artificial Intelligence (e.g., Baum 2020). This hypothesis does not suggest that AVT lacks interdisciplinary engagement, but rather that MT is itself interdisciplinarity-oriented. As different disciplines and subfields come together to research the same overarching theme, and, consequently, a greater number of scholars and experts dedicate themselves to these studies, more research can be anticipated between ITr and MT, rather than between ITr and AVT. Interviewee n° 11 (00:15:24; 00:17:19), however, maintains a hopeful outlook, anticipating increased scholarly attention to both ITr-AVT intersections and AVT research as a whole:

[...] people seem more interested in other fields of research right now. But maybe with the *Squid Game*⁸⁰ controversy. And with all that controversy, and the creation of templates, which actually came from Korean, at least now audio-visual

⁸⁰ *Squid Game* (in Korean: 오징어 게임; Romanised: *Ojing-eo geim*) is a South Korean series created by Hwang Dong-hyuk for Netflix, the online streaming platform, in 2021. This controversy is mentioned in Choi, Kim & Evans (2023: 322), Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2022: 351), and explained in both Cho (2021) and Ravindran (2022).

translation is something that is gaining momentum. [...] And I can feel, I can see that indirect translation in audio-visual translation is going to grow, especially given the recent debates around Netflix translating (Interviewee nº 11 – 00:15:24; 00:17:19).

4.2.4. Technical Translation (TTech)

In the past, ITr research on scientific and technical translation was nearly absent. This continues to be the case in the present, with TTech representing only two (1.53%) of the outputs. The proportion of interviewees who specifically mention researching TTech is also low, amounting to only two (4.08%) specifically disclosing it. These findings closely match Cabezas-García & León-Araúz's (2023: 256) claim that literature has been the main focus of attention in ITr research, "whereas research on indirect translation in scientific texts is virtually non-existent". This claim matches the results reported by Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2023: 845), confirming that TTech's presence in ITr research is only marginal.

Considering that computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools were "initially developed for technical translation" (Youdale & Rothwell 2022: 381) and the prominent role of MT in ITr research, it seems contradictory that the proportion of ITr-TTech research remains low. This observation is all the more significant in light of the growing use of CAT tools by practitioners (ibid.), a trend that would arguably attract scholarly attention. However, TTech is still regarded as "the poor cousin" of TS or the "ugly duckling of translation" (Byrne 2006: 1). Interviewee nº 45 (00:41:40) argues that TTech is not just marginalised in ITr research, but in TS as a whole: "[...] one thing I've noticed when it comes to Translation [Studies]⁸¹ is that there's a ton of research dedicated to literature. However, when you dive into the tradition of technical and legal texts, things can get a little more skewed". Interviewee nº 45's impression is corroborated by empirical data. A survey⁸² conducted by Aixelá (2004: 7) revealed that, out of the twenty-thousand collected materials, up to September 2003, only 1,905 publications (9.3%) were dedicated to TTech⁸³. While it could be argued that this data

⁸¹ Added to give context and clarify interviewee's statement.

⁸² These entries were gathered in the Bibliography of Interpreting and Translation (BITRA).

⁸³ More recent TTech-related articles that fall outside the scope of this thesis include Montero-Martínez (2023) and Orang'I (2025).

is not up-to-date, despite TTech's overwhelming demand in the translation market, there still "are several stubbornly persistent myths about technical translation's importance, nature and role both in industry and within academia" (Byrne 2006: 2).

Owing to the misconception that research on TTech tends to revolve around terminological issues (Byrne 2006: 3) and that it is a highly specialised overarching theme or subfield (Byrne 2006: 5), there could be an assumption that ITrs are less likely to happen in the translation market due to the *Concatenation Effect Hypothesis*. This hypothesis predicts that ITrs "exhibit a proclivity towards omitting cultural elements particular to their source cultures and also towards downplaying the foreign origins of their source texts" (Hadley 2017: 183). As a result, there might also be an assumption from scholars that there simply is not enough primary materials to analyse, or that tracing the genealogy of a translation chain is too methodologically challenging.

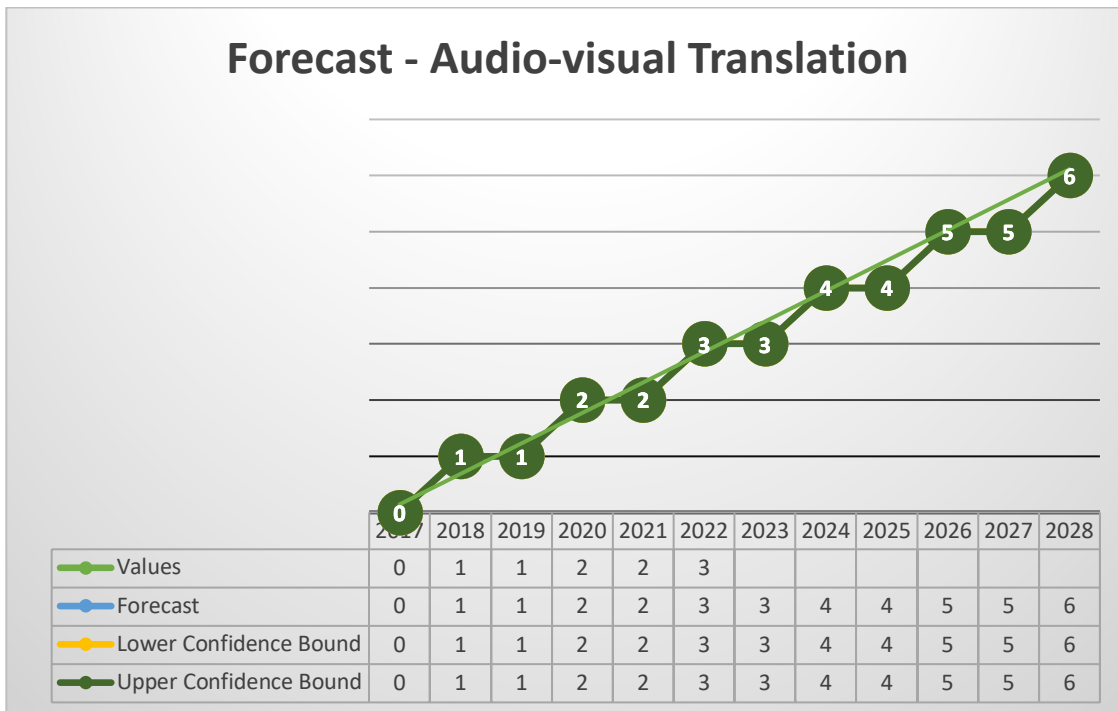
Finally, an alternative perspective of a more nuanced nature can be contemplated. Contemporary scholarship has been addressing "problematic and non-equivalent lexical and conceptual categories through cultural recontextualization" (Folaron 2020: 206), and therefore, inspiring "retranslation of known technical and scientific texts" (ibid.). Consequently, it could be inferred that research on TTech may be more often explored in the context of retranslation rather than ITr. Conversely, given that retranslation, both as a practice and a term, has often been used synonymously with ITr (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 115; Bauer 1999: 20), research on the ITr-TTech intersection in the context of retranslation may not always acknowledge ITr explicitly. As a result, it might not be that there is limited research on this intersection, but rather that researchers are overlooking it.

4.3. Future (2023-2028)

It appears that Interviewee n° 11's hope for increased ITr-AVT research, a view also supported by Pięta et al. (2024: 775), is likely to materialise (see Graph 21 and Table 26, next page). As Interviewee n° 11 suggests, the use of pivot/pivoting templates may gain greater visibility both in popular circles and in academia, particularly in light of recent debates surrounding streaming services (e.g., see Cho 2021 and Ravindran 2022).

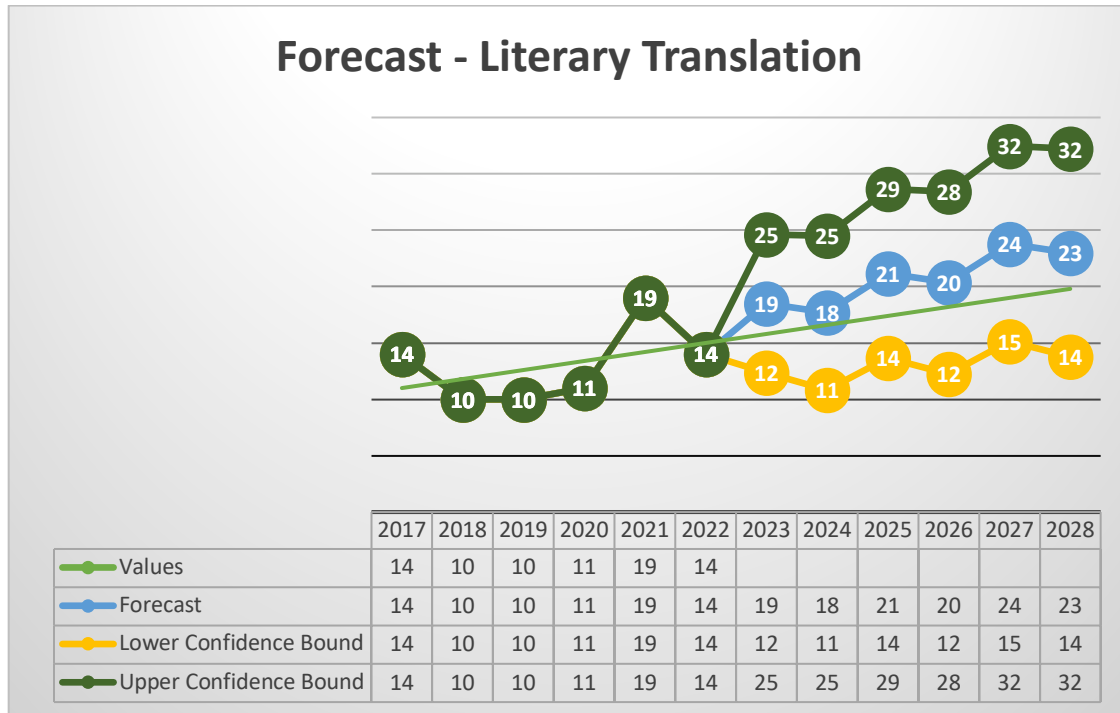
	LT	AVT	TTECH	MT
Real Total (2017-2022)	78	9	2	21
Projected Total (2023-2028)	124	27	6	8
Real + Projected Total (2017-2028)	202	36	8	29
Lower Confidence Percentage Total	200%	400%	124%	85%
Higher Confidence Percentage Total	319%	400%	634%	193%
Average Percentage Total	260%	400%	379%	139%

Table 26 – Forecast – All Overarching Themes



Graph 21 – Forecast – AVT

Future trends expect that LT will continue to be the most explored overarching theme in ITr publications. Although its growth is slower than that of AVT and TTech, this difference holds little significance given that the numbers for AVT and TTech are more than eight times (AVT) and over 39 times (TTech) smaller than those for LT. This means that even minor increases in total numbers can already result in large proportional jumps.



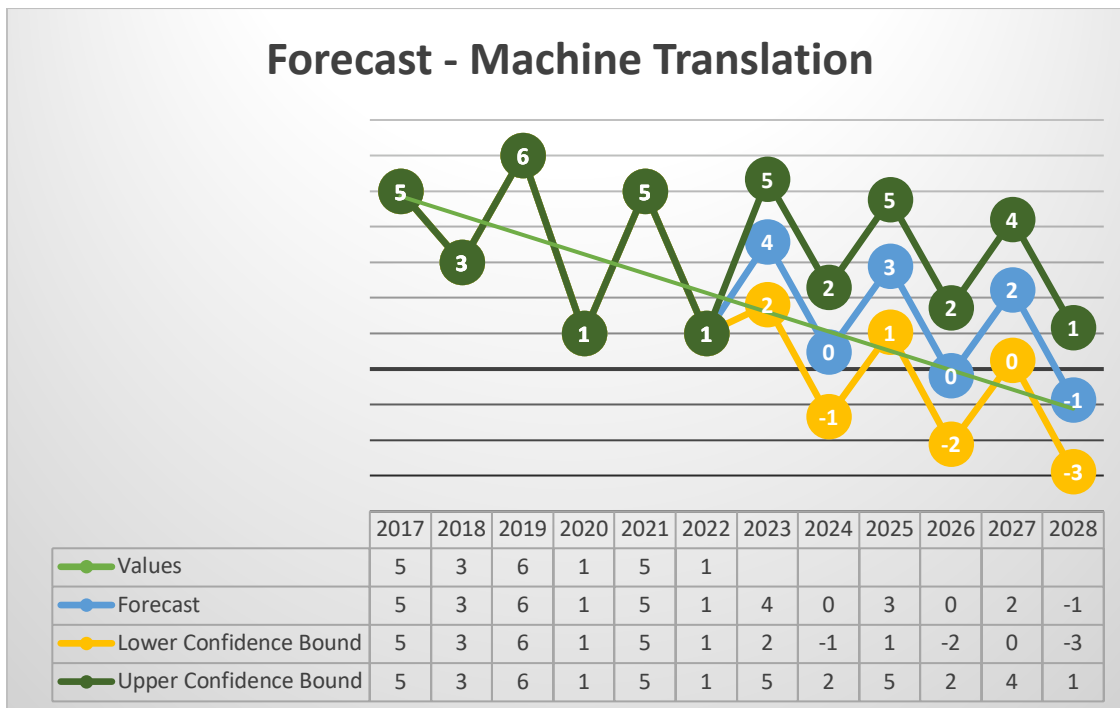
Graph 22 – Forecast – LT

As previously discussed, it could be argued that LT will remain the dominant overarching theme due to its already marked predominance in TS (Cronin 2003: 2; Koster 2014: 140). However, similarly to the hypothesis raised in the future projections of the specific themes, Memory Studies can also be a possible point of connection between ITr and LT. This intersection may not be limited to ITr and LT alone, but also involve technology. A different form of ‘memory’ could act as a bridge between LT and technological advancements: ‘Translation Memories’. A Translation Memory (TM) is:

[...] essentially a database consisting of parallel texts aligned as translation units (sentences or similar segments such as titles and captions). When a translator uses the TM in a computer-assisted translation environment, the software segments the source text and compares the unit being translated against the source language

units stored in the TM. If one or more similar segments are found, the software presents them to the translator as a suggestion to reuse the previous translation. The translator may accept a suggested segment, revise it as necessary, or reject the suggestion completely and write a new one. The new or revised translation unit is then saved in the TM for potential reuse (Koponen, Nyqvist & Taivalkoski-Shilov 2022: 184).

Based on the information above, the use of TMs in computer-assisted environments allows translators to work more efficiently while storing data from multiple translations. This capability is particularly significant in contexts where collaborative and compilative translation practices are prevalent. As such, it can be argued that TMs could play a key role in identifying source texts, compilative translations, and, by extension, ITr chains, as proposed by Ivaska (2021). In this regard, TMs can serve as a point of intersection between ITr, LT, technology, and MT.



Graph 23 – Forecast – MT

MT, amongst the analysed overarching themes, is the only one that is likely to decrease in total numbers in future. This might seem contradictory, especially when considering the fast-evolving pace of MT (Mohsen, Althebi & Albahooth 2023: 2-3). However, three hypotheses can be suggested regarding the factors contributing to this.

The first hypothesis relates to categorisation. The separation of overarching themes in this chapter is highly specific, and as such, future projections do not account for potential intersections between them. Consequently, it is possible that ITr-MT research that overlaps with LT research is being categorised as ITr-LT only. The second hypothesis concerns a shift in methodologies. Given that all present-period MT publications involve experiments, it is possible that future MT research may move away from testing pivoting techniques. This hypothesis suggests that MT research could focus more on developing NM systems for direct translation, for instance, rather than ITr systems, potentially leading to an overall decrease in ITr-MT research. The third hypothesis offers an alternative perspective. It is possible that the more structured research resulting from the experiments conducted in the present period will continue into the projected period. Once again, since all ITr-MT publications in the present involve experiments, and the corpus analysed here excludes academic books, and thus, so do the projections, it can be argued that more research may be published as monographs or edited collections, rather than conference proceedings.

5. Conclusion

This chapter posed three questions, with the first asking whether there is any indication of evolution between past and present in the thematic scenario of ITr research. The analysis concludes that the thematic landscape in ITr research has only partially changed between past and present. Regarding specific themes, it is no longer valid to claim that most published research on ITr is focused on the historical aspects of translation, since ITr-TH represents about a fifth of present publications. TH's dominance is not sustained throughout the entire period. While TH has higher total values, it cannot be considered the most focused specific theme in ITr research, as it was in the past. Regarding overarching themes, the past configuration persists in the present, with LT continuing to be at the focus of scholarly publications on ITr research. The ITr-AVT intersection remains limited, amounting to only 6.92% of outputs. Even sparser than AVT is the ITr-TTech intersection, which represents only 1.53% of all publications. A specific discussion related to AVT was its connection to MT. The

analysis explored whether AVT research focusing on translation quality is restricted to human translation. This matter gives rise to three potential future research questions:

- Why are pivoting techniques or the analysis of pivot/pivoting templates not so frequently approached from the perspective of technology in the ITr-AVT thematic intersection?
- What possible themes related to technology can bridge the gap between AVT and MT research in ITr research?
- How can ITr-AVT research benefit methodologically from ITr-MT research?

The second question addressed in this chapter concerns whether scholars' perceptions of themes align with the thematic landscape of publications. The analysis reveals that, for the specific themes, scholars' perceptions often exceed the reality of published research. For instance, there is nearly a 12% gap between the number of research publications and the number of interviewees who proposed research questions concerning the ITr-TH intersection. A more pronounced discrepancy is observed in the ITr-TMT intersection, where 30.61% of interviewees mention this theme, yet fewer than half of them propose related research questions. In contrast, the ITr-SP intersection shows minimal variation when comparing textual data with interview data. While 16.32% of interviewees pose questions related to SP, and 13.84% of the publications specifically address it, the difference between these figures appears minor and likely not significant. However, when comparing the textual materials with interviewees who claim to have worked on or expressed an interest in SP (i.e., 30.61%), perception exceeds reality by more than twofold. Regarding the overarching themes, as noted in this chapter's introduction, the multifaceted nature of research questions posed by interviewees often spans multiple overarching themes, resulting in the impossibility of direct statistical comparison between perception and reality.

However, upon comparing the varied statements from interviewees, it is concluded that interviewees' perception tends to match reality. When it comes to the ITr-LT intersection, 81.63% of interviewees explicitly mention having conducted research on this thematic crosscut, and 60% of the textual materials are dedicated to it. ITr research seems to enjoy greater receptivity when studied in combination with LT. Among the interviewees who

discuss the ITr-AVT intersection, their collective perspective leans towards the notion that this thematic crosscut is not extensively explored in academia. This perspective aligns with reality. As previously noted, only 6.92% of the analysed textual materials focus on AVT. Similarly, interviewees alluding to the ITr-TTech intersection seem to agree that research on it is comparatively limited to that of other thematic crosscuts, such as ITr-LT. Their perspective aligns with empirical findings, with only 1.53% of ITr publications focusing on TTech.

The third question asked whether any shifts in ITr's thematic landscape can be expected from present to future. The analysis concludes that there will likely be no major shifts between present and future. It is expected that TH will continue to be the dominant specific theme among the three (TH, SP, and TMT). LT is also expected to remain the central overarching theme of ITr publications. MT, however, is projected to decrease. This chapter corroborates the findings of Chapter 1 regarding the quadrilateral relationship between conference proceedings, MT research, co-authorship, and the English language in the context of ITr. However, no clear correlation is identified between this configuration and the specific themes analysed in the present chapter. To uncover potential connections between the quadrilateral relationship and the specific themes, it may prove advantageous to first examine the dominant specific themes in MT research. From there, it would be possible to assess whether these specific themes also encompass ITr and whether they are predominantly published in English, in conference proceedings, and through co-authorship.

The decision to classify each textual object according to specific and overarching themes based on hypotheses and research questions was one viable approach. An alternative approach could be based on the general aims of the textual materials, potentially affording a more expansive range of topics for exploration. Nonetheless, a broader array of topics might have resulted in a larger statistical dispersion, consequently lowering the statistical significance of each individual specific and overarching theme.

The strategy used to define each specific and overarching theme intended to establish clear and precise analytical criteria. This process involved delineating the boundaries of each theme in a rigid manner. As a result, elements such as paratexts are categorised only under LT. With different selection criteria, these elements could also be classified as TTech, for

instance. Adopting alternative categorisation methods could yield different results than those presented in this chapter. Establishing flexible boundaries among the selected categories may contribute to a more holistic understanding of what constitutes each of them. These results could serve as the foundation for analysing the interconnections among the distinctive characteristics of each specific and overarching theme. To propel the analysis of the distinctive characteristics within each specific theme and their overall interconnections, an alternative methodological approach would involve categorising which specific themes correspond to which overarching themes and vice versa. Future research endeavours could contemplate the following questions:

- What patterns emerge when focusing on the specific themes approached by overarching themes on ITr research?
- What patterns emerge when focusing on the overarching themes approached by specific themes on ITr research?
- How can varied modes of schematisation contribute to the analysis of specific and overarching themes in both ITr and TS research?

Not being able to conduct a direct statistical comparison between perception and reality when analysing the overarching themes, partially limited the chapter's analysis. Future research that is not constrained by the same limitations and employs interviews as a methodological approach may take the following questions into consideration.

- What overarching theme(s) do you tend to explore when researching ITr?
- What informed your decision to explore this/these overarching theme(s)?
- What overarching theme(s) would you like to explore when researching ITr?
- What might be keeping you from exploring overarching themes other than the one(s) you outlined?
- What strategies would you propose for overcoming these obstacles?

The first chapter of this thesis mapped the overall terrain of ITr research, and this chapter uncovered its themes. But another question remains unanswered: Is terminology the invisible architect of this field? The next chapter crosses linguistic borders, exploring the clash and convergence of Anglophone and Lusophone terms in ITr research.

CHAPTER 3:

TERMINOLOGY IN ITR RESEARCH

- “The scant attention paid to indirect translation is also visible in the lack of consensus concerning the metalanguage involved” (Pięta 2012: 311).
- “[...] even when they acknowledge the unstable metalanguage, very few authors offer an explanation for their terminological choices. [...] Many studies take ITr for granted and do not provide any definition of this concept. Other studies provide only *de facto* (not explicit) definitions. As a result, publications offering explicit definitions of the concept in question are few and far between” (Pięta 2014: 18-19).
- “The burgeoning literature on the subject [indirect translation]⁸⁴ has been accompanied by a fluctuating terminology which reveals a lack of consensus concerning the metalanguage used [...]” (Kadiu 2016: 3).

- **1. Introduction**

In the three quotations above, Pięta (2012), Pięta (2014), and Kadiu (2016) engage with the topic of terminology in the context of ITr research. This chapter builds on that framework to answer the following three questions:

4. Is there indication of a past - present terminological evolution?
5. Do scholars’ opinions and perceptions align with terminology usage in the observable publication data?
6. Which present - future shifts in terminology usage can be anticipated?

1.1. Context and Justification

This chapter examines ITr terminology to address the two aims of this thesis, which collectively seek to develop a comprehensive systematic framework of ITr research to inform academic debates on the potential distinguishing features of Translation Studies (TS). Over the years, TS has developed a close relationship with terminology (Bowker & Delsey 2016:

⁸⁴ Added for clarity.

74). While scholars have attempted to reach a minimal consensus on basic terminology, arguing that it could significantly help establish a common understanding in the field (Snell-Hornby 2006: 78), this is rarely achieved (Hermans 2023: 1). This issue extends to many subfields in TS, including journalist translation (Valdeón 2018: 252), pseudotranslation (Bergantino 2023: 251-252), and even ITr (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 2). Because of the ever-evolving nature of TS, even more traditional subfields require newer lexica and constant vocabulary updates, especially given the rapidly increasing pace of technology (Archibald, Catenaccio & Garzone 2020: 5; Cabré 1998: 4). This need for constant terminological updates is also true for ITr, which has historically been noted for having little stability (Assis Rosa & Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 113-114; St. André 2020: 470).

In the three quotations above, Pięta (2012; 2014) and Kadiu (2016) underscore ITr's terminological instability by drawing attention to the lack of consensus and clear justifications for terminological choices in outputs. Pięta's (2012; 2014) argument is further supported by Marin-Lacarta (in Davier et al 2023: 828). Marin-Lacarta (ibid.) suggests that systematic ITr research in Literary Translation (LT), for instance, is fragmented because there is no conceptual agreement or standardised terminology, which poses a significant issue for scholars working with ITr. As noted in the introduction to this thesis (see page 14), Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017: 115) sought to systematise the terminological diversity of ITr by identifying ten terms historically used to describe this process in Anglophone publications. In Lusophone publications, Accácio (2010: 100) identifies four distinct terms that have historically been used to define ITr as a phenomenon. They are as follows:

Terms		English Translation
Portuguese	<i>Tradução de desvio</i>	Deviated translation
	<i>Tradução de segunda(-)mão</i>	Second-hand translation
	<i>Tradução intermediada</i>	Intermediate translation

	<i>Tradução indireta/indirecta</i> ⁸⁵	Indirect translation
English	<i>Indirect translation</i>	--
	<i>Pivot translation</i>	--
	<i>Relay translation</i>	--
	Second-hand translation	--
	Mediated translation	--
	Compilative translation	--
	Double translation	--
	Eclectic translation	--
	Retranslation (Re-translation)	--
	Second-hand translation	--

Table 27 – ITr Terminology: Historical Usage

Accácio (2010: 100) is selected as the benchmark for analysing the terminological history of ITr in Portuguese-language textual materials because it is the only publication referenced as a terminological framework by over half (55%) of Lusophone publications⁸⁶. Drawing on Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017) and Accácio (2010), this chapter focuses on the terminology associated with ITr as a phenomenon. The following subsection details the methodology employed in this chapter.

2. Methodology

The methodology employed in this chapter follows the same reasoning as that outlined in the thesis' introduction. All relevant terms pertaining to the data mining process specific to this chapter are detailed in Appendix 5 (see page 369).

⁸⁵ '*Tradução indireta*' is the Brazilian Portuguese spelling of the term, whereas '*Tradução indirecta*' is the European Portuguese spelling of the term. To simplify references, the term '*tradução indire(c)ta*' will be used for both terms instead of listing them individually each time.

⁸⁶ Carlucci (2017), Leal (2017), Menezes (2017), Rezende (2017), Tanaka (2018), Zhou (2018), Montereis (2019), Cordeiro (2020), Veneranda (2020), Molina & Carvalho (2022), and Sousa Carvalho (2022).

2.1. Textual Materials

The analysis of ITr terminology usage in the textual corpus follows the same data mining steps as those outlined in the introduction to this thesis (see page 46). However, this chapter introduces two additional methodological steps:

1. The analysis of the English-language and Portuguese-language textual materials is done separately. There is a total of 110 Anglophone and 20 Lusophone textual materials.
2. The analysis of the textual materials not only checks for the presence of a specific term in a textual object, but also considers how many times the term is mentioned.

The rationale for the first step lies in the recognition that performing statistical analyses of terminological occurrences across all textual objects as a single corpus would result in a biased analysis because the number of materials in each language differs so markedly. An analysis of terms across the entire textual corpus presupposes that all terms are equally likely to appear in every textual object in both languages. However, while it is conceivable that Portuguese-language publications could reference or even use English-language terms, the reverse scenario seems less probable.

The second step is grounded in the fact that a single textual object can, particularly in its introductory section or literature review, mention terms other than the ones being actively used by that study. For instance, an article can opt for ‘indirect translation’ as its working definition of ITr, while still acknowledging the existence of other terms such as ‘relay translation’ or ‘pivot translation’. To gain a systematic understanding of terminology, a statistical overview of the frequency with which related terms appear inside each textual object is required. Gaining insight into term distribution across the textual corpus enables identifying the primary working term used by each textual object, as well as recognising which terms are acknowledged by them.

In order to establish a timeline of the evolution of ITr terminology from past to present, the analysis of the Anglophone textual materials focuses exclusively on the terms ‘indirect translation(s)’, ‘relay translation(s)’, ‘pivot translation(s)’, ‘mediated translation(s)’,

and ‘second-hand translation(s)’⁸⁷. These five terms are identified by Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017) in their analysis of the past. Directing the analysis toward these same terms offers a systematic framework for assessing the evolution of ITr terminology.

Because the aim of this chapter is to systematically analyse terminology usage to describe ITr as a phenomenon, the analysis of the English-language textual objects is centred on the terms ‘indirect’, ‘relay’, ‘pivot’, ‘mediated’, and ‘second-hand’ specifically paired with the words ‘translation’ or ‘translations’. This targeted approach is adopted to minimise the inclusion of potential variations of these individual terms in the analysis. For instance, the words ‘relay’ and ‘pivot’ can function as verbs in contexts not necessarily associated with ITr, hence the intentional limitation of the analytical scope.

The analysis of the Lusophone outputs follows the same logic as the Anglophone outputs, but it focuses on the terms listed in Table 2 (see page 18)⁸⁸. During the curation process, the English gloss translations of the analysed terms are incorporated as well. This incorporation means that the terms ‘*tradução de retransmissão*’, which translates to ‘relay translation’, and ‘*tradução pivô*’, which translates to ‘pivot translation’, are also included in the terminological curation of the Lusophone textual materials. This approach aims to ascertain whether alternative terms are calques from English terminology in Portuguese-language publications. Additionally, the curation process includes the actual terms in English to determine whether there is any tendency for Lusophone ITr publications to directly use English terminology over Portuguese.

⁸⁷ Possible variations of these terms include ‘relayed translation(s)’, ‘pivoting translation(s)’, and ‘secondhand translation(s)’. The inclusion of these variations in the data mining process serves two purposes: firstly, it accounts for differences in spellings resulting from authors’ geographical and academic backgrounds. Secondly, it takes into consideration that interviewees sometimes refer to these same terms using varying nomenclature. For a full list of terms, see Appendix 5 (pp. 370-371).

⁸⁸ The data mining process incorporates both the Brazilian and European spellings, as well as plural forms of all the terms. For a full list of terms, see Appendix 5.

2.2. Interviews

Six core questions related to terminology are asked to all interviewees⁸⁹:

Number	Question
10	How would you briefly describe the process of translating from translations?
11	How would you <i>not</i> define or describe the process of translating from translations?
12	What is your preferred term in English to describe the process of translating from translations (e.g., indirect, relay, pivot, intermediary etc)?
13	In other languages you speak, what is your preferred term to describe the process of translating from translations?
14	What prompted your terminological choices?
15	Are there any terms you dislike or would not use for any reason?

Table 28 – Core Questions (Chapter 3)

In the course of the interviews, however, a follow-up question was occasionally posed based upon responses to the four preceding questions. Specifically, this question asks whether interviewees have any comments or opinions regarding ITr terminology that they wished to share. The decision to ask this follow-up question is predicated on interviewees' reactions to the six core questions related to terminology. If interviewees exhibit either excitement or discomfort towards a particular term or the discussion of terminology itself, the follow-up question is warranted⁹⁰. This subjective assessment is based on interviewees' apparent emotional responses, such as facial expressions and use of interjections, as well as words like "love" or "hate". Using the word "preferred" when asking questions nº 12 and nº 13 granted interviewees the freedom to interpret the first two questions according to their discretion, which led them the opportunity to mention multiple terms concurrently.

⁸⁹ Full list of questions is outlined in the introduction to this thesis from page 42 to 45.

⁹⁰ Interviewees sometimes elaborate on the topic of terminology at their own will, without being prompted by the interviewer for further clarification.

3. ITr terminology

3.1. Past (1963-2016)

None of the three primary theoretical frameworks used as a basis for the past, offer precise statistical analyses regarding ITr terminology. Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017: 117), however, outline the following patterns regarding the terminology employed to designate the process of ITr in English-language publications:

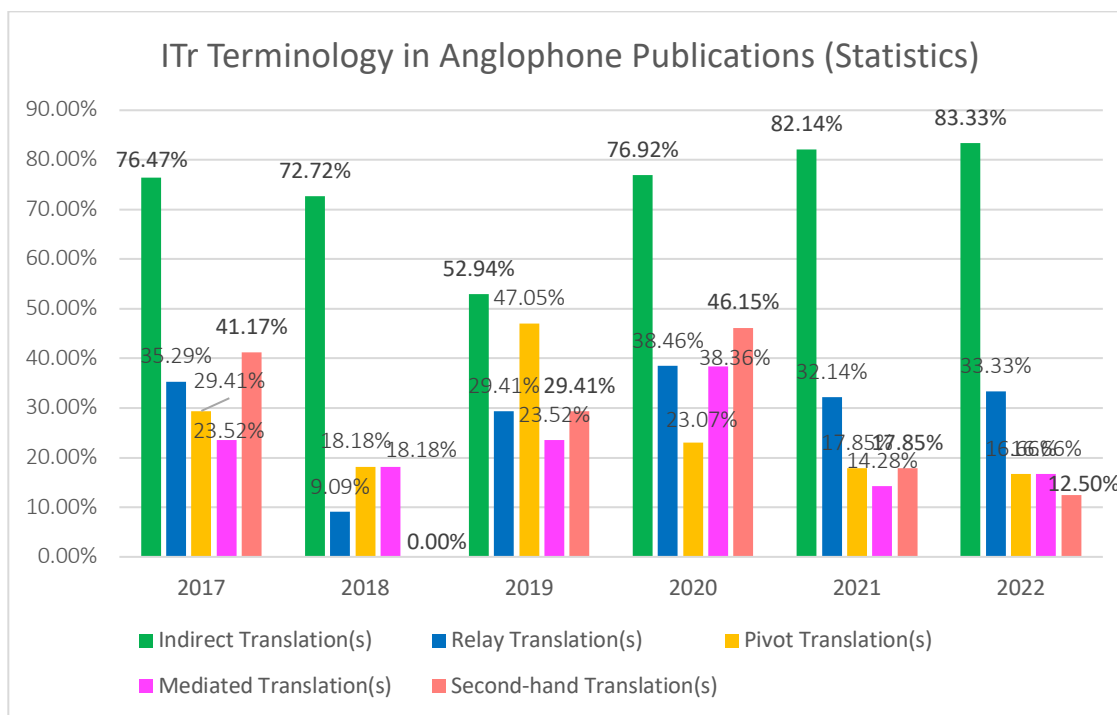
- Over time, ‘indirect translation’ has gained most ground among the competing terms listed in Table 1 (ibid.) (see page 14).
- “[...] publications dealing with both oral and written translation usually favour ‘relay translation’ (modelled on ‘relay interpreting’)” (ibid.).
- Publications on Audio-visual (AVT) and Machine Translation (MT) tend to favour ‘pivot translation’ as a term (ibid.).
- Initially, the term ‘second-hand’ was used interchangeably with the process of ITr. However, over time, it evolved into becoming a hyponym of ITr (ibid.).
- In publications where Iberian languages serve as the ultimate/final source or target language, ‘mediated translation’ is often the term of choice (ibid.).
- In publications where Chinese or Japanese serve as the ultimate/final source or target language, ‘relay translation’ is often the term of choice (ibid.).

Because Accácio (2010) does not offer precise statistical analyses related to ITr terminology in Portuguese-language publications, it is not possible to establish a parameter for the past for analysing the Lusophone textual materials.

3.2. Present (2017-2022)

It is worth noting that the percentages for publication outputs do not sum to 100% due to the possibility of individual publications citing multiple terms. Likewise, although the interview chart represents the total count of term mentions, they do not suggest that each interviewee referred exclusively to a single term.

3.2.1. Overarching Theme-Specific Terminology in English: Indirect, Relay and Pivot Translation



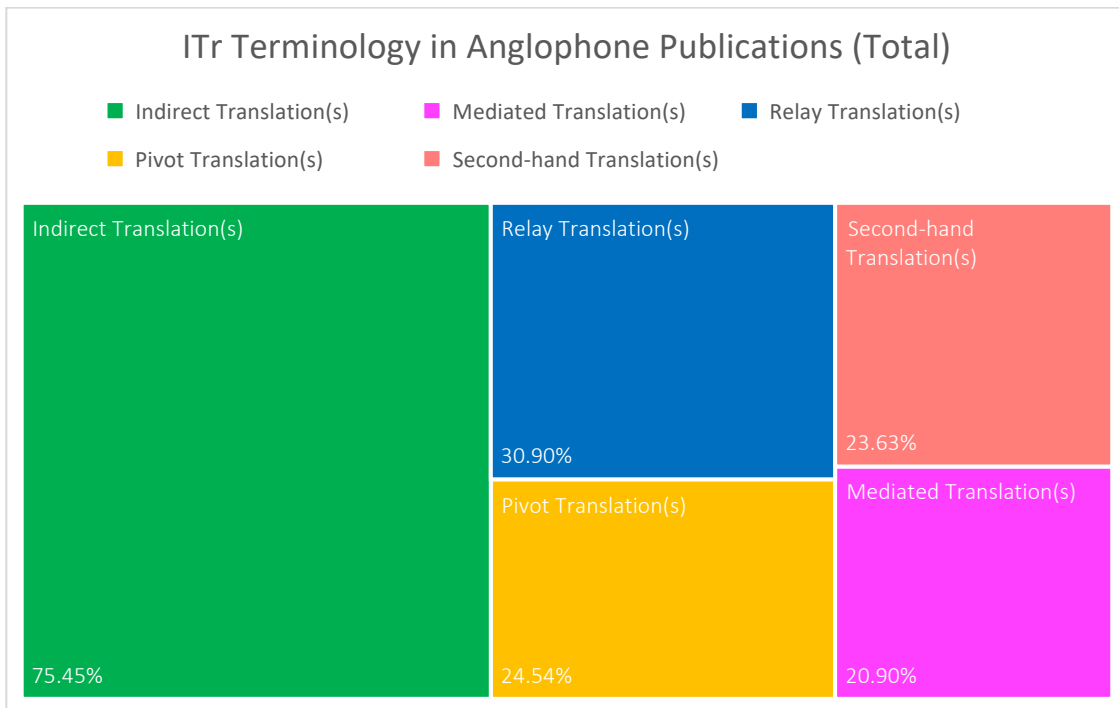
Graph 24 – Annual Progression – ITr Terminology (English)

In the “future research avenues regarding terminology” section of the article, Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017: 118) suggest that future research could examine whether there have been any changes in ITr terminology usage across different domains, referred to here as ‘overarching themes’ (e.g. Audio-visual translation etc). This chapter finds that while some terminology has remained unchanged, some has evolved. As indicated by Graphs 24 and 25, ‘indirect translation’ is the dominant term in Anglophone publications, occupying a central position throughout the entire period analysed. Similar to past results, the term seems to be gaining more prominence than its competing terms. Apart from 2019, ‘indirect translation’ consistently maintains a presence of over 72% every year, an unparalleled result compared to any other terms. The large and growing emphasis on ‘indirect translation’ reveals no discernible terminological evolution between past and present thus far. What

distinguishes ‘indirect translation’ is not only its steadily higher usage rate, but also the proportional difference between this term and its counterparts. Once again, apart from 2019, ‘indirect translation’ consistently surpasses the second most prevalent term (i.e., ‘relay translation’) by at least 30%.

Term	Nº of mentions (singular form)	Nº of mentions (plural form)	Total
‘indirect translation(s)’	1471	298	1769
‘pivot translation(s)’	243	22	265
‘relay translation(s)’	213	25	238

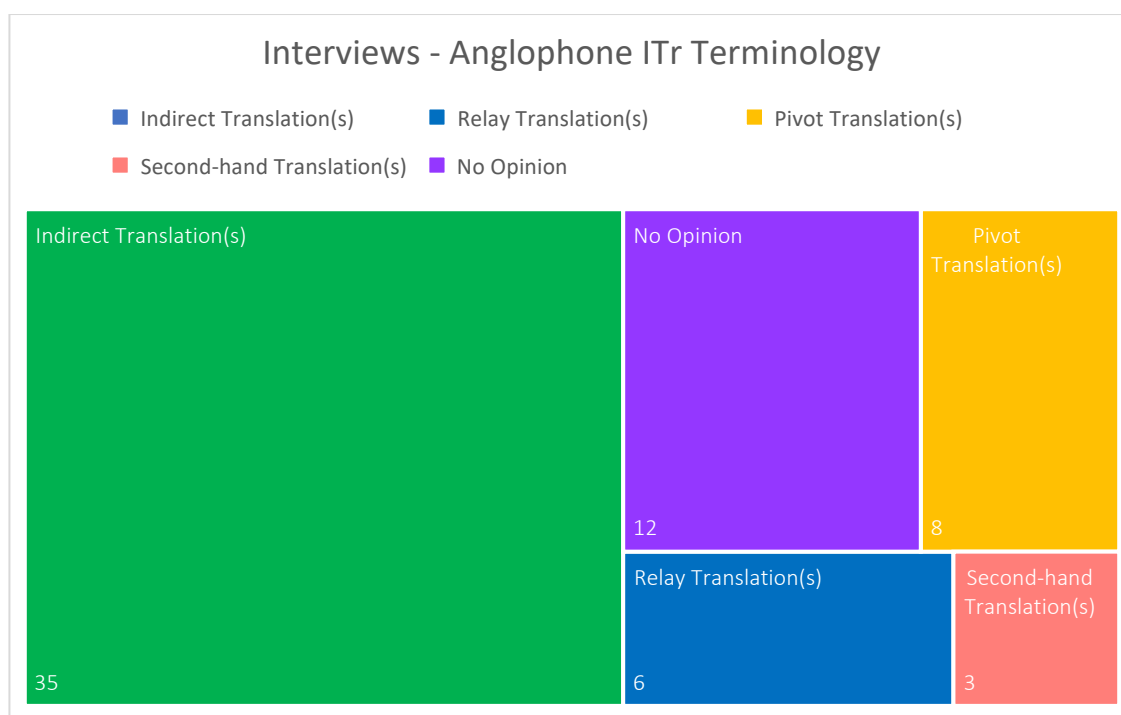
Table 29 – Top Terms: Mentions



Graph 25 – ITr Terminology (English) – Total

As indicated by Table 29, ‘pivot translation(s)’, which ranks as the second most mentioned term, only represents 14.98% of the rate at which ‘indirect translation(s)’ is mentioned. ‘Relay translation(s)’ accounts for only 13.45% of the references related to

‘indirect translation(s)’. These results are not surprising considering that 32.72% (36 in total) of the English-language publications are authored by at least one member of the IndirecTrans Network⁹¹. The IndirecTrans Network, as indicated by its name, uses ‘indirect translation’ as its working term to define the ITr phenomenon. When tallying authors who published in the dedicated Special Issue on ITr, which also includes ‘indirect translation’ in its title, this figure rises from 36 to 46 (41.81%). The term’s popularity extends beyond the textual materials, emerging as the predominant choice among interviewees, as well. The total distribution of interviewees’ perceptions of Anglophone ITr terminology is depicted in Graph 26.



Graph 26 – ITr Terminology (English) - Interviews

Out of 49 interviewees, 35 (71.42%) identify ‘indirect translation’ as their preferred term or the one they commonly use in research, reflecting a consistency between scholars’ perspectives and the publication landscape. This large percentage is consistent with

⁹¹ All the members of the IndirecTrans Network are listed in the following online address: < <https://www.indirectrans.com/network/members.html> >.

Interviewee nº 25's viewpoint, for instance, who argues that the term is currently the most prevalent in publications (Interviewee nº 25 – 00:51:09). Consequently, they favour using 'indirect translation' without engaging in terminological debates (ibid.). These 35 interviewees offer a variety of reasons for preferring 'indirect translation', including at least one of the following perspectives:

- 1) 'Indirect translation' as the apparent established meta-language within the ITr subfield.
- 2) 'Indirect translation' as being a broad(er) and all-encompassing term, even being specifically referred to 'indirect translation' as an umbrella term.

Although 71.42% is a large proportion, it is worth noting that nine (18.36%) of the interviewees confidently state that they would use 'indirect translation' interchangeably with other terms, depending on the context of the research. The context of the research is also a source of terminological concern. Interviewee nº 11's argues that:

[...] the different terminology is very much linked to certain ideas about translation, and it is much linked to different genres, or different fields of translation. So I don't think interpreting will get used to anything but 'relay'. And for audio-visual translation, [...] 'pivot' is definitely the word. We could aim at trying to find some sort of agreement in literary translation. Especially if we manage to spot misconceptions about it (Interviewee nº 11 – 00:12:34).

Akin to Interviewee nº 11, Interviewee nº 01 explains that they would use 'indirect translation' to describe the phenomenon itself, but would prefer 'relay' for research on 'interpreting', and 'pivot' for research on audio-visual translation (AVT) (Interviewee nº 01 – 00:11:27). Consistently with these two interviewees, Interviewee nº 03 mentions using 'indirect translation' to describe the ITr phenomenon itself, on the basis that this is seen as conventional practice, but prefers using 'relay' in the context of Interpreting Studies (IS) (Interviewee nº 03 – 00:54:14). These views are correlated with the argument presented by Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón (2023: 2) that 'relay' typically appears to describe

interpreting practices, “whereas subtitlers and people specialising in Machine Translation tend to opt for ‘pivot’ [translation]⁹²”.

Interviewee n° 35 expands on Interviewees’ n° 01 and n° 03 perspectives, positing the hypothesis that adopting more recognisable terminology from specific overarching themes in TS might yield greater benefits than using broader terminology that is generally accepted by ITr researchers (Interviewee n° 35 – 00:26:06). For example, they argue that, regardless of the prevailing consensus on terminology in the ITr subfield, researchers should consider refraining from using any term other than ‘pivot translation’ when conducting interviews or questionnaires with audio-visual translators (*ibid.*). Their suggestion is based on the observation that practitioners in these areas predominantly tend to be more familiar with ‘pivot’ than with any other term, including ‘indirect’ (*ibid.*). Interviewee n° 04 echoes the opinions of Interviewees n° 01, n° 03, and n° 35. They add that varying ITr terminology might be useful not only for professionals in the translation industry, but also for lay audiences, including readers of translations and academics from unrelated fields (Interviewee n° 04 – 00:12:18).

While some ITr researchers, such as Dollerup (2014: 22), would argue that academic production should strive for terminological stability, Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017: 114) take a more moderate stance, matching that of Interviewees n° 01 and n° 35. For Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017: 114), “semantic diversity does not necessarily mean metalinguistic confusion”. Therefore, ITr research could aim to achieve an academic discourse that:

(a) is unambiguous and harmonized (but not completely uniform); (b) optimizes (rather than unnecessarily multiplies) the already rich repertoire of terms and their meanings; and (c) cultivates “an awareness of differences in usage and where terms are clearly defined within the language and the school of thought for which they apply” (Snell-Hornby 2007, 322) (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 114).

Despite Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia’s (*ibid.*) recommendation, it is worth noting that 12 interviewees (24.48%) did not express a preference for any ITr terminology, nor did

⁹² Added for clarity.

they articulate an opinion on the importance of terminological consistency (see Graph 26). Regardless of their stance on ITr terminology or terminological consistency, some interviewees occasionally deviated from the terms they initially gave in response to the core questions. Interviewee nº 28 explicitly favours ‘indirect translation’, yet during their interview, used the term ‘rewriting’ interchangeably with ‘indirect translation’ without acknowledging this shift in terminology. The same pattern is observed among other interviewees, especially those who specialise in specific overarching themes within ITr research. Aside from one, all interviewees who self-identified as working in AVT or Machine Translation (MT) consistently used ‘pivot’ interchangeably with ‘indirect translation’. This finding partially reflects Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón’s (2023: 2) argument that ‘pivot’ is more commonly used in AVT-related and MT-related research.

Overarching theme	Number of publications	Percentage
Machine Translation (MT)	16	59.25%
Audio-visual Translation (AVT)	04	14.81%
Literary Translation (LT)	03	11.11%
Meta-research (MR)	03	11.11%
Interpreting Studies (IS)	01	3.7%

Table 30 – ‘Pivot Translation(s)’ and Overarching Themes (English)

However, the current publication scenario paints a partially different picture. Of the eight Anglophone ITr-AVT publications⁹³ only two explicitly use ‘pivot translation’ to refer to the ITr phenomenon: Oziemblewska & Szarkowska (2020) and Casas-Tost & Bustins (2021)

⁹³ AlBoul, Haider & Saed (2025), Peng (2021), and Dore (2018), all AVT publications, opt for ‘indirect translation’ as their working term. However, explicit working terms are not always included to discuss the ITr phenomenon. A case in point is Georgakopoulou (2019). The authors discusses the role of templates by calling them intermediary files that “aid in multilanguage subtitle production” (Georgakopoulou 2019: 138).

(see Appendix 1)⁹⁴. Even these two acknowledge ‘indirect translation’ as a possible interchangeable term for ‘pivot translation’⁹⁵. Among the 27⁹⁶ Anglophone outputs mentioning ‘pivot translation’⁹⁷, there are four times as many related to MT as there are to AVT. Table 30 illustrates the distribution between ‘pivot translation(s)’ and overarching themes. Contrary to six (85.71%)⁹⁸ of the seven LT, MR, and IS publications, which only reference ‘pivot translation’ to acknowledge its historical significance in terminology, 76.19% of the 21 MT publications⁹⁹ favour ‘pivot translation’ to describe the ITr phenomenon¹⁰⁰. Expanding on the hypothesis presented in Chapter 1 (see page 91), and reinforced by the

⁹⁴ In a more recent publication by Dore & De Nicola (2023), the term ‘pivot translation’ is employed to describe not only the ITr phenomenon, but also the intermediate text in a translation chain. However, ‘indirect translation’ is also used as an umbrella term for the ITr phenomenon.

⁹⁵ This interchangeability between ‘pivot translation’ and ‘indirect translation’ can be found in more recent AVT publications, exemplified by Agulló Garcia et al. (2024).

⁹⁶ Ahmadnia & Serrano (2017), Ahmadnia, Serrano & Haffari (2017), Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017), Miura et al. (2017), Shalibhadra Shah et al. (2017), Miura (2018), Trieu & Nguyen (2018), Atwood (2019), Casas et al. (2019), Cheng (2019), Costa-jussà et al. (2019), Currey & Heafield (2019), Leng et al. (2019), Liu et al. (2019), Pięta (2019), Ivaska (a) (2020), Oziemblewska & Szarkowska (2020), Samoyault (2020), Amponsah-Kaakyire et al. (2021), Budiwati & Aritsugi (2021), Casas-Tost & Bustins (2021), Dabre et al. (2021), Valente (2021), Jin, Zhang & He (2022), Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2022), Pöschhacker (2022), and Zhang, Li & Liu (2022).

⁹⁷ Although Pöschhacker (2022) does not explicitly mention ‘pivot translation’, the work engages in a detailed terminological analysis that includes the concepts of translation interpreting alongside related terms such as ‘relay’ and ‘pivot’. The term ‘pivot translation’ is explicitly mentioned as an example. Given this contextual relevance, the article is included in the analysis.

⁹⁸ Samoyault (2020) diverges from this trend by employing the term ‘pivot translation’ to designate the intermediary or ultimate/final text within an ITr chain. In Samoyault (2020), the ITr phenomenon is defined not as ‘pivot translation’, but as ‘relay translation’. Similarly, despite being an MT publication, Amponsah-Kaakyire et al. (2021) refer to the ITr phenomenon as ‘relay translation’. They do recognise the term ‘pivot’ as another designation for the phenomenon (Amponsah-Kaakyire et al 2021: 1), but only uses it to refer to the intermediary text in an ITr chain.

⁹⁹ All MT textual objects are English-language publications.

¹⁰⁰ Amponsah-Kaakyire et al (2021) is not included, as it does not use the term ‘pivot translation’ to refer to the phenomenon itself.

analysis on overarching themes in Chapter 2 (pages 131-141), it can be argued that ITr-strategy may also play a role in the a quadrilateral relationship among co-authorship, English-language, conference proceedings, and MT. When contrasting ITr-strategy with these other three groups, additional patterns can be identified (see Table 31).

	English	Co-authorship	Conference Proceedings
Pivot Translation	27 (100%) outputs	19 (70.37%) outputs	13 (48.14%) outputs

Table 31 – ‘Pivot Translation(s)’ + Co-authorship, English, and Conference Proceedings

Similarly to Chapter 1, although 48.14% does not quite represent half of the conference proceedings outputs, it nevertheless represents the largest single proportion. To achieve an equivalent percentage, the remaining 13 outputs, distributed across categories scholarly articles and PhD theses, would need to be aggregated. Integrating ‘pivot translation’ with the other groups effectively reshapes the relationship between co-authorship, English-language, conference proceedings, and MT from a square configuration to a pentagon (see Figure 8).

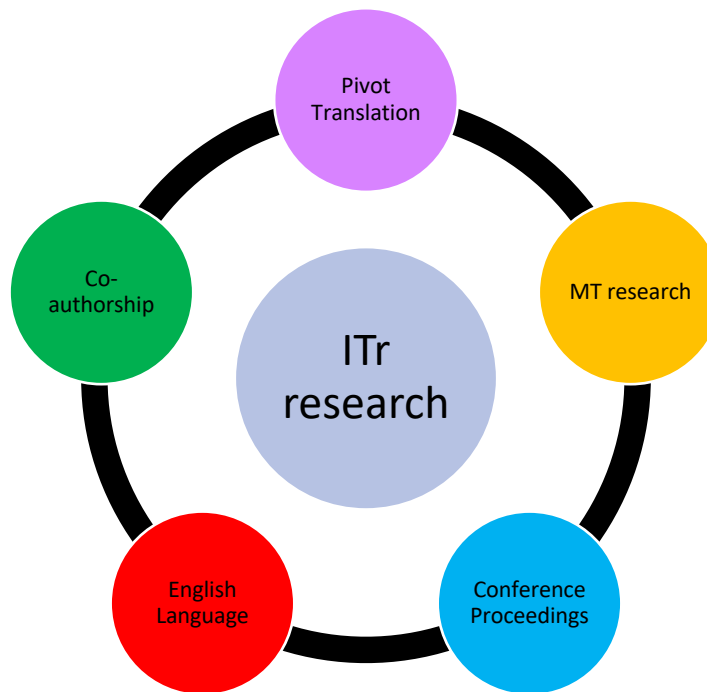


Figure 8 – Pentagon

In alignment with the explanation presented in Chapter 1 (see page 82), the pentagonal configuration does not suggest that all these categories are invariably interconnected. Rather, it suggests the existence of a trend in ITr research, where these categories are likely interconnected. While there is no obvious indication of an urgent need to promote standardised terminology across the subfield of ITr, it can be argued that having standardised terminology within this five-sided interrelationship could be beneficial for research in this context. According to Colquhoun et al. (2014):

A wide range of diverse and inconsistent terminology exists in the field of knowledge translation. This limits the conduct of evidence syntheses, impedes communication and collaboration, and undermines knowledge translation of research findings in diverse settings. Improving uniformity of terminology could help address these challenges (Colquhoun et al. 2014: 1).

Building on Chapter 1, recognising both the presence and frequency of this pentagonal relationship may encourage collaborative engagement between TS, and CS. These collaborative engagements could not only expedite the publication process of MT research in TS, but also assist in identifying related research by focusing on the term ‘pivot translation’ on academic search engines, such as Google Scholar. While acknowledging this pentagonal relationship could benefit future ITr research, the persistent strong correlation between ‘pivot translation’ and ITr-MT indicates that there has not been any evolution from past to present. In the context of ITr-AVT publications, however, there is evidence of evolution, as ‘pivot translation’ is no longer favoured. This shift in terminology usage prompts the formulation of two hypotheses (see Table 29).

The first hypothesis is that the term ‘pivot’ in MT publications is used to describe various stages and roles of the ITr process, rather than being confined to describing the phenomenon itself, or an intermediary text, as observed in AVT publications. For instance, despite only using the 2-gram term ‘pivot translation’ three times, Ahmadnia & Serrano (2017: 38), an MT publication, mentions the 1-gram terms ‘pivot’ and ‘pivoting’ 83 and 15 times, respectively. Ahmadnia & Serrano (2017) include terms such as:

Term	Page	Usage
‘Source-pivot Translation’	35	First step in a two-stage ITr process in MT
‘Pivot-target Translation’	35	Second step in a two-stage ITr process in MT
‘Pivot Candidate Translation’	42	Generated intermediary corpus in NMT
‘Pivoting Translation’	45	Used interchangeably with ‘pivot translation’

Table 32 – ‘Pivot’-related terms in Ahmadnia & Serrano (2017)

In the two AVT publications that employ the term ‘pivot translation’ to describe the ITr phenomenon (i.e., Oziemlewska & Szarkowska 2020 and Casas-Tost & Bustins 2021), the word ‘pivot’ is only used as part of a compound noun pertaining to the intermediary text. In Oziemlewska & Szarkowska (2020), ‘pivot’ is used in conjunction with the word ‘template’ to denote the intermediary texts. Similarly, in Casas-Tost & Bustins (2021), ‘pivot’ is used in conjunction with ‘language’, referring to the intermediary language involved in the process. These publications do not explore alternative terminology to designate different steps or roles of the ITr process, such as those found in Ahmadnia & Serrano (2017).

Building on Chapter 2 (see page 139), the second hypothesis addresses the broader scope of MT research in contrast to AVT research. Often described as “multidisciplinary by definition” (Giammarresi & Lapalme 2016: 218), MT research appears to be less restricted to TS than AVT research. At least 15 (71.42%) of the MT publications in the corpus stem from Computer Science-related (CS) proceedings, unlike the AVT research outputs, which all stem from TS-related sources. Initially, MT research revolved around computer scientists and engineers focusing on the application of computers to human language (Giammarresi and Lapalme 2016: 218; O’Hagan 2020: 3). Therefore, despite the changing landscape, there has historically been a disconnect between MT research and TS research (O’Hagan 2020: 3). This disconnection may explain why MT is not inherently associated with TS.

The lack of cross-fertilisation can also be seen in TS (ibid.). TS seems to have a limited number of scholars expressing interest in translation technology in order to expand the scope of translation theory (ibid.) and, consequently, terminology usage. For instance, publications focusing on MT research primarily rely on data sourced from translation-focused journals,

not CS (Mohsen, Althebi & Albahooth 2023: 11). The existing literature on TS that explicitly links translation and CS appears to be highly limited (St. André 2023: 195). However, the opposite does not seem to hold true, as translation appears to be an ordinary area of focus in CS research (Parashar & Abramson 2022: 70). Based on the notion that MT research extends beyond the field of TS more evidently than AVT research, it seems counterintuitive to suggest that ITr-MT would adopt restrictive terms rather than a diverse ones. According to Interviewee n° 29, a scholar in CS, the term ‘pivot’ is not subject to debate within the field:

Normally, in Machine Translation, and in Artificial Intelligence in general, there’s like a culture. Researchers decide to pick a name and that’s what sticks. And everybody sticks to that name, regardless of whether it makes sense or if there’s a better name. So, in general ‘pivot translation’ or ‘pivoting techniques’ are the terms used in the Machine Translation research areas. I guess it’s because it’s very explicit about what you’re doing (Interviewee n° 29 – 00:29:20).

Interviewee n° 29 argues that CS researchers have reached a consensus on ITr terminology, suggesting that it has been standardised without any obvious scholarly resistance (*ibid.*). The distinction in language usage between CS and TS could offer an explanation for this standardisation. Despite the similarities between programming languages and human languages, there are also fundamental differences between them. Computer languages are less adaptable and dynamic but are in “continuous synchronic and diachronic evolution” as seen in human languages (Giammarresi and Lapalme 2016: 207-208). These fundamental differences should not be taken to mean that the human language terms used to describe computer languages are inflexible or unaffected by terminological dynamics. However, it may be hypothesised that the very nature of language treatment in CS could result in a more restricted, or rather standardised, use of ITr terminology, unlike in TS, where there seems to be no consensus on the matter. Interviewee n° 05, a TS PhD candidate working with AVT, suggests that the lack of terminological consensus in TS is purposeful, that is, intentionally designed to perpetuate the academic terminological debate itself:

We do need coinage for new phenomenon. [...] There’s really no need to use or to generate a new term when there are already some terms out there, and your term doesn’t really make a difference. [...] There’s always a pattern of creating different terms referring to the same phenomenon, particularly in Translation Studies. And

sometimes people propose different terms just for the sake of the argument
(Interviewee nº 05 – 00:14:17).

Interviewees' nº 29 and nº 05 suggestions raise the following questions:

1. Given that AVT research seems to be predominantly confined to TS, what would the implications be if AVT research were as thoroughly integrated into the CS field as MT research is?
2. Would integration like this result in the standardisation of the term 'pivot translation' in AVT research within CS?
3. If so, would this standardisation imply a standardisation in TS as well, thereby supporting Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón's (2023: 2) argument that 'pivot' is more frequently used in research pertaining to AVT?

Although the term 'pivot' no longer holds its once-preeminent status in contemporary AVT research, an observable trend persists in favour of 'relay(ed)'. 'Relay' or 'relayed' remain preferred in publications dealing with oral translation¹⁰¹. Among the eight English-language publications on IS¹⁰², six (75%)¹⁰³ exhibit a preference for 'relay' or 'relayed', indicating no terminological development in this context. However, when focusing the analysis on the 2-gram terms 'relay(ed) translation', the number of publications decreases to only two¹⁰⁴. Among the six IS publications favouring the terms 'relay' or 'relayed', it is observed that two thirds¹⁰⁵ predominantly associate these terms with 'interpreting' rather than 'translation'. Additionally, one publication (i.e., Cheung & Song 2019) does not even employ the term 'relay translation', opting instead to referencing only 'relay interpreting' on a total of 57 occasions.

¹⁰¹ Although Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia's (2017: 117) data pertains to publications that deal with both written and oral translation, apart from Xin (2021), the publications from the present appear to all focus exclusively on the oral part of translations. All the 2017-2022 publications concerning oral translations pertain to Interpreting Studies (IS).

¹⁰² All IS publications are in English.

¹⁰³ Cheung & Song (2019), Xin (2021), Bravo (2022a), Bravo (2022b), Pöchhacker (2022), and Zhang & Eugeni (2022).

¹⁰⁴ Xin (2021) and Pöchhacker (2022).

¹⁰⁵ Bravo (2022a), Bravo (2022b), Pöchhacker (2022), and Zhang & Eugeni (2022).

These findings imply a continuous inclination towards the terms ‘relay’ or ‘relayed’ in contemporary IS outputs, demonstrating a prevalence of ‘relay **interpreting**’¹⁰⁶ over ‘relay translation’. Although this pattern was not identified in the past, its emergence in the present represents terminological evolution. Pöchhacker (2022: 502) posits that it used to be challenging to find empirical research specifically pertaining to ‘relay interpreting’ until the early 2000s. Snell-Hornby (2006: 115), however, posits that IS in general transitioned from a peripheral area within TS to a fully recognised branch of the discipline a decade before that, during the 1990s. Conversely, although a subject of analysis since the early stages of TS, ITr studies experienced a greater surge in publication numbers after 2003 compared to previous years (Hadley 2023: 7-8) (see Graph 2 on page 67, and Graph 3 on page 68). It can be hypothesised, therefore, that the establishment of the term ‘relay interpreting’ is not necessarily a consequence of ITr studies. Instead, it could conceivably be attributed to the development of IS as a parallel field to TS or its subfield. If this hypothesis is validated, it raises the question of whether ITr, regardless of terminology, has consistently been a topic of research within ‘oral translation’ research or, more specifically, within IS. This hypothesis echoes the relationship previously noticed between CS and ‘pivot translation’, where the term seems to be the standard in CS outputs, and does not appear to be subjected to the same level of scrutiny as it is in TS.

During the course of their interviews, five¹⁰⁷ TS scholars employ ‘relay translation’ and ‘relay interpreting’ interchangeably. Interviewee n° 26, however, believes the two terms should be kept apart (Interviewee n° 26 – 00:36:59). For them, scholars could streamline their work by maintaining the trend: “Let’s use ‘relay’ for interpreting contexts and ‘indirect’ for translation contexts” (ibid.). The parallel recognition of ‘relay’ as a term primarily associated with interpreting practices among both publications and interviewees suggests that ‘translating from translations’ is more widely acknowledged, and perhaps even expected, in IS rather than TS. Bravo (2022b: 154), for instance, argues that ‘relay’ is “an imperfect yet inescapable phenomenon” in interpreting practices. If relay/ITr practices are considered

¹⁰⁶ Bold lettering is used in this instance only to emphasise the distinction between the two terms.

¹⁰⁷ Interviewees n° 04, n° 11, n° 30, n° 32, and n° 47.

inescapable in this context, it is arguable that both practitioners and IS scholars are aware of it. This awareness could have two implications.

The first implication is that, in the context of IS, relay practices could be more easily identifiable than relay/indirect translations in literary material, for instance. Depending on the circumstances, it is possible to plan for the occurrence of ITr and observe it in real-time, a possibility that appears less practical in the context of LT. The potentially increased visibility of ITr in interpreting activities reduces the need for researchers to perform extensive “detective work” to identify case studies on these practices, as is often required in LT (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 113; Interviewee nº 26 – 00:29:35). The second implication builds on the first, and the notion that imperfection and double-losses are expected not only in the broader practice of ITr (Mirzoyeva et al. 2024: 3), but also specifically in relay interpreting (Čeňková 2015: 340). Because relay interpreting appears to be imperfect and unavoidable (Bravo 2022a: 154), it seems logical that researchers would consider conducting research on quality assessment and translator training for interpreters. Therefore, if more research is directed towards translator training for interpreting purposes, adopting ‘relay interpreting’ instead of ‘relay translation’ could offer a clearer description of the phenomenon.

3.2.2. Portuguese-Language Terminology: *Tradução Intermediada*, *Tradução Indire(c)ta* and *Tradução De Desvio*

In Lusophone publications, Anglophone terminology is occasionally incorporated, but there is no discernible trend of directly using English-language terminology in analyses.

Term	Number of Publications	Percentages
‘indirect translation(s)’	15	75%
‘relay translation(s)’	05	25%
‘mediated translation(s)’	03	15%
‘pivot translation(s)’	0	0%

Table 33– ITr Terminology (Lusophone) – Percentages

Although three English-language terms appear in Portuguese-language publications, their use is restricted to two contexts: translating abstracts into English or providing a terminological background for the ITr subfield in the literature review. Compared to Anglophone publications, Lusophone publications seem to lack a standardised approach to ITr terminology concerning overarching themes. All of the Lusophone publications use ‘*tradução indire(c)ta*’ [indirect translation] as their operative term regardless of overarching themes.

As mentioned in the introductory section to this chapter, the standardisation of terminology can give rise to a variety of politico-cultural implications (Li & Hope 2021: 3; Ives & Lacorte 2010: 1). Therefore, the lack of a discernible relationship between overarching themes and ITr terminology in Portuguese may be the result of an intentional avoidance of standardisation for politico-cultural reasons. Alternatively, following the discussion in Chapter 1 (see page 64), this lack of discernible relationship could stem from the contemporary trend where lexical development predominantly takes place in English due to its role as the *lingua franca* of scientific discourse (Cabezas-García & León-Araúz 2023: 259). Finally, building on the second hypothesis, this disconnect between terminology and overarching themes may simply be attributed to the recent systematic development of the ITr subfield (Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier in Davier et al. 2023: 823), particularly in the context of Lusophone research and subsequent publications. Although no discernible patterns are observed in this context, other patterns can be identified. The distribution of terminology usage in the Lusophone publications is:

Term in Portuguese	Number of Publications	Years Present
<i>Tradução indire(c)ta</i>	20	2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022
<i>Tradução de desvio</i>	2	2019, and 2022.
<i>Tradução intermediada</i>	4	2017, 2019, and 2022.

<i>Tradução de segunda-mão</i>	11	2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022

Table 34 – ITr Terminology (Lusophone) by Year

‘Tradução indire(c)ta’ [indirect translation] is consistently featured in all Lusophone publications to describe both the process of translating from translations and to provide a historical context for ITr terminology. The term is mentioned 738 times in its singular form, and 74 times in its plural form, bringing the total count to 812. This count is also the largest among all the competing terms.

The competing term *‘tradução intermediada’* [intermediate translation] is not mentioned by any of the interviewees, but it is exclusively referenced in connection with ITr’s terminological framework across all four¹⁰⁸ Lusophone publications mentioning it (see Table 34). While the term has not disappeared from publications, it appears to no longer be used to define the process of ITr. Similar to *‘tradução intermediada’* [intermediate translation] is *‘tradução de desvio’* [deviated translation]. Although ‘deviated translation’ is not a term used by any of the Anglophone publications, 22 (20%)¹⁰⁹ of them also use the term ‘deviation(s)’¹¹⁰ to express the discrepancies between different translations or between translations and source texts. Although the terms ‘deviated translation’ and *‘tradução de desvio’* [deviated translation] are not widely used as synonyms for ‘indirect translation’ or *‘tradução indire(c)ta’* [indirect translation], the terms ‘deviation’ and ‘deviated’, rather than ‘deviated translation’ seem to be widely used in Lusophone publications for comparative text analyses¹¹¹. Given that the words ‘deviation’, and its related form ‘deviance’, are recognised as behaviour that

¹⁰⁸ Leal (2017), Montereis (2019), Molina & Camargo (2022), and Sousa Carvalho (2022).

¹⁰⁹ Li (2017), Rabinovich, Ordan & Wintner (2017), Yu (2017), Ivaska & Paloposki (2018), Pięta (2018), Atwood (2019), Baydere (2019), Georgakopoulou (2019), Pięta (2019), Zainol & Haroon (2019), Ivaska (2020a), Ivaska & Huuhtanen (2020), Oziemblewska & Szarkowska (2020), Gallien (2021), Hörster & Plag (2021), Baydere & Karadağ (2022), Đorđević (2022), Aleksandrowicz (2022), Hongisto & Taivalkoski-Shilov (2022), O’Hagan (2022), Petrina (2022), and Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2022).

¹¹⁰ This term includes both ‘deviation’ and ‘deviations’.

¹¹¹ Methodologies in ITr research are analysed in Chapter 5.

violates expected rules or norms (Nalah & Ishaia 2013: 1), they are generally perceived negatively by both sociologists and English speakers (Sagarin 1985: 169). For this reason, these terms are often met with “scorn, hostility, punishment, or an effort to effectuate change” (ibid.). Consequently, choosing to use the words ‘deviation’ or ‘deviated’ in comparative text analyses in ITr research could conceivably stem from the translation meme known as “the word of God”, which holds that the source text should be revered (Chesterman 2016: 21). This meme anticipates inevitable losses in translation (McGowan 2007: 53), particularly in the context of ITr (Mirzoyeva et al. 2024: 3; Buts et al. 2023: 171; Pięta 2014: 16).

Although these terms can be used by published authors to indicate suboptimal choices in translation, none of the interviewees mention either ‘deviated translation’ or ‘*tradução de desvio*’ [deviated translation] as their preferred or disliked terminology. Therefore, it is possible that, in ITr Lusophone academic literature, these terms are also used devoid of any derogatory implications, simply serving as analytical categories in comparative analyses borrowed from Linguistics (see Ptashkin 2021). Interviewee nº 32 believes that the terms ‘deviated’ or ‘deviations’ have derogatory implications. However, they do not associate these terms with ‘*tradução de desvio*’ [deviated translation], but rather with ‘*tradução indire(c)ta*’ [indirect translation]. As a scholar proficient in Portuguese, Interviewee nº 32 shares that they are prone to using the term ‘*tradução indire(c)ta*’ [indirect translation] in their own research. Despite that, they voice concerns about the use of the term ‘indirect’ in general, especially in research, arguing that it tends to refer to abnormality, to ‘deviations’: “[it means]¹¹² something [...] viewed as being incorrect” (Interviewee nº 32 – 00:11:35).

Interviewee nº 32 (ibid.) counterpoints the argument that ‘indirect translation’ is an advantageous term due to its “straightforward antonym”: ‘direct translation’ (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 115). The contrast between these two terms could conceivably lead to the misconception that ‘indirect’ implies cryptic connotations, while ‘direct’ implies straightforwardness. Consequently, this contrast may lead to the misconception that ‘indirect’ ultimately implies something negative, while ‘direct’ implies something positive.

¹¹² Added for clarity.

Interviewee nº 32's perspective resonates with that of Interviewee 49 (00:07:58), who observes that scholars tend to avoid teaching ITr due to its perceived association with loss and inferiority. Therefore, labelling the phenomenon as 'indirect translation' may exacerbate biases against it. If this perception is shared by other TS scholars, it is possible that the terminological dichotomy between 'direct' and 'indirect' could reinforce biases against not only using the term 'indirect translation' in research, but also teaching translations that do not conform to the 'direct' approach.

The belief that ITr tends to be inaccurate and of lower quality when compared to direct translation is shared among trainers and scholars, especially senior ones, which consequently makes them reluctant to approach ITr in the classroom (Torres-Simón et al. 2021: 274; Ringmar 2007: 10). This perception of ITr as an inherently inaccurate practice is not consistently shared among interviewees. 'Second-hand translation' and its Lusophone counterpart, '*tradução de segunda-mão*' [second-hand translation], however, seem to elicit negative perceptions among interviewees.

3.2.3. Second-Hand Translation and *Tradução de Segunda-Mão*

Initially, the term 'second-hand translation' was used interchangeably 'indirect translation' (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 117). Over time, however, it evolved into becoming a hyponym of ITr (*ibid.*). Therefore, it was anticipated that after the past period, ITr publications would predominantly categorise 'second-hand translation' as a hyponym of ITr rather than its synonym. The present scenario does not reflect the one anticipated in the past, indicating a degree of evolution. Table 35 displays the distribution of the term's in the English-language publications:

Publications	Usage – 'Second-hand Translation'
Alvstad (2017)	ITr's Terminological Background
Henitiuk (2017)	ITr's Terminological Background
Li (2017)	Synonym
Pięta (2017)	ITr's Terminological Background

Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017)	ITr's Terminological Background
Yu (2017)	ITr's Terminological Background
Kolomiyets (2019)	Synonym
Atwood (2019)	ITr's Terminological Background
Bąkowska (2019)	Synonym
Hosington (2019)	ITr's Terminological Background
Zainol & Haroon (2019)	Hyponym
Ivaska (2020a)	ITr's Terminological Background
Kavalir & Chudoba (2020)	ITr's Terminological Background
Samoyault (2020)	ITr's Terminological Background
Italia (2020)	Hyponym
Jia (2020)	Synonym
Sujatmiko et al. (2020)	ITr's Terminological Background
Akkaliyeva et al. (a) (2021)	Synonym
Galletti & Shajiei (2021)	Hyponym
Hörster & Plag (2021)	Hyponym
Karjo, Ying & Ruomei (2021)	ITr's Terminological Background
Valente (2021)	ITr's Terminological Background
Davier (2022)	ITr's Terminological Background
Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2022)	ITr's Terminological Background
Haroon (2022)	ITr's Terminological Background

Table 35 – 'Second-hand Translation': Usage (English)

Of the 25 (22.72%) Anglophone publications that reference the term 'second-hand translation', four (16%) use it as a hyponym of ITr, while five (20%) use it a synonym. Most (i.e., 16, 64%) publications, however, refer to 'second-hand translation' only to indicate its historical role in ITr terminology. These results suggest a shift in terminology usage, as the majority of publications do not treat 'second-hand translation' as a hyponym of ITr, but rather

as just part of ITr's terminological framework. Interviewee nº 37's perception does not reflect the reality of terminological usage. They argue that 'second-hand translation':

[...] is perhaps the most common term of all. It's an everyday thing. [...] second-hand translation has the advantage of showing that it is a translation that has another one before. And this is important, because it means that the translation is intermediate, so it's not the same as the source text. (Interviewee nº 37 – 00:10:03).

Interviewee's nº 37 opinion, when contrasted with the reality of publications (see Graph 26 on page 158, and Table 29 on page 157), suggests that the presumed dominance of 'second-hand translation' in ITr research reflects scholars' overall opinion. However, this hypothesis is not supported by the evidence. Among interviewees, only three (6.12%) mention 'second-hand translation' as one of their preferred terms (see Graph 26). Conversely, 12 (24.48%) express explicit dislike for the term, including its translations into different languages¹¹³. The number of interviewees who dislike the term is not only four times greater than of those who prefer it, but it also constitutes nearly one-quarter of all interviewees, making 'second-hand translation' the most disliked term in ITr terminology in both English and Portuguese. The primary reason for interviewees' rejection to this term is consistent with the opinion expressed by Interviewee nº 36:

Second-hand translation has an implicit negative connotation that we cannot avoid. [...] It can be considered a subcategory of indirect translation. It is not a synonym because indirect translation can be of third, fourth, both hands. Therefore, second-hand translation is not equivalent to indirect translation (Interviewee nº 36 – 00:27:13)¹¹⁴.

Unlike the term 'deviated', which is only seen as having derogatory implications by Interviewee nº 36, the general consensus among the 12 interviewees who dislike 'second-hand translation' is that it carries a negative connotation, potentially impeding other scholars from finding interest in ITr research.

¹¹³ '*Tradução de segunda mão*' in Portuguese, and '*traduzione di seconda mano*' in Italian are specifically mentioned by interviewees.

¹¹⁴ Italics added for emphasis.

The Lusophone publications appear to follow a similar pattern to the Anglophone publications, with 11 textual objects referencing *‘tradução de segunda mão’* [second-hand translation]. However, only two textual objects employ the term as a synonym of ITr, and none as a hyponym. Table 36 displays the distribution of the term’s usage in Lusophone publications.

Publications	Usage – <i>‘Tradução de Segunda-mão’</i>
Carlucci (2017)	ITr’s Terminological Background
Leal (2017)	Synonym
Menezes (2017)	ITr’s Terminological Background
Américo & Barbosa (2018)	ITr’s Terminological Background
Tanaka (2018)	Synonym
Monterei (2019)	ITr’s Terminological Background
Montenegro Freire (2020)	ITr’s Terminological Background
Cheng (2021)	ITr’s Terminological Background
Carlucci (2022)	ITr’s Terminological Background
Molina & Camargo (2022)	ITr’s Terminological Background
Sousa Carvalho (2022)	ITr’s Terminological Background

Table 36 – *‘Second-hand Translation’: Usage (Portuguese)*

In 2022, ‘second-hand translation’ is referenced by all English-language publications with a view to providing terminological background (see Table 35). Similarly, the most recent Portuguese-language publications (from 2019 onwards) exclusively reference *‘tradução de segunda mão’* [second-hand translation] to indicate the term’s historical interchangeability with *‘tradução indire(c)ta’* [indirect translation] (see Table 36). The frequent use of ‘second-hand translation’, and its corresponding Portuguese rendition, as terminological background is an indication of terminological evolution. Should this trend persist, ‘second-hand translation’, along with its Portuguese counterpart, is at risk of undergoing a linguistic process referred to as ‘necrology’. ‘Necrology’ entails “the disappearance of a term, the

disappearance of a part of term, a change in grammatical status, and/or the disappearance of a meaning over a given period of time” (Dury & Drouin 2011: 19). If ‘second-hand translation’ does not successfully establish itself as a hyponym of ITr, as anticipated in the past period, but rather serves only as part of ITr’s terminological background, it may gradually fade into obscurity over time. Conversely, it is also possible that the term may be employed specifically as a point of contrast in terminological discussions, potentially highlighting its pejorative connotations, as emphasised by interviewees.

Should future publications choose to place emphasis on ‘second-hand translation’ as a hyponym of ITr, it could yield a different outcome. Among the four Anglophone textual objects approaching ‘second-hand translation’ as a hyponym of ITr, three (75%)¹¹⁵ do so to define the ultimate/final target text¹¹⁶ within a three-language translation chain. These three textual objects represent the most recent English-language publications designating the ultimate/final target translated text as ‘second-hand translation’. While caution must be exercised in drawing predictions based solely on three textual objects, the fact that these objects constitute 75% of the English-language publications using the term as a hyponym of ITr may indicate a potential emphasis on this particular usage in future references to the term. The veracity of this prediction is yet to be determined.

3.2.4. Language-Specific Interpretations of ITr Terminology

This subsection explores the relationship between specific terminological choices and particular languages, as articulated by Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017).

3.2.4.1. ‘Mediated Translation’ and Iberian Languages

In the past, ‘mediated translation’ was the term of choice when the ultimate/final source or target texts analysed were of Iberian languages. Because Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia

¹¹⁵ Italia (2020), Galletti & Shajiei (2021), and Hörster & Plag (2021).

¹¹⁶ In ITr literature, the term ‘final target text’ is also known as ‘ultimate target text’ or ‘ultimate TT’ (e.g., Pięta 2012: 313, Pięta 2014: 20, Atwood 2019: 87, Ivaska 2020: 75, Tyšš & Gromová 2020: 36, Jin, Zhang & He 2022: 465, and Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 128).

(2017) do not specify their understanding of Iberian languages, for the purpose of this chapter, Aragonese, Aranese, Asturian, Catalan, Galician, Spanish, and Portuguese¹¹⁷, the Latinate languages of the Iberian peninsula, are included in the analysis (Oliver et al. 2023: 495; Martínez-Gil & Morales-Front 1997: ix). To ensure terminological coverage, Castilian is also added to the analysis, given its classification as a synonym of Spanish (Martínez-Celdran, Fernandez-Planas & Carrera-Sabate 2003: 255).

Interviewee nº 33 is the only interviewee to occasionally use ‘mediated translation’ interchangeably with ‘indirect translation’. However, even they express a clear preference for ‘indirect translation’ above any alternative terms. Results from the interviews indicate an overall lack of preference for the former term. This finding indicates a lack of terminological evolution between present and future, but indicates consistency between interviewees’ perceptions and the terminology usage in present publications.

Contrary to the findings in the past period, only one (2.94%) of the 34 (30.9%) English-language publications exploring Iberian languages employs the term ‘mediated translation(s)’ to characterise the phenomenon of ITr: Hörster & Plag (2021). Hörster & Plag (2021), however, use this terminology interchangeably with ‘indirect translation’, with the latter being referenced twice, while ‘mediated translation’ is only referenced once. The other three publications¹¹⁸ exclusively use the term ‘mediated translation(s)’ to designate the intermediary text(s) in an ITr translation chain or to provide a historical background of the different terminology ITr has had. These findings indicate an evolution in the terminological landscape of ITr research.

All 20 (100%) of the publications in Portuguese explore at least one Iberian language as either a source or target language in the materials under analysis. Six (30%)¹¹⁹ of these publications reference the term ‘*tradução mediada*’ [mediated translation], including its

¹¹⁷ The Brazilian and European Portuguese translations of these words are, respectively: *Espanhol*, *Português*, *Catalão*, *Galego*, *Asturiano*, *Aragonês*, *Aranês* and *Castelhano*.

¹¹⁸ Marin-Lacarta (2018), Kavalir & Chudoba (2021), and Valente (2021).

¹¹⁹ Menezes (2017), Leal (2017), Tanaka (2018), Santos Cordeiro (2020), Carlucci (2022), and Molina & Camargo (2022).

plural form *‘traduções mediadas’* [mediated translations], but only within the context of the literature review to indicate that the term has historically been used as a synonym of ‘indirect translation’. However, none of these publications employs the term in analysis. The near lack of usage of ‘mediated translation’ in scholarly publications involving Iberian languages, coupled with the scarcity of interviewees endorsing the term’s use suggest a waning relevance of ‘mediated translation’, which can be compared to its prominence during the past period. It appears that the choice of Iberian languages for analysis is not contingent on the choice of terminology used to describe the ITr phenomenon. The choice of terminology in Anglophone publications seems to be more likely associated with the overarching themes (specifically LT, MT, and AVT), rather than with the languages of the primary materials being analysed by the textual corpus.

While ITr-AVT research no longer prioritises ‘pivot translation’ as its primary term, there is a noticeable preference for ‘relay translation’ in the particular context of publications focused on Iberian languages (see Table 37). This correlation suggests a triangulated relationship between ‘relay translation’, AVT research, and Iberian languages. Although this triangulation does not suggest a broader triangulation between language, overarching themes, and terminology in ITr research, it still points to terminological evolution in this particular context.

Term	Favoured by	Dominant Overarching Theme
Indirect Translation	20 (58.82%) ¹²⁰ outputs	LT – 13 (65%) ¹²¹ outputs

¹²⁰ Assis Rosa (2017), Hadley (2017), Hanes (2017), Marin-Lacarta (2017), Rabinovich, Ordan & Wintner (2017), Chouc & Conde (2018), Marin-Lacarta (2018), Pięta (2018), Gökce Vaz de Carvalho (2019), Kavalir & Chudoba (2020), Poncelas et al. (2020), Allwood (2021), Glynn & Hadley (2021), Gökce Vaz de Carvalho (2021), Hörster & Plag (2021), Ustaszewski (2021), Valente (2021), Allwood (2022a), O’Hagan (2022), and Valdeón (2022).

¹²¹ Assis Rosa (2017), Hadley (2017), Hanes (2017), Marin-Lacarta (2018), Pięta (2018), Gökce Vaz de Carvalho (2019), Kavalir & Chudoba (2020), Allwood (2021), Glynn & Hadley (2021), Gökce Vaz de Carvalho (2021), Hörster & Plag (2021), Valente (2021), and Allwood (2022a).

Pivot Translation	9 (23.54%) ¹²² outputs	MT – 6 (66.66%) ¹²³ outputs
Relay Transl./Interp.	5 (14.70%) ¹²⁴ outputs	AVT – 4 (80%) ¹²⁵ outputs

Table 37 – Term (English) and Overarching Theme Ratio: Iberian Languages

3.2.4.2. ‘Relay Translation’ and Chinese & Japanese

In the past, ‘relay translation’ was the term of choice when Chinese or Japanese was the ultimate source or target language explored. However, the present reflects a shift. Of the 27 (24.54%) Anglophone publications examining Chinese or Japanese languages, the distribution of preferred terms is depicted in Table 38.

Term	Favoured by	Dominant Overarching Theme
Indirect Translation	13 (48.14%) ¹²⁶ outputs	LT – 8 (61.53%) ¹²⁷ outputs
Pivot Translation	7 (25.92%) ¹²⁸ outputs	MT – 5 (71.42%) ¹²⁹ outputs
Relay Interpreting	3 (11.11%) ¹³⁰ outputs	IS – 3 (100%) outputs

¹²² Ahmadnia & Serrano (2017), Ahmadnia, Serrano & Haffari (2017), Miura et al. (2017), Costa-jussà, Casas & Melero (2018), Miura (2018), Cheng (2019), Leng et al. (2019), Liu et al. (2019), and Casas-Tost & Bustins (2021).

¹²³ Ahmadnia & Serrano (2017), Ahmadnia, Serrano & Haffari (2017), Miura et al. (2017), Costa-jussà, Casas & Melero (2018), Miura (2018), and Cheng (2019).

¹²⁴ Cheung & Song (2019), Amponsah-Kaakyire et al. (2020), Xin (2021), Bravo (2022a), and Pöschhacker (2022).

¹²⁵ Cheung & Song (2019), Xin (2021), Bravo (a) (2022), and Pöschhacker (2022). Amponsah-Kaakyire et al. (2020) use a balanced combination of ‘relay translation’, ‘pivot translation’, and ‘indirect translation’ in their text. However, the emphasis on ‘relay translation’ in the title indicates its pivotal role as the primary working term used by Amponsah-Kaakyire et al. (2020).

¹²⁶ Hadley (2017), Marin-Lacarta (2017), Li (2017), Marin-Lacarta (2018), Poncelas et al. (2020), Hosseini (2020), Jia (2020), Hadley (2021), Karjo, Ying & Ruomei (2021), Peng (2021), Alwood (a) (2022), Jin, Zhang & He (2022), and O’Hagan (2022).

¹²⁷ Hadley (2017), Li (2017), Marin-Lacarta (2018), Hosseini (2020), Jia (2020), Hadley (2021), Karjo, Ying & Ruomei (2021), and Alwood (a) (2022).

¹²⁸ Miura et al. (2017), Miura (2018), Cheng (2019), Liu et al. (2019), Casas-Tost & Bustins (2021), Budiwati & Aritsugi (2021), and Zhang, Li & Liu (2022).

¹²⁹ Miura et al. (2017), Miura (2018), Cheng (2019), Budiwati & Aritsugi (2021), and Zhang, Li & Liu (2022).

¹³⁰ Cheung & Song (2019), Pöschhacker (2022), and Zhang & Eugeni (2022).

Relay Translation	4 (18.51%) ¹³¹ outputs	LT – 4 (100%) outputs

Table 38 – Term (English) and Overarching Theme Ratio: Chinese or Japanese

Similarly to the Iberian language results, ‘indirect translation’ continues to be the predominant term in this context, it does not appear to be specifically linked to Anglophone publications focused on Iberian languages. This predominance may simply reflect the broader trend, but it may also suggest a potential connection with LT research. Unlike with ‘mediated translation’ in publications on Iberian languages, publications including Chinese or Japanese languages do not adopt ‘relay translation’ to designate the intermediary text(s) in an ITr translation chain. However, akin to the findings on Iberian languages, publications including Chinese or Japanese refer to ‘relay translation’ to introduce the historical background of ITr terminology. No interviewee indicating proficiency in either Chinese or Japanese explicitly connects terminological usage to the language of the analysed materials, further reinforcing the lack of evolution from past to present in this context.

3.3. Future (2023-2028)

3.1. Projections: Anglophone Publications

As can be seen in Table 39, and Graphs through 27 to 31, barring ‘second-hand translation’, nearly all English-language ITr terms are anticipated to experience increased usage in the forthcoming years. These results may be a direct consequence of the findings in Chapter 1 (see Table 15), which forecast an overall growth of ITr publications. These projections, however, focus only on the anticipated frequency of future references to these terms and do not account for the specific contexts in which each term is expected to be used. Put differently, terms can increase in usage, not strictly as synonyms of ITr, but rather as hyponyms or as means of contributing to the terminological framework surrounding ITr.

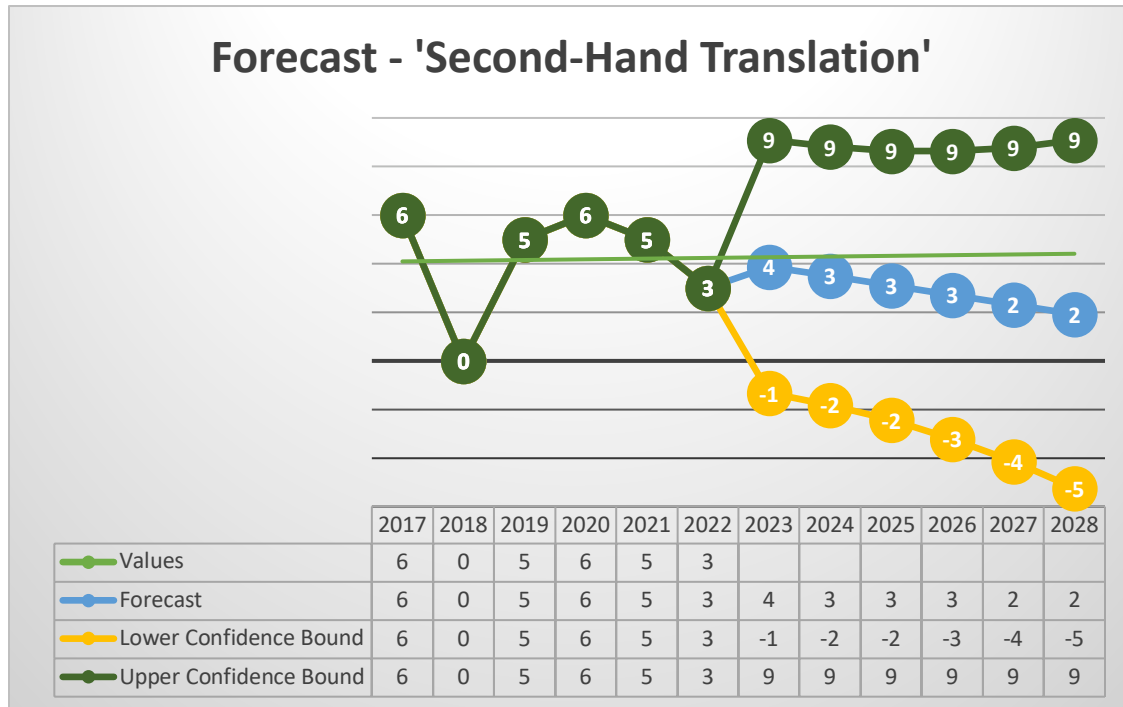
¹³¹ Yu (2017), Karyani (2021), Xin (2021), and Wook Huh (2021). Jia (2020), uses ‘indirect translation’ interchangeably with ‘relay translation’. However, it is worth noting that ‘indirect translation’ is the preferred term, as it is used 85.57% more frequently than ‘relay translation’.

	Indirect Translation	Relay Translation	Pivot Translation	Mediated Translation	Second-Hand Translation
Real Total (2017-2022)	83	34	27	23	25
Projected Total (2023-2028)	185	87	33	27	17
Real + Projected Total (2017-2028)	268	121	60	50	42
Lower Confidence Percentage Total	225%	283%	154%	159%	27%
Higher Confidence Percentage Total	422%	428%	294%	278%	312%
Average Percentage Total	323%	356%	224%	218%	170%

Table 39 – Forecast – ITr Terminology (English)

The forecast for ‘second-hand translation’ anticipates that the term will receive fewer references in projected publications compared to the present period (see Graph 27 on page 183, and Table 39). This anticipation could indicate that the term may indeed undergo a process of necrology, as previously hypothesised (see page 176). Alternatively, it could indicate that the term will be used exclusively for establishing historical terminological reference. A possible exclusive use of ‘second-hand translation’ for historical terminological reference in the projections could conceivably be a reflection of scholars’ current dislike for

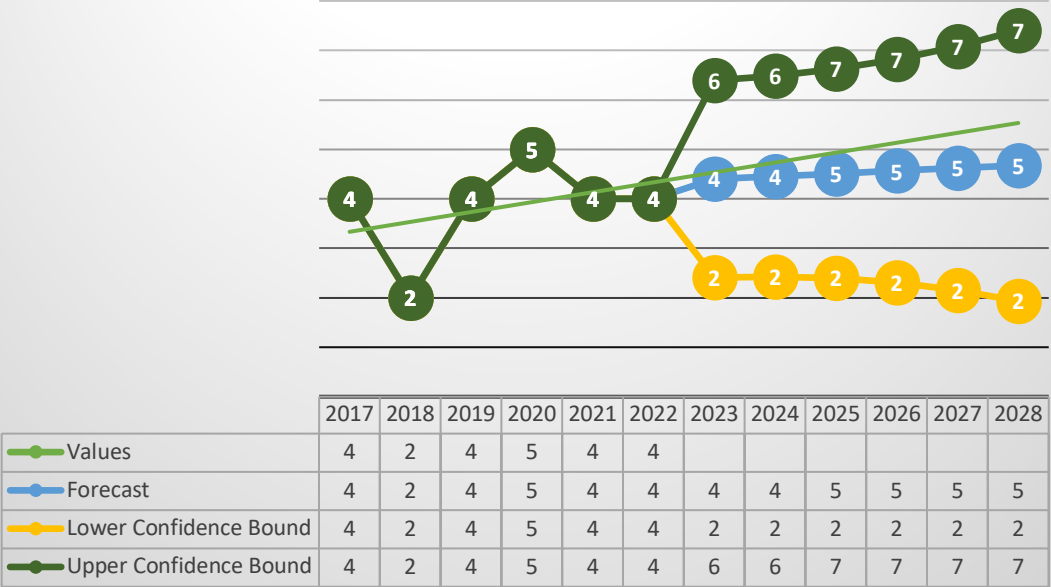
the term. The increasing number of ITr publications forecasted in Chapter 1, however, suggests that no specific choice of terminology is likely to significantly impede ITr research.



Graph 27 – Forecast – 'Second-Hand Translation'

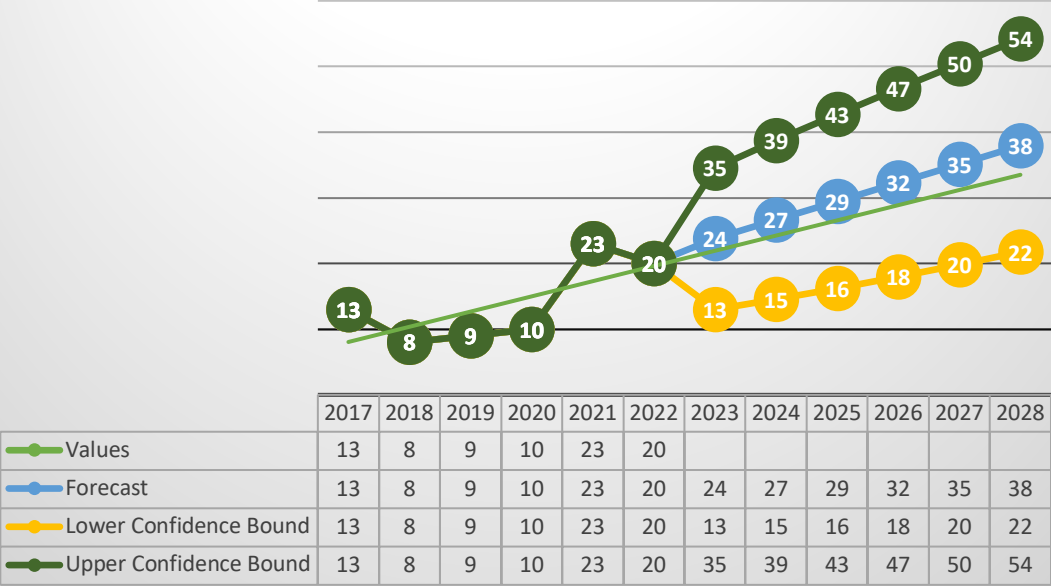
Unlike 'second-hand translation', 'mediated translation' is projected to experience a 218% increase in future. The findings formerly discussed are specific to publications in English focusing on Iberian languages. Nevertheless, 'mediated translation' was also used to denote the intermediary text in a ITr translation chain (see page 14). If 'mediated translation' as intermediary text becomes the norm, it may signal the establishment of the term as a hyponym of ITr. However, it remains to be seen whether 'mediated translation' will refer exclusively to intermediary texts within three-text translation chains or be extend to all intermediary texts in chains consisting of more than three texts. Unlike 'second-hand translation', 'indirect translation' is projected to experience proportional growth with the number of ITr publications.

Forecast - 'Mediated Translation'



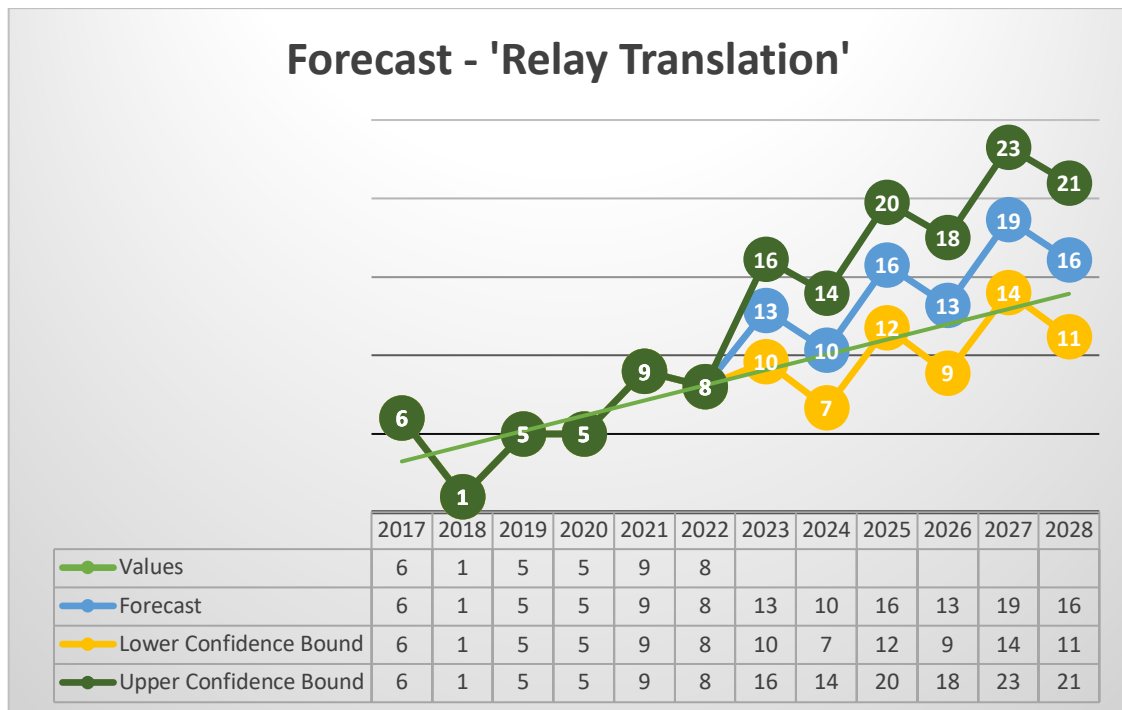
Graph 28 – Forecast – ‘Mediated Translation’

Forecast - 'Indirect Translation'



Graph 29 – Forecast – ‘Indirect Translation’

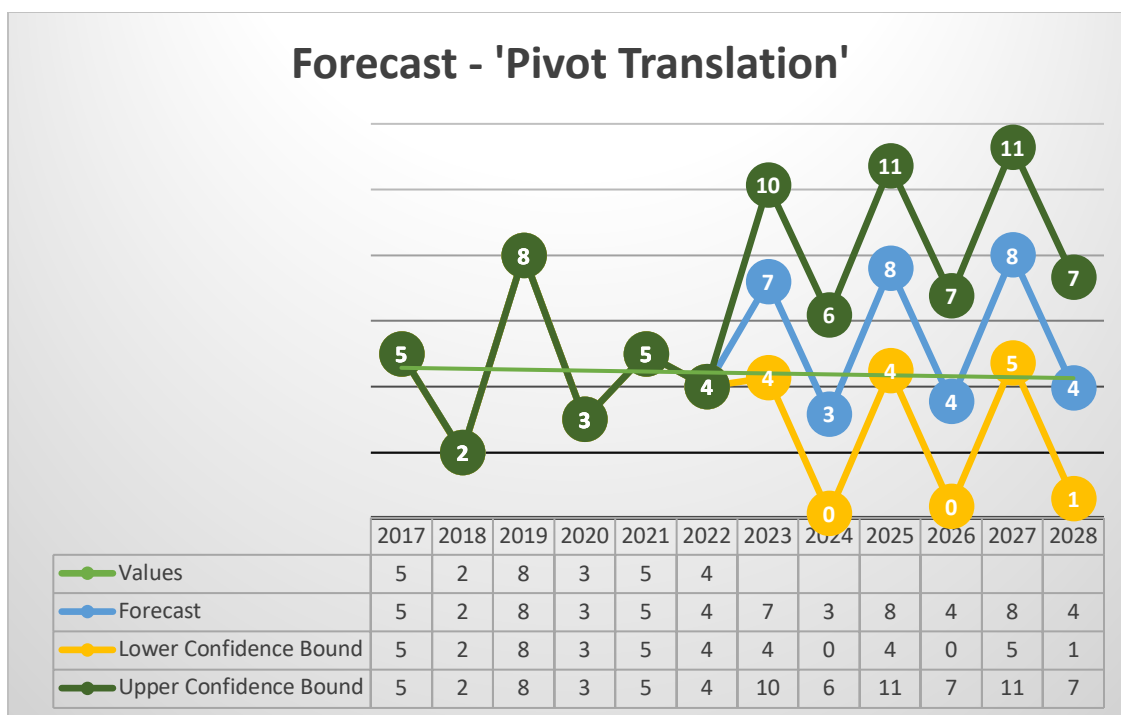
As indicated by Graph 29 and Table 39, ‘indirect translation’ is anticipated to remain the dominant term among Anglophone publications. The future projections for ‘indirect translation’ range from 225% (conservative projection) to 422% (optimistic projection). This means that, from 2017 to 2028, the number of research outputs using this term is anticipated to increase by an average of 323%. In a similar vein to the results of the present, what sets ‘indirect translation’ apart is not only its steadily increasing usage, but also the proportional difference from its counterparts. While the term does not experience an average increase as large as, for instance, ‘relay translation’, the total number of publications using ‘indirect translation’ far exceeds that of competing terms. The projected number of publications using ‘indirect translation’ surpasses that of ‘relay translation’ more than two-fold and surpasses the other three terms more than six-fold.



Graph 30 – Forecast – ‘Relay Translation’

The large projected increase of ‘relay translation’, however, suggests a potential surge in publications addressing oral translation, particularly in the (sub)field/parallel field of interpreting. If the 75% proportion of publications from the present period using the term

‘relay’ in relation to interpreting (see page 159) remains steady in future, it would suggest a continued trend of associating ‘relay’ with IS, extending as far back as the past period. A projected consistency in this trend suggests that ‘relay’ may not serve as an interchangeable synonym of ITr for all overarching themes discussed in Chapter 2 (see page 108). Instead, it may establish itself as the terminological point of congruence between ITr and IS. The establishment of this point of congruence does not necessarily allude to an increase in ITr research in IS, nor an increased focus on interpreting research within ITr studies. However, it could allude to the establishment of a systematic method that can assist in locating research on the thematic intersections between ITr and IS.



Graph 31 – Forecast – ‘Pivot Translation’

Chapter 2 forecasted an overall decrease in MT publications (see page 142). Additionally, as previously discussed, MT publications in English exhibit a strong preference for the term ‘pivot translation’, which is predicted to continue growing at almost the same rate as it did during the present period (Graph 31 and Table 30). These insights suggest that non-MT publications could begin adopting ‘pivot translation’ as a working term. While this

suggestion does not imply that ‘pivot translation’ will cease to be the main term used in ITr-MT publications, it could imply one of the two following possibilities:

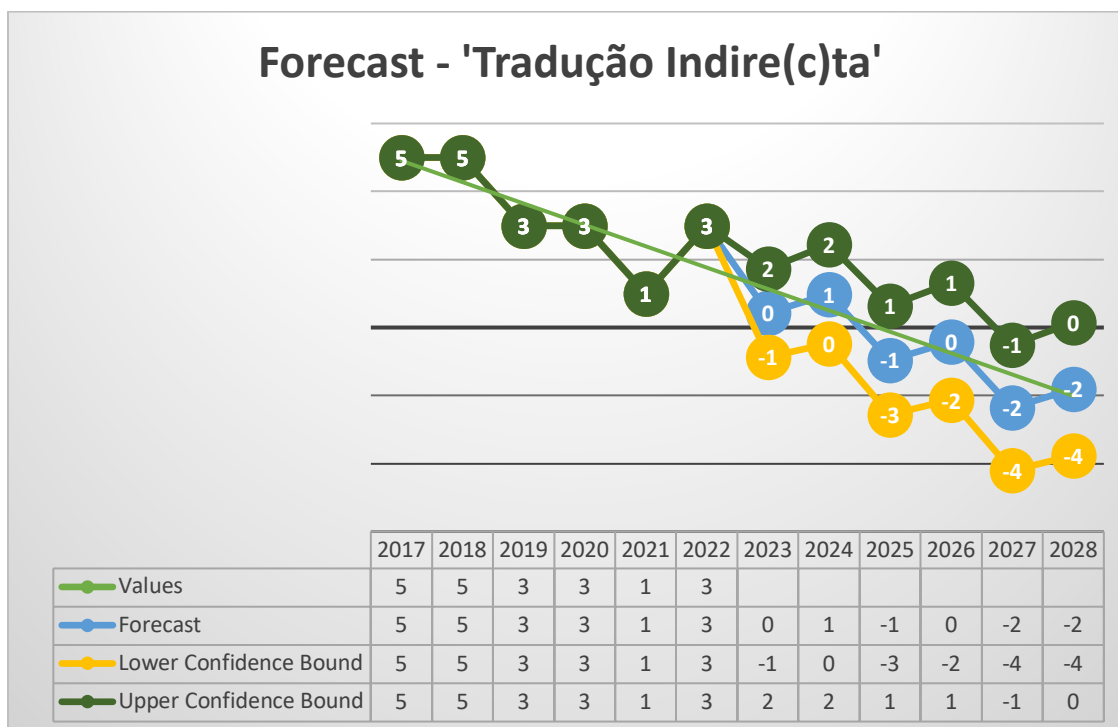
1. ‘Pivot translation’ might return to being used as the main term of choice in AVT publications, as it used to be in the past period.
2. ‘Pivot translation’, along with derived terminology (e.g., ‘pivoting translation’), has the potential to develop into an established hyponym of ITr. Terms such as ‘source-pivot translation’ (Ahmadnia & Serrano 2017: 35) may gain increased visibility in forthcoming publications, either to define the different steps of an ITr translation chain or the different texts encompassed in it.

3.2. Projections: Lusophone Publications

	<i>Tradução Indire(C)Ta</i>	<i>Tradução Intermediada</i>	<i>Tradução De Desvio</i>	<i>Tradução De Segunda-Mão</i>
Real Total (2017-2022)	20	4	2	11
Projected Total (2023-2028)	-4	11	6	17
Real + Projected Total (2017-2028)	16	15	8	28
Lower Confidence Percentage Total	30%	89%	124%	72%
Higher Confidence Percentage Total	129%	673%	634%	440%
Average Percentage Total	79%	381%	379%	256%

Table 40 – Forecast – ITr Terminology (Portuguese)

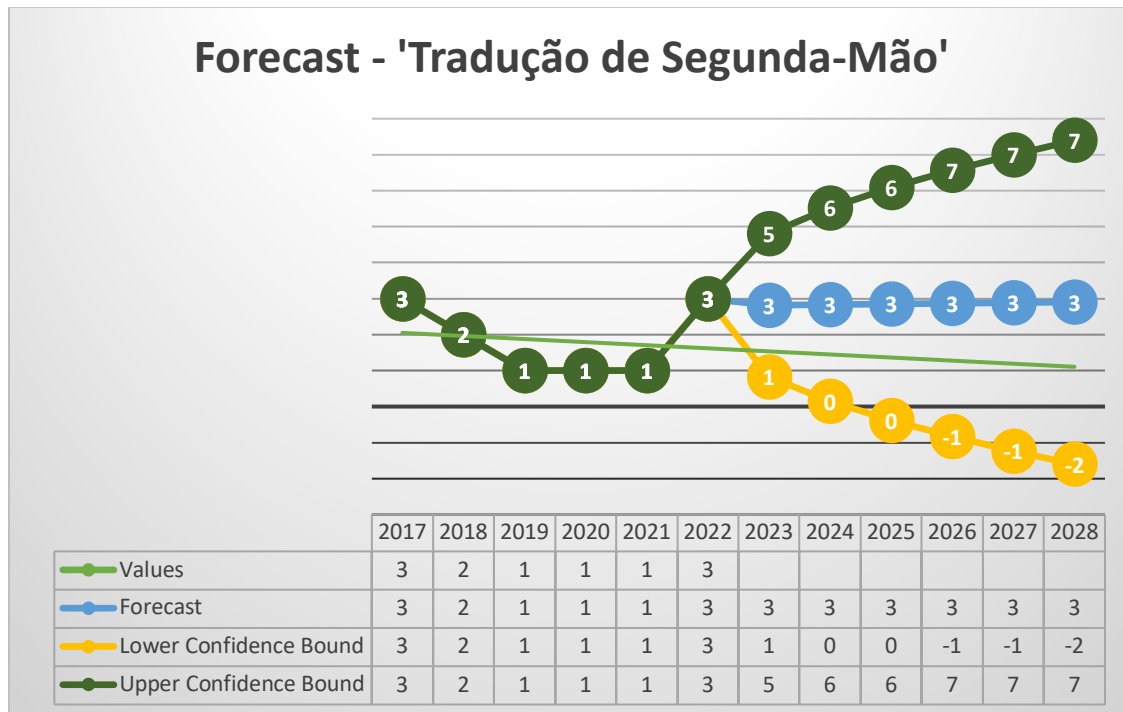
The forecast for *‘tradução indire(c)ta’* [indirect translation] publications mirrors the forecast for Lusophone ITr publications, resulting in identical outcomes for both sets of projections (see Table 14 and Graph 4). The projected data for publications using the term *‘tradução indire(c)ta’* [indirect translation] range from 30% (conservative projection) to 129% (optimistic projection), resulting in an increase of 79% from 2017 to 2028 (see Table 40).



Graph 32 – Forecast – ‘Tradução Indire(c)ta’

As discussed in the introduction to this thesis (see page 54), the total sum of ‘real + projected’ publications must be equal to or greater than the current number of publications, because existing publications do not simply cease to exist regardless of the projected outcome. Therefore, projected values below 100% imply negative inflation, or a decrease in output in real terms. Because the projected average increase for *‘tradução indire(c)ta’* [indirect translation] is 79% (i.e., below 100%), it is anticipated that there will be no new Portuguese-language publications using this term. At first, these results might seem surprising given that, unlike the term ‘indirect translation’ in English-language publications,

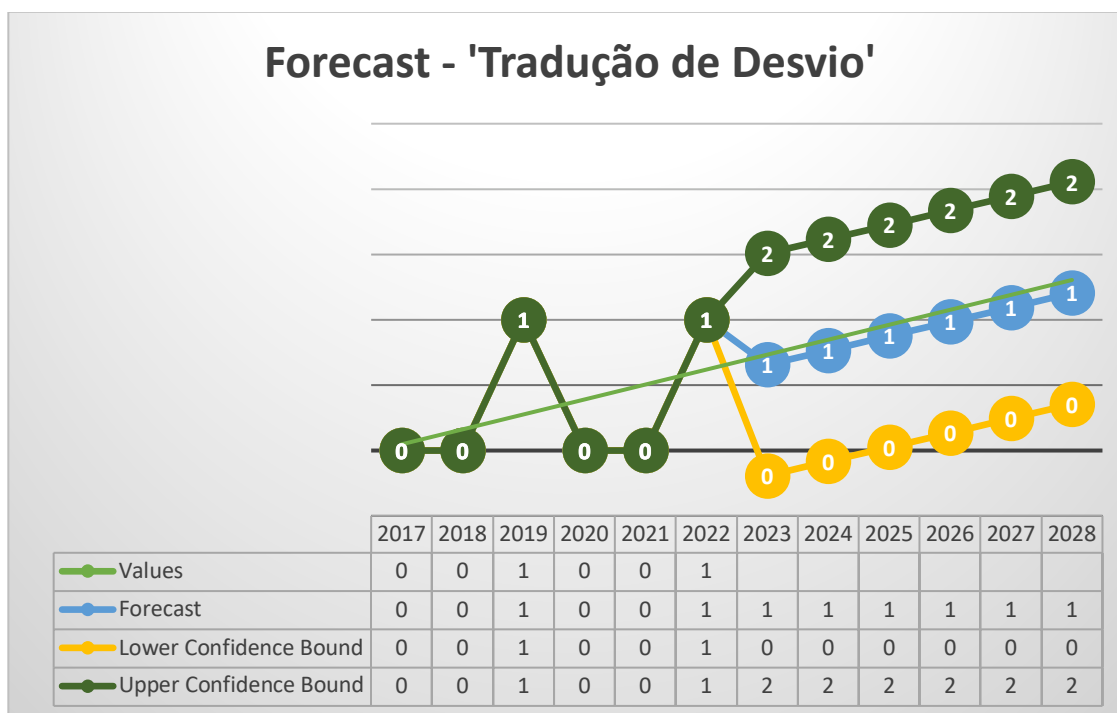
‘tradução indire(c)ta’ [indirect translation] is consistently featured in all Lusophone publications in the present.



Graph 33 – Forecast – ‘Tradução de Segunda-Mão’

Since the pattern of present publications, with the exception of 2022, consistently decreases, it would be reasonable to expect this trend to continue into the projected timeframe. Therefore, the decreased occurrence of *‘tradução indire(c)ta’* [indirect translation] could be indicative of the already anticipated reduction in Lusophone publications (see page 72). However, it is worth considering that there may also be other factors at play. First, conscious or unconscious editorial choices in Lusophone outputs could influence the terminology used in future publications. While speculative, it could be that Lusophone publications may aspire to distinguish themselves terminologically from their Anglophone counterparts. The fact that English-language terminology is not used by any of the present period Lusophone textual objects may be indicative of this hypothesis. Moreover, it could be speculated that terms used historically, such as *‘tradução de segunda-mão’*

[second-hand translation] may experience a resurgence in future Lusophone publications, in place of *‘tradução indire(c)ta’*.



Graph 34 – Forecast – ‘Tradução de Desvio’

The forecast for *‘tradução de segunda-mão’* [second-hand translation] is notably different. While the frequency of the Anglophone term is expected to decrease, the frequency of the Lusophone equivalent is expected to increase (see Tables 38 and 39). The anticipated surge in *‘tradução de segunda-mão’* [second-hand translation] could be indicative of its potential return over *‘tradução indire(c)ta’* [indirect translation]. If this terminological shift were to occur, it would contradict the hypothesis that *‘tradução de segunda-mão’* [second-hand translation] could be at risk of undergoing necrology. However, this expected surge in *‘tradução de segunda-mão’* [second-hand translation] could suggest that, similar to the results from the past, the term will be used as a potential hyponym of ITr in Lusophone publications. There is no indication from the present period that this scenario is to be anticipated. Based on the present, it seems more likely that the term will predominantly serve to provide historical context. If *‘tradução de segunda-mão’* [second-hand translation] indeed

becomes the standard term for Lusophone ITr research, it raises the question of whether the negative connotations associated with its English counterpart are equally applicable in Portuguese. If so, using the term in ITr research may encourage more comparative research advocating for direct translation. Otherwise, establishing '*tradução de segunda-mão*' [second-hand translation] as the primary term in Portuguese-language ITr research could result in a terminological framework setting Lusophone ITr publications apart from their Anglophone counterparts.

'*Tradução de desvio*' [deviated translation] is not expected to become the standard term for Portuguese-language ITr research, but it is expected to garner increasing attention. Two scenarios could emerge in this event:

- Because there is no indication of a current correlation between '*tradução de desvio*' [deviated translation] and any overarching theme, there is no basis to infer any such correlation appearing in the projected data. Revisiting the hypothesis that '*tradução de segunda-mão*' [second-hand translation] will establish itself as the standard term in Portuguese, if '*tradução de desvio*' [deviated translation] is adopted as its synonym, it can be hypothesised that *tradução de desvio* [deviated translation] will experience an increase in usage due to its interchangeability with '*tradução de segunda-mão*' [second-hand translation].
- If, however, '*tradução de desvio*' [deviated translation] becomes not a synonym of ITr, but its hyponym, it is yet to be determined what it will refer to. It could, for instance, describe one of the texts involved in the ITr process (e.g., Intermediary text nº 1), or a step of the ITr process (e.g., from ST to Intermediary text nº 1).

Despite possible pejorative connotations related to either '*tradução de desvio*' [deviated translation] or '*tradução de segunda-mão*' [second-hand translation], as suggested by Interviewee nº 32, establishing hyponyms has the potential to broaden ITr's terminological framework in Portuguese. This potential terminological expansion could be useful not only to Lusophone publications but also to ITr research at large.

4. Conclusion

This chapter posed three research questions, with the first addressing whether there are observable indications of terminological evolution in the academic publishing landscape between past and present. The analysis concludes that the usage of ITr terminology has experienced a greater degree of shifts than stability from past to present. Only one finding from the past fully remained consistent: the overarching prevalence of the working term ‘indirect translation’ among ITr research. ‘Indirect translation’ continued to gain more ground than its competing terms in English-language publications, with a total of 1,769 mentions and a consistent presence of over 72% throughout the analysed period, with the exception of the year 2019. The distinguishing feature of ‘indirect translation’ lies not only in its consistently higher frequency, but also in its proportional disparity compared to the other terms, surpassing ‘relay translation’, the second most prevalent term, by 50% in both 2021 and 2022. In Portuguese-language publications, *‘tradução indire(c)ta’* [indirect translation] is also the dominant term, mentioned a total of 812 times, the largest among all the other competing terms in the same language. Parallel to ‘indirect translation’, the large emphasis placed on *‘tradução indire(c)ta’* [indirect translation] among Lusophone publications suggests that it has established itself as the main term for the ITr phenomenon. In the past, ITr publications pertaining to AVT and MT tended to favour ‘pivot translation’ as their working term (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 117). In the present, the ITr-MT publications scenario remains unchanged, with research still consistently favouring ‘pivot translation’. Out of the total number of ITr-MT publications, 71.42% use the term to define the ITr phenomenon. Moreover, among the total number of textual objects that reference ‘pivot translation’, 61.53% pertain to MT. However, the scenario in ITr-AVT English-language publications in the present does not reflect the same preference for ‘pivot translation’ as it did in the ‘early studies’ period. Of the 26 textual objects that reference ‘pivot translation’, only two (7.69%) are AVT-related. Even these two textual objects acknowledge ‘indirect translation’ as an interchangeable term for ‘pivot translation’.

In contrast to Anglophone publications, it appears that Lusophone publications lack a standardised approach linking ITr terminology and overarching themes. This lack of correlation could conceivably stem from a deliberate avoidance for socio-cultural reasons. Alternatively, it may simply be due to the early stage of development of the ITr subfield in the Portuguese language. Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017: 117) found that past publications involving both oral and written translation generally favoured the term ‘relay translation’ (modelled on ‘relay interpreting’). Although these textual objects included both forms of translation, in the present, publications focus only on oral translation. All oral translation-related publications in the present period pertain to IS. It is observed that there is a continuous inclination towards the use of the terms ‘relay’ or ‘relayed’ in contemporary ITr-IS publications. The data from the present period demonstrates, however, a prevalence of the term ‘relay interpreting’ over ‘relay translation’. The initial interchangeability between ‘second-hand translation’ and ‘indirect translation’ evolved over time to establish the former as a hyponym of the latter (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 117).

Contrary to prior expectations, the publications from the present reveal a different scenario from what had been anticipated in the past. In the present, 16% of English-language publications use ‘second-hand translation’ as a hyponym of ITr, while 20% use it a synonym. The remaining 64% refer to ‘second-hand translation’ only to indicate that it has historically been used as a synonym of ITr. Recent Portuguese-language publications align with the pattern observed in the English-language publications, referencing *‘tradução de segunda mão’* [second-hand translation] only to indicate the historical interchangeability of the term with *‘tradução indire(c)ta’* [indirect translation]. Past findings show that publications in which Iberian languages serve as either the ultimate source or target languages analysed, ‘mediated translation’ is the prevailing term used. Contrary to these findings, less than 1% of Anglophone publications employ the term to characterise the phenomenon of ITr. The remaining publications exclusively use ‘mediated translation’ to designate the intermediary text(s) in an ITr translation chain or to provide a historical background of the different ITr terminology. The Lusophone publications all explore at least one Iberian language as either a source or target language in the materials under analysis. 30% of these publications

exclusively reference *'tradução mediada'* [mediated translation] to indicate that it has historically been used as a synonym for 'indirect translation'. Nevertheless, none of these publications incorporate the term into their actual analyses.

The findings on both English-language publications and Portuguese-language publications suggest that analysing primary materials in Iberian languages is not relevant to the choice of terminology employed to describe the ITr phenomenon. In the past, Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017: 117) found that publications where Chinese or Japanese serve as the ultimate/final source or target language, 'relay translation' is often the term of choice. Contrary to the past, only a minority of the present publications related to these languages use the term 'relay translation' to describe the ITr phenomenon. Almost half of the Portuguese-language publications explore Chinese or Japanese as either a source or target languages of the materials analyses, but just one (11.11%) reference *'tradução de retransmissão'* [relay translation]. This sole reference to the term, however, only serves to indicate that it has historically been used interchangeably with *'tradução indire(c)ta'* [indirect translation].

The second question this Chapter has asked was whether scholars' opinions or perceptions align with terminology usage. The analysis concludes that interviewees' perceptions are mostly consistent with the reality of ITr publications. 'Indirect translation' and its Portuguese-language equivalent were identified as the most widely favoured terms among interviewees. Interviewees offered reasons for their choices, such as the apparent prevalence of the term in the ITr subfield, and the belief that 'indirect translation' serves as an umbrella term for possible hyponyms. Despite being the predominant choice among interviewees, 'indirect translation' is not deemed universally suitable for all overarching themes. 18.36% of interviewees indicated that they would use 'indirect translation' interchangeably with other terms depending on the overarching theme being explored. In some cases, 'indirect translation' may not be employed at all in publications by interviewees, especially in academic works written in English.

When focusing on the specific relationship between terminology and overarching themes, interviewees consistently associated the term 'pivot' with MT and AVT research.

These results are aligned with the outcomes of the past period, but not entirely with the outcomes of the present. 'Relay', however, acts as a conduit between interviewees' perception and the reality of publications. Both English-language publications and interviewees tended to use the term 'relay' in the context of AVT research. The consistent recognition of the word 'relay' in interpreting practices has led to the term 'relay interpreting' being more frequent than 'relay translation'. The parallel recognition of 'relay interpreting' in both published works and interviews suggests that ITr may be more prominent in the specific context of IS rather than across the full scope of TS.

'Second-hand translation' bridges the reality of academic publications with the opinions of interviewees. As previously noted, the term is mostly employed in both English-language and Portuguese-language publications to demonstrate its historical use as a synonym for ITr. While 6.12% of interviewees claim 'second-hand translation' as one of their preferred terms, four times as many interviewees express a dislike for the term in both languages. As a result, 'second-hand translation' emerges as the most disliked term of all. The consensus among interviewees is that 'second-hand translation' carries a negative connotation, which could prevent other scholars from becoming interested in ITr research.

No interviewee selects 'mediated translation' as their preferred term in English or in any other language, including Portuguese, even when explicitly indicating proficiency in one or more Iberian languages. This is the case despite the term being occasionally used interchangeably with 'indirect translation' by interviewees when elaborating on answers to different questions, not only the ones about ITr terminology. The scant usage of 'mediated translation' in scholarly ITr publications pertaining to Iberian languages, coupled with the lack of interviewees who advocate for its use, suggests a waning relevance of the term compared to the past period. Parallel to the findings related to Iberian languages, the combined results from publications and interviews suggest that the term 'relay translation' does not appear to be relevant in the context of ITr publications related to Chinese or Japanese languages.

The third and final question this chapter asked was whether shifts in terminology be anticipated from present to future in the academic publishing landscape. The analysis concludes that there will be major shift from present to future. The forecast suggests that the

gap between Anglophone and Lusophone publications regarding ITr terminology usage will expand further in future compared to the present. An upward trajectory is expected for ‘indirect translation’ in English-language publications, while its Portuguese-language equivalent, ‘*tradução indire(c)ta*’ is anticipated to decrease. The observed pattern, which consistently demonstrates a decrease from 2017 to 2021, suggests a likelihood of this trend continuing into the projected timeframe. Non-mathematical factors could also influence this shrinkage in projected publication numbers. Changes in editorial policies and a possible attempt to establish a distinct terminological identity, setting Portuguese-language publications apart from English-language publications, may be contributing factors to this anticipated decrease. Beyond the forecast for ‘indirect translation’ and *tradução indire(c)ta* [indirect translation], there is another anticipated gap in ITr terminology usage between projected Anglophone and Lusophone publications. In the context of ‘second-hand translation’ and its Portuguese equivalent, the frequency of the English-language term is anticipated to decrease, while the frequency of its Portuguese counterpart is anticipated to escalate. The anticipated surge of ‘*tradução de segunda-mão*’ [second-hand translation] suggests that, akin to the findings in the past period, the term could be on its way towards establishing itself as a potential hyponym of ITr in Lusophone publications. However, there is no evidence from the present to support the realisation of this scenario. It appears more probable that the term ‘*tradução indire(c)ta*’ [indirect translation] will predominantly serve to provide historical background for ITr terminology in Portuguese-language publications.

In the analysis, it was hypothesised that establishing a potential terminological segmentation across overarching themes may result in the fragmentation of ITr research. For instance, ‘relay’ for IS, ‘pivot’ for MT, and potentially ‘indirect’ for both LT and as the umbrella term for other hyponyms. However, it was also hypothesised that this terminological segmentation could offer not necessarily the fragmentation of ITr research, but a systematic method for identifying ITr research associated with specific overarching themes. Building on these two hypotheses, the following research questions are worth pursuing:

- Instead of curtailing the existing number of ITr terms, could encouraging the segmentation of terms based on different overarching themes prove more advantageous for TS research?
- Should 'relay translation' and 'pivot translation' be regarded as synonyms of ITr, rather than its hyponyms?
- Since terminological segmentation tied to overarching themes could support the identifiability of ITr research, would it be more effective to have these three terms (i.e., 'pivot translation', 'relay translation' and 'indirect translation') as separate umbrella terms instead of having just one?
- In contemplating these three terms as possible umbrella terms, do they each encompass distinct hyponyms, particularly in light of their frequent association with specific overarching themes?

Due to this terminological fragmentation, it is arguable that the term 'pivot' could be a bridge between CS and TS. This terminological bridge has the potential not only to make more ITr research identifiable by both fields of knowledge, but also to foster more collaboration between them than what is currently evident. Should this intensified for of collaboration come to fruition, it would merit looking into the following questions:

- What potential impact might greater collaboration between CS and TS yield on funding opportunities for both fields in the context of pivot/indirect translation research?
- What potential impact might greater collaboration between CS and TS yield in the development of MT as both a research subfield and a translation practice in the context of pivot/indirect translation?
- What potential impact might greater collaboration between CS and TS yield in the development of TS courses and/or modules, especially in the context of pivot/indirect translation?

The correlation between IT terminology and overarching themes, such as MT and IS, only became evident during the analysis of the textual materials. Consequently, interviewees were not specifically asked about this correlation, though many of them raised the matter on

their own. It could be advantageous for subsequent ITr research to directly ask interviewees about this relationship. For future studies employing interviews as a methodological approach, the following questions can be considered:

- Which terminology do you tend to use when exploring specific overarching theme(s) in ITr research, and why?
- Which terminology would you not use depending on the overarching theme being explored in your research, and why?
- Would your responses differ depending on the language in which your research is to be presented?

The original set of questions planned before the interviews did not include a follow-up question about interviewees' comments or opinions regarding ITr terminology that they wished to elaborate on. The decision to incorporate this question was predicated upon the subjective evaluation of interviewees' observable emotional cues, including facial expressions and use of interjections. For this reason, the analysis of their perspectives on terminology in general and the potential advantages or disadvantages of establishing a standardised ITr terminology was purely qualitative. Rather than being statistically considered, interviewees' answers only contributed to support or challenge arguments or to provide examples. Conducting a statistical assessment to measure the extent to which ITr scholars perceive the advantages or disadvantages of establishing a standard ITr terminology in research could yield valuable insights into the anticipated evolution of terminology in future ITr publications. Moreover, these insights would be beneficial for understanding the overall usage of terminology in TS.

Finally, another methodological limitation is that this chapter employed a targeted approach in the data mining process, focusing only on the analysed terms paired with the word 'translation' and its plural form. This approach may have resulted in overlooking potential terminological pairings, including possible hyponyms. It is worth conducting further research on the terminology used by published research to describe:

- The various steps of the ITr process.
 - From ST to Intermediate Text.

- From Intermediate Text to TT.
- From Intermediate Text nº 1 to Intermediate Text nº 2 and so on.
- The different texts involved in a chain of four or more texts in the ITr process.
 - Intermediate Text nº 1, Intermediate Text nº 2, and so on.
 - Parallel or supporting texts in compilative translations.
 - Potential intermediate texts considered when conducting research on ITr genealogy.
- The distinct purposes of each text involved in an ITr chain.
 - Intermediate Text rendered for the purpose of subsequent translation.
 - Intermediate Text that transitioned from TT to ST in a new chain.

As this chapter demonstrated, beneath the surface of ITr research, patterns begin to emerge. Among them, a correlation between terminology and overarching themes takes shape. Do other hidden connections shape the way ITr is studied? Beyond themes and terminology lies another structure: typologies, the frameworks through which ITr itself is examined in research. The next chapter, therefore, shifts its focus to ITr typologies.

CHAPTER 4:

SYSTEMATIC TYPOLOGIES OF ITR RESEARCH

- “There is also no agreement on the conceptual level [...]. On this note, one should also point to the conspicuous lack of a consistent *typology*: indeed, studies proposing *systematic classifications* of indirectness are next to impossible to find” (Pięta 2014: 18)¹³².
- “There is a shortage of well-established hypotheses or comprehensive typologies of various instances of indirectness” (Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier in Davier et al. 2023: 824).

1. Introduction

In the two quotations above, Pięta (2014), and Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (in Davier et al. 2023) engage with the topic of typologies in the context of indirect translation (ITr) research. They highlight the challenges in identifying frameworks that address typological classifications. Building on this discussion, this chapter aims to answer the questions:

7. Do scholars’ opinions or perceptions of ITr typologies align with the reality of publications?
8. Which present-future shifts in ITr typologies can be anticipated?

Developing typologies or classifying research domains in the field of Translation Studies (TS) is not a new practice. Previous works by Bowker (2023), Saldanha (2023), Zhou & Aryadoust (2020), Batchelor (2017), Saldanha & O’Brien (2013), Toury (2012/1995), and Holmes (1987) have used systematic frameworks to cluster typologies on TS research. Similarly, Davier et al. (2023), as well as Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2023) have engaged in typological analyses, particularly focusing on ITr. These works predominantly categorise research into four types: context-oriented, participant-oriented, process-oriented, and product-oriented. This chapter draws on these established categories as a foundational framework while also extending them to formulate a more nuanced classification. The

¹³² Emphasis added.

decision to undertake a systematic classification of ITr research typologies stems from three factors.

The first driving factor stems from the interviews. Although no interviewee is specifically asked about ITr's typological scenario, a few of them mention typologies in passing. Interviewee n° 36, for instance, argues that "there are a number of ideas scattered all over different studies, but the criteria they said were important for understanding this phenomenon [ITr] did not seem to be used in a systematic way when making a typology" (Interviewee n° 36 – 00:13:14). Six interviewees (12.24%) articulate concerns regarding the lack of systematic typological classifications in research, especially in ITr. Their concerns address both the various forms of indirectness found in translation practices and the range of typological categories relevant to ITr research. Collectively, these scholars advocate for the development of more systematic classifications in the subfield. The second driving factor is that the lack of systematic typologies in ITr research has been a topic of concern in both earlier studies (e.g., Pięta 2014), and more recent scholarship (e.g., Davier et al. 2023). In Davier et al. (2023), for instance, Marin-Lacarta (2023: 825) agrees with Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2023: 824) that there is a scarcity of comprehensive typologies in ITr research. The third driving factor, which is at the same time a limitation, stems from the previous one. The lack of systematic typologies in ITr research hinders the availability of published evidence concerning the past (i.e., 1963-2016). For this reason, in this context, it is not possible to compare typological evolution between past and present. However, a typological analysis of the present (i.e., 2017-2022) establishes a framework for examining potential trajectories of future research, while simultaneously providing a systematic foundation for the future (i.e., 2023-2028).

Ultimately, consistent with the overarching aims of this thesis, the aim of this chapter is to develop a typological framework that can serve as a foundation for advancing theoretical contributions regarding typologies in ITr research (Grodal, Anteby & Holm 2020: 3-4). Systematically organising typologies within the specific case of ITr research can reveal clustering patterns that highlight similarities and divergences where the (sub)field remains underdeveloped (Zwischenberger 2024: 18). Categorising ITr typologies into two (i.e., *ITr as*

a focal point in research, and *TS research models in ITr research*¹³³ in recent publications), informs a preliminary effort to identify and cluster the prevailing trends evident in contemporary ITr literature. The two typologies are discussed in greater detail below.

2. Methodology

In the quotations above, both Pięta (2014: 18), and Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (in Davier et al. 2023: 824) address the concept of typology to categorise the various forms of indirectness examined within TS. The scope of this chapter extends beyond their conceptualisation. The perspective explored here involves the systematic classification of typologies of ITr research:

1. The different types of approaches to ITr in research: *ITr as a focal point in research*.
2. The different types of TS research models within ITr: *TS research models in ITr research*.

For the sake of clarity and conciseness, the different types of *ITr as a focal point in research* will be referred to as ‘approaches’, while the different types of *TS research models in ITr research* will be referred to as ‘models’.

2.1. ITr as a Focal Point in Research

When data are rich and layered, creating analytical categories can be challenging (Grodal, Anteby & Holm 2020: 7). Nevertheless, informed methodological decisions must be made to “form the basis for novel insights” (ibid.). As an attempt to develop a first systematic categorisation of *ITr as a focal point in research*, the analysis of the approaches is intentionally designed with rigidity, and it does not accommodate overlaps. The approaches focus on how ITr itself is addressed by each output. The categories are the following:

¹³³ In this chapter, the *TS research models* are presented as typologies. However, they could alternatively be viewed as *research approaches* (as per Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier 2023) or *research methodologies* (as per Saldanha & O’Brien 2013).

	Definition	Role in Research	Example
ITr as a translation strategy (ITr-strategy)	ITr as a translation strategy in an experiment.	The textual object uses ITr as a method/strategy for rendering translations.	The article uses a developing software to render an ITr chain of Ó Cadhain's <i>Cré na Cille's [The Dirty Dust]</i> (1949) from Irish into English, and then from English into Malay. It then analyses the results between source text(s), intermediate texts(s) and target text(s).
ITr as a feature of the analysed material(s) (ITr-feature)	ITr as just a characteristic of the material(s).	The textual object acknowledges the presence of ITr as a distinctive attribute within the analysed materials.	The article analyses <i>Cré na Cille's [The Dirty Dust]</i> (Ó Cadhain 1949) ST in Irish, and its translation into Malay. It acknowledges that the Malay translation was rendered through an intermediary English version. The phenomenon itself, however, is not analysed.

ITr as a standalone subject (ITr-subject)	ITr as a topic analysed in itself.	The object addresses ITr as a phenomenon for analysis, exploring it as an independent object of study. ITr serves as either the central focus or one of the primary focuses in the textual object's analysis.	The article analyses <i>Cré na Cille's [The Dirty Dust]</i> (Ó Cadhain 1949) ST in Irish, and the ways in which the English rendition has shaped the subsequent translations into Malay, Dutch, and German.

Table 41 - ITr as a Focal Point in Research - Approaches

2.2. TS Research Models in ITr research

TS research models in ITr research essentially pertains to the purpose of the study, therefore, “the ultimate aims of the researcher” (Saldanha & O’Brien 2013: 5).

Drawing on Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2023), Zhou & Aryadoust (2020), and Saldanha & O’Brien (2013), the models analysed in this chapter are:

	Definition	Aim	Example
Product-based (PDT)	It is centred around “the textual product that is the outcome of the translation or interpreting process” Saldanha & O’Brien (2013: 50). It is material in nature.	To analyse a subject of material order (the product itself), not a phenomenon.	Sentence length in the Dutch translation of <i>Cré na Cille</i> (Ó Cadhain 1949).

Phenomenon-based (PHN)	It centres on studies that discuss translation or research on TS from a theoretical, historical, ideological or sociological perspective. It is immaterial in nature.	To analyse a phenomenon, not a subject of material order.	The ideological and historical contexts in which the Dutch translations of <i>Cré na Cille</i> (Ó Cadhain 1949) were produced.
Process-based (PCS)	It centres on the process of translating or conducting academic research, including testing and outlining research methodologies or translation methods. It is immaterial in nature.	To analyse machine, researcher, translator or interpreter “behaviour, competence, expertise, the cognitive process that orient these, and the relations between cognition and the translated or interpreted product” (Saldanha & O’Brien 2013: 109).	The strategies applied by a translation software when translating <i>Cré na Cille</i> (Ó Cadhain 1949) from Irish into Dutch.
Agent-based (AGT)	It centres on the individuals who are involved at any stage of the translation, interpreting, or scientific research process.	To analyse stakeholders’ (e.g., translators, interpreters, students, researchers, programmers audiences etc)	TS students’ perspectives on the quality of the Dutch rendition of <i>Cré na Cille</i> (Ó Cadhain 1949).

	It is material in nature.	perspectives, expertise, motivations, and ethical considerations.	

Table 42 - TS Research Models in ITr Research

Because the distinctions between models in TS research can be ambiguous, particularly in works that encompass multiple research questions, and goals (Pięta, Ivaska, & Gambier 2023: 843), overlaps in this type of classification process are often unavoidable (ibid.; Zhu & Aryadoust 2023: 166; Saldanha & O'Brien 2013: 5). For this reason, there is a total of 138 units of analysis, as eight (6.15%)¹³⁴ textual objects are categorised under more than one model.

2.3. Textual Materials

The method used to identify these typologies adheres to the data mining steps outlined in the introduction to this thesis (see page 46), using the 1-gram and 2-gram terms outlined in Appendix 6 (see page 371). However, this chapter introduces one key difference in this methodological application. Because the "*Introduction*"¹³⁵ sets the stage" for presenting written research (Cooper 2015: 67), the analysis of the *TS research models in ITr research* classifies research based on the abstract and the introduction sections of the textual objects. This methodological choice is grounded in the principle that research goals are typically articulated in the introductory sections of academic articles (Thelwall & Mas-Bleda 2020: 731; Shehzad 2011: 140). Research goals serve as catalysts for selecting primary materials and formulating corresponding research questions and/or hypotheses (Barroga & Matanguihan 2022: 1; Lipowski 2008: 1668). While the terminology used in academic writing may vary, terms such as 'aim(s)', 'objective(s)', 'goal(s)', 'hypothesis', 'hypotheses', and

¹³⁴ Henitiuk (2017), Ivaska & Paloposki (2018), Ivaska (2019), Tyšš & Gromová (2020), Cheng (2021), Torres-Simón (2021), Allwood (a) (2022), and Davier (2022).

¹³⁵ Italicised by the author of the article.

‘purpose(s)’ can effectively signal the research’s ultimate intentions (Thelwall & Mas-Bleda 2020: 730), enabling the identification of models of research (i.e., AGT, PCS, PDT, and PHN).

Conversely, the analysis of the *ITr as a focal point in research* cannot exclusively rely on research questions, hypotheses or goals/aims, as these components may not be enough to delineate how each textual object engages with and addresses ITr. To provide a comprehensive understanding of *ITr as a focal point in research*, the analytical and conclusive sections of the textual objects are also subjected to the data mining process.

2.4. Interviews

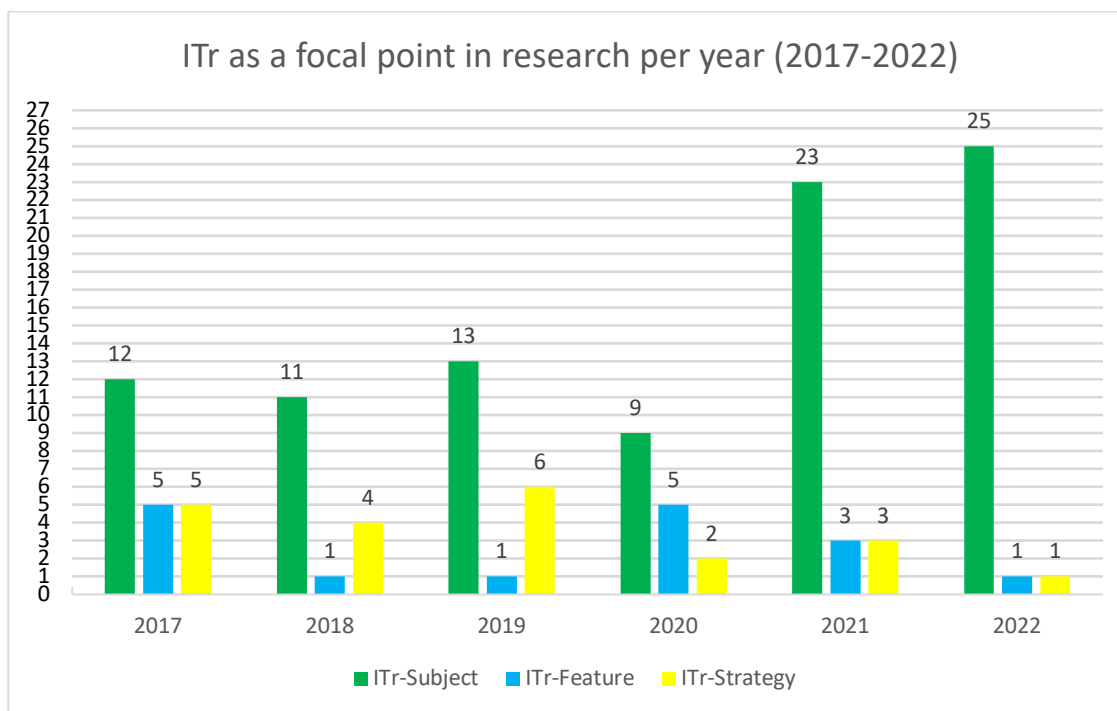
The criteria for defining the two typologies emerge from the textual materials, and are specifically developed to address existing knowledge gaps concerning typologies in ITr research. The questions posed to interviewees do not specifically include either models or approaches. Although interviewees do not explicitly elaborate on typologies, they suggest hypotheses/research questions, or offer explanations on what they aspire to research or read about in future, as explained in Chapter 2 (see page 110). Their answers to questions nº 18, 27, and 28 are categorised in accordance with the *TS research models in ITr research* criteria outlined in Table 42 (see page 205):

- Could you tell me about your current research project(s)?
- Are there any specific topics you are planning to explore in the next few years?
- What topics/themes or types of research in indirect translation would you like to do or see more research on in future?

The categorisation of the models presented in Table 42 is centred on goals, hypotheses/research questions, which allows for its application to interview data. *ITr as a focal point in research*, on the other hand, cannot be similarly categorised, as this typology is concerned with how research approaches ITr, thus being intrinsically related to textual objects. Since no direct questions were asked about this typology, categorising it based only on responses to questions nº 18, 27, and 28 would lead to assumptions about interviewees’ choices for approaching ITr in research. As a result, direct comparisons between the reality of publications and interviewees’ perceptions are only centred on models, not approaches.

3. ITr as a Focal Point in Research

3.1. Present (2017-2022)



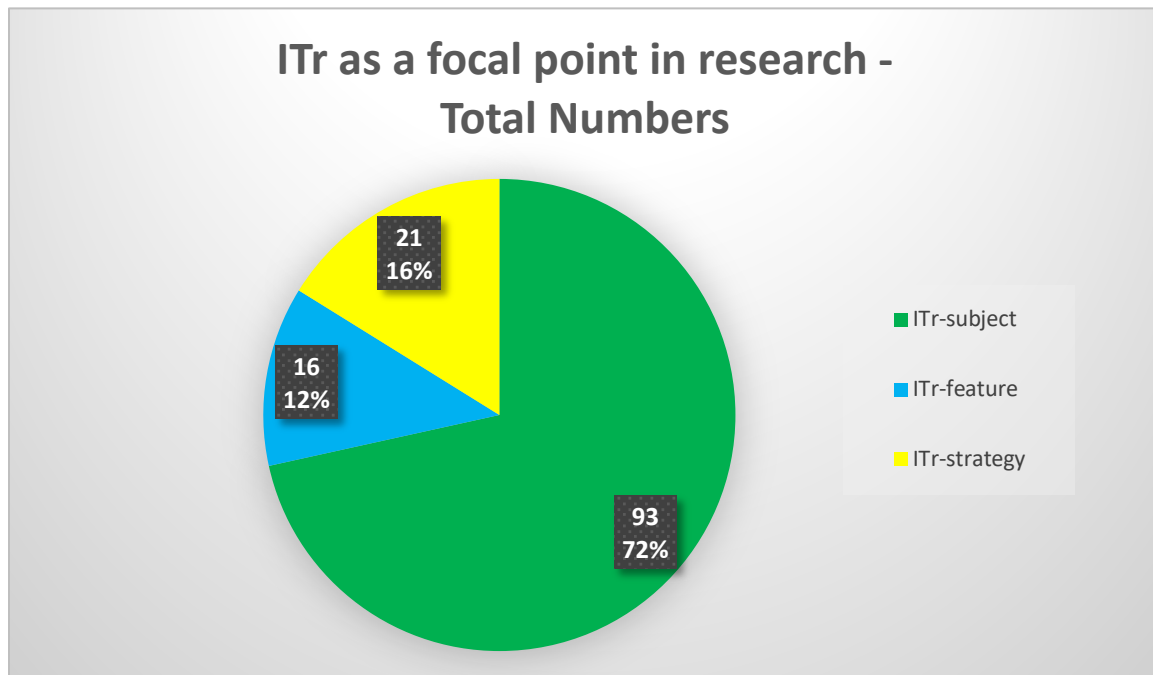
Graph 35 – ITr as a Focal Point in Research: Yearly Distribution

While interviewees are not explicitly prompted to discuss typological approaches, two pertinent comments emerge from transcriptions. Interviewees nº 19, and nº 43 note that ITr is often only addressed peripherally in studies. This leads to the subject being treated as a mere characteristic of the materials, almost like a “necessary evil” (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 53; Pöchhacker in Davier et al. 2023: 824; St. André 2020: 471), rather than being the central focus of research. Interviewee nº 43 (00:35:21), for instance, claims that “there are a lot of works that revolve around indirect translation without really reflecting on the nature of indirect translation”. Similarly, Interviewee nº 19 argues that:

“[...] there are people who look at Theatre Translation. That comes up quite often. But really, their focus is theatre. But Indirect Translation is something that’s kind of clearly related. And it is the same thing for audio-visual translations. It’s part of the

mix. [...] so they've kind of just scratched the surface of the subject, but it's not really *the*¹³⁶ thing" (Interviewee n° 19 – 00:32:00).

However, these two perceptions do not align with the reality of publications. All three approaches maintain a steady presence throughout the present (i.e., 2017-2022), though their prominence varies over time (see Graph 35 on page 208, and Table 43 on page 210). One approach, however, remains consistently predominant: ITr-subject. With a cumulative total of 93 outputs (72%), ITr-subject represents an average annual rate of 69.40%. Yet, this percentage is not entirely representative of ITr-subject's nuanced trajectory, as evidenced by its substantial increases in the last two years of the analysed period. Beyond the percentage increase, there is also a large proportional difference between ITr-subject and the other two approaches. In 2021, ITr-subject surpasses the other two combined by nearly fourfold, and in 2022, by twelvefold (see Graph 35).



Graph 36 – ITr as a Focal Point in Research: Total Numbers

It is tempting to think that both the predominance, and the increase in ITr-subject publications is just a result of the overall growth in scholarly activity in both 2021 and 2022

¹³⁶ Italics added to represent the emphasis Interviewee n° 19 gave to the word "the".

(see Chapter 1). However, in line with one of the hypotheses discussed in Chapter 1 (see pages 69 and 78), it is also possible that the establishment of the IndirecTrans Network in 2016 has focused efforts not only on producing more ITr research in general, but research where ITr is the primary subject. Of the the 34 textual objects authored by contributors to the IndirecTrans Network, only six¹³⁷ (17.64%) do not approach ITr-subject. Furthermore, akin to another hypothesis also articulated in Chapter 1 (see page 70), scholars frequently encounter ITr incidentally while engaging in case study research (Hadley 2023: 1). These encounters may contribute to an increased awareness of the phenomenon, suggesting that there is a growing interest in the topic itself as well.

YEAR	ITr-SUBJECT	ITr-FEATURE	ITr-STRATEGY
2017	54.54%	22.72%	22.72%
2018	68.75%	6.25%	25%
2019	65%	5%	30%
2020	56.25%	31.25%	12.5%
2021	79.31%	10.34%	10.34%
2022	92.59%	3.7%	3.7%

Table 43 – ITr as a Focal Point in Research: Yearly Percentages

Although ITr-subject consistently emerges as the leading approach, the two statements from interviewees nº 19, and nº 43 suggest that scholars may perceive it to be less prevalent than ITr-feature. However, the present reveals a contrasting reality: ITr-feature emerges as the least represented approach, accounting for only 16 outputs (12.30%). This contrast between reality and perception suggests that scholars may hold an unrealistic view of the extent to which research emphasises the subject itself. On the one hand, this discrepancy may be interpreted negatively, implying that scholars are not fully aware of the scope of publications within the subfield. On the other hand, it presents a more optimistic

¹³⁷ Assis Rosa (2017), Hanes (2017), Pacheco Pinto (2018), Ivaska & Huuhtanen (2020), and Glynn & Hadley (2021).

perspective: the realisation that ITr-subject is more prevalent than initially anticipated gives researchers the opportunity to reassess the evolution of the subfield and consider how they might approach ITr research strategically in future. Even though ITr-feature is the least explored approach in the reality of publications, two patterns related to it are identified:

- In accordance with the criteria outlined in Table 22 (see page 108), it is observed that 13 (81.25%) of the ITr-feature outputs pertain to Literary Translation (LT) (see Table 44, and Appendix 1).
- Five (38.46%) of the outputs which are both ITr-feature and LT are Lusophone (see Table 44, and Appendix 1).

	ITr-Subject	ITr -Feature	ITr -Strategy	Total Sum
LT in English	51	8	1	60
LT in Portuguese	12	5	1	18
LT Total	63	13	2	78

Table 44 – LT per Approach (English and Portuguese)

It is arguably unsurprising that most ITr-feature outputs are categorised under LT, given that most publications similarly align with this overarching theme (see Table 22). Going beyond the more apparent reason, two alternative hypotheses may be proposed. The first is related to ethics in LT. Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón (2023: 117) discuss this issue by emphasising that literary translators are often relegated to “tiny letters on the copyright page”, and “relayers are frequently silenced and dehumanized by mentions such as ‘translated from the English’”. The invisibility of relay translators in the context of LT potentially elucidates the relationship between the two.

The second hypothesis takes personal preferences into account. According to Susam-Sarajeva (2014: 51), in TS research, the selection of case studies is frequently influenced by personal preferences, particularly among postgraduate students engaged in LT. It is possible that scholars could be primarily driven by the case study itself, rather than the phenomenon it represents. Thus, it seems reasonable to anticipate that LT would emerge as the

predominant overarching theme in research approaching ITr-feature. This hypothesis garners additional support for two reasons. The first, as discussed in Chapter 2 (see page 146), is that 40 (81.63%) interviewees explicitly note conducting research on the ITr-LT intersection. The second aspect is that over half of the interviewees, specifically 28 (57.14%), claim that their initial interest in ITr as a phenomenon was primarily motivated by the literary works with which they were engaged, or sought to explore, which happened to be indirect translations. An unexpected result pertains to the linguistic distribution within the LT and ITr-feature intersection. Given that most publications are in English, it would be reasonable to assume that this intersection would lean towards being predominantly in English as well. However, ITr-feature represents 27.77% of the 18 LT publications in Portuguese, whereas it represents only 13.33% of the 60 LT publications in English. Moreover, five (38.46%) of the 13 LT publications that approach ITr-feature are Lusophone, compared to only 12 (19.04%) of the 63 LT publications that address ITr-subject (see Table 44). Based on Dollerup (2014: 21), and Interviewee nº 32 (01:22:35), the prevalence of the intersection between ITr-feature and LT publications in Portuguese, compared to English, suggests that scholars in Lusophone contexts could be less aware of how their work fits the ITr domain. Considering the comparatively limited availability of Lusophone publications (see Graph 1, page 64), coupled with the scarcity of diversified ITr terminology in Portuguese (see Table 2 on page 18, and Table 27 on page 150), it is possible that scholars may indeed be initially unaware of the indirect nature of Lusophone primary materials. Lusophone literary primary materials, which inadvertently qualify as ITrs, may be relatively common for historical reasons.

In the specific case of Brazil, the largest Portuguese-speaking country in the world (Defino & Lewandrowski 2023: 477; Sass et al. 2020: 3), the challenges associated with tracing ITr chains appear to be especially pronounced. Historical analyses find that investing in translation was deemed superfluous for centuries, particularly as literacy was predominantly confined to the elite classes (Accácio 2020: 111; Rolim 2006: 55). If a concept or practice is deemed superfluous, it is arguable that not much effort would be dedicated to the genealogical developments or the documentation of the translation processes that took place

in Brazil¹³⁸. Brazil, however, is only one subset of the expansive Lusophone literary landscape. In now-known as Lusophone Africa¹³⁹, for instance, Portuguese served as the *lingua franca* (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 4; Halme-Berneking 2019: 271-272), especially after Portugal implemented the *Assimilação* [Assimilation] policy¹⁴⁰, superseding native African languages (Fehn 2019: 190; Halme-Berneking 2019: 272; Kießling 2019: 37; Spolsky 2018: 62; Hamilton 1991a: 321; Hamilton 1991b: 324)¹⁴¹. Therefore, it would be unsurprising if there was a scarcity of archival records pertaining to Lusophone ITr chains, particularly in former colonies, where native languages could serve as the primary source text or the final target text¹⁴². Inadvertent encounters with ITr are not confined to either the LT or Lusophone contexts. According to Interviewee nº 17, most people availing of Machine Translations (MT) are also unaware of the ITr phenomenon:

I know that due to Machine Translation, we are still having indirect translations, even if we are not aware of this. And it's not limited to literary texts. [...] it's becoming more and more common, I mean, every day so many people use it for so many purposes, other than the academic purposes. [...] People are just not aware of how common this phenomenon is in our lives" (Interviewee nº 17 – 00:18:36).

¹³⁸ The emergence of ITrs in Brazil can be traced to the advent of book printing, a development that gained further momentum following the arrival of the Portuguese royal family in 1808 (Accácio 2020: 111; Abreu 2008: 75). During this period, French frequently served as an intermediary language in the translation process (Rolim 2006: 56). Similarly, 20th-century Portugal, also experienced a large influx of translations rendered via French (Assis Rosa 2017: 443).

¹³⁹ Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and São Tomé and Príncipe (Fehn 2019: 189).

¹⁴⁰ Portugal's official policy, implemented in 1926, aimed to enforce Portuguese cultural hegemony, and establish the Portuguese language as the predominant medium of communication in its African colonies (Hamilton 1991b: 324). For a more information, Halme-Berneking (2019) explores this historical phenomenon in the specific context of Angola.

¹⁴¹ This legacy persists today, as Portuguese continues to be recognised as (at least one of) the official language in all of these former colonies (Fehn 2019: 191).

¹⁴² The term 'primary source text' may also be referred to as 'ultimate source text'. Likewise, the term 'final target text' can also be referred to as 'ultimate target text'.

	Total	Connection	Exceptions¹⁴³
ITr-MT outputs	21	19 (90.47%)	Amponsah-Kaakyire et al. (2021), and Ustaszewski (2021).
ITr-Strategy outputs	21	19 (90.47%)	Pimentel (2018), and Kavalir & Chudoba (2020).

Table 45 – ITr-MT + ITr-Strategy

Interviewee n° 05 (00:12:36) offers a slightly different perspective. In their perception, while end users of MT may remain largely unaware of the ITr phenomenon, MT researchers are not. They argue that ITr-MT research often arise because “indirect translation is the only thing that exist for those people to avail” (ibid.). Regardless of the motivations behind researchers’ engagement in ITr-MT research, the reality of publications indicates a connection between the ITr-strategy approach and the overarching theme of MT. While not all ITr-MT outputs approach ITr as a strategy, and conversely, not all ITr-strategy research is classified under ITr-MT, the relationship between the two categories does not appear to be coincidental (see Table 45).

	English language	Co-authorship	Conference Proceedings	‘Pivot translation’
ITr-strategy	20 (95.23%) outputs	18 (85.71%) outputs	15 (71.42%) outputs	15 (71.42%) outputs

Table 46 – ITr-Strategy + Comparable Categories

Expanding on the hypothesis presented in Chapter 3 (see page 163), which suggests there is a pentagonal relationship among MT research, co-authorship, conference proceedings, English language, and the term ‘pivot translation’ in the context of ITr research, it can be argued that ITr-strategy may also play a role in this framework. When contrasting ITr-strategy with these other three groups, additional patterns can be identified (see Table

¹⁴³ The other 19 outputs are listed in the link available in Appendix 1 (p. 363).

46)¹⁴⁴. As demonstrated in Table 46, ITr-strategy also emerges as the predominant approach related to the other four groups beyond MT. Therefore, integrating ITr-strategy into the pentagonal configuration effectively reshapes it into a hexagon (see Figure 9 below).



Figure 9 – Hexagon

The hexagonal configuration, however, does not necessarily imply that all these categories are consistently interconnected. Rather, it suggests the existence of a trend, at least within ITr research, where these elements are often interconnected. This configuration suggests a potential emphasis of ITr-MT research on developing practical translation applications and optimising publication workflows. This hypothesis is supported by four main reasons:

- Publishing in conference proceedings tends to streamline the communication of research results, particularly in relation to technological advancements (see page 65).
- In addition to scholarly articles, ITr research is published annually through conference proceedings (see page 88).

¹⁴⁴ See link in Appendix 1 (page 362) for detailed information on these outputs.

- ITr as a translation strategy could be more financially and logistically efficient than relying on direct translations (Hadley 2023: 2; Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 11; Honeyman 2005: 68).
- English serves as the preferred language for both scholarly publications and researchers in the field (see page 66).

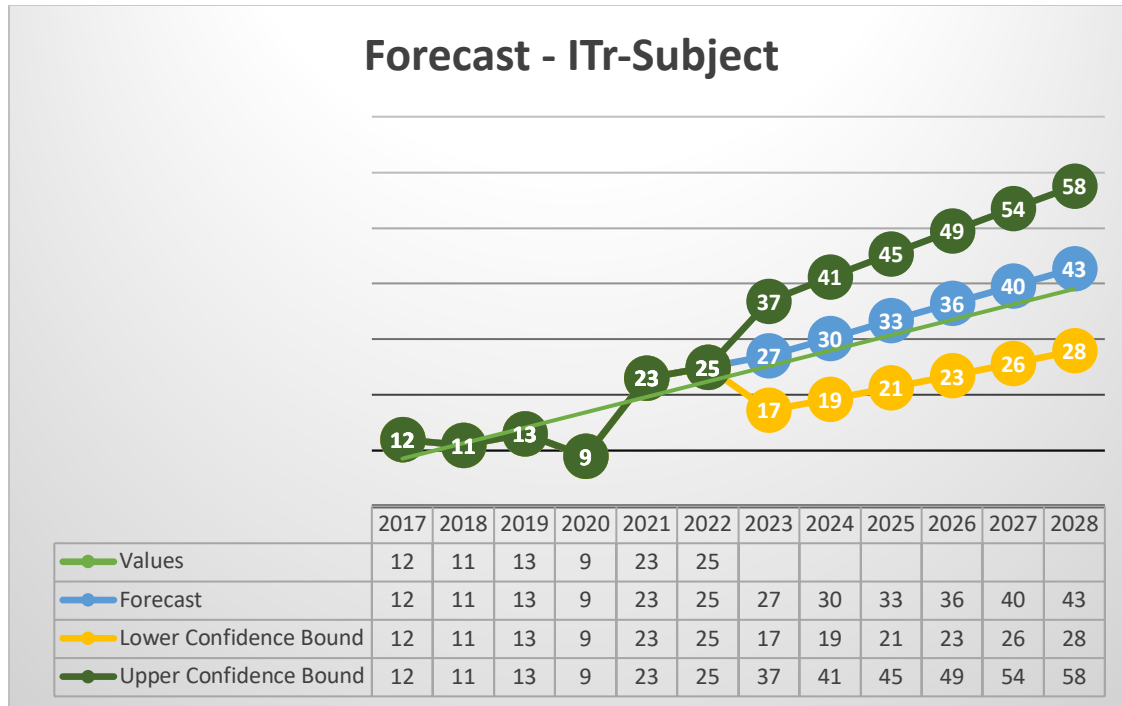
While acknowledging that this interconnected configuration can have potential benefits for research (see pages 82, 91, and 163), its application can also be accompanied by a range of challenges. Different stakeholders may have different priorities and resources when applying ITr as a translation strategy in research. Research may be undertaken for the purpose of advancing knowledge and contributing to scholarly publications. However, it can also be commissioned for practical applications, such as software improvement. In these circumstances, the hexagon may not be equally relevant for all stakeholders. Integrating ITr-strategy with existing translation systems may require specific investments in technology and training, which educational institutions or even private companies with limited financial resources may find difficult to support.

3.2. Future (2023-2028)

In light of the anticipated increase in ITr research publications in future (see page 73) it is reasonable to anticipate an expansion in research focusing on ITr-subject (see Graph 37 on page 179, and Table 47 on page 218). The projections for ITr-subject range from 245% (conservative projection) to 405% (optimistic projection). As a result, research on ITr-subject is anticipated to undergo an average increase of 325%.

It is noteworthy that ITr-subject may be the only approach expected to yield a greater volume of published works in the future than it does in the present (see Table 47). This increase means that research which addresses ITr as a standalone subject will continue to be produced and possibly play a central role in ITr research as whole. As underscored in the introduction to this thesis, although the projections are strictly mathematical and do not account for external factors, such as personal inclination, funding opportunities, and other

adversities, such as global health emergencies, three hypotheses can be proposed as a result of ITr-subject's upward trend.



Graph 37 – Forecast ITr-Subject

The first hypothesis builds on previous analyses. Considering the expected increase in both collaborative research (Table 18, page 84) and ITr-LT research (see Table 26, page 142), it is likely that academic awareness of the ITr phenomenon will also increase. More academic awareness, regardless of language, could instigate researchers to move beyond the traditional binarism between ‘source texts’ (ST) and ‘target texts’ (TT) in LT research (Marin-Lacarta in Davier et al. 2023: 825), and critically engage with intermediary texts.

Building on Popper’s (1982: 27-28) framework of criticality, critically engaging with intermediary texts requires moving away from the search for an ultimate rationale behind their application. Instead, such engagement is oriented towards formulating hypotheses that incorporate these intermediary texts, rather than simply viewing them or the ITr practice as, once again, a “necessary evil” (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 53; Pöchhacker in Davier et al. 2023: 824). Should this hypothesis be substantiated, it could represent an

advancement for both ITr research and TS as a whole. Hermans (2022: 34) observes that case studies within Translation History (TH) are often limited in terms of both temporal scope and geographical reach, as well as in the specific domains they encompass. A critical engagement with intermediary texts has the potential to identify patterns of different nature between case studies, including instances of lexical borrowings (Hadley 2023: 74-75). The identification of these patterns can not only aid the tracing of ITr genealogy, but also broaden the overall scope of TH research.

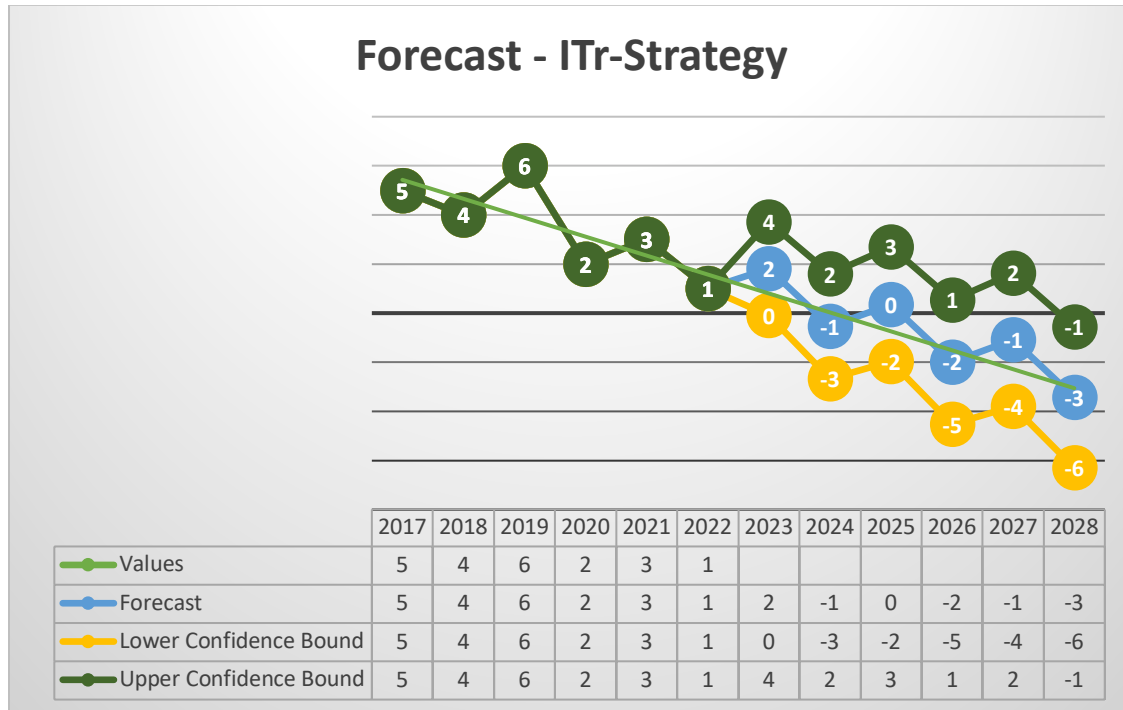
	ITr-Subject	ITr-Feature	ITr-Strategy
Real Total (2017-2022)	93	16	21
Projected Total (2023-2028)	209	13	-5 (null)
Real + Projected Total (2017-2028)	302	29	16
Lower Confidence Percentage	245%	0%	8% (null)
Higher Confidence Percentage	405%	365%	146%
Average Percentage	325%	183%	77% (null)

Table 47 – Forecast – ITr as a Focal Point in Research

The second hypothesis also pertains to moving beyond traditional views. More ITr-subject research could effectively contribute to the relevance of ITr, which has frequently been studied as a peripheral topic in relation to arguably more established subfields of TS (Hadley 2023: 1; Ringmar 2012: 10). ITr-subject, hence, has the potential to foreground ITr as a central focus of TS research, rather than relegating it to remain a topic that is only addressed incidentally (see page 70).

The third hypothesis remains aligned with traditional perspectives rather than diverging from them. Scholarly interest in the phenomenon of ITr in and of itself has the potential “to counteract tendencies towards ‘unnecessary’ indirect translations, as e.g. when it is solely dictated by a commercial rationale” (Ringmar 2007: 12). This hypothesis suggests

that a more in-depth understanding of ITr, rather than dismissing it as “a thing of the past” (Ringmar 2012: 143), could ultimately decrease its frequency of application.



Graph 38 – Forecast ITr-Strategy

The third hypothesis might explain why ITr-subject seems to be gaining momentum, while ITr-strategy does not appear to be following a comparable trajectory. Although there is no indication of a future general decrease in ITr practices (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 12), ITr-strategy research is projected to experience a decrease in publications (see Table 47, and Graph 38).

Given that it is impossible to have a total projected number of publications that is lower than the number which is known to exist currently¹⁴⁵. Effectively, this means that negative numbers are interpreted as null. Likewise, “increases” below 100% (the total number of existing publications) can be interpreted as there being no additional works projected to be published. Because the average projected increase in ITr-strategy is 77%,

¹⁴⁵ Full explanation in the introduction to this thesis (see page 54).

which is below the threshold of 100%, it is anticipated that there will be no forthcoming publications using this approach. In the present, the volume of published works approaching ITr-strategy already appears to be subsiding (see Graph 35 and Table 43). ITr-strategy is responsible for an average of 25.9% of the ITr publications in the first half of the 2017-2022 period, but only 8.84% in the second half.

In alignment with the hexagonal configuration (see Figure 9, page 215), ITr-strategy appears to be directly correlated to MT research. Considering the hypothesis raised in Chapter 2 (see page 145), which suggests that MT research might shift away from testing pivoting techniques, it is reasonable to infer that the ITr-strategy would consequently decrease as an approach. Nevertheless, other supplementary hypotheses may also be advanced to explain this decrease. Honeyman (2005: 68) argues that ITr offers superior financial or logistical gain compared to direct translations depending on the circumstances. However, due to the fast evolution of MT (Mohsen, Althebi & Albahooth 2023: 2-3), it is possible that the current financial and logistical gains associated with ITr may become less relevant in future. Profit often takes precedence over the other two “pillars of sustainable development”: the biosphere (the planet), and society (the people) (Buts et al. 2023: 173). If direct translations emerge as more financially attractive than ITrs, it is reasonable to anticipate a decline in research approaching ITr-strategy in the forthcoming years.

While it is a possible scenario, attributing the drastic reduction in ITr-strategy publications only to technological advancements may be an oversimplification. ITr remains a viable “strategy for creating sustainable MT systems capable of translating between language pairs for which little to no parallel training data exists” (Riemland 2023: 249). Consequently, the anticipated decrease in ITr-strategy publications might not be attributed to technological advancements or a disregard for testing ITr as a translation strategy. Rather, it could be attributed to an expanded effort from scholars to analyse existing multiple corpora already generated by pivoting methods, instead of experimenting with new ones. This hypothesis finds support in Dolmays (2024):

While translation studies researchers will often want to design their own corpora to achieve a specific goal, they may also want to rely on existing corpora for all or part

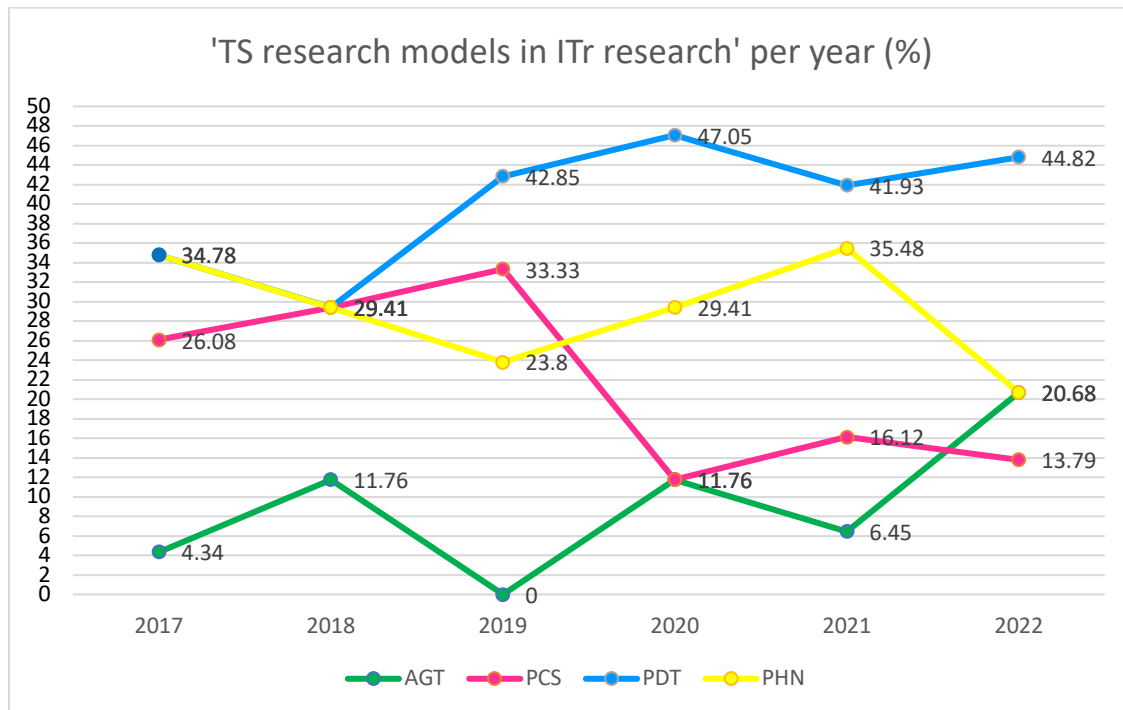
of their data – particularly if corpora that are well suited to the project’s research goals already exist (Dolmaya 2024: 40).

Interviewee nº 06 (00:47:23) lends credence to this hypothesis by claiming that, with the advent of larger datasets available for MT research, the application of ITr as a strategy, particularly in the context of Statistical Machine Translation (STM), appears to be in decline.

4. TS Research Models in ITr Research

4.1. Present (2017-2022)

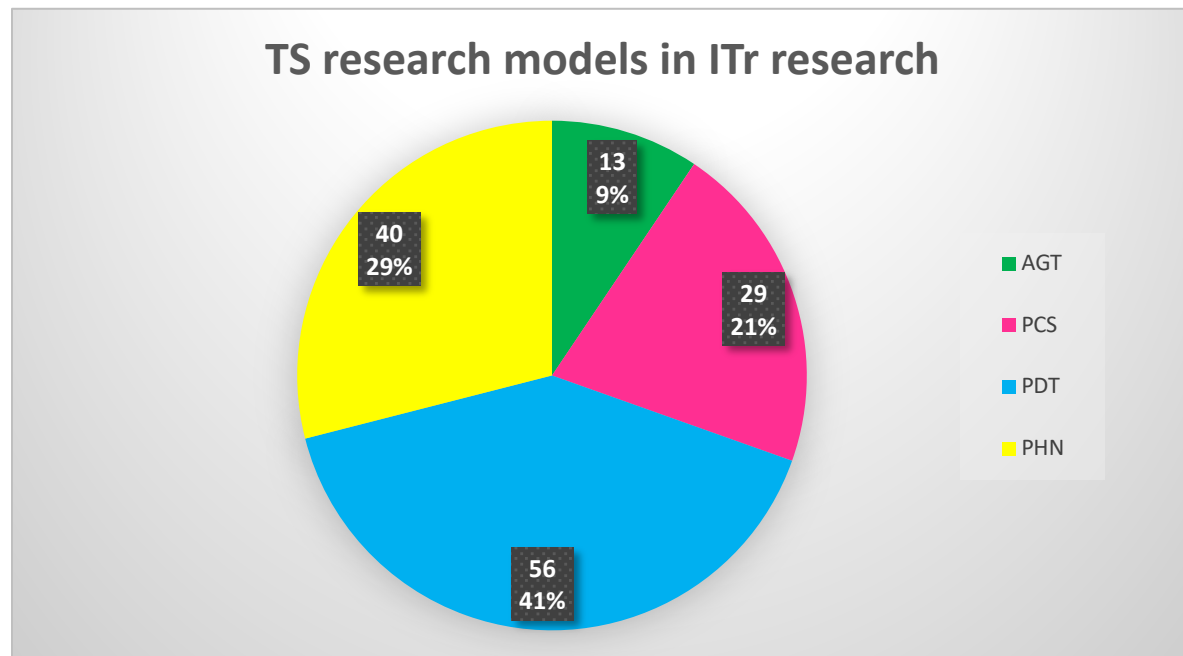
4.1.1. Bridging Models and Approaches



Graph 39 – TS Research Models in ITr Research: Yearly Distribution

Because ITr-subject is the most frequent approach, it would be reasonable to expect PHN to be the dominant research model in ITr research. This assumption is based on the fact that, unlike the PDT model, PHN aims to discuss a phenomenon, not a subject of a material nature (see Table 42, page 204). Consequently, the goal of PHN-based research aligns more closely

with the concept of ITr-subject than that of PDT. However, this expectation is subverted. Consistent with Davier et al. (2023: 824) and Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2023: 847), PDT is the dominant research model (see Graphs 39 and 40).



Graph 40 – TS Research Models in ITr Research: Total Numbers

From 2019 onwards, PDT becomes the leading model, while process-based (PCS) falls to either third or last place in prominence. PDT closes the present period more than doubling the number of PHN and agent-based (AGT) publications, and more than tripling the number of PCS publications (see Graph 39). The predominance of PDT is expected given that both PDT and PCS have been the two main research models¹⁴⁶ in TS since the emergence of Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) in the 1990s (Ji 2019: 1), which indicates that ITr research is consistent with the observed trend. This consistency with TS might serve not just to reinforce the established pattern, but also to point to other dynamics that extend beyond the scope of

¹⁴⁶ Ji (2019) refers to product- and process-oriented models as 'subfields'.

a general trend. Because the outputs classified as both ITr-subject and PDT account for more than one-third of the total (see Table 48)¹⁴⁷, there may be a correlation between the two.

Consistent with the hypothesis discussed in Chapter 1 (see page 70), scholars frequently encounter ITr incidentally while doing case study research (Hadley 2023: 1). By conducting PDT research, scholars may discover unexpected insights that prompt a shift in focus toward ITr itself. Therefore, their decision to address ITr-subject may be a consequence of their choice of primary materials.

	AGT	PCS	PDT	PHN
ITr-subject	11 outputs 8.46%	8 outputs 6.15%	47 outputs 36.15%	34 outputs 26.15%
ITr-feature	2 outputs 1.53%	--	9 outputs 6.92%	6 outputs 4.61%
ITr-strategy	--	21 outputs 16.15%	--	--

Table 48 – Combining the Two Typologies

Given that ITr-subject is ubiquitous across all four research models (see Table 48), an opposite hypothesis can be raised. Approaching ITr-subject as the focus of research might prompt researchers to concentrate on the fundamental subject matter before addressing other considerations, such as primary materials. Thus, scholars may prioritise the ITr-subject approach prior to determining which research model most effectively aligns with their project or scholarly inclinations. Taking into account the two hypotheses, the dynamics between the ITr-subject approach and the PDT model remain uncertain. At present, it seems more likely that PDT's predominance may arise from factors extending beyond the specific context of ITr research, including overarching trends in the field of TS. Although PDT and ITr-subject may not be directly connected, PCS appears to have a strong correlation with ITr-strategy (see Table 48). Considering their mutually shared relationship with the application of ITr, it is

¹⁴⁷ As explained earlier, there are eight textual objects categorised under more than one research model. Therefore, there are 138 units of research models among the 130 textual objects.

unsurprising that publications approaching ITr-strategy would tend to adopt a PCS-based model of research. As previously noted, ITr research often faces significant challenges in accessing primary materials (Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier in Davier et al. 2023: 826). These challenges are arguably even more pronounced when analysing existing translation chains, as they involve not only identifying STs and TTs, but also tracing the various steps involved in the process. However, PCS-based research combined with ITr-strategy has the potential to mitigate these challenges.

	MT	English Language	Co- authorship	Conference Proceedings	‘Pivot translation’	ITr- strategy
PCS	20 (68.96%) outputs	28 (96.55%) outputs	21 (72.41%) outputs	16 (55.17%) outputs	16 (55.17%) outputs	21 (72.41%) outputs

Table 49 – PCS model + Hexagonal Categories

Given that ITr-MT research often involves the development of intermediary texts (see Budiwati & Aritsugi 2021; Casas et al. 2019; Seligman 2019; Hai-Long & Le-Minh 2018; Ahmadnia & Serrano 2017), PCS-based research that approaches ITr-strategy offers a means to create ITr chains directly, eliminating the need for extensive “detective work” to identify case studies on ITr (Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 113; Interviewee n° 26 – 00:29:35). Thus, the interplay between the PCS model combined with the ITr-strategy approach has the potential to expand the databases available for both ITr research and MT scholarship more broadly. While there is a connection between PCS model, ITr-strategy, and MT research, it is worth exploring whether PCS is also related to the other categories represented in the hexagonal model (see Figure 9).

Table 49 illustrates that the connection between PCS and the other six dimensions all exceed 50%, indicating that the largest proportion of PCS-based research is interconnected with these other dimensions. As a result, it is possible to add the PCS model to the hexagonal configuration. This addition reshapes the relationship among MT, English language, co-

authorship, conference proceedings, ‘pivot translation,’ and ITr-strategy, from a hexagon to a heptagon (see Figure 10).

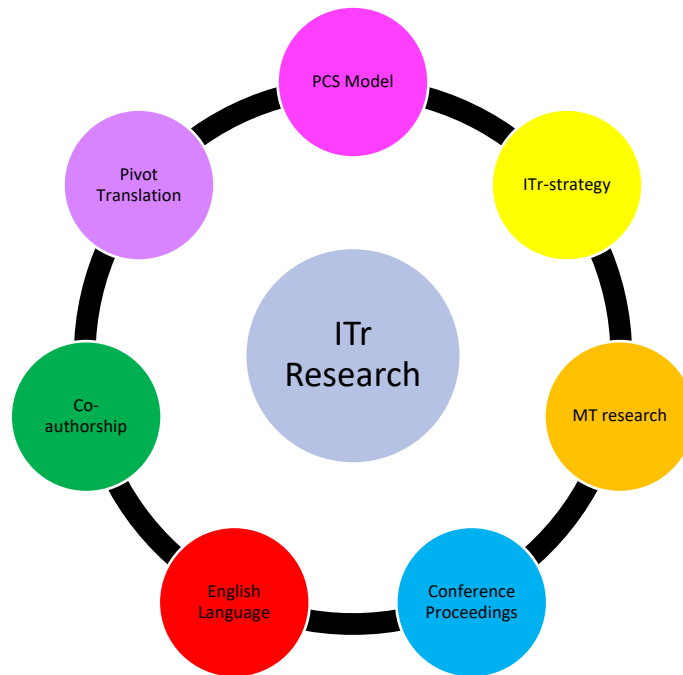


Figure 10 – Heptagon

This heptagonal configuration offers potential as a framework to inform and support the design of future research methodologies. Taking the *Concatenation Effect Hypothesis* as an example, the observation that “indirect translations tend away from identifying themselves as translations” (Hadley 2023: 48) can be systematically tested through an integrative approach employing the categories derived from the heptagonal configuration found in this chapter.

Building on Chapter 1 (see page 92), employing ITr-strategy in an MT-PCS-based research could support the development of formulas designed to identify possible distinguishing features between direct and indirect translations (Hadley 2023: 142). By using this configuration as a framework, data analysis can be structured to determine whether specific instances of ITr exhibit this tendency:

1. Co-authorship: Collaborating between TS and Computer Science (CS).
2. ITr-strategy, and MT: Developing a computational method programmed to identify metadata that signal indirect origins of translation chains.

3. English language: Using high-resource languages as one of the steps of the translation chain.
4. PCS: Structuring the results of the research to emphasise the development process of the computational method to be tested and falsified in future.
5. 'Pivot translation': Employing standardised ITr-MT terminology for easier identification by peers (see pages 22, and 79).
6. Conference proceedings: Publishing the research through a publication format recognised for its expedited review and publication process (see page 65).

Contrary to Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier's (2023: 848) results, PCS is not the least sizable group in the present. Instead, AGT is the least substantial, ultimately dwindling to zero in 2019 (see Graph 39 on page 221, and Graph 40 on page 222). Though less pronounced, these results mirror Marin-Lacarta's in Davier et al. (2023: 826) argument that "another consequence of the mistrust towards indirect translation is that there is no research involving practitioners". Six potential reasons can be outlined to explain why this might be the case:

1. When conducting research that involves human interaction, linguistic limitations can pose a methodological challenge. In the absence of a shared language between interviewer(s) and interviewee(s), participant availability becomes severely restricted.
2. Data collection methods reliant on digital technologies (e.g. online questionnaires and video conference software) might exclude participants who do not consider themselves technologically proficient (Saldanha & O'Brien 2013: 162).
3. When conducting face-to-face interviews or questionnaires, potential power relations between interviewee(s) and interviewer(s) might affect participant's answers (ibid.) or even their will to participate in AGT-based research.
4. Because "the concept of informed consent does not carry over to all cultures" (Saldanha & O'Brien 2013: 43), it is possible that participants could decline to take part in AGT-based research, due to concerns about the scope of their authorisation given to researcher(s).

5. ITr or relay interpreting are topics that have been marginalised in TS (Hadley 2023: 11; Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón 2023: 13; Pöchhacker in Davier et al. 2023: 825). As a consequence, it is possible that many potential participants could be unaware of the ITr phenomenon, which would adversely limit respondent availability and readiness to take part in AGT-based ITr research.
6. AGT-based research relies entirely on participants' willingness to engage in the research process. In the event that respondents decline participation, researchers may encounter impairing difficulties, which could serve as a deterrent for them to pursue AGT-based research in general.

The sixth reason may explain why four (30.76%) of the outputs exploring AGT-based research are combined with one of the other categories of TS research models¹⁴⁸ (see Appendix 1, page 363). Combining AGT with other research models could help mitigate the risks associated with human participation. As a result, researchers working with ITr may be reluctant to fully embrace AGT-based research models when used in isolation.

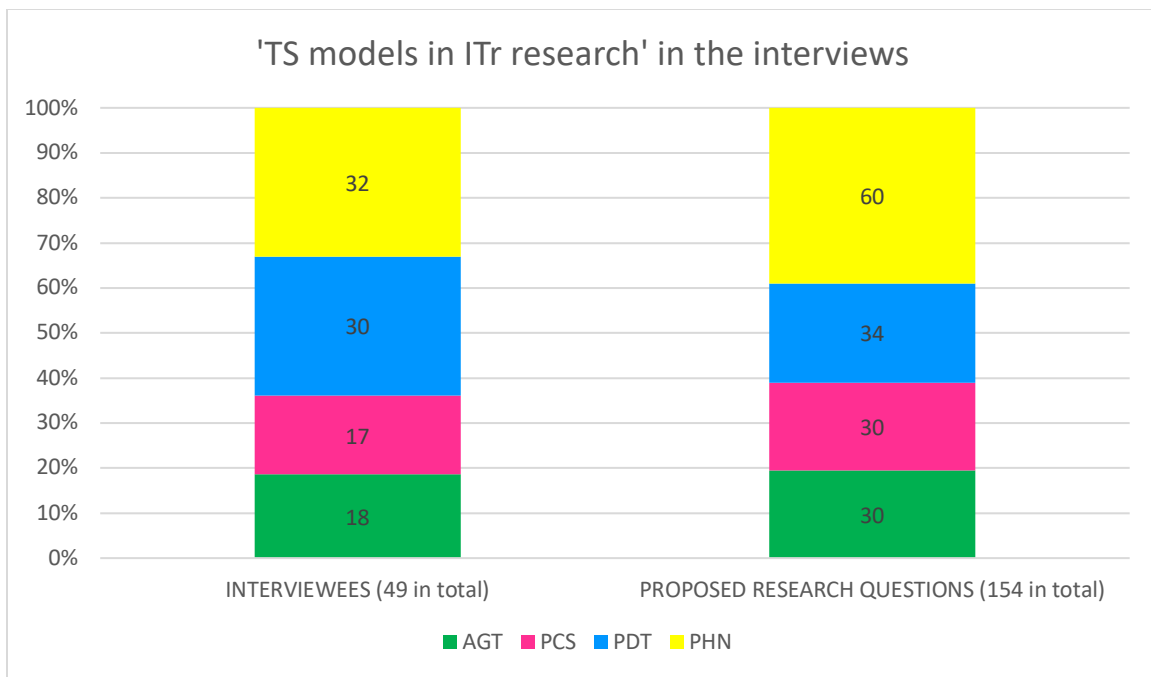
4.1.2. Connecting Perception and Reality

The results showcased in Graph 41 (next page) indicate that interviewees prefer PHN models over PDT models. More specifically, 60 (38.96%) of their proposed questions are consistent with the PHN model. This figure is almost twice as high as that of the questions dedicated to PDT and exactly double the questions related to both the AGT and the PCS models. PHN also takes precedence in terms of total of interviewees (see Graph 41). These results contradict the findings on published research, indicating that scholars' perceptions do not align with the reality of publications in this case.

The discrepancy between outputs and interviewees' perspectives may support a hypothesis presented in Chapter 2 (see page 115). It is arguable that interviewees are mainly motivated by their individual research inclinations rather than considering the logistics associated with the research process in general, such as securing funding, time management,

¹⁴⁸ They are: Ivaska & Paloposki (2018), Cheng (2021), Torres-Simón et al (2021), and Davier (2022). For more detailed information, see Appendix 1 (page 363).

or sourcing primary materials. The PHN-based research questions proposed by interviewees may reflect their aspirations, but might be logistically challenging. Consequently, researchers may be inclined to adopt this research model in theory, but they might be reluctant to implement it in practice. From a pragmatic standpoint, it seems sensible to pursue a research model that could be more feasible rather than one that, while potentially more engaging, would be difficult to implement, particularly given the pressures to publish frequently and quickly (Jalongo 2023d: 343; Heron, Gravett & Yakovchuk 2020: 538-539; López-Navarro et al. 2015: 942). If the discrepancy is particular to ITr research, it could be argued that researchers' reluctance to follow through with PHN-based models stems from difficulties related to approaching ITr through theoretical, historical, ideological, or sociological lenses. Conversely, if this discrepancy is not unique to ITr research, it raises the broader question of whether adopting this model of research poses an obstacle in TS more generally.



Graph 41 – TS Research Models in ITr Research: Interviews

While interviewees were not explicitly questioned about typologies, Interviewee n^o 35 (00:02:39; 00:46:16) voluntarily addressed their preferred research models in another

subfield of TS¹⁴⁹ other than ITr. They (ibid.) argue that there is a lack of process-based research in the field in general, particularly in ITr. This perspective is further endorsed by Davier (in Davier et al. 2023: 823), who focuses on News Translation (NT), and by Marin-Lacarta (in Davier et al. 2023: 828), who focuses on LT.

In terms of publication outputs, PCS models account for 21% of the 138 units of *TS research models in ITr research*. Among the 154 research questions proposed by interviewees, PCS represents 19.48%. These statistics reveal a proportional alignment between the reality of publications and interviewees' perspectives. It could be hypothesised that PCS-based models are in fact lacking in ITr research, as argued by Interviewee nº 35, given the greater volume of PDT and PHN. Nonetheless, considering that over one-fifth of outputs are PCS-based, it could also be argued that it is an overstatement to claim that this research model is lacking in ITr research. While the perspective of an individual interviewee may not be representative of the entire cohort, their voluntary discussion about the supposed lack of PCS-based research models in ITr research substantiates Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier's (2023: 850) findings that PCS studies remain relatively uncommon. Additionally, Interviewee nº 35's viewpoint aligns with Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia's (2017: 126) suggestion that there is a need for this specific research model in ITr studies.

Between 2006 and 2013 alone, over 200 journal articles, and 100 book chapters dedicated to translation process were published (Jääskeläinen & Lacruz 2018: 1; Muñoz 2014: 52). Despite the growing interest and attention towards research on translation process (see Carl 2021; Jääskeläinen & Lacruz 2018; Jakobsen 2017; Muñoz 2016; Muñoz 2014; and Risku 2014), this trend does not seem to extend to the specific context of ITr research. This disparity between TS and ITr studies may be primarily due to the challenges in identifying primary materials categorised as ITr. However, as the heptagon demonstrates (see Figure 10), it appears that the PCS model is more closely linked to MT research within the context of ITr. It is, therefore, arguable that PCS-ITr research is not lacking per se. Instead, it may be limited to MT processes, rather than engaging with human translators from a cognitive perspective. This aspect of ITr research is particularly significant given that Cognitive Translation Studies (CTS)

¹⁴⁹ The subfield in question is not disclosed to ensure participant anonymity.

and process-based research are historically combined in TS (Carl 2021: xvii)¹⁵⁰. Thus, it is reasonable to see why Interviewee nº 35 perceives PCS-based research as deficient in ITr studies.

If process-based research in TS tends to focus either on the cognition of human translators or on the mechanics of MT, there is potential to develop research that bridges these two focuses through ITr. This approach can support studies on human-machine partnership without committing to classifying research or practices as either machine-centric (Schwartz 2018: 181) or human-centric (Schwartz 2018: 182). For instance, Tardel (2021)¹⁵¹ presents a study that specifically investigated the effects of post-editing Neural Machine Translations (NMT) in the context of indirect transcription processes for subtitling. The study further examined how translators' prior experience in subtitling might have influenced these processes (Tardel 2021: 83). In a similar vein, Ho-Jeong & Hyun-Kyung (2024)¹⁵² presents a case study that involves in-depth semi-structured interviews with AVT practitioners. One of the primary goals of the study is to understand "the process of creating and annotating pivot templates" (Ho-Jeong & Hyun-Kyung 2024: 103). Understanding human translators' cognitive processes is potentially useful for improving the efficacy of MT systems. Future research could expand on the findings of both Ho-Jeong & Hyun-Kyung (2024) and Tardel (2021)¹⁵³, by conducting a series of case-studies designed to systematically map out translators' cognitive strategies during the post-editing process of machine-rendered templates for audio-visual (AVT) translations. This systematic framework might prove valuable in the development of subtitling templates that reduce contentious errors, akin to those highlighted in Chapter 2

¹⁵⁰ See, for instance, Schwieter & Ferreira (2018).

¹⁵¹ Tardel (2021) adopts the term 'indirect translation' to define the ITr phenomenon, but uses the term 'pivot' to define intermediate languages.

¹⁵² Ho-Jeong & Hyun-Kyung (2024) adopts the term 'relay translation' to define the ITr phenomenon.

¹⁵³ Tardel (2021) is not included in the textual corpus of this thesis because it is a book chapter. Similarly, Ho-Jeong & Hyun-Kyung (2024) is also not included in the corpus as it was published in 2024. Therefore, both of these sources fall outside the scope of this thesis.

(see page 139) concerning Netflix's *Squid Game*¹⁵⁴ controversy. Furthermore, this framework would solidify even more the relationship between PCS-models and MT, while also bridging AVT and AGT-based models of research.

The findings on AGT-based models do not align the reality of publications with the perspectives of interviewees. While AGT represents only 9% of the 138 units of *TS research models in ITr research*, it accounts for 19.48% of the 154 research questions proposed by interviewees. Although a 10% increase may initially seem modest, it carries increased weight when taking into account that 36.73% of interviewees proposed AGT-based questions. AGT-based models of research target individuals involved at any stage of the translation process, including academics and translators. Thus, it is possible that interviewees were considering the issue of the translator's invisibility, either consciously or unconsciously, when formulating their research questions. The concept of translator's invisibility, initially introduced by Venuti in 2001, continues to be a topic of research well into the 21st century. This concept has been further developed in other studies over the years, including recently (see Freeth & Treviño 2024; Fang 2024; and Sarigül 2023).

As Venuti (2008: 1) suggests, it is believed that translators have been historically invisible because of the illusion of fluency informing translated texts. Arguably then, indirect translators have been found to be doubly invisible, as the genealogy of translations, particularly ITr genealogy, are challenging to trace (see Davier et al. 2023; Ivaska 2021; and Nunes, Moura & Pacheco Pinto 2021). As discussed in Chapter 2 (see page 212), the lack of clear genealogical information on translation chains, and the agents involved in them, hinders ITr research in practical terms. However, this difficulty may also have developed into a challenge that sparked interviewees' curiosity. It is arguable that recent research that places the translator at the centre of scholarly investigations (Kaindl 2021: 9), may have encouraged interviewees to specifically contemplate AGT-based models, particularly by applying them to ITr research. An alternative hypothesis, though arguably resting on tenuous assumptions, is the concurrent timing of the 49 interviews in 2021 and the publications of Chesterman (2021)

¹⁵⁴ Mentions and/or discussions on the *Squid Game* controversy can be found in Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (2022: 351), Cho (2021) and Ravindran (2022).

and Kaindl, Kolb & Schlager (2021). These publications define the (sub)field of Translator¹⁵⁵ Studies, suggesting that this topic could have been in interviewees' minds when elaborating on their answers to questions nº 27 and 28 (see page 49). Owing to the reasons listed above (see pages 26 and 27), once again, it is possible to argue that ITr researchers may still harbour reservations towards fully adopting AGT models, despite their interest in doing so. By proposing AGT-based research questions, interviewees might be supporting this model without fully committing to its implementation themselves.

3.2. Future (2023-2028)

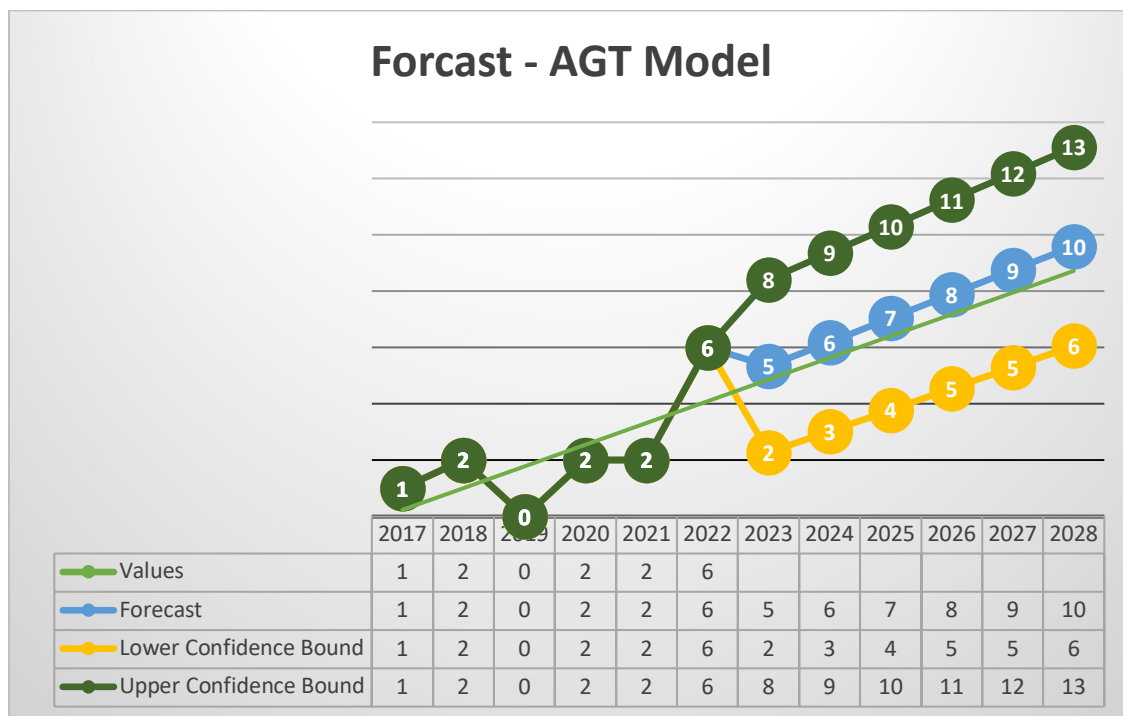
As evident from Table 50 and the Graphs in this subsection, all TS research models appear to be on the rise in the upcoming years. Despite reaching zero in 2019, AGT-based research is forecasted to experience the greatest average percentage increase by 2028 (see Graph 43, and Table 50). The potential rise in AGT-based research could be taken as an indication that some of the questions proposed by the interviewees will come to fruition.

	AGT	PCS	PDT	PHN
Real total (2017-2022)	13	29	56	40
Projected total (2023-2028)	45	17	124	63
Real + Projected total (2017-2028)	58	46	180	103
Lower confidence percentage	292%	113%	285%	187%
Higher confidence percentage	597%	203%	357%	329%
Average percentage	445%	158%	321%	285%

Table 50 – Forecast –TS Research Models in ITr Research

¹⁵⁵ Emphasis added.

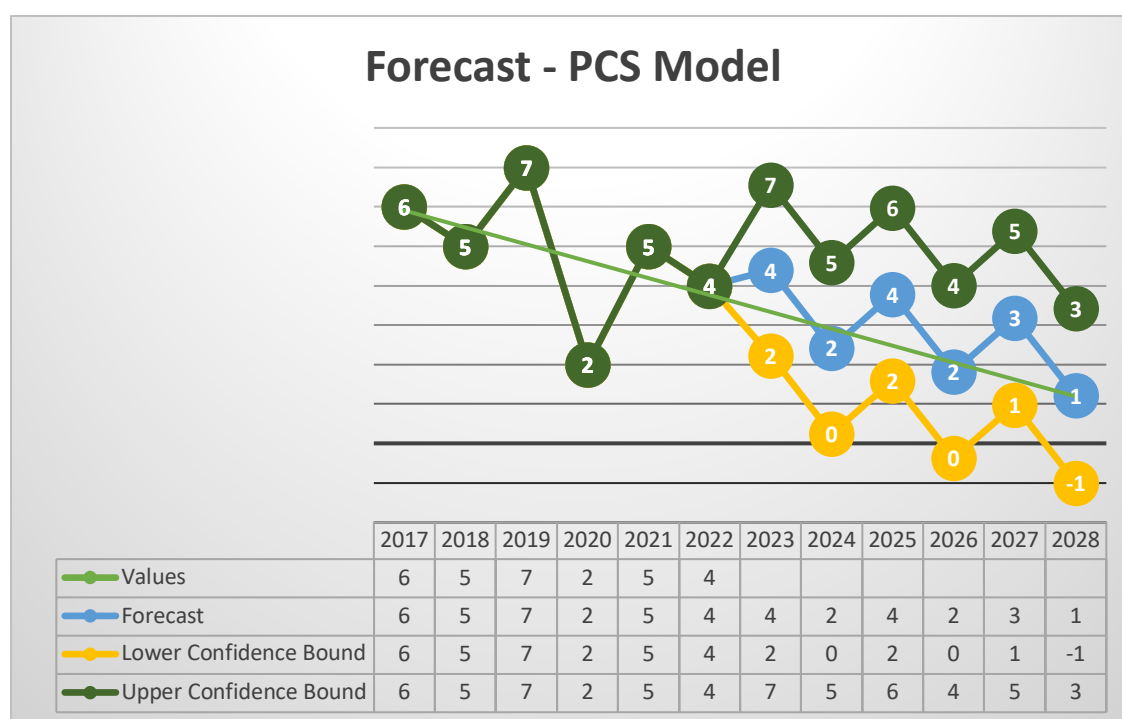
As discussed earlier, there are six possible reasons that could be hindering AGT-based research in the present. However, considering the possibility of a 445% increase in AGT, it can be argued that some of these hindrances may not remain as significant in future. For instance, the potential lack of technological proficiency among individuals could stop being a challenge. It is possible that academics have become more accustomed to using video conferencing and online platforms as a result of their increased integration into Education during the COVID-19 pandemic (see Amponsah, van Wyk & Kolugo 2022; Ziemba & Eisenhardt 2021). This hypothesis is further corroborated by observing that nine (18.36%) of the interviewees report a higher probability of meeting new people and expanding their network after virtual events (e.g., online conferences and network meetings) became more common during the pandemic.



Graph 42 – Forecast – AGT Model

PCS is expected to show the least growth in publication output, and it is the only research model predicted to have fewer publications in future compared to the present (see Graph 43). These results reinforce Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier's (2023: 850) findings that PCS-based publications are relatively uncommon, as well as Interviewee's n° 35 perspective that

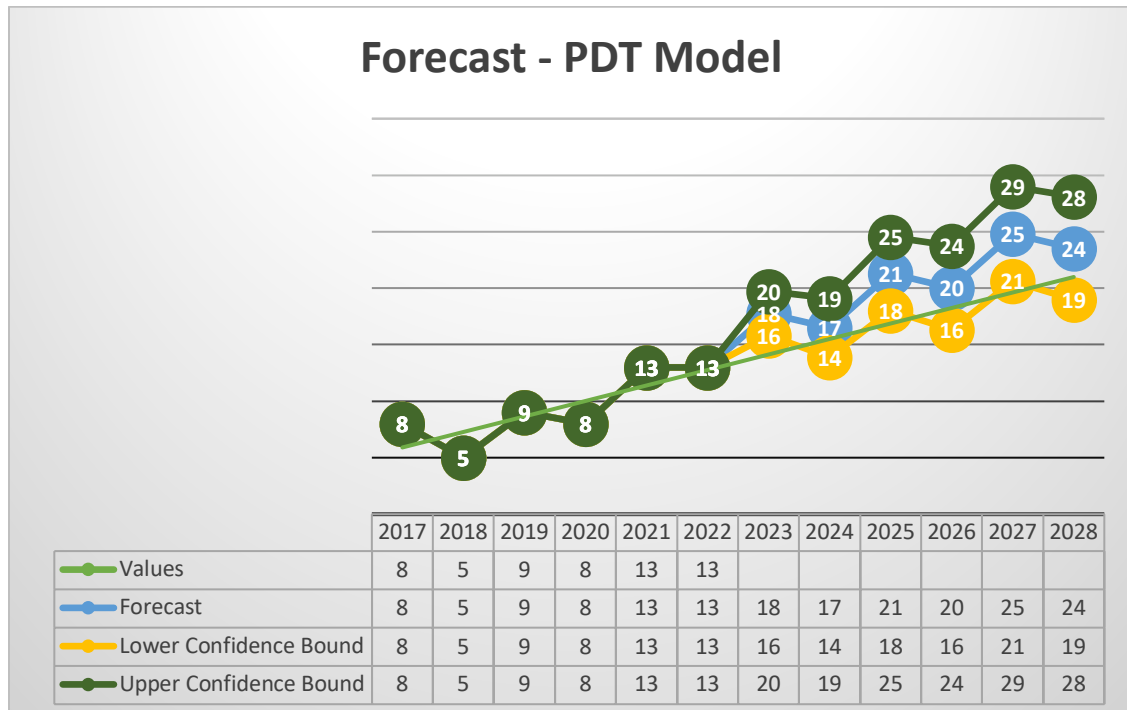
PCS models are lacking from ITr studies. If this prediction comes to fruition, it would suggest that the earlier proposition that a series of case studies could systematically map out translators' cognitive strategies during the post-editing process of machine-generated templates for AVT translations may not materialise. Or, at the very least, these case studies may not become a prevalent trend. This expectation does not suggest that research on PCS will lack in future. Rather, it may indicate a decrease in the diversity of such studies. As a result, PCS may continue to be only be closely linked to MT in the context of ITr research.



Graph 43 – Forecast – PCS Model

Building on the results from Chapter 2 (see page 144), MT is the only overarching theme expected to experience a decrease in future. Conversely, LT is likely to remain the most explored overarching theme in ITr publications moving forward. Because PCS-based research on contemporary ITr scholarship tends not only to be linked to MT, but also to focus on non-literary texts (Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier 2023: 849), it seems reasonable to anticipate a potential decrease in the overall volume of PCS-based ITr research. It is arguable that a decrease in PCS-based research could have an adverse effect on ITr studies as a whole,

particularly with regard to collaborative possibilities. Given that 22 (75.86%) of PCS outputs are co-authored (see Chapter 1, page 81), and that the majority of co-authored outputs (18 in total = 38.29%), are classified as MT (see Appendix 1, page 363), a decrease in PCS-based research may lead to a marked decrease in collaborative opportunities for ITr studies. As discussed in Chapter 1, a decrease in collaboration opportunities could not only constrain potential collaborative efforts within TS, but could also hinder the prospects for interdisciplinary engagement.

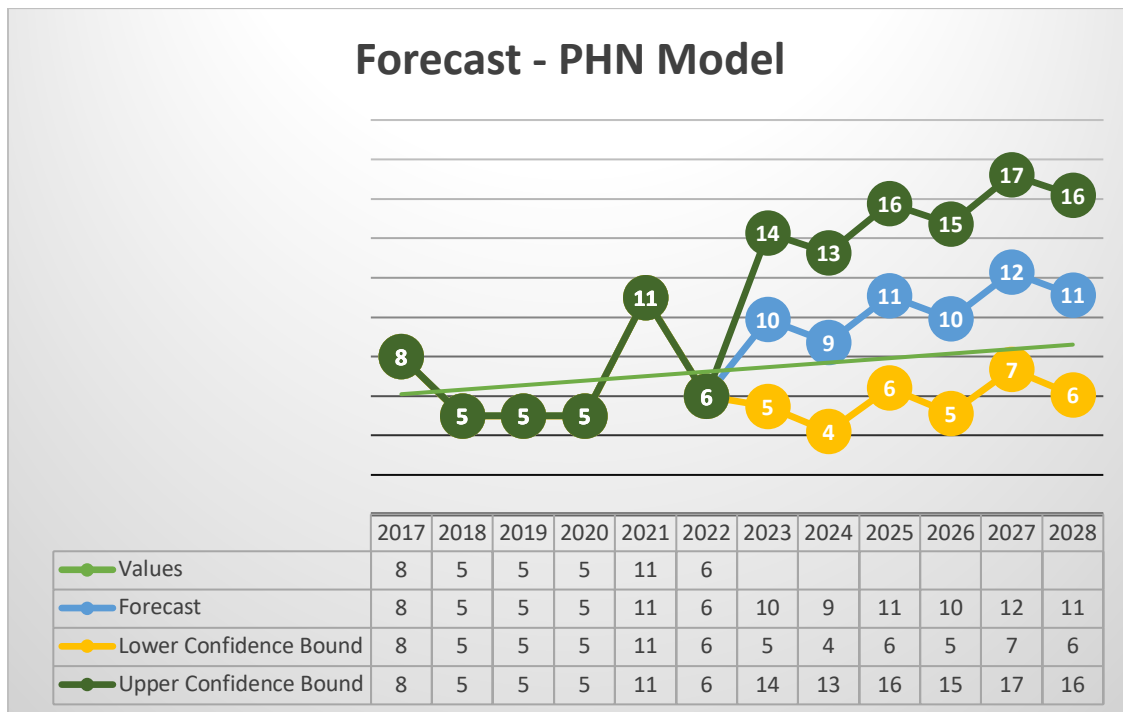


Graph 44 – Forecast – PDT Model

Given that outputs focusing on research methodology are inherently connected to the process of conducting research, a decrease in PCS-based research may also lead to a decrease in publications that specifically address methodological considerations as a specific theme. This potential decrease is consistent with Chapter 2's predictions (see Table 25, page 127) on Theoretical, Methodological, and Terminological Dimensions (TMT). Moreover, because ITr-strategy is only approached by PCS-based research, a decrease in PCS outputs suggests a corresponding decrease in research that approaches ITr as a translation strategy (see Table

46). This anticipated decrease is also consistent with predictions for ITr-strategy, which forecast a drastic decrease in this approach (see Graph 38, page 219).

Anticipating a decrease in ITr strategy, PCS models, and MT research suggests that the current heptagonal configuration may disappear or be reshaped. This alteration could lead to a new scenario for ITr research in future. It is likely that alternative configurations will emerge, comprised of different models, approaches, and overarching themes. This evolution may prove advantageous, as it can foster new connections between approaches, models, and overarching themes, advancing the current scholarly understanding of ITr research. Conversely, it could also introduce challenges, particularly if the understanding of ITr as a process stagnates, potentially widening the divide between machine-centric and human-centric research.



Graph 45 – Forecast – PHN

With regard to stagnation, the forecast suggests that PHN and PDT will continue to be the two most prominent models in ITr research. Despite the alignment of most interviewees' research questions with the PHN-based model, PHN is anticipated to continue as the second

most widely adopted model. PDT, currently the leading model, is unlikely to be surpassed (see Graph 46 and Table 50). Should PDT and PHN persist as the primary research models in future, then the evolution of ITr's typological framework may become stagnant until at least 2028. This speculative scenario posits a double-edged sword: on one hand, it could confer a higher degree of consistency and predictability to ITr research, fostering a desirable environment to attract interest to the subfield. On the other hand, while this forecast may help ensure stability in ITr research, it also risks a repetitive cycle of typologies, potentially narrowing the breadth of research in the subfield.

5. Conclusion

This chapter asked whether scholars' perceptions of ITr typologies correspond to the patterns observed in publications. The analysis revealed partial discrepancies. Although PDT and PHN are the two prevailing research models reflected in both publication trends and interviewee perceptions, PDT stands out as the most prominent model in published research, while interviewees express a clear preference for PHN. PHN-based research is proposed by 32 (65.30%) interviewees, whereas PDT-based research is proposed by 30 (61.22%). Of the 154 research questions proposed by interviewees, 60 (38.96%) were consistent with the PHN model. This percentage is almost twice as high as questions related to PDT and exactly double the questions related to AGT and PCS. To help visualise these results, *Cré na Cille* (Ó Cadhain 1949) is brought back as an example. These findings suggest that, should researchers direct their attention to the translations of Ó Cadhain's book, their publications are likely to encompass topics related to PDT, such as sentence length and the design of book covers. However, although scholarly intention may prioritise an analysis of the ideological contexts surrounding the book, for instance, this focus is not consistently mirrored in the publications.

The analysis of the PCS model indicates a proportional alignment between reality and perception. In contrast, for AGT, there is a disconnect between the actual publications and the perceptions of the interviewees. Research based on AGT represents the smallest sample size in terms of output numbers. Despite possible logistical constraints, interviewees seem to

be affording due attention to AGT-based research, and may even be advocating for this research model without necessarily demonstrating a commitment to pursue it.

Despite not being possible to directly compare outputs and interviews regarding the typological category *ITr as a focal point in research*, the analysis of the present reveals that ITr-subject is the most widely explored approach. This finding stands in contrast to the opinions of two interviewees, who suggest that scholars perceive ITr-feature as the dominant approach in research. It is worth considering that this finding may be influenced by the terminological diversity associated with ITr research, as discussed in Chapter 3. It is, thus, possible, that there are additional publications pertaining to ITr that do not employ specific terminology to define or describe the phenomenon. These studies may consciously or unconsciously neglect to acknowledge that their primary materials are ITrs, or they may lack awareness of their classification as such. In these instances, these publications cannot be classified as ITr-feature, as it is necessary to recognise the phenomenon for them to qualify under this typological category. This divergence between the reality of publications and scholarly perception implies that researchers may hold a distorted view of the degree to which the subject itself is explored within the subfield. This divergence can be analysed from two distinct perspectives. Firstly, it may be construed negatively, indicating that scholars may lack a comprehensive understanding of the breadth of publications within the subfield. Conversely, it can be interpreted positively, since the recognition that the ITr-subject is more prevalent than previously assumed allows researchers to reevaluate the progression of the subfield and adopt new approaches to develop it.

The increased focus on ITr-subject brings back the discussion from Chapter 1 (see page 70) concerning the criteria that could be employed to ascertain whether ITr qualifies as a ‘niche’ subfield of research. With a growing body of research being published on ITr-subject, does this growth suggest that ITr is a ‘niche’ subject due to its specificity, or does it indicate that it is not a ‘niche’ topic precisely because it is garnering increased scholarly attention? For ITr to be regarded as a niche subfield of TS, one or more of the following criteria may be considered:

- The number of ITr outputs in relation to the overall number of TS outputs.

- The total number of outputs within the ITr subfield.
- The total number of ITr-subject outputs in relation to the overall number of ITr outputs.

The heptagonal relationship between ITr-strategy, PCS model, co-authorship, conference proceedings, MT research, ‘pivot translation’, and English language in the context of ITr research highlights the potential for fostering a closer relationship between TS and CS, as discussed in Chapter 1 (see page 91). With the specific addition of the combination between ITr-strategy and PCS-based models of research, there is potential for this framework to inspire the development of a wider range of research methodologies that could extend beyond MT research. Research on LT, for instance, could use ITr-strategy in combination with the PCS model to develop specific methods for rendering and analysing intermediary texts within translation chains. Using *Cré na Cille* (Ó Cadhain, 1949) as an example once again, the hypothesis above argues that scholars with diverse linguistic proficiencies could produce indirect translations of Ó Cadhain’s work from Irish into various language combinations, using MT or not, while systematically documenting the strategies employed in these translations. This research opportunity could help develop analytical points of reference for specific case studies. In addition, these points of reference could be used for identifying distinctive characteristics of both the final and intermediary texts, allowing for a more nuanced assessment of the *Concatenation Effect Hypothesis*, for instance.

An additional possibility includes another overarching theme: AVT. AVT research could focus on both the AGT and the PCS models combined with ITr-strategy to identify the challenges translators face when performing ITrs. As a result, tailored translation manuals could be developed for specific products (e.g., subtitles of Irish-language films), audio-visual companies (e.g., Netflix), or particular source and target language-specific pairings that might tend to involve ITr (e.g., Irish-Portuguese). Engaging in ITr-strategy experiments as part of PCS research holds the opportunity to develop corpora that could serve as a reference point for identifying patterns relevant to recognising ITrs outside the realm of MT. Should these patterns emerge, they could have pedagogical implications not only for Translator Training (TTrain), but also for broader research on this overarching theme.

This chapter also asked which future shifts in ITr typologies could be anticipated. The analysis found that there will be two major shifts in the typological landscape of ITr research. The first shift concerns *ITr as a focal point in research*. Although ITr-subject is projected to remain the dominant approach, ITr-strategy is projected to experience a negative average of publications. These results mean that, on average, no research approaching ITr-strategy is expected in future. Building on Chapter 2 (see page 145), one hypothesis that might explain this drastic reduction can be put forward. It is possible that MT outputs will potentially focus on other translation strategies, thereby, diverging from testing ITr as part of research experiments. The potential disappearance of ITr publications addressing ITr-strategy in the upcoming years might also be attributed to technological advancements or an expanded effort to analyse existing corpora, rather than experimenting with new ones.

The second major shift in ITr's typological landscape concerns *TS research models in ITr research*. AGT-based models are projected to experience the most significant growth in the foreseeable future. This projection suggests that the challenges currently hindering AGT research may be addressed, but it could also suggest that AGT research will progressively intersect with other models, such as PDT and PHN. Should PDT and PHN continue to be the main research models, as projected, the development of ITr's typological framework for research models may stagnate. This stagnation may enhance the consistency and predictability of ITr research. On the other hand, it simultaneously poses a risk of entrenching a repetitive cycle of typologies, which could hinder the advancement of alternative models.

The decision to analyse the typological categories of *ITr as a focal point in research* and *TS research models in ITr research* in the absence of explicit answers from interviewees hinders straightforward analyses, which requires some degree of subjective interpretation. Despite the methodological measures taken to circumvent this issue, it is difficult to ascertain whether the responses given by the 49 interviewees would have accurately corresponded to the interpretative results obtained from questions nº 18, 27, and 28. Future systematic research on ITr could benefit from directly asking participants about these two typologies. For research employing interviews as a methodological approach, the following questions may be considered:

- What categories of *ITr as a focal point in research* and *TS research models in ITr research* do you tend to explore when researching ITr?
- What informed your decision to explore these categories?
- What categories of *ITr as a focal point in research* and *TS research models in ITr research* would you like to explore when researching ITr?
- What would you say is keeping you from exploring these other typological categories?
- What strategies would you propose for overcoming these obstacles?
- What other typological categories would you include for analysing ITr research?
- What informed your decision to suggest these categories?

This chapter draws inspiration from the work of Saldanha & O'Brien (2013) while specifically tailoring it to the context of ITr. Exploring a different form of typological categorisation would result in different outcomes from the ones found in this chapter. Future research could consider subdividing each model into two: one concentrating on translation itself and the other dedicated to research on ITr. In pursuit of a first attempt at a systematic classification system for *ITr as a focal point in research*, this chapter intentionally avoided classifying textual objects as more than one approach. Different outcomes would also be expected if the analysis had allowed overlaps. Further elaboration and refinement of this classification system hold the potential to develop a more sophisticated and comprehensive framework for classification. Future research could contemplate the following advancements to this chapter's systematic classification of *ITr as a focal point in research*:

- Developing a classification system that accommodates overlaps and decide whether these overlaps will just acknowledge the combination of different approaches or evolve into distinct approaches altogether.
- Further dividing ITr-strategy into different subcategories, accounting for the number of steps the translation chain requires.
- Further dividing ITr-subject into different subcategories, concentrating on different dimensions of the ITr phenomenon, such as language-specific (e.g., how is the ITr phenomenon approached in Francophone publications?), time-specific (e.g., how is the ITr phenomenon approached in studies published between 2023 and 2025?), or

area-specific (e.g., how is the ITr phenomenon approached by Southeast Asian journals?)

- Further dividing ITr-feature into different subcategories, accounting for what kind of intermediate texts are part of the translation chain.
 - i. The status of the intermediate texts: are they included in the analysis or are they just acknowledged as part of the translation chain that rendered the analysed target text?
 - ii. The purpose of the intermediate texts: Was the creation of these intermediate texts intentional or incidental?
 - iii. The overall presence of the intermediate texts: Were these intermediate texts the result of other translation chains or do they only belong to the case study in question?

The findings presented in this chapter, as well as in the previous ones, suggest that developing a systematic taxonomy of research methods would contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the current landscape of ITr research. Beyond the mapped terrain of ITr research, its panorama, themes, terminology, and typology, one question persists: How do we know what we know? The answer lies not just in research findings but in the very methods that shape them. Beneath every insight lies a methodology, shaping how the research story is told. The fifth and final chapter, therefore, brings methodologies to the forefront of ITr research, uncovering not only their influence, but also the blind spots in which they remain hidden.

CHAPTER 5:

METHODOLOGIES IN ITR RESEARCH

- “In the matter of methodology, one could certainly point to the lack of explicit models for identifying (different types of) ITr, let alone the most plausible mediating language(s) and/or text(s) [...] there is a clear need for reliable guidelines on how to overcome the obstacles that typically occur in empirical studies on ITr” (Pięta 2014: 18).

1. Introduction

In the quotation above, Pięta (2014), and Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier (in Davier et al. 2023) engage with the topic of methodologies in the context of Indirect Translation (ITr) research. Building on this discussion, this chapter aims to answer the following questions:

9. Do scholars’ opinions and perceptions of methodology align with the reality of publications?
10. Which present-future shifts in ITr methodologies can be anticipated?

1.1. Context and Justification

In the quotation above, Pięta (2014) identifies a significant gap in the development of comprehensive methodological models for detecting indirect translation (ITr) in its various forms. The challenges associated with identifying ITrs and classifying their types have also been explored by Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017: 123), Ivaska (2019: 125; 2020: 14, 16, 25), Hadley (2023: 20), and Davier et al. (2023: 826–829). Marin-Lacarta and Davier in Davier et al. (2023: 826–827) highlight that methodological difficulties are a persistent issue in ITr research, particularly within the overarching themes of Literary Translation (LT) and News Translation (NT). As discussed in Chapter 2 (see page 135), Pöchhacker in Davier et al. (2023: 826) argues that while methodological challenges are prevalent across Interpreting Studies (IS), relay interpreting is a distinct case. Pöchhacker (ibid.) suggests that the inherent situatedness and immediacy of relay interpreting position researchers advantageously,

particularly in identifying both the source language and the pivot. However, methodological issues pertaining to ITr research encompass more than just tracing translation genealogy and identifying ITrs. Along the same lines as Translation Studies (TS) methodology, ITr research methodology “refers to the rationale or the application of research methods, the body of methods applied in a discipline and the study of such methods” (Marin-Lacarta 2020: 479). The study of methodology, therefore, involves understanding the multiple steps required in conducting research in general, such as developing a conceptual framework, selecting methods for collecting data, and selecting methods for analysing data (Hennink, Hutter & Bailey 2020: 4-6).

When discussing everyday skills necessary for conducting academic research, Blaxter, Hughes & Tight (2010: 55) explain that these skills are integral to every step of the research process, encompassing data collection, data selection, data analysis, and data presentation (see Introduction on page 26). Data collection is the process of gathering data that will be analysed (Mbanaso, Abrahams & Chinedu Okafor 2023: 117). Data selection is the process of organising, processing and choosing the relevant data from the gathered information (ibid.). Data analysis involves making deductions or drawing inferences based on the data, to give it meaning (ibid.). Finally, data presentation involves choosing the way in which the analysed data is presented to the reader (ibid.). Prior to conducting data analysis, it is necessary to define the project’s primary materials. In this thesis, primary materials refer to the tangible sources from which data is gathered for analysis. When asked about methods and methodologies, interviewees frequently alluded to the type of primary materials they typically use or would like to use prior to choosing their methods of data analysis. Thus, it seems pertinent to include *primary material type* as one of the two analytical categories examined in this chapter. The second analytical category is *methods of data analysis*.

The concepts of ‘method’ and ‘methodology’ can vary depending on field, author and context. For Chesterman (2007: 13), in the context of TS, the lack of a single shared paradigm in is also reflected in the field’s heterogeneous methodologies. While this chapter does not advocate for a single paradigm in TS methodologies, it examines how they are typically applied in the specific context of ITr studies. Although the terms ‘method’ and ‘methodology’

have frequently been used interchangeably in academic literature (Midgley 2000: 105), they arguably refer to separate and distinct notions. Methodology can be understood as a paradigm that guides the research process, and is philosophical in nature (Blaxter, Hughes & Tight 2010: 59). On the other hand, method “can be understood to relate principally to the tools of data collection or analysis” (ibid.). In a similar vein, Saukko (2003: 8), as cited by Saldanha & O’Brien (2013: 13), argues that methods “refer to practical ‘tools’ to make sense of empirical reality, methodology refers to the wider package of both tools and a philosophical and political commitment that come with a particular research approach”. This chapter focuses on these two analytical categories (i.e., primary material type and methods of data analysis) to adequately represent the comparatively broader scope of concepts encompassed by the term methodology. Likewise, parallel to Chapter 3, authors may employ similar terms to describe different concepts related to methodologies. For instance, Mellinger & Hanson (2017: 4) would argue that experimental research is a research design of its own, while Williams & Chesterman (2002: 63) argue that it is a subtype of empirical research. In the same way, Blaxter, Hughes & Tight (2010: 64) refer to surveys and interviews by using specific terms: surveys are “research approaches” and interviews are “research techniques” (ibid.). Galletta (2013: 24-25), on the other hand, defines interviews in a broader way, as methods of “data collection”.

Due to the varying perspectives among authors and the potential for ambiguity in terminology, this chapter employs inflexible definitions for the different types of ‘methods of data analysis’ extracted from the analysed materials. Because authors do not consistently share their data collection methods in all textual materials, this chapter exclusively focuses on examining methods of data analysis in ITr research. Authors may not always explicitly share their analytical method choices. However, inferences can be drawn by contrasting the textual information with the outlined criteria in the next subsection.

1.2. Defining Primary Material Type

This analytical category refers to the type of primary materials analysed by each object: *existing*, *existing & produced*, and *produced*. The term primary materials in the present

context does not pertain to the primary materials analysed in this thesis (i.e., interviews and textual objects). Instead, it refers to the primary materials explored by each textual object and by interviewees' answers to the following three questions:

- Questions nº 23: Do you have any preferred research methodologies?
- Questions nº 24: Could you describe the research methodologies you typically use in indirect translation (e.g., close reading, historical research etc)?
- Questions nº 29: What methodologies in indirect translation would you like to do or see more research on in future?

Each primary material type is explained as follows:

Type	Definition	Illustrative Examples
Existing	The analysed data emerges from pre-existing primary materials. This means researchers do not produce any new set of materials for analysis.	• A novel, such as Joyce's <i>Ulysses</i> (1922). • A published academic article, such as Pięta (2017). • Previously published records of conversations between translators in their workplace.
Produced	The analysed data emerges from materials specifically crafted by the researchers for research purposes. This means researchers themselves produce a new set of materials for analysis.	• Records of conversations between translators in their workplace. They are specifically designed for the purpose of this research. • Transcriptions of participants' answers from focus groups with amateur translators. • Questionnaires about the readers' reception of Joyce's novels.
Existing & Produced	The analysed data emerges both from pre-existing primary materials and from the materials specifically crafted for research purposes.	• European Parliament archives + Translations rendered via Machine Translation. • Published academic articles + Surveys crafted by the researchers themselves. • Joyce's novels + Transcriptions of interviews with experts in Irish literature.

Table 51 – Primary Material Types

This classification does not rely on any inherent attributes of the primary materials per se, but rather on the purpose for which they were produced. This means that, for instance, transcriptions of interviews could be interpreted as either existing or produced materials, depending on how they were obtained. For example, if an agency originally conducted interviews to collect data and these transcriptions were later used as primary materials by another researcher for their own research, then these transcriptions would be categorised as existing. This is because the researcher did not produce the transcriptions themselves, but rather, used them as pre-existing materials. However, if the researcher undertakes the interviews themselves for the purpose of their own study, these materials would be categorised as produced. Moreover, if a researcher opts to use pre-existing corpora to create parallel corpora via Machine Translation (MT) for comparative analysis, for instance, the materials employed in the research would be classified as existing & produced, meaning that a combination of both extant and newly developed materials would be used for this research.

1.3. Defining Methods of Data Analysis

The categories are not predetermined. Rather they emerge based on the analysed textual materials. Based on Zanettin & Rundle's (2022), Saldanha & O'Brien's (2013), and Williams & Chesterman's (2002) theoretical frameworks, the four categories are as follows:

Method	Aim	Illustrative Example(s)
Curatorial ¹⁵⁶	To piece together historical, terminological, theoretical, or	Analysis of the multiple methodological approaches used in research focused on Joyce's <i>Ulysses</i> (1922).

¹⁵⁶ The term curatorial, which is borrowed from Museum Studies (Sigfúsdóttir 2021: 421), is chosen instead of the possibly more common options in TS, such as archival or bibliographic. The reasons behind this choice are twofold. The first is that curatorial is a new model of research that emphasises the multiple epistemological contributions between different domains (ibid.), meaning that the term curatorial encompasses the interdisciplinary nature of TS (Venuti 2000: 4; Venuti 2021: 3), as well as analytical methods that are not limited to strict archival sources. The second reasons is that archival or bibliographic research can also be described as

	methodological data on a given topic.	
Expository ¹⁵⁷	To report and draw insights on the results of translation or interpreting activities developed in specific contexts. Contexts can be real or controlled.	<i>Real context:</i> Analysis of the everyday activities of interpreters in war zones or translation agencies. <i>Controlled context:</i> Analysis of the results of a translation project in which TS students collaborate to translate Joyce's <i>Ulysses</i> (1922).
Metric/ Statistical	To quantify variables and identify patterns in corpora.	Analysis of performance level of Machine Translations of Joyce's <i>Ulysses</i> (1922).
Textual/ Contrastive ¹⁵⁸	To identify opinions, meanings, styles, motivations, translation strategies, or grammatical structures of non-numerical data from one or more sources.	Analysis of the different forms of syntax used in an ITr chain of Joyce's <i>Ulysses</i> (1922).

Table 52 – Methods of Data Analysis

methods of data collection in TS (e.g., Williams & Chesterman 2002). To prevent any confusion, the method of data analysis referred to as curatorial does not incorporate the aforementioned terms in its nomenclature.

¹⁵⁷ Although expository analysis may seem similar to observational or ethnographic methods in qualitative research, they are different for two reasons. First, from the definition provided in this chapter, although expository methods of data analysis are closely linked to the methods of data collection that precedes it, it pertains exclusively to the analytical aspect of the research process. Observational methods can be linked to the process of gathering data as well (Zwischenberger 2020: 476; Risku et al 2022: 324). Second, expository analysis does not necessarily involve just observing through “long-time immersions” (Ciesielska, Boström & Öhlander 2017: 33) and drawing analysis without interfering, it can encompass not only interference, but also effectively participating in the studied scenario.

¹⁵⁸ This thesis adopts the term *contrastive* to avoid the potential interpretive issues associated with *comparative analysis*. Here, *contrastive analysis* is understood as the examination of similarities and differences without implying any value judgement. The term *comparative*, by contrast, may carry connotations of hierarchy or evaluation. To prevent any suggestion of ranking, *contrastive* is the preferred term.

1.4. Why Methodologies in ITr Research?

Research methodology has increasingly become a central concern for TS since the field consolidated in the final years of the last century (Zanettin & Rundle 2022: 2). From 2013 alone, there have been at least nine monographs that focus on methodologies in TS, such as the following:

- *Corpus-Based Translation Studies: Research and Applications* (Kruger, Wallmach & Munday 2013);
- *Research Methodologies in Translation Studies* (Saldanha & O'Brien 2013);
- *Empirical Translation Studies: Interdisciplinary Methodologies explored* (Ji 2016);
- *Introducing Corpus-Based Translation Studies* (Hu 2016);
- *Corpus Methodologies Explained: An Empirical Approach to Translation Studies* (Ji, Hareide, Li & Oakes 2017);
- *Empirical Translation Studies: New Methodologies and Theoretical Traditions* (De Sutter, Lefer & Delaere 2017);
- *Corpus Triangulation: Combining Data and Methods in Corpus-Based Translation Studies* (Malamatidou 2018);
- *Advances in Empirical Translation Studies* (Ji & Oakes 2019);
- *The Routledge Handbook of Translation Studies and Methodologies* (Zanettin & Rundle 2022).

In the 2017 Special Issue on Indirect Translation, three articles explicitly mention the term 'methodological' in their titles¹⁵⁹. Despite focusing primarily on methodological efforts in identifying ITrs, they consider possible research avenues concerning ITr methodology. Having mentioned a few published articles during the course of their interview, including Pięta (2017), and Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017), Interviewee n° 36 (00:37:42) believes that there is "very sophisticated and demanding work" ahead for developing ITr methodologies: "ranging from textual criticism to textual genesis, digital humanities, and very sophisticated statistical analyses of quantitative occurrences indicated by corpora involving

¹⁵⁹ Pięta (2017), Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017), and Marin-Lacarta (2017).

indirect translation”. Finally, the findings in Chapter 2 (see page 124) demonstrate that 20 (15.38%) textual objects are dedicated to the domain of methodology, and five (10.2%) interviewees propose research questions about it. For all these reasons, methodologies are the final topic explored by this thesis.

2. Methodology

2.1. Textual Materials

The analysis of both primary material type and methods of data analysis in the textual objects follows the same data mining steps outlined in the introduction of this thesis. The terms used in this process can be found in Appendix 7 (see page 376). It is worth noting that the analysis of the 130 textual materials results in a total of 141 units of analysis. The reason for this result lies in the fact that 10 (7.69%)¹⁶⁰ of these textual objects employ more than one method.

2.2. Interviews

Interviewees’ answers to questions nº 23, 24, and 29 can be categorised into three types: direct answers, analytical reflections on their perspectives, or illustrative examples that further explain their reasoning (see Table 53). Because no specific question is asked about primary materials, the categorisation process is based only on methodology-related questions. Therefore, when interviewees mention methods that use both existing & produced primary materials, it is not always possible to ascertain unambiguously whether they are referring to using them in the same research or in general. For this reason, existing & produced covers both possible scenarios.

The categorisation of interviewees responses follows the same criteria as for the textual materials. However, while some responses can be clearly categorised under one of the four methods of data analysis, others do not. In instances where a particular term, definition or description relies too much on subjective interpretation, follow-up questions

¹⁶⁰ Pacheco Pinto (2018), Pięta (2018), Ivaska (a) (2020), Akkalyeva et al (b) (2021), Casas-Tost & Bustins (2021), Cheng (2021), Valente (2021), Wegener (2021), Davier (2022), and Jin, Zhang & He (2022).

(e.g., “what do you mean by that?” or “can you be more specific?” etc) are asked to clarify responses. When interviewees refrain from giving a response or deliberately opt not to answer, such instances are taken into account to ensure statistical consistency¹⁶¹.

For the analysis of primary material type, there are 49 units of analysis, which is equal to the number of interviewees, since there can be no duplicate entries. For instance, when an interviewee proposes a method that involves materials that would fall under the scope of produced and another method whose materials would fall under the scope of existing, their answer is categorised as existing & produced, which is a category in itself. Answers can only be categorised as one of the three.

For methods of data analysis, although the sample consists of the same 49 interviewees, the total number of analytical units amounts to 72. This discrepancy arises from the flexibility granted to interviewees, allowing them to indicate multiple methods, a single method, or none at all. Table 53 offers representative¹⁶² examples of interviewees’ responses, explaining how each corresponds to the categories analysed in this chapter.

	Direct response	Explanation	Specific Example(s)
Existing	“I prefer to use primary materials/sources that already exist”	“I like exploring what is out there”	“I usually analyse historical sources of the XVI century”
Produced	“I prefer to make my own materials/sources for analysis”	“I like creating new sources to analyse”	“I usually conduct surveys or focus groups with subtitlers”
Existing & Produced	“I prefer to explore existing materials/sources and create new ones as well”	“I like producing my own translations and comparing them to existing ones”	“I usually compare my own translations with the ones published by this translator”

¹⁶¹ This is the case of interviewees nº 12, nº 27, nº 29, and nº 41.

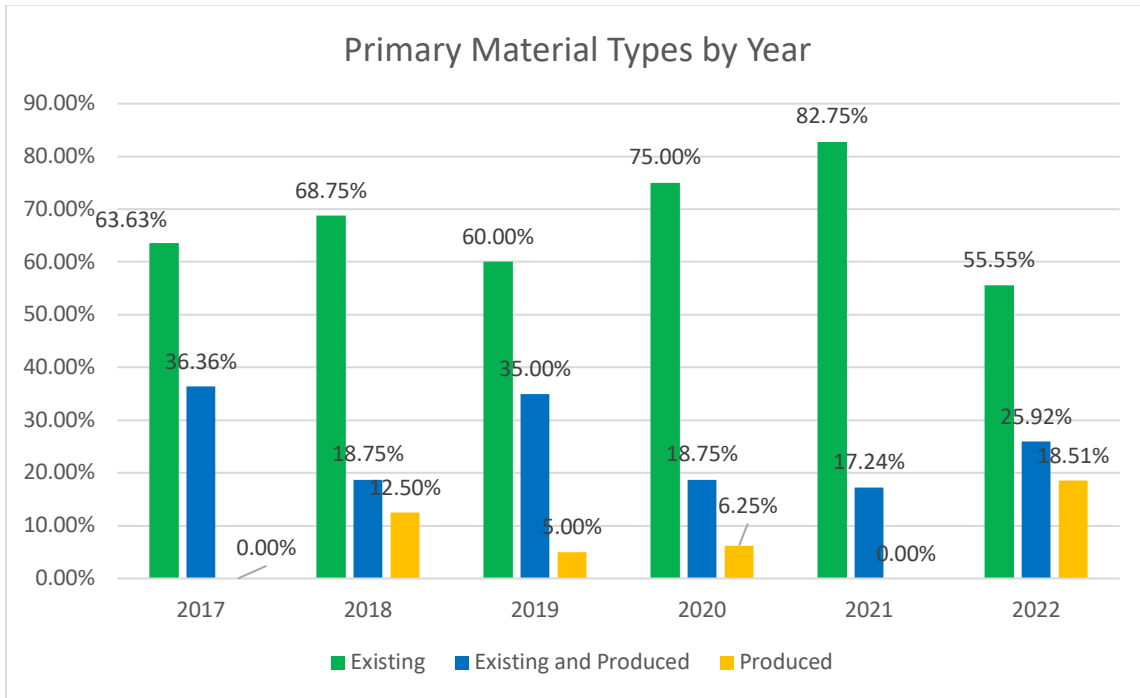
¹⁶² Some examples provided are chosen solely for illustrative purposes, while others are authentic. To preserve interviewees’ anonymity, real examples are not explicitly indicated as such.

	"I prefer to combine existing materials/sources with the ones I make for my research"	"I like producing new materials, but I also like exploring what already exists"	"I usually do surveys with translators, but I do content analysis of paratexts sometimes also"
Curatorial	"I prefer to do archival research"	"I like looking into archives and seeing what I can find"	"I usually do bibliographic research to understand what is being done in Russian literature"
Expository	"I prefer to do observational/expository research"	"I like observing translators while they are doing their jobs"	"I usually ask my Undergrad students to participate in a project of mine and record their impressions"
Textual/ Contrastive	"I prefer to just do text/textual interpretation "	"I like doing thorough analyses of translated texts"	"I usually use methods such as 'close reading' to compare theatre translations"
	"I prefer to do comparative/contrastive analysis"	"I like correlating source texts with their multiple translations"	
Metric/ Statistical	"I prefer to do statistical research"	"I like finding patterns in Machine Translation and quantifying them"	"I usually do meta-analyses on our subfield"

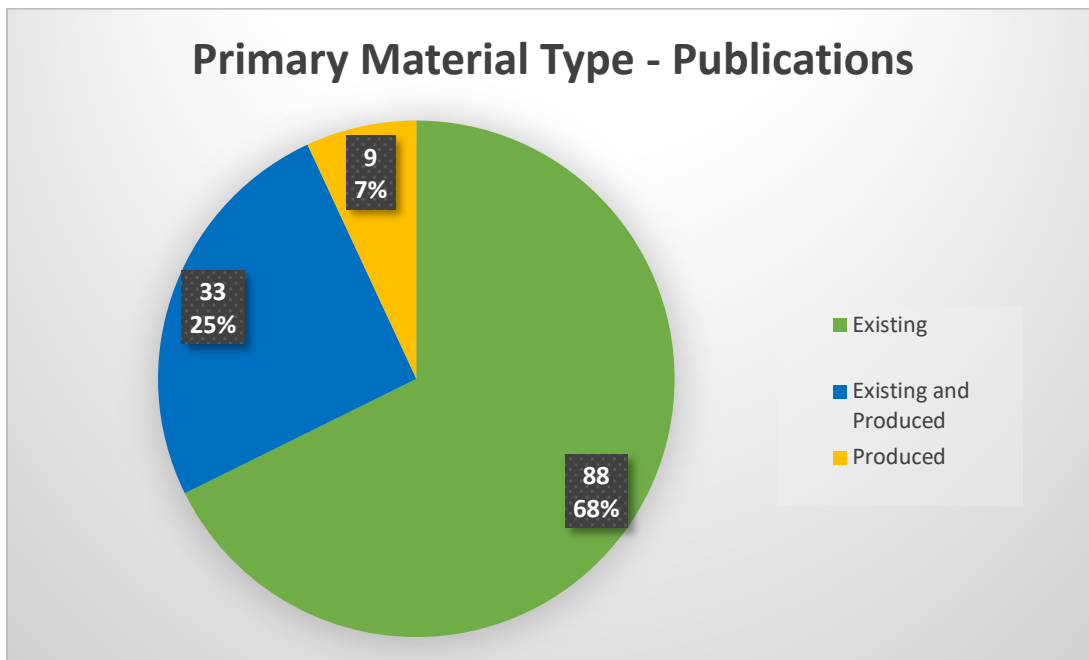
Table 53 – Primary Material Types + Methods of Data Analysis: Interviews

3. Primary Material Type

3.1. Present (2017-2022)



Graph 46 – Primary Material Types – Yearly Distributions



Graph 47 – Primary Material Types: Publications

3.1.1. Textual Materials

As indicated by Graphs 46 and 47, the primary material type predominantly observed among ITr publications is consistently existing, followed by existing & produced and, finally, produced. Beyond the constant predominance of existing primary materials throughout the entire period, there is a notable proportional difference between existing and the other two types of primary materials. The total number of existing primary materials surpasses existing & produced by over two times, and produced by over nine times (see Graph 47). In 2021, 82.75% of the publications on ITr are based on existing primary materials. This year also has the highest percentage of research that focused on ITr-subject, with 79.31% of the publications exploring this ITr as a focal point approach (see Chapter 4, Graph 35 on page 208, and Table 43 on page 210). These results suggest a tendency towards using existing primary materials in research focusing on ITr-subject. This inclination may stem from the relative accessibility and availability of such materials. As illustrated in Graph 46, existing primary materials are consistently used throughout each year of the analysed period. Moreover, both existing & produced materials remain prominent throughout the period, although the exclusive analysis of produced primary materials appears to be uncommon in ITr research. Notably, no ITr publications from 2017 or 2021 solely focused on produced materials. These findings not only underscore the preference for existing materials but also highlight the more limited engagement with produced materials. Three potential hypotheses can be proposed to account for this trend.

Expanding on both Chapter 4's and Susam-Sarajeva's (2014: 51) analyses, it is likely that scholars would opt to do research based on the primary materials involved in a case study that they already intended to examine, irrespective of whether these materials are part of an ITr chain. Assuming this to be the case, it is logical that most published authors would choose to explore primary materials that already exist. The second hypothesis is not related to researchers' preferences, but to logistics. Although it can be difficult to locate primary materials that are clearly identified as ITrs (Pięta, Ivaska & Gambier in Davier et al. 2023: 826), these materials are not necessarily entirely unavailable. Therefore, researchers might prefer

availing of existing sources, notwithstanding potential challenges in identification, rather than creating new ones. This phenomenon can primarily be attributed to the comparatively time-consuming nature of the latter option as, presumably, the process of creation would entail a greater time investment compared to using a source that is already available.

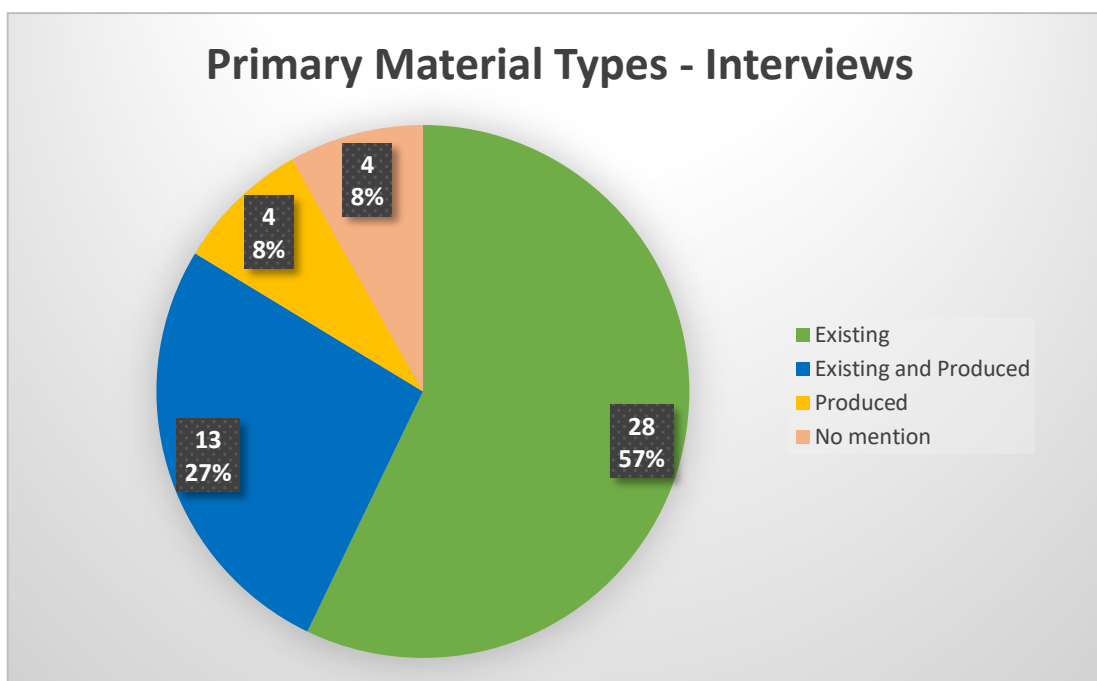
While empirical evidence suggests that prioritising the popularity of a research topic may not be conducive to enhanced publication outcomes, it remains a significant motivator for researchers in selecting their research topics (Jalongo 2023c: 95), especially when considering that the acceptance rate of manuscripts is only about 5 to 10% (Jalongo & Sarancho 2023: 268). Perceived relevancy can be an ever greater motivator if there is a theme-focused call for papers for a prestigious publisher such as *Cambridge University Press*, *Oxford University Press*, *Sage*, and *Taylor and Francis/Routledge* (Jalongo 2023b: 27). If the notion of perceived relevance is true for topic selection, the third hypothesis builds on the possibility that the same principle could be applicable to the selection of primary materials. If certain existing primary materials are trending or are already historically accepted as being relevant, it stands to reason that researchers would be more inclined to explore them, rather than taking a risk with newly produced materials.

It is worth noting that, throughout the present period, the ratio of produced to existing primary materials remains consistently high. However, in 2022, while the disparity between the two types of materials remains high, with existing materials surpassing produced ones by a factor of three, this proportion represents the smallest gap observed during the entire period (see Graph 46). These results corroborate findings from Chapter 4 (see pages 208-210), which indicate that the ITr-subject approach has become the predominant focus in the present. As ITr-subject emerges as the focus of present research, it is possible that researchers could be feeling more confident in creating new sources that will enable further expansion of the subfield. Although researchers' confidence might explain these results, it is also possible that the higher volume of research that uses produced materials in 2022 is due to the advances made in MT technology. With the quality of MT constantly improving and "computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools becoming more sophisticated and user-friendly" (Rothwell, Wat & Youdale 2024: 4), it can be inferred that

new corpora created through MT are becoming increasingly accessible to ITr researchers. This inference gains substance when considering, once again (see Chapter 4, page 220), that MT systems are particularly useful for translating language pairs that have little or no parallel training data available (Riemland 2023: 249).

3.1.2. Reality vs. Perception

As evidenced by Graph 48, interviewees tend to prefer using existing primary materials in their research. Over half of interviewees offer answers pertaining to existing primary materials, while over a quarter mentioned both existing & produced materials, meaning that the vast majority (83.67%) of interviewees favour existing materials. These results mirror the reality of publications, with both interviews and outputs prioritising existing primary materials by over 50%. Four hypotheses can be raised to address the alignment between interviewees' perceptions and the reality of publications. The first three hypotheses correspond to the ones formulated earlier. It is possible that interviewees would tend towards methods that involve existing primary materials due to reasons such as personal preference, logistical convenience or perceived prestige of certain materials.



Graph 48 – Primary Material Types: Interviews

The fourth hypothesis, however, proposes a different perspective. When discussing Translation History (TH), Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia (2017: 125) argue that “to understand why ITr occurs, relevant data are needed on existing indirect and direct translations in different contexts”. Over half (55.1%) of interviewees confirm their familiarity with and even use of publications authored by at least one of these three scholars for consultation, including the 2017 article by Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia. Thus, it is possible that interviewees who have encountered the argument on the dearth of data, especially those with a specific interest in TH, may feel more inclined to analyse existing primary materials in ITr research than those who have not. With respect to produced primary materials, Graphs 47 and 48 indicate that there is a close correlation between interviewees’ opinions and the reality of publications. When combining produced with existing & produced data in both sets of materials, the total number of produced primary materials accounts for 32.30% of the answers given by interviewees, while the textual objects account for 34.69%. Once again, the results demonstrate that interviewees’ perceptions are not significantly different from the reality of publications.

Building on Chapter 2 (see pages 116 and 124), the alignment between perception and reality can be viewed in both positive and negative lights. From a positive perspective, it can be inferred that researchers do not experience any hindrances while working with their preferred types of primary materials, which could potentially indicate a likelihood towards continued research on ITr. From a negative standpoint, however, this alignment may indicate that researchers are not looking to diversify their selection of primary material type in ITr research. While this alignment between perception and reality may curtail the diversity of primary material type for future ITr research, it does not imply a constraint on the diversity of primary materials themselves. Researchers may still choose to work with a range of sources, such as letters, novels, or academic articles, even if their preference for a particular primary material type remains unchanged.

As discussed in Chapter 4 (see Figure 11, next page), while there is a connection between the PCS model, ITr-strategy, and MT research, it is worth considering whether

primary material type is also related to the other categories represented in the heptagon model (see Figure 10, page 225). Indeed, a relationship exists between the hexagon and the existing & produced primary materials (see Figure 11). Existing & Produced remains the most commonly used form of primary materials across all heptagon categories. Although conference proceedings account for less than half of the textual material formats, no other category related to publication format (e.g., journal articles) surpasses it individually. Notably, existing & produced remains the most commonly used form of primary materials across all heptagon categories. Figure 11 further illustrates the strong connection between these materials and research associated with the heptagon categories.

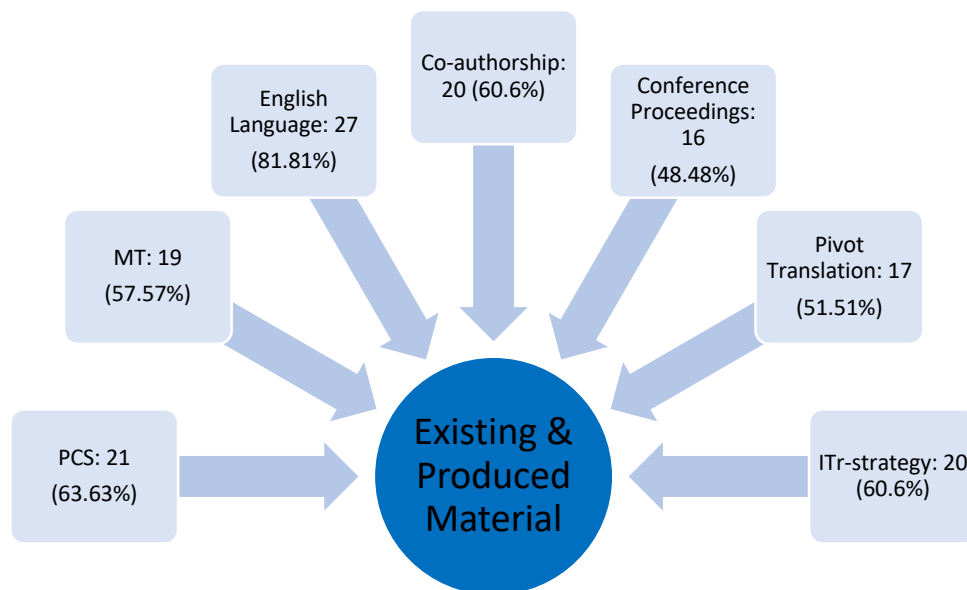


Figure 11 – PCS model + Heptagon

This newly identified relationship introduces existing & produced into the mix, thus transforming the heptagon into an octagon (see Figure 12). The octagonal relationship underscores specific characteristics in ITr research that may distinguish it within the broader field of TS. Consequently, if other TS subfields exhibit similar patterns (tailored to their respective requirements), it is plausible that there are distinct features in TS that have yet to be fully identified or explored.

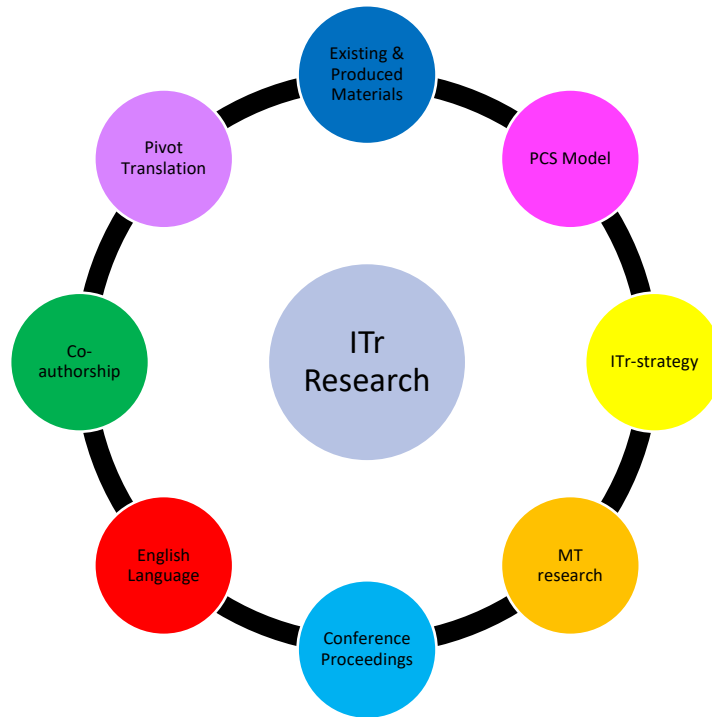


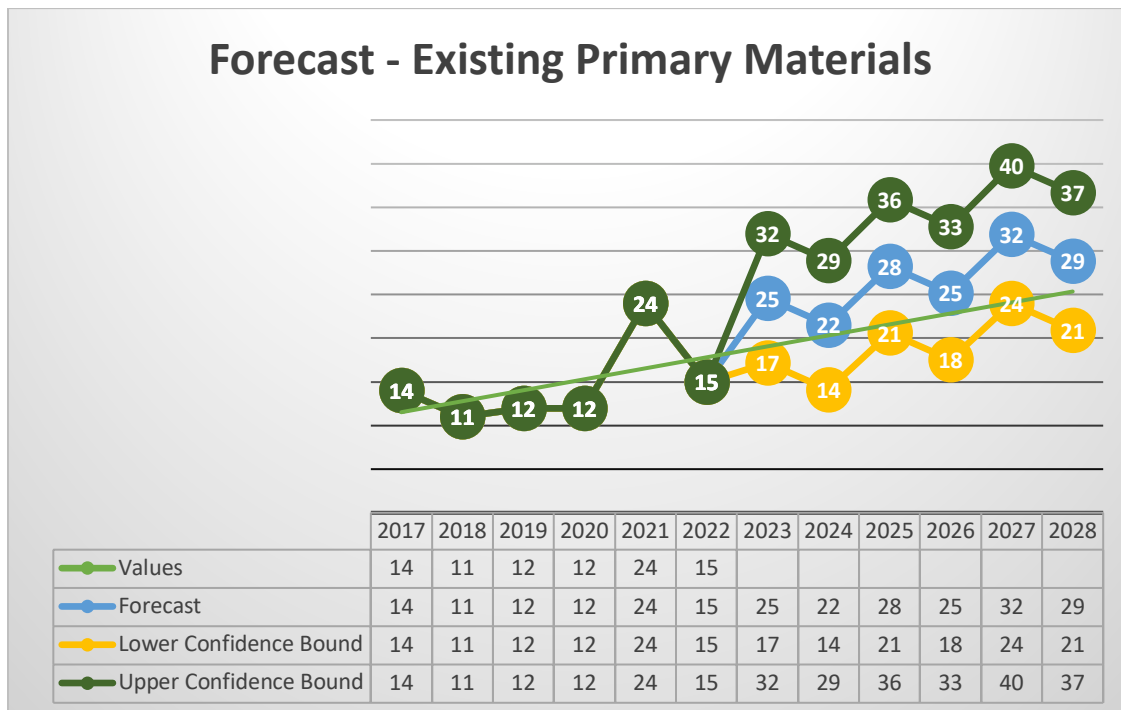
Figure 12 – Octagon

3.3. Future (2023-2028)

	Existing	Existing & Produced	Produced
Real Total (2017-2022)	88	33	9
Projected Total (2023-2028)	160	45	25
Real + Projected Total (2017-2028)	248	78	34
Lower Confidence Percentage Total	230%	159%	220%
Higher Confidence Percentage Total	334%	316%	543%
Average Percentage Total	282%	237%	381%

Table 54 – Forecast – Primary Material Types

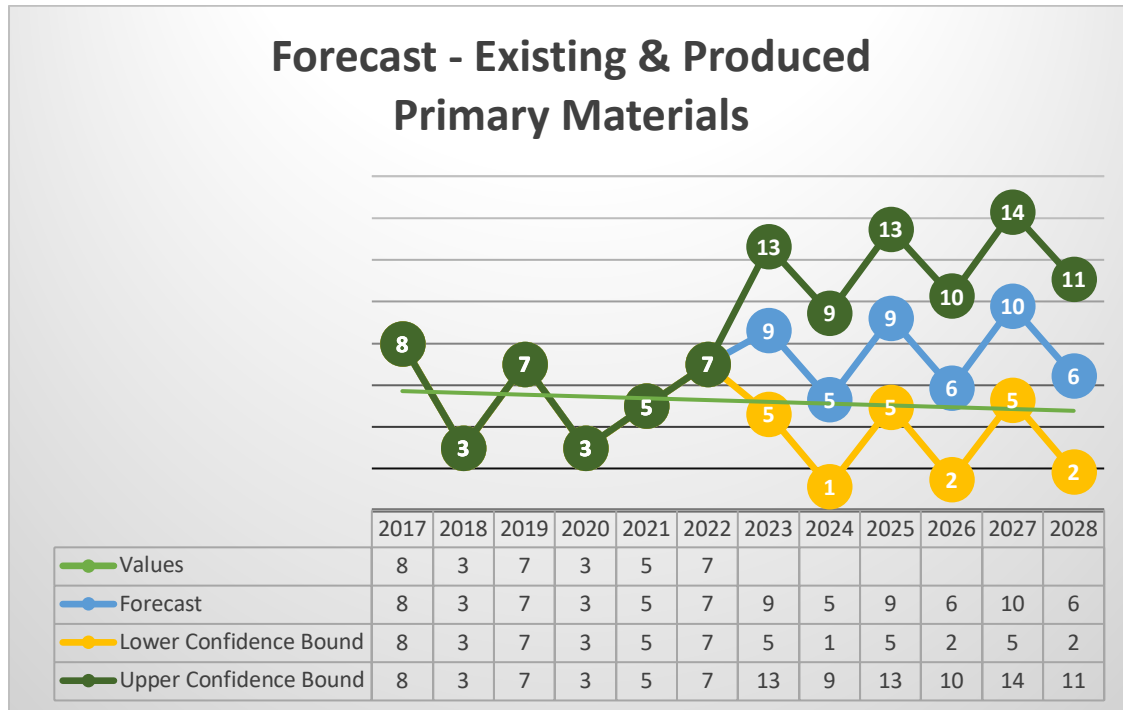
As can be seen from Graphs 49, 50, and 51, and Table 54, all types of primary materials are projected to experience growth in the upcoming years. The future projections for existing primary materials range from 230% (conservative projection) to 334% (optimistic projection). This means that, in future, the number of published research that explore existing primary materials is anticipated to undergo an average increase of 230% (see Graph 49, and Table 54). The projected data aligns with Interviewee nº 16's predictions, who claim that "there is no worry for us, indirect translation researchers, to not have materials out of the sudden" (Interviewee nº 16 – 00:16:39). A continuous use of existing primary materials in ITr research, however, does not guarantee an increase in the availability of such materials. Nevertheless, regardless of the nature of these primary materials, it appears that Interviewee nº 16's predictions are consistent with the projected data.



Graph 49 – Forecast – Existing Primary Materials

These results are very similar to the anticipated average increase of the intersection between ITr and TH. As analysed in Chapter 2 (see page 128), the ITr-TH intersection is projected to undergo an average increase of 233%. This congruence does not imply that all

upcoming ITr research involving existing primary materials is going to be focused on TH. It is possible, however, that ITr-TH research will tend to focus on existing primary materials. As previously hypothesised (see pages 115-116), ITr researchers may be inclined towards understanding the reasons behind ITr's occurrences, and one possible way to address this question is through TH.

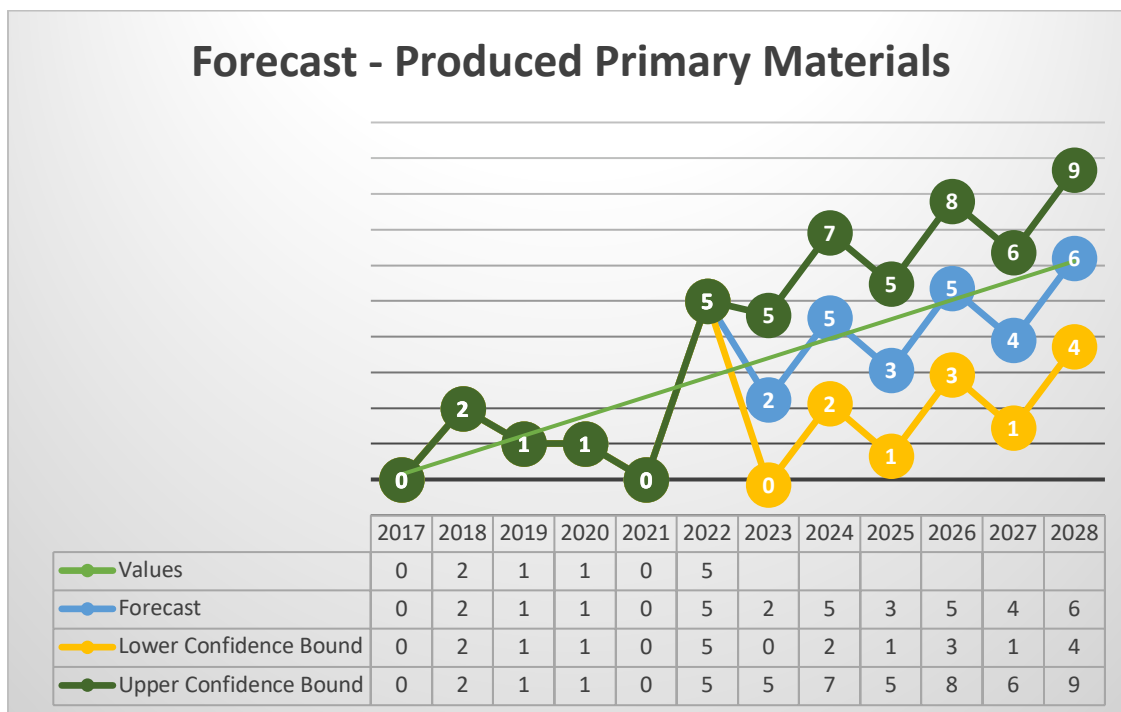


Graph 50 – Forecast – Existing & Produced Primary Materials

As hypothesised earlier, the alignment between perception and reality could entail that ITr research will continue to focus on existing primary materials. Once again, although this alignment could be an indication that future ITr research may lack diversity in primary material type, it does not imply that there will be a lack of diversity in the sources of these existing primary materials. Given that researchers may focus on existing primary materials within the context of TH research, there is a potential for discovering new sources of this type of primary materials. The possible consequences of these potential discoveries are twofold. Similar to the hypothesis discussed in Chapter 2 (see page 128), further research into novel sources of existing primary materials could contribute to the advancement of Genetic

Translation Studies (GTS). A growing body of research that incorporates both exogenic and endogenic existing materials would improve the tracing of textual genealogies, including those pertaining to ITrs.

Based on Chapter 1’s projections (see Graph 4, page 73), ITr research is expected to continue to rise. This trend could lead to the discovery of new sources of existing primary materials. It can, therefore, be argued that some of these materials, especially translations, may serve dual purposes. Not only can they serve as primary materials, but they can also serve as secondary materials, being useful as both the subject of analysis and as textual sources from which information can be drawn for further analyses. Cordingley (2023: 15) argues that translation “fulfils the archival functions of being both a domicile for a work over time and a record of the work’s event or genesis, its emergence within time”. Therefore, it is clearer to see that newly discovered existing sources can extend beyond their role as primary materials, as they could also be used as sources for consultation in academic research.



Graph 51 – Forecast – Produced Primary Materials

The future projections for produced primary materials range from 220% (conservative projection) to 543% (optimistic projection) between 2017 and 2028. This forecast indicates that the number of published research that explore produced primary materials is anticipated to experience an average increase of 381% (see Graph 51 and Table 54). The projected average growth for this particular primary material type is the largest among the three. The large increase in publications exploring produced primary materials between 2022 (the last year of the analysed period) and the following years could explain why a potential growth in this produced materials is expected in the future (see Graph 51).The projections indicate that future ITr research is expected to explore existing & produced primary materials to a greater extent than just produced. However, the gap between the two is smaller than the gap in the current scenario of publications. In the present period, the number of existing & produced primary materials is over three times larger than the number of produced materials. In future, however, the difference between the two is not even double. These projections add weight to the argument that researchers may be gaining confidence in not just discovering, but creating new sources for research purposes (see page 79). These projections can also add weight to the hypothesis that, as MT technology continues to advance (Rothwell, Wat & Youdale 2024: 4), creating new corpora may become more accessible to ITr researchers in the upcoming years (see page 256).

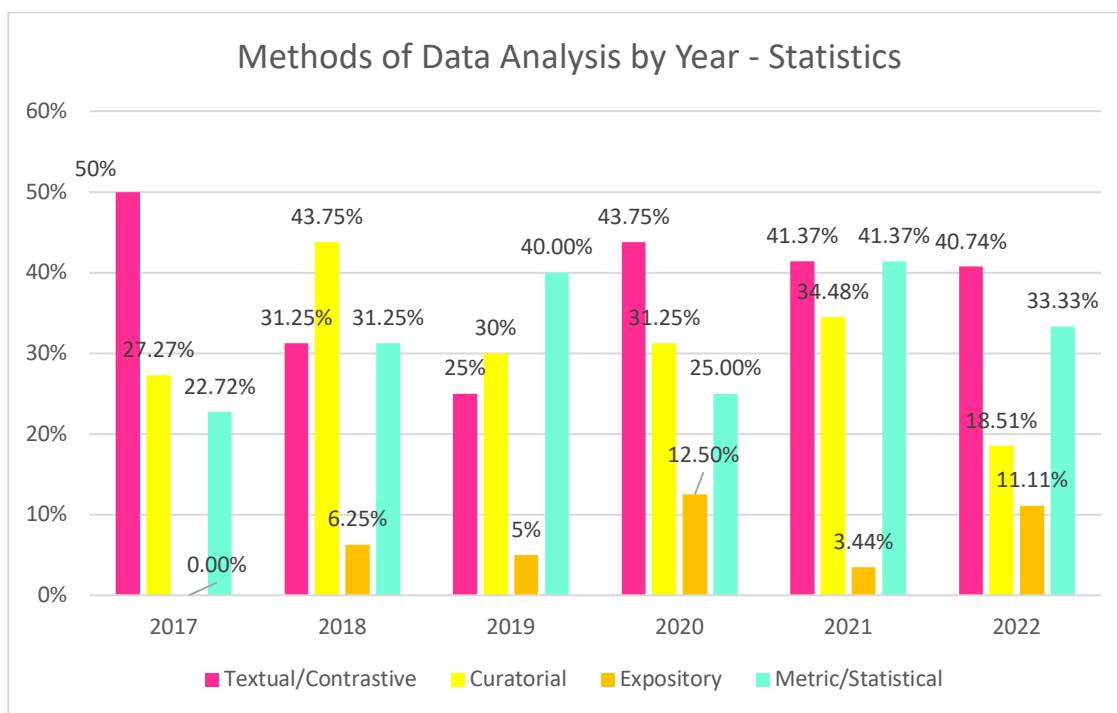
Another hypothesis is that the large increase of produced primary materials may be attributed to a rise in CS research focusing on MT. Revisiting the idea that MT research extends beyond the scope of ST (see Chapter 3, pages 164-165), a clear difference in perspective emerges between CS and ST regarding using ITr. While ITr is frequently viewed as being “less desirable” in TS, in CS, it may be the preferred option (Bowker 2023: 329). Including steps into the translation process can aid the identification of syntax errors, thus framing ITr as a strategy that enables error detection rather than error introduction (ibid.). If more steps are intentionally incorporated into a translation chain, the production of primary materials will likely increase. Consequently, the expansion of primary materials for error detection in MT research may require the development of specific terminology, as discussed

in Chapter 3, such as hyponyms (see page 181), to define each text or stage within a translation chain.

4. Methods of Data Analysis

4.2. Present (2017-2022)

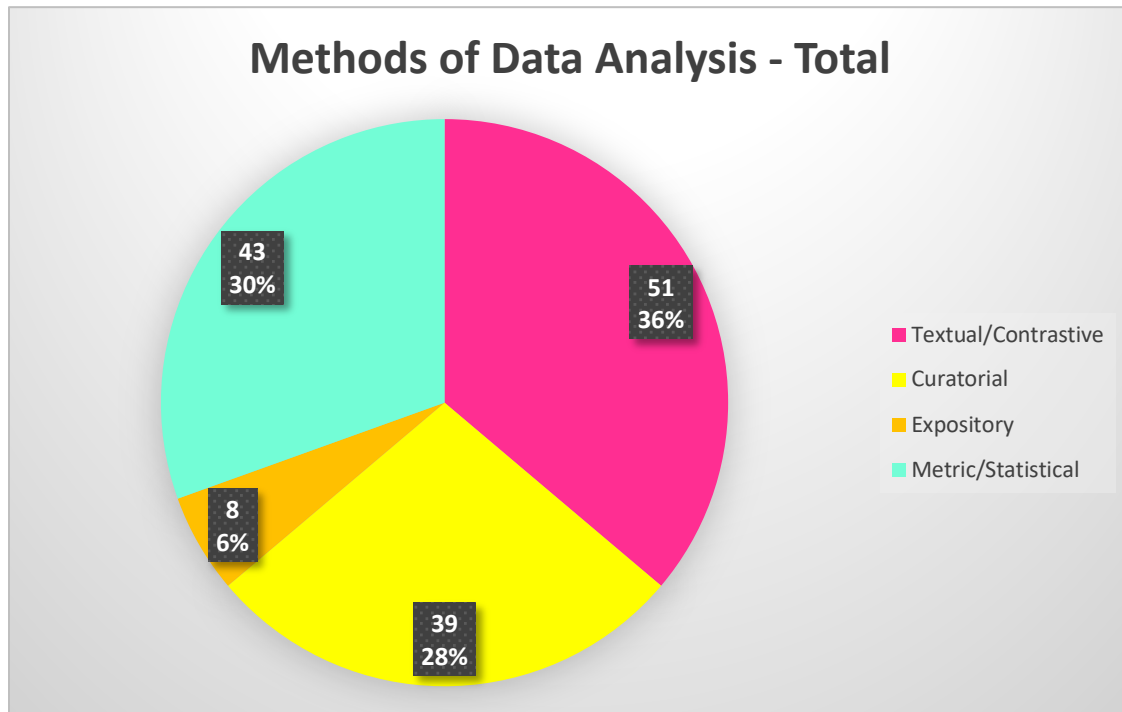
4.2.1. Textual Materials



Graph 52 – *Methods of Data Analysis: Statistics*

Graph 53 demonstrates that, in terms of total quantities, textual/contrastive is the most explored method of data analysis by the textual materials. However, this trend is not consistently observed throughout the entire present period. Although textual/contrastive gains some stability in the last three years, Graph 52 illustrates that there is fluctuation between all methods of data analysis in ITr publications. In 2018, curatorial rises as the primary method of data analysis, surpassing both textual/contrastive and metric/statistical

by 12.5%. In 2019, both metric/statistical and curatorial surpass textual/contrastive as the most explored methods of data analysis. Despite these fluctuations, textual/contrastive returns as the most explored method in both 2020 and 2022, sharing its position, however, with metric/statistical in 2021.



Graph 53 – Methods of Data Analysis: Total

Despite consistent statistical fluctuations, expository remains persistently positioned at the bottom of the rank of methods of data analysis used in ITr research. Because expository methods would typically involve human participants, it is possible that its position as the least explored method may mirror the analysis concerning agent-based (AGT) models of research. Chapter 4 found that AGT is the least sizable group among the present publications (see Graph 40, page 222). It is, therefore, possible that the difficulties associated with human participation, such as obtaining consent from participants for observation (Saldanha & O’Brien 2013: 43), might discourage researchers from using expository methods of research. While the expository method of data analysis is not necessarily costly or time-consuming, the process of gathering data in preparation for it can be. The process of conducting research through observation and experimentation is a time-consuming task, particularly when

researchers must engage in “continued and repeated immersion in setting” (Hennink, Hutter & Bailey 2020: 198). Time consuming research tasks may result in escalated costs as well, which can, consequently, delay the publication process, and pose a challenge in securing funding from science promotion agencies (Guevara et al. 2016: 1698). As a result, engaging in such research may not be researchers main choice. Therefore, the entire methodological approach involving expository methods may hinder the application of this method of data analysis in ITr research.

Upon comparing the results illustrated in Graph 52 with the findings in Chapter 4, there is no evident correlation between these three methods of data analysis and any of the predominant ITr typologies. ITr-subject is the only predominant approach in the analysis of ITr as a focal point in research (see Graph 35, page 208), and it intersects with all three of the predominant methods of data analysis. Similarly, the product-based (PDT) model consistently emerges as one of the dominant models of research throughout the entire period, intersecting with all three of the primary methods of data analysis. There is only one ubiquitously predominant overarching theme in ITr research: Literary Translation (LT) (Graph 19, page 132). Unlike the overarching themes, there is no ubiquitously predominant specific theme in ITr publications (see Graph 13, page 122). Each of the three specific themes takes the lead or at least ties for first place at least once in the present period. Despite the variation in these results, it is still not possible to establish a correlation between specific themes and the predominant methods of data analysis. Table 55 lays out these results side-by-side:

Years	Predominant Specific Theme(s)	Predominant Method(s) of Data Analysis
2017	TH, SP & TMT ¹⁶³	Textual/Contrastive
2018	TMT	Curatorial
2019	TH	Metric/Statistical
2020	TH	Textual/Contrastive
2021	TH	Textual/Contrastive & Metric/Statistical

¹⁶³ Key: TH = ‘Translation History’, SP = ‘Social-political Issues’, and TMT = ‘Theoretical, Methodological, and Terminological Dimensions’.

2022	TMT	Textual/Contrastive

Table 55 – Predominant: Specific Theme(s) + Method(s) of Data Analysis

Table 55 reveals no consistent pattern of repetition between the three specific themes and the predominant method(s) of data analysis. Textual/Contrastive methods, for instance, appears alongside all three of the analysed specific themes. In each year where metric/statistical methods is the predominant method of data analysis, TH emerges as the predominant specific theme. These two, however, are not inherently linked. When reviewing each publication (see Appendix 1, page 363), it is observed that only four publications combine TH with metric/statistical methods¹⁶⁴. This number represents 9.3% of the total metric/statistical textual objects and 15.38% of the total TH textual objects. Notably, three (75%) of these four publications are written by the same author. Based on these results, it would be premature to suggest a trend or a direct correlation between TH and metric/statistical methods. Because there are no clear patterns of repetition between the results found in the previous chapters and the results found in this chapter, it is worth considering two hypotheses to account for the variation among the dominant methods of data analysis.

As hypothesised in Chapter 2 (see page 112), the lack of ubiquitous dominance among specific themes in ITr research could be a reflection of the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of TS (Zhu & Aryadoust 2023: 171; Venuti 2021: 3; Bowker & Delsey 2016: 75; Venuti 2000: 4). According to Snell-Hornby (2006):

[...] an “interdiscipline” is in my view not merely a kind of no-man’s land between other clearly defined territories. We could rather say that through the varying constellations of its topics and methods, it evolves into something qualitatively different from the ingredients of which it originally consisted (Snell-Hornby 2006: 72).

If TS is to be considered an ‘interdiscipline’, and ITr a subset of TS, it would be reasonable to infer that ITr research would also encompass a varying constellation of topics and methods. Therefore, similarly to the results pertaining to specific themes, TS’s interdisciplinary nature could potentially explain the variability in dominant methods of data

¹⁶⁴ Ivaska (2020a), Allwood (2021), Allwood (2022a), and Allwood (2022b).

analysis throughout the present period. When discussing Kaindl's (2004: 64-65) three stages of development in interdisciplinary cooperation, Snell-Hornby (2006: 72) explains that the stage of 'importing' "is still prevalent in Translation Studies". This stage refers to the situation in which researchers borrow from other disciplines to compensate for a "lack of adequate tools and methods" in their own (ibid.). Because there is no evidence from the textual materials to indicate that any of the four methods of data analysis discussed in this chapter are innate to TS, it is possible to speculate on whether they could be borrowings from other related fields. If that is the case, the potential lack of TS-specific methods may also account for the variability in dominant methods of data analysis throughout the present period.

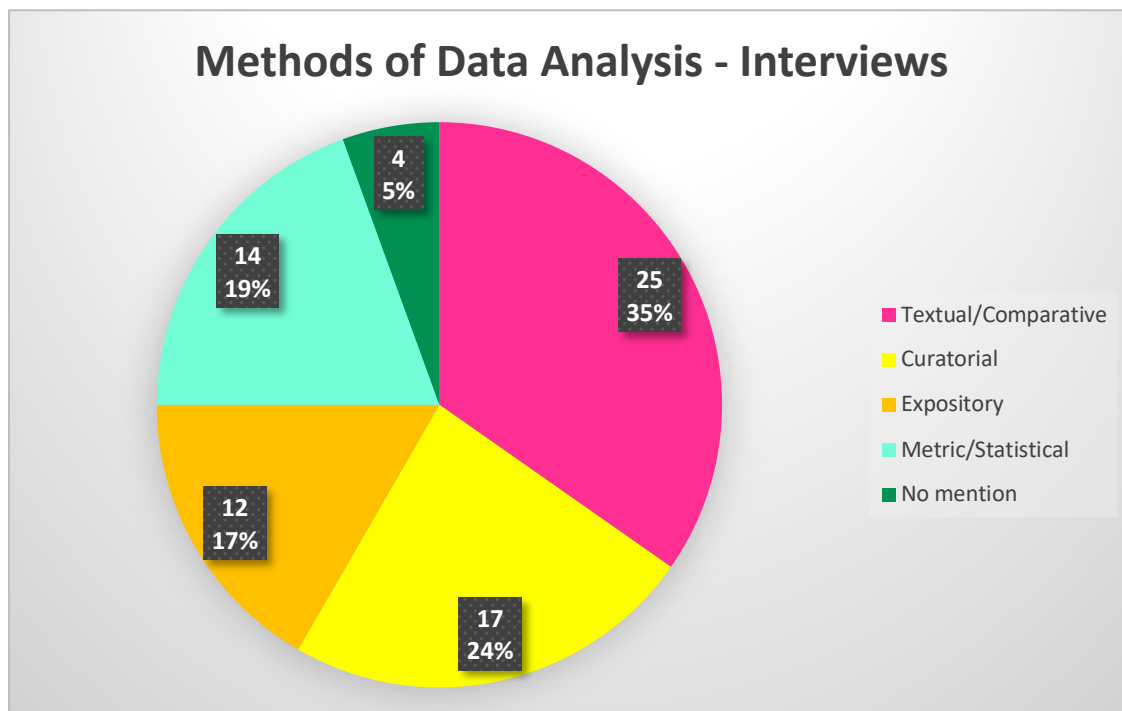
Although 'importing' implies that "the gain is of course one-sided" by just one of the disciplines involved in methodological cooperation (Snell-Hornby 2006: 72), it would be premature to regard the variability in dominant methods of data analysis as a disadvantageous predicament. Given the nuanced and complex nature inherent to ITr (Assis Rosa, Pięta & Bueno Maia 2017: 117), it is arguable that the methods of data analysis used in ITr research, even if borrowed from other disciplines, could be tailored to account for ITr's idiosyncrasies. As ITr research continues to develop, it becomes clearer that it "is not a simple or static phenomenon that functions the same across contexts" (Hadley 2023: 141). Therefore, ITr's idiosyncrasies could pave the way for the emergence of further specialisations in the subfield (ibid.), including methodological specialisations. It remains to be seen whether these tailored methods, or adopted versions thereof, could serve future research in other subfields within TS or even other disciplines.

4.2.2. Reality vs. Perception

As evidenced by Graphs 53 and 54, the dominant method of data analysis in both sets of corpora is textual/contrastive, with minimal variation. These findings indicate that interviewees' perceptions are consistent with the reality of ITr publications in regard to most explored methods. Interviewee's nº 36 opinion testifies to this state of affairs: "It [research methodology on Indirect Translation] is mainly concerned with identifying textual and

linguistic characteristics of texts that result from indirect translation processes” (Interviewee n° 36 – 00:37:42).

As previously discussed, no conclusive correlation is in evidence between the results pertaining to textual/contrastive in the textual materials and the results from the other chapters. However, it can be argued that researchers are more likely to choose this method due to TS’ historical emphasis on the material causes of the translation processes, including “the contrastive relation between two languages” (Chesterman 2021b: 31). Although the textual/contrastive method extends beyond merely comparing two languages, it can include this type of comparison in its scope. Moreover, it is possible that researchers’ preference toward textual/contrastive methods mirrors the reasons speculated for selecting existing primary materials. Thus, once again, it could be that researchers’ reasons for choosing these methods stem from a range of factors such as personal inclination, logistical convenience, or an assumed prestige attached to certain specific themes or existing primary materials.



Graph 54 – Methods of Data Analysis: Interviews

Not a specific theme, but perhaps a specific method of data analysis, close reading is often mentioned by interviewees when explaining or describing textual/contrastive methods.

According to Pięta (2017: 125), it is fair to claim that “the study of ITr is probably the area, within TS, more closely linked with the traditional practices of close reading as literary criticism [...]”. The definitions of close reading employed in the field appear to be nebulous, essentially revolving around “the practice of [...] examining closely the language of a literary work or a section of it” (Culler 2010: 20). What is less nebulous, however, is the interviewees’ feelings towards the practice. For 12 (24.48%) interviewees, close reading seems to be the main insight into studying ITr. Interviewee n° 26, for instance, argues that this specific method is preferable because of its detailed-oriented approach, which enables the creation of more corpora on ITr (Interviewee n° 26 – 00:12:16). Three interviewees, on the other hand, are sceptical towards it, viewing it as a method with limited scientific merit. Interviewee n° 19, in particular, argues that close reading is susceptible to personal biases, potentially compromising the rigour of the research process: “I would [...] like to see someone doing something [...] quantifiable, repeatable, testable, not inherently based on someone’s personal view” (Interviewee n° 19 – 00:53:50). Interviewee n° 19’s stance is consistent with Hadley (2023: 13), who argues that “it may be problematic to rely on forms of analysis that do not have any obvious means of accounting and controlling for confirmation bias, such as close reading”.

The matter of lacking methodological rigour seems to be mitigated when research involves numerical data. Seven (14.28%) interviewees exhibit a preference for mixed-methods in ITr research, particularly those involving quantitative findings. Interviewee n° 11, for instance, expresses that they feel “more confident with figures than with people”, suggesting that, when compared to other methods, statistical methods, as well as numerical data, offer a clearer avenue for substantiating findings (Interviewee n° 11 – 00:26:42). Numbers are at the centre of the metric/statistical method, which accounts for 19.44% of interviewees’ answers, making it the third highest preferred method among them. This method is given greater emphasis among the textual materials, making it the second (33.07%) most explored method of data analysis in the present.

There has been a growing need in TS for more advanced and systematic analytical methods to analyse quantitative multilingual corpus data (Ji 2019: 7). It is surprising,

according to Malamatidou (2018: 68), how Corpus Translation Studies (CTS), for instance, “has managed to disregard inferential statistics for so long”. This growing need to merge systematic analytical methods and quantitative multilingual corpus data appears to be why TS has been making an effort “to introduce and adapt statistical methods from cognate fields” to advance CTS (Ji 2019: 7). Malamatidou (2018: 66) echoes this sentiment, specifically recommending the inclusion of more inferential statistics in TS. This apparent TS trend that focuses on systematic and statistical methods might explain why metric/statistical represents the second most explored method in published ITr research for the present period. Going beyond the present, there is evidence that metric/statistical methods have been applied to more recent ITr research as well (e.g., Hadley 2023; Pita, Ivaska & Gambier 2023). Thus, Interviewee n° 19’s hope for more ITr research to be quantifiable, repeatable, and testable may reflect a wider trend (see projections, page 174). This trend, however, does not explain why the same method ranks only third in preference among interviewees. Two hypotheses can be advanced to account for this disparity between the two sets of materials.

Based on Ji’s (2019) and Malamatidou’s (2018) arguments, it is possible that even though researchers may not immediately choose metric/statistical as their preferred method of data analysis, they may nonetheless be making a concentrated effort to apply it. Alternatively, it is possible that researchers may be reluctant to apply metric/statistical methods for fear of having to report negative results (i.e., to not confirm their hypothesis), as they “may appear less than valuable” (Hadley 2023: 30). This reluctance raises the conjecture that the research questions, as presented in published materials, might be developed based on the results achieved in the process of research. This conjecture does not imply that results are manipulated. Rather, it suggests that questions might be framed in a way likely to elicit affirmative answers, thus confirming the hypothesis. While reluctance in disclosing negative results may discourage ITr researchers from choosing metric/statistical methods from the outset, these methods could still be effective in reaching systematic findings. These systematic findings could then be presented in ITr publication as positive answers to their research questions.

Although no correlation is observed between perception and reality for metric/statistical methods, a notable alignment emerges in the case of the least explored method of data analysis: expository. Despite accounting for a percentage nearly three times higher than that of the textual materials, the expository method lags behind the other three methods in the interviews. As discussed in the previous section, the use of expository research methods often involves human participants. This reliance on human participation can present significant challenges, including difficulties associated with recruitment, ethical considerations, and the time-consuming nature of this methodology. These factors may therefore discourage researchers from employing expository methods in their studies. However, the nearly fourfold increase in expository methods in the interviews over textual materials suggests that researchers do engage with this method. Because it is relatively close behind metric/statistical methods in the interviews, with only a proportional difference of 2.78%, it is possible to hypothesise that expository methods may rise in prominence in future ITr research.

Because there is a connection between existing & produced primary materials and the newly found octagonal model, it is worth considering whether there is a method of data analysis that relates to the other categories represented in the octagonal model (see Figure 12). Indeed, a relationship exists between the octagon and the metric/statistical methods (see Figure 13).

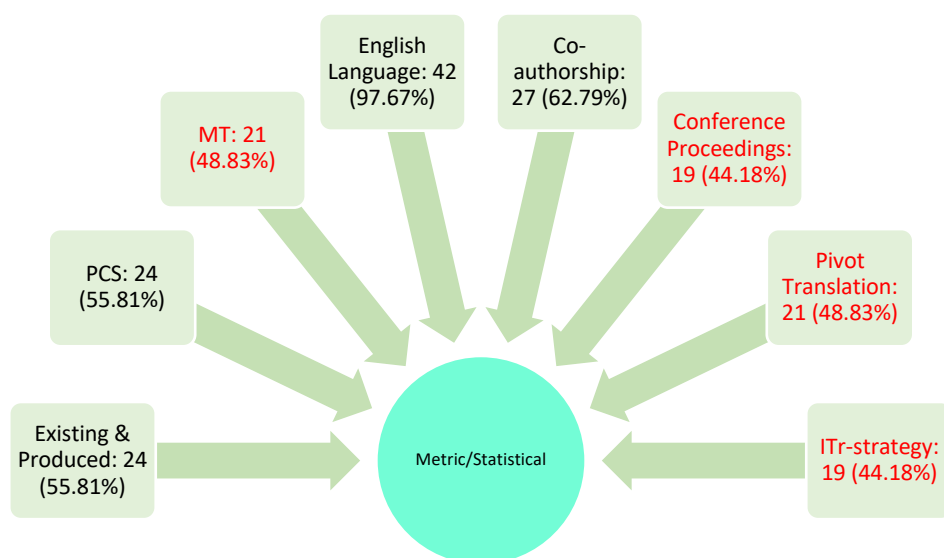


Figure 13 – Metric/Statistical+ Octagon

Similarly to the octagon, although half of categories are not the majority in relation to metric/statistical (i.e., categories in red) methods, no other alternative category individually surpasses the ones identified in Figure 13. This newly identified relationship introduces metric/statistical into the mix, thus transforming the octagon into its final iteration: a nonagon (see Figure 14). This configuration reflects a more complex, specific, and interconnected landscape within ITr research. It may also signal the increasing prominence of quantitative methods, not only in ITr but potentially in TS as a whole. However, although the nonagonal configuration represents an existing trend, it may also imply a form of methodological isolation in ITr research. Research that strictly follows to the nonagon categories may indicate a limited space for exploration, as it appears to follow a predefined, structured pattern. Nonetheless, this systematic structure could prove valuable, aligning with Interviewee n° 19's (00:57:45) hope that future research in the subfield will be more quantifiable, repeatable, and testable.

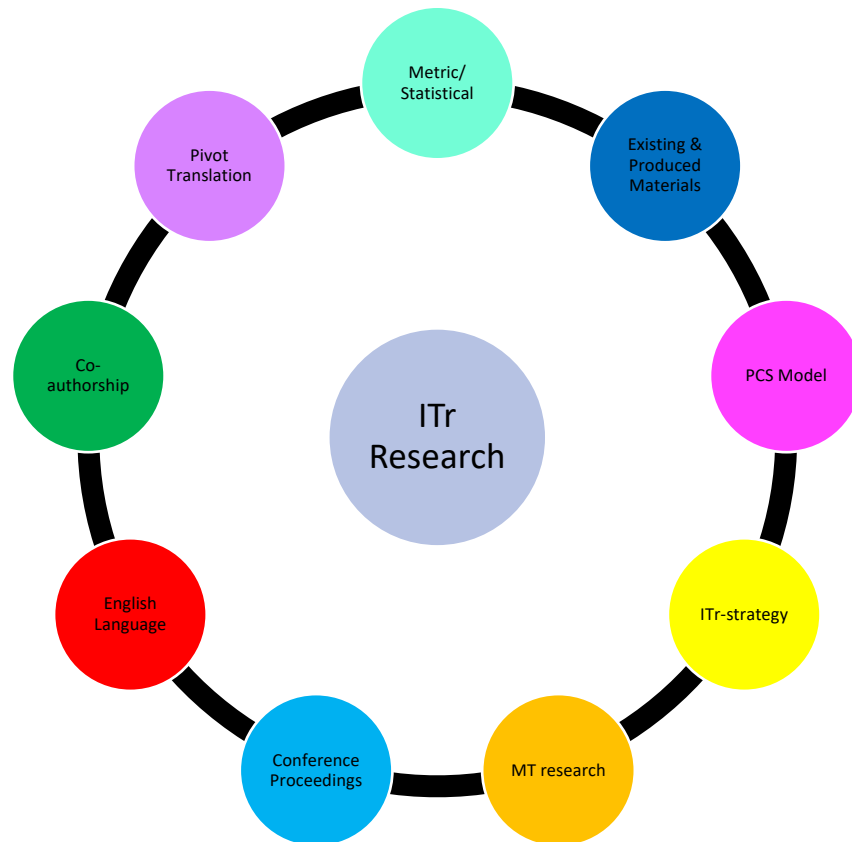


Figure 14 – Nonagon

4.2. Future (2023-2028)

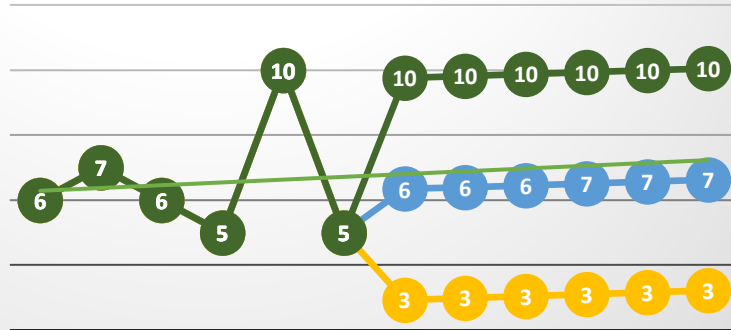
The following Tables and Graphs reveal that, with the exception of curatorial, all methods of data analysis are projected to grow in absolute quantities in the future period over the preceding one.

	Textual/ Contrastive	Curatorial	Expository	Metric/ Statistical
Real Total (2017-2022)	51	39	8	43
Projected Total (2023-2028)	90	39	22	91
Real + Projected Total (2017-2028)	141	78	30	134
Lower Confidence Percentage	141%	147%	323%	270%
Higher Confidence Percentage	412%	252%	417%	353%
Average Percentage	277%	200%	370%	312%

Table 56 – Forecast – Methods of Data Analysis

Curatorial methods are expected to remain constant not only in total quantities, but also in ranking. As can be seen in Table 56, curatorial is expected to remain the third most explored method of data analysis in the projected period as well. These results suggest that curatorial methods are not likely to gain substantially more popularity among researchers. However, from a purely mathematical perspective, these results could simply be attributed to the volatility observable in the existing data, especially in the final three years (see Graph 55, next page), making it difficult to discern any consistent trend for future projections.

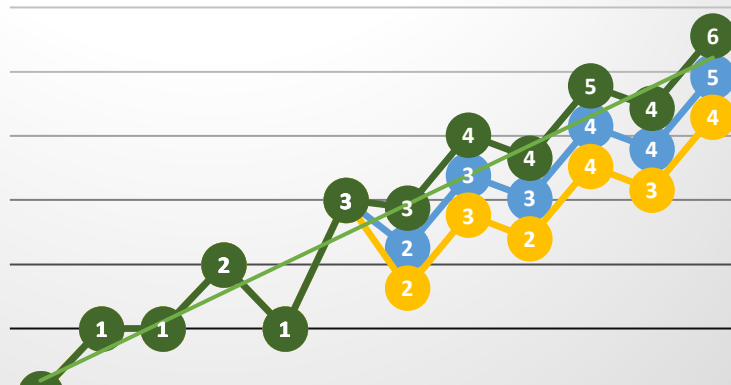
Forecast - Curatorial



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Values	6	7	6	5	10	5						
Forecast	6	7	6	5	10	5	6	6	6	7	7	7
Lower Confidence Bound	6	7	6	5	10	5	3	3	3	3	3	3
Upper Confidence Bound	6	7	6	5	10	5	10	10	10	10	10	10

Graph 55 – Forecast – Curatorial

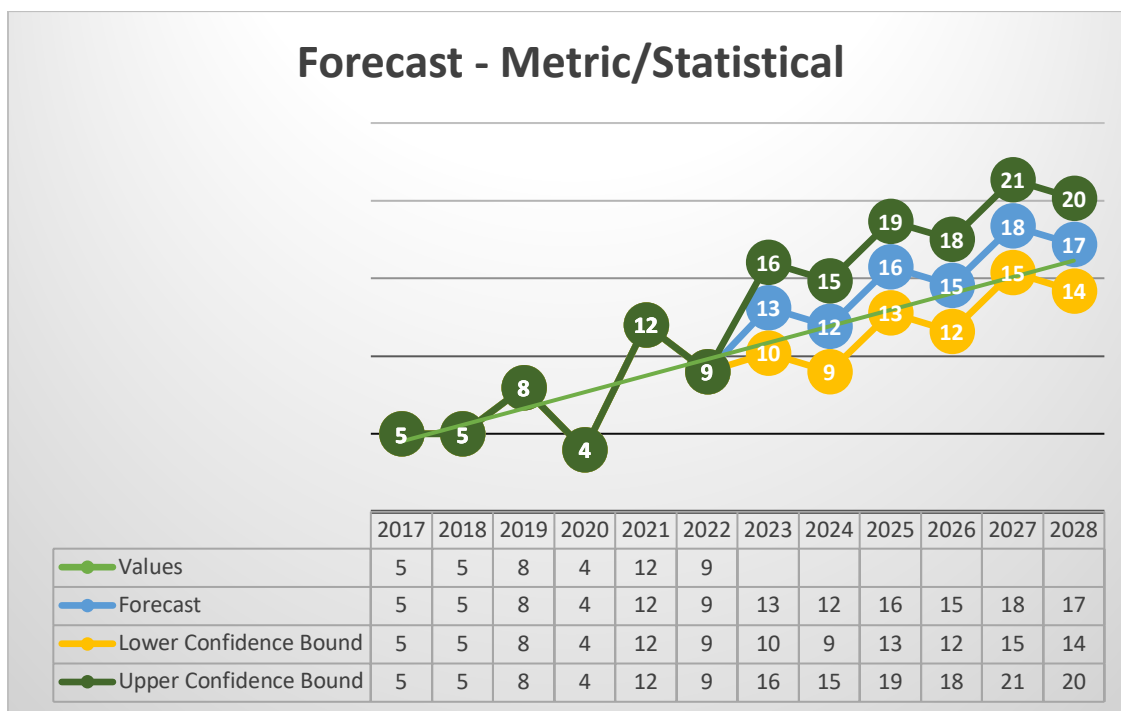
Forecast - Expository



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Values	0	1	1	2	1	3						
Forecast	0	1	1	2	1	3	2	3	3	4	4	5
Lower Confidence Bound	0	1	1	2	1	3	2	3	2	4	3	4
Upper Confidence Bound	0	1	1	2	1	3	3	4	4	5	4	6

Graph 56 – Forecast – Expository

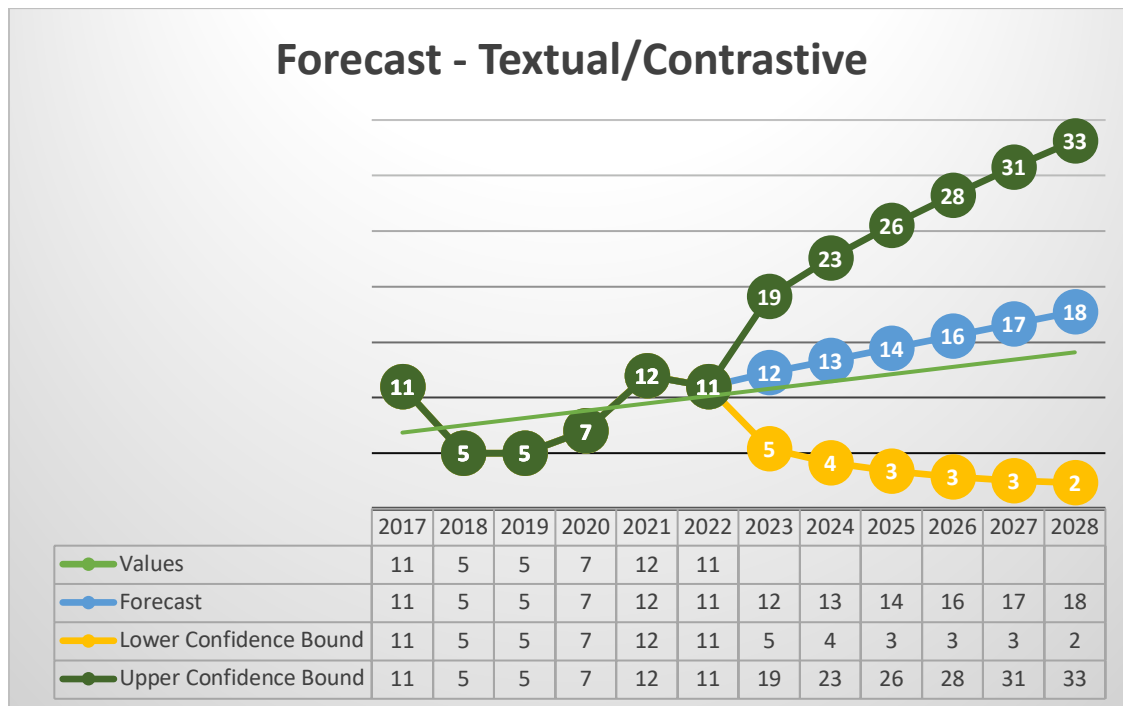
Expository methods are projected to experience the highest average growth. The projections range from 323% (conservative projection) to 417% (optimistic projection). This means that the number of published research outputs that adopt expository methods is anticipated to increase on average by 323% (see Graph 56, and Table 56). From a mathematical standpoint, lower overall amounts tend to produce larger proportional increases from smaller absolute increases. In other words, an increase of 3 texts to an existing group of 100 translates to a percentage increase of 3%, while an increase of 3 texts to an existing group of 10 translates to a percentage increase of 30%. Thus, in a scenario where there is a single publication in the initial period, followed by an increase of two publications in the following period, although the total count amounts to only three publications, this nevertheless represents a 200% increase.



Graph 57 – Forecast – Metric/Statistical

Beyond the realm of statistics, if research employing expository methods were to expand by an average of 323%, this would also result in an increased availability of produced materials for future ITr research. The previous projected results indicate that produced

primary materials will increase an average of 381%, amounting to a total of 25 publications (see Graph 52, and Table 54). Although the numerical similarity does not necessarily mean that all, or even most, ITr research published in future using produced primary materials will employ expository methods, it does suggest a potential correlation between these two results. This correlation reinforces the likelihood of further development of produced primary materials in future ITr research. Not only that, but this numerical correlation also adds a new perspective to the idea that technological advancements might aid researchers in producing materials for research. This correlation suggests that although technology may be helpful or even possibly a catalyst for future ITr research, there is also potential for increased scholarly interest in observational and ethnographic methodologies that are not inherently related to technological advancements.



Graph 58 – Forecast – Textual/Contrastive

When discussing the multiplicity of possible experiments related to the *Concatenation Effect Hypothesis*, Hadley (2023: 143) suggests that although a research question may eventually reach an answer, this does not mean that the experiment as a whole, as well as its

subject matter, are beyond question. If more research in ITr were to focus on expository methods of data analysis, this would imply a broader range of reports on experiments, conducted in real or controlled contexts, that could serve as the basis to develop further research questions. The application of additional expository methods may correspond to a potential rise in specific themes addressing so-called real-life concerns, a topic of significance to six interviewees (see Chapter 2, page 121). Although the interpretation of real-life concerns is subjective and varies from individual to individual, expository methods have the potential to serve as a valuable tool for the analysis of specific themes related to these concerns.

Although textual/contrastive is the most explored method of data analysis in the present period, metric/statistical is projected to supersede it in future. The advancements related to technology and MT could be a driving force behind this trend, given that metric/statistical methods are often associated with MT research. However, as previously discussed, it is possible that researchers may not have an immediate preference for metric/statistical methods, yet they could still put in a concentrated effort to apply them. This effort could stem from the growing need in the field of TS for more sophisticated and systematic analytical methods when examining quantitative multilingual corpus data, as highlighted by Ji (2019: 7). Conversely, once again, an alternative hypothesis is that researchers are progressively favouring methods that foster greater quantification, repeatability, and testability of ITr research, as hope by Interviewee nº 19. Although textual/contrastive is expected to remain the most applied method in published ITr research overall (2017-2028), this slight deviation in the projected scenario may indicate a future trend. It could be that the methods of data analysis in ITr research are increasingly considering ITr's idiosyncrasies and gradually establishing distinct methodologies within the subfield.

5. Conclusion

This chapter posed two questions, with the first asking whether scholars' opinions and perceptions of methodology align with the reality of publications. The analysis concludes that interviewees' perceptions tend to be consistent with the reality of publications. Both

analysed groups prioritise existing primary materials by over 50%. This finding means that, for instance, ITr researchers would tend to analyse published indirect translations of Joyce's *Ulysses* (1922), rather than analysing transcriptions of interviews they conducted with editors from Irish publishing houses. There are both positive and negative aspects to this alignment between perception and reality in ITr research. While it may limit the diversity of primary material types used in future ITr research, it does not necessarily restrict the diversity of primary materials themselves. Researchers may still choose to work with different sources of existing primary materials, such as novels, poems or academic articles. The results from methods of data analysis reveal that textual/contrastive and expository hold the same positions as the most and least explored methods, respectively, across both sets of materials. This finding means that, for instance, ITr researchers would tend to compare a direct translation of Joyce's *Ulysses* (1922) with an indirect one, rather than analysing data from an experiment where TS students translate the book indirectly. Based on the findings of the interviews, it appears that the expository method, despite accounting for a proportion almost three times larger than that of the textual materials, is still not as present as the other three methods of data analysis. This trend could be attributed to a range of factors, including the potential time-consuming nature of the method, as well as researchers possible hesitancy in conducting research which involves human participants. While three interviewees express scepticism towards certain aspects of the textual/contrastive method, particularly close reading, it continues to emerge as a primary avenue for methodological insights into ITr research across both sets of materials. This prominence may stem from historical precedents, preconceptions about its detailed nature, or simply habitual inclinations.

The second question addressed in this chapter concerns the shifts in methodology anticipated from present to future. The analysis concludes that two major shifts are anticipated to happen in the methodological landscape of ITr research. Regarding primary material type, while existing materials are expected to continue to receive the greatest amount of attention, and produced the least, there is a discernible upswing in the exploration of the latter. Researcher confidence in creating new sources may be increasing as the gap between existing & produced and just produced is projected to be smaller than in the present

period. In the event that such a scenario were to happen, it is possible that the entire ITr research landscape could undergo a notable shift in the future¹⁶⁵.

Regarding methods of data analysis, while textual/contrastive methods are expected to continue to receive the greatest amount of attention, and expository the least, the latter is also expected to experience the highest average growth. These results could be related to the projections on produced primary materials. Although the relationship between expository methods and produced primary materials is not definite, a discernible relationship appears to exist between the two. This means that there could be a large number of ITr research in the future that produces materials to be analysed via expository methods. Advancements in technology can be beneficial to research in ITr and may even accelerate it in the future. However, there is also potential for increased scholarly interest in observational and ethnographic methodologies that are not necessarily related to technological advancements. Even though textual/contrastive is expected to remain the dominant method of data analysis overall (2017-2028), metric/statistical is projected to surpass it in the future period. This slight deviation in the projected scenario may indicate an emerging trend in ITr research. There is a possibility that the methods of data analysis in ITr research are progressively accommodating idiosyncrasies related to the subfield, thereby fostering the gradual development of more specialised methodologies.

The analysis of the different types of primary materials was based on interviewees' answers to questions nº 23, 24, and 29, with specific focus on methods and methodologies. The aim was to identify the interplay between primary material type and methods of data analysis employed in ITr research. This approach to focus on interviewees answers to these questions could potentially serve as a methodological basis for future ITr research on the selection of appropriate methods of data analysis. However, it is reasonable to consider that had the analysis been based on interviewees' responses to the questions used in the analysis of Chapter 2 (see page 110), which deals specifically with proposed research questions, the outcomes presented in this chapter may have differed to some extent. Adopting the latter approach could be an opportunity to expand, or even initiate, the available data on the

¹⁶⁵ Further discussion on this hypothesis is found in the conclusion to this thesis.

relationship between primary material types and the thematic landscape of ITr. Additionally, specific patterns on the possible connections between research questions/hypotheses and primary material types could be systematised, serving as another methodological basis to inform future research in ITr.

Researchers choosing to employ either the methodological approach used in this chapter, or the alternative approach based on the thematic landscape of ITr, could consider the following research questions if conducting interviews as a data collection method:

- Does the accessibility of primary materials, or lack thereof, inform your choice of primary material type?
- Does the accessibility of primary materials, or lack thereof, inform your choice of method of data analysis?
- When conducting research, would you decide on a method of data analysis before selecting the primary materials to be analysed? If so, in what situations does this occur/ would this occur?
- When conducting research, would you decide on a method of data analysis before selecting the specific theme of your research? If so, in what situations does this occur/ would this occur?

The methodological approach in this chapter was designed to offer a concise yet comprehensive framework for the four methods of data analysis, avoiding detailed specificity. Consequently, incorporating detailed methods suggested by interviewees for each analytical category was deemed beyond the scope of this thesis. Future research could adopt a more nuanced methodological approach by further subdividing each method into specific techniques, such as close reading, distant reading, meta-analysis, and content analysis, among others. Focusing on specific methods could potentially lead to assessing whether there are indeed tailored TS methods exclusively applied to ITr research. If there is no evidence of tailored methods in published ITr research, it is worth asking why this is the case, as well as whether they would even be necessary. However, if tailored methods do exist, having this information could raise further questions, including the following:

- From what disciplines or TS subfields do these methods appear to borrow?

- What are the potential theoretical and methodological contributions to other disciplines or TS subfields that these tailored methods could bring?
- Can/How can tailored methods of data analysis inform the choices of primary materials, primary material type, and methods of data collection in ITr research?

Because this chapter focused exclusively on methods of data analysis, it disregarded methods of data collection. However, as the latter is an essential aspect of any research methodology, it would be valuable for future systematic research in ITr to include it. These methods of data collection could include surveys, interviews, focus groups, and archival research among others. Moreover, triangulating primary material type, methods of data analysis, and methods of data collection would contribute to a more thorough understanding of ITr research methodology in the future. Doing so would enable researchers to identify the common approaches used in ITr research, as well as explore new avenues that can be taken in the future. Finally, through the systematic analysis of the processes of data collection, data selection, data analysis, and data presentation, it would be possible to develop a clear framework of quantifiable, repeatable, and testable methodologies in ITr research.

Having now charted the methodological contours of ITr research, this thesis stands at a juncture, where analysis must become synthesis. The final chapter, the conclusion to this thesis, synthesises the interconnected dimensions between publication timelines, formats, authorship, collaboration, languages, themes, terminology, typologies, and, methodologies. By synthesising these layers a final question arises: What patterns emerge that could map the trajectories that may shape future ITr scholarship?

CONCLUSION

As outlined in the introduction chapter, this thesis sought to overcome the three key obstacles to Translation Studies (TS), according to Sutter & Lefer (2020: 2), by:

1. Shifting the analytical focus from isolated linguistic differences or similarities to broader patterns of divergence and convergence across the corpora.
2. Applying basic statistical methods, specifically, descriptive and inferential statistics, to generate hypotheses for interpreting the findings.
3. Expanding the research scope beyond journals, and repositories, explicitly linked to TS, integrating studies that, while not TS exclusively, contribute to ITr research.

These strategies underpinned the methodological framework guiding this thesis in answering the following overarching research question: what is the current landscape of ITr research? More specifically, this research question aimed to offer a comprehensive framework of the ITr publication landscape, focusing on analytical categories such as the evolution of publication timelines, formats, authorship, collaboration, themes, terminology, typologies, and methodologies. In order to answer its overarching question, the thesis has followed a structure encompassing past, present and future. The central question's framing brings forward three subsequent questions for analysis. The first question addresses the degree of evolution in ITr research from past to present, identifying notable shifts. The second question addresses how and whether the perceptions or intentions of ITr scholars correspond to the trends observable in the publication landscape. The third question focuses on the anticipated trajectory of ITr research in future.

This concluding chapter will begin by addressing the three research questions, analysing the progression from past to present, the relationship between perception and publications, and the implications for the future through a horizontal perspective. It will provide a comprehensive summary and a critical discussion of the findings presented in the five analytical chapters. The chapter will then shift to a vertical perspective, offering a reflective analysis of the main findings, including discussions on limitations and the thesis'

potential contributions to academia and pedagogy. Ultimately, it will put forward the following three propositions:

- To strategically advance ITr research, it will be necessary to increase scholars' access to primary materials by broadening their focus from identifying existing ITr chains to including those that are purposefully generated.
- ITr serves as a bridge for collaborating opportunities between Translation Studies (TS) and Computer Science (CS), addressing a gap in their interdisciplinary engagement.
- The synergy between research and education offers an effective pathway to bridge the reality of publications and scholars' perspectives.

Tying It All Together: Horizontal Patterns

This section explores the evolution of ITr research from a horizontal perspective, analysing transitions over time, past, present, and future, alongside scholars' perspectives.

From Past to Present	Publications & Perspectives	From Present to Future
Minimal variation.	Partially matched and partially varied.	Major shifts expected.

Table 57 – Horizontal Patterns

From Past to Present

With the exception of variations in annual publications and changes in terminology, the landscape of academic publishing has exhibited minimal evolution over time. It is arguable that ITr research has reached a plateau. The subfield's perceived niche nature may be encouraging researchers to pursue overspecialisation, thus hindering its diversity and resulting in the repetition of historical patterns. While the notion of a plateau may reflect the limited evolution between past and present, it can also be argued that ITr is beginning to acquire more space in TS, particularly given the increase in publication volume. Even when focusing on scholarly articles only, it remained evident that there has been a significant advancement in output numbers. Revisiting the idea of niche, it is possible that ITr research

is still in the preliminary stages of establishing itself as an ascending subfield. Regardless of its current space in TS, ITr research appears to be taking shape, positioning itself for advancement and possibly diversification in the future.

Future research has the potential to advance meta-analyses in ITr by establishing a comprehensive comparison between past research (which would now incorporate the period from 2017 to 2022) and forthcoming studies (2023 onward). Building on this thesis, future analyses could encompass not only scholarly articles, but also conference abstracts, conference proceedings, and student works, including PhD, Master's, and BA theses. By enabling this parallel, this thesis' contributions on publication formats can be significantly broadened. This broadened knowledge lays the foundation to more nuanced analyses into the specific and overarching themes explored by both early-career researchers and seasoned scholars. More specifically, it would offer insights into which themes are more frequently featured in leading academic journals and which themes remain primarily confined to student contributions. If a discernible disparity were to emerge between the thematic concerns of student work and those addressed in journal articles, for instance, a comprehensive mapping of how specific themes evolve according to publication format could provide valuable insights into whether scholars exhibit consistent thematic patterns throughout their academic trajectories. For example, if there is a trend indicating that scholars increasingly prioritise publishing on SP topics (i.e., gender, sexuality, immigration, refugees etc) over time, this observation would warrant further investigation into the underlying factors driving this shift, as well as its implications for both the ITr subfield and the TS discipline overall. Conversely, if the trend indicates the opposite, that scholars are perhaps becoming less engaged or not as confident in exploring potentially controversial topics, it may be meaningful to determine what is causing this trend, as well as whether ITr researchers are particularly prone to taking this path, or whether it is a larger phenomenon.

Given that the publication landscape has remained relatively stable over time, it would be meaningful to ascertain whether other subfields in the discipline follow similar patterns. The evolution of terminology, in particular, merits further exploration into whether this phenomenon extends across other subfields. For instance, if subfields such as self-

translation and pseudo-translation have experienced limited changes overall, but significant shifts in terminology, this could suggest the existence of a broader terminological trend within TS. If such a trend exists, it would be worth determining whether it reflects a movement toward standardisation or increased diversity. This analysis has the potential to shed light on how terminology is evolving in TS as a whole. Lastly, if other subfields are not following this trajectory, and there is no trend whatsoever, it may prove helpful to look into how and why ITr differs from other subfields. If it does differ from other subfields in TS, this distinction may be attributed to ITr's presence in CS.

Reality and Perspectives

While interviewees' perspectives often corresponded with publication data, discrepancies occasionally emerged. The most significant discrepancy between perception and reality emerged in the use of terminology. The recurring emergence of terminology as an outlier prompts the question of whether TS is undergoing a broader shift in terminology usage, particularly as an increasing number of studies are being published on overarching themes beyond LT, such as MT or AVT. It also prompts the question of whether this trend is specific to ITr studies. If so, it further raises the question of whether ITr scholars are moving towards the standardisation of terminology based on overarching themes or embracing terminological diversity as the prevailing norm instead. Achieving standardisation in terminology may simplify the identification of ITr research that is specifically related to overarching themes, such as 'pivot' for MT research or 'relay' for IS. Improved identification processes could propel meta-analyses and literature review for research that intersects with ITr, even if it does not fully engage with it. Furthermore, terminological standardisation may enable the development of more refined terms, or hyponyms, that specifically correspond with each overarching theme. For instance, establishing 'pivot-target' as the standard term to describe the second stage of a three-language ITr chain in MT research, instead of using other similar terms such as 'middle-target', or 'intermediary-final'. Conversely, terminological diversity may provide opportunities for multidisciplinary connections. By using varied terminology, accompanied by clear explanations, scholars could streamline the discovery and

engagement of ITr-related research by academics from fields outside CS. Ensuring clear explanations for terminological choices is especially important given that it is unrealistic to expect academics from other fields to be familiar with TS or ITr-specific terminology.

Beyond terminology, although interviewees' perceptions on the thematic landscape of ITr research matched the reality of publications on the level of overarching themes, it is worth exploring why they did not do so on the level of specific themes. More specifically, it appears relevant to explore why SP issues, despite being a significant area of interest among ITr scholars, remained inadequately represented in the body of actual publications. If this disparity is particular to ITr, it would be worth investigating what characteristics from the subfield may be impeding research engagement with SP-related topics. Conversely, if this phenomenon reflects a broader challenge affecting TS as a whole, it prompts the question of whether SP issues are perceived as relevant primarily on a personal level, rather than being viewed as academically significant. The perspective of SP issues not being academically relevant seems counterintuitive, particularly given contemporary societal attention towards issues such as climate change and immigration. Nevertheless, TS scholars may feel uncertain about approaching these themes through the lens of ITr. In light of the growing importance of SP issues in today's world, neglecting to engage with these topics may hinder the progress of ITr research. Such an oversight may reinforce the notion that the subfield is a niche area of study, resulting in its marginalisation in relation to prevailing and emergent academic trends, potentially limiting its relevance and impact in academia.

While interviewees' perspectives largely corresponded with the reality of publications on methods of data analysis, it is noteworthy that three interviewees expressed scepticism toward textual/contrastive methods. This scepticism was particularly rooted in concerns regarding textual/contrastive's emphasis on close reading, a specific method that was, conversely, favoured by other interviewees. This polarisation prompts a deeper investigation into why close reading, especially in the context of ITr research, yielded such varied responses, raising the question of whether it might also be influencing collaborative practices. Due to the ethical requirement to maintain participant anonymity, this thesis could not directly compare the perspectives of interviewees with their published research. Future

research, free from this constraint, could examine whether sceptical researchers actively choose not to employ close reading in their work. Specifically, if these researchers do engage with close reading, what accounts for the apparent inconsistency between their stance and their practices? Conversely, if they refrain from using close reading as a specific method under textual/contrastive methods, what implications might this have for the breadth and depth of their research? Building on these questions, it is worth examining whether this polarisation is indicative of broader trends in TS as a whole. If it is indeed pervasive across TS, are scholars using close reading primarily due to its acceptance and prevalence within the discipline, or does it stem from personal habit and preference? On the other hand, for those scholars who express opposition to close reading, is their resistance a reaction against its apparent status as an established method or is it driven by the intention to diversify methodological approaches within the field? Answering these questions can offer a more nuanced and realistic forecast of the publishing landscape in the field. Beyond that, they provide valuable insights into the perspectives of the researchers behind the published work. As outlined in the thesis' Introduction, understanding how researcher think can reveal hidden challenges, such as unspoken or, even unrealised, constraints. Identifying and addressing these limitations is a key step in addressing them effectively. Ultimately, this approach recognises that research is not just the result of individual labour, but an evolving process that transcends any one person's contributions.

From Present to Future

Contrary to the findings on the evolution from past to present, as well as between interviewees' perspectives and the reality of publication, it is anticipated that there will be fundamental shifts moving from present to future. Although Chapter 3 anticipated terminological shifts in Lusophone publications, Chapter 1 predicted that there would be no Lusophone publications in future. If this prediction holds true, it would invalidate all other predictions related to Portuguese-language publications. It is arguable that the disappearance of Lusophone publications would further solidify English as the dominant

language in ITr research. However, this is a somewhat oversimplified argument, as English-language publications are likely to increase regardless of the fate of Lusophone publications.

While Portuguese is not as dominant as English in ITr research, it remains one of the key languages spoken by members of the IndirecTrans network, as the hub of the network is in Lisbon, Portugal. A potential absence of Lusophone ITr publications in future suggests that even network members will cease publishing in Portuguese. It is, therefore, pertinent to ask in future research whether ITr researchers, especially the network members, have concrete plans to develop Lusophone publications. If they are, what strategies are they currently using or intending to use to promote and support the development of Lusophone publications? If they are not, it warrants looking into the reasons behind their refusal and whether researchers have implicitly accepted what many interviewees have suggested: that publishing in any language other than English is futile, irrespective of any aspirational intentions.

Should the gap between existing and produced materials and just produced materials narrow in the future compared to the present, the publishing landscape could witness the development of ITr-specific methods. An increase in experiments involving ITr would result in a higher volume of produced materials, expanding the range of potential methodological approaches. This expectation raises two key questions. One is whether the nature of the materials is relevant when doing comparative statistical analyses between existing materials and produced materials. The second question is whether statistical methods can be developed to account for differences between ITr that is produced intentionally through experimentation and ITr that is produced unintentionally due to external circumstances, assuming such differences exist. Even if no difference is found, the possibility itself warrants exploration, as data analysis methods can always be refined and tailored to specific research needs.

These questions further prompt the consideration of whether cross-disciplinary collaboration, particularly between ITr scholars from TS and from other fields of expertise, could drive the development of more specialised and potentially advanced data analysis methods. Although this thesis did not explore data collection methods, systematically tracing the methods of both data analysis and data collection across various fields of expertise that

explore ITr would represent a significant advancement in TS' overall understanding of the subfield, and its collaboration possibilities. Collaboration across disciplines can offer a way to challenge and redefine potentially outdated thematic, typological, and methodological paradigms in ITr research. By collaborating across disciplines, ITr researchers can push the boundaries of innovation, investing in cutting-edge technologies and tools to accelerate progress through more advanced experiments and analyses. Ultimately, collaboration has the potential to advance the thematic, typological, and methodological boundaries of any TS subfield, including ITr.

Focusing on methodologies, fostering collaboration between researchers from diverse disciplines, along with partnerships between ITr researchers and industry professionals, can contribute to the development of more refined methods of data collection. An ongoing assessment of ITr research methodology, especially in response to emerging trends, will enable the subfield to remain adaptive and updated, consequently contributing to the development of an ITr-specific methodological identity. Methodological identity can arguably only be effectively established through the exploration of a wider range of materials through different linguistic experimentations, rather than relying on language pairings that typically adhere to the process of ITr, such as translations between low-resource languages.

In this regard, this thesis proposes that, a valuable approach to advancing ITr research is to expand scholars' access to primary materials by not only identifying existing ITr chains but also actively generating them. While documenting and analysing existing translation chains throughout history is important to develop studies in ITr, it is equally important to incorporate the results from real-world experiments into the existing body of research. This strategy would not only address interviewees' wishes for research to engage more directly with real-world issues, but also bridge the gap between scholars' perspectives and the empirical outcomes of their publications. By actively conducting experimental research it is possible to achieve a more nuanced comprehension of how ITr operates in practice, even beyond the scope of MT. Although experiments often involve ethical considerations that could discourage scholars, they provide the opportunity to conduct research in a controlled

setting, freeing scholars from the strenuous and continuous “detective work” discussed throughout this thesis.

Cross-Section Recapitulation

To give future researchers a clear overview of the ITr publication landscape from 2017 to 2022, the table below highlights the dominant analytical categories for each year.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Outputs	22	16	20	16	29	27
Language	English	English	English	English	English	English
Publication Format	Article	Article	Article	Article	Article	Article
Overarching Theme	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT
Specific Theme	TH, SP & TMT	TMT	TH	TH & TMT	TH	TMT
Terminology	Indirect Translation	Indirect Translation	Indirect Translation	Indirect Translation	Indirect Translation	Indirect Translation
Typology: Research Models	PDT & PHN	PCS, PDT & PHN	PDT	PDT	PDT	PDT
Typology: ITr as a Focal Point	ITr-subject	ITr-subject	ITr-subject	ITr-subject	ITr-subject	ITr-subject
Nature of the Primary Materials	Existing Materials	Existing Materials	Existing Materials	Existing Materials	Existing Materials	Existing Materials
Data Analysis Methods	Textual/ Contrast.	Curatorial	Metric/ Statistical	Textual/ Contrast.	Textual/ Contrast. & Metric/ Statistical	Textual/ Contrast.

Table 57 - Cross-Section Recap

As Table 57 illustrates, research in ITr tends to exhibit greater stability than variability, although this does not equate to a lack of diversity. No two years are exactly alike, with variations centred around specific themes, research models, and data analysis methods. PDT model, however, has remained consistently present throughout the years, a continuity not mirrored in specific themes and data analysis methods. For this reason, this variability suggests a degree of thematic and methodological diversity in ITr research. As discussed in the introduction to this thesis, the devil lies in the detail, meaning that identifying patterns requires examining not only what is present in the data, but also what is missing from it. For instance, what factors led to the focus on curatorial methods in 2018 rather than in other years? Why does 2018, despite having fewer publications than most years, show the greatest variety in research models? This annual overview serves as a foundation for further analysis, offering the potential to address this question and reveal additional hidden details.

While there was minimal evolution from past to present, major advancements are expected to occur in future. The inherently uncertain nature of predictions serves as both a limitation and an opportunity. Although predictions are fundamentally informed guesses, the future is not predetermined. Having an understanding of likely scenarios can be advantageous. Should the forecasts discussed in this thesis diverge from the aspirations of researchers who are active in the ITr subfield, there remains the potential for concerted efforts to alter its trajectory. While redirecting the trajectory of a subfield can pose challenges, including resistance from long-standing practices and limited resources, a comprehensive understanding of probable future trends empowers researchers to formulate a strategic plan to navigate possible obstacles effectively.

Overall, it is notable that ITr research has transitioned from subtle changes to potentially significant shifts. The subfield appears to have been relatively dormant, but expected to undergo significant development. This timeline analysis allows future researchers to examine whether these shifts have indeed taken place and to identify the factors that either facilitated or prevented them. However, horizontal analysis has its limits. To gain deeper insights, it is also valuable to consider a vertical perspective.

Tying It All Together: Vertical Patterns

This section explores the evolution of ITr research from a vertical perspective, highlighting key insights revealed through analysis.

The Nonagon



Figure 15 – Nonagon

Throughout this thesis, a geometric figure was systematically developed to represent a connection among the topics analysed in each chapter. In Chapter 5, the figure of the nonagon was revealed, serving as one of the main findings of this thesis. It appears that there is a connection among published ITr research characterised by co-authorship, featured in conference proceedings, and centred around the overarching theme of MT. This body of work is mostly published in English, employs the term ‘pivot translation’, and approaches ITr as a translation strategy, while using process-based models of research. Finally, the nonagon blends existing and produced materials with metric/statistical methods of data analysis.

The emergence of the nonagon-shape trend offers an opportunity to gain a more nuanced understanding of the contemporary landscape of ITr research. This nuanced understanding may enable the strategic manipulation of these categories and the relationships between them. Prior to attempting to disrupt an existing pattern, it is necessary to first acknowledge its existence. A comprehensive understanding of the nonagon trend equips researchers to challenge it effectively. For instance, the recognition that metric/statistical methods are predominantly employed in PCS-based research involving both existing and produced materials may encourage scholars to apply metric/statistical methods not to existing and produced materials, but to produced materials alone. Furthermore, researchers could adopt a multidisciplinary approach to PCS-based research by integrating different methodological approaches, such as combining metric/statistical methods with curatorial methods, while emphasising exclusively existing datasets, rather than integrating both existing and produced materials. An understanding of how to manipulate the nonagon can assist researchers in not only choosing to explore the categories that align with their specific research objectives, but also in exploring strategic avenues in ITr research that remain underexplored. Drawing on the perspectives discussed by interviewees along this thesis, addressing these gaps has the potential to advance researchers' careers, while also contributing to the consolidation and growth of the subfield.

Revisiting the suggestion that ITr scholars who tend to oppose close reading may stem from a desire to diversify methodological strategies, an awareness of the nonagon could, for instance, encourage them to approach ITr-strategy by applying metric/statistical methods. This shift could result in the production of new primary materials that could later be examined through close reading or other specific methods in textual/contrastive analyses. An increase in ITr sources has the potential to support comparative/contrastive analyses between both existing and produced materials, enabling researchers to trace the evolution of translation strategies over time. For example, assigning students to indirectly translate an Irish novel from two decades ago and then close reading the previously translated and published version of the same novel may reveal not only shifts in translation strategies, but also shifts in

translators' perspectives over time. These insights could contribute to the development of hypotheses for future research.

Knowledge of the nonagon empowers researchers to spot similar trends in other related subfields, preventing them from feeling confined to the same type of research in one or two subfields within their broader field of expertise. Recognising trends in other TS subfields through the same analytical categories can also open pathways for interdisciplinary research. For instance, if pseudo-translation also tends towards PCS-based research that employs metric/statistical methods, there may be an opportunity to explore how ITr and pseudo-translation intersect through the perspective of methods and typologies.

Knowledge of the nonagon can also reinforce collaborative partnerships across different fields of expertise. For instance, by acknowledging that MT research is typically collaborative, and largely published in English through conference proceedings, researchers could devise strategies to engage with scholars from other disciplines. This perspective has the potential to help bridge knowledge gaps that specifically exist in interdisciplinary research. Expanding on this idea, TS scholars who lack the technical skills to design software capable of identifying potential features of ITr in a specific language could collaborate with CS scholars who are well-versed in ITr-MT to overcome this limitation. To identify such collaborators, TS scholars can search academic platforms, such as Google Scholar, using the keyword 'pivot translation' which is now proven to be recognised as the preferred term in ITr-MT research in English. This collaborator identification approach is reciprocal: CS scholars can also recognise TS researchers who could contribute to addressing gaps in their own projects by employing similar strategies. This suggestion does not imply that scholars from different fields should exclusively rely on the term 'pivot translation' to identify potential collaborators. Rather, it implies that using the keyword 'pivot translation' serves as a starting point for fostering cross-disciplinary connections.

Crossing Boundaries: ITr as a Bridge Between TS and CS

The question of whether ITr can be regarded as a niche subject has been a recurring theme throughout this thesis, particularly expressed by interviewees. Although there is no clear

answer to this question, nor any attempt to present a Shakespearean ‘to be or not to be niche’ dilemma, this thesis argues that a topic like ITr, which encompasses diverse fields like TS and CS, might not be a niche after all. Therefore, this thesis argues that ITr serves as a bridge for collaborating opportunities between TS and CS. This argument does not imply that ITr is the only possible connection between the two fields, but that it offers a relatively ‘simple’ way to establish this link. While the term ‘simple’ might seem like a value judgment, it is justified, considering that ITr is an already familiar topic to CS scholars, and is arguably increasingly recognised by TS scholars given the upward trend in publications. Although MT, as an overarching theme, already connects the two fields, a bridge through a specific topic, or rather subfield, has the potential to encourage focused studies, which could consequently advance MT research. To use an analogy, this idea is akin to building a bridge to an island: one bridge provides access from the mainland, but once there, additional bridges can be more simply built. By narrowing the focus to a particular subfield, researchers can build from specific insights to broader implications, exploring MT as a solid bridge between the two fields in greater detail.

What is the rationale behind connecting these two fields? Beyond the clear advantages of providing more opportunities for research advancement, it also offers the opportunity to blur the boundary between the so-called Hard and Soft Sciences. This blurred threshold could benefit the Humanities by expanding funding opportunities for disciplines that lie outside the scope of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). At the same time, it could benefit STEM fields by reducing collaboration costs, as professionals such as linguists or translators, who would typically be hired externally, could instead be integrated into the research team, thus lowering research expenses. Lowering research expenses can arguably increase a project’s likelihood of being selected for both internal and external funding, which includes the potential to pool budgets from two or more departments or universities. Collaboration between TS and CS has the potential to inspire educational institutions to redesign curricula to be more interdisciplinary and state-of-the-art, preparing students with a diverse set of skills that transcends both the Humanities and the STEM fields. With ITr acting as a solid bridge between TS and CS, universities can draw

interdisciplinary faculty and prospective students who are interested in pioneering research opportunities that is not bound to one area of expertise.

Academic Synergies: Integrating Research and Education

While specific questions relating ITr and education were directed to the interviewees, their responses were ultimately excluded from this thesis due to only three outputs approaching Translator Training (TTrain) as an overarching theme. The limited published material on TTrain hindered a meaningful comparative analysis between interview findings and the reality of publications on the topic of education¹⁶⁶. Nonetheless, this limitation is a valuable opportunity for future research to explore ITr as an educational tool. Future research does not need to be confined to higher education, as it can also extend to primary and secondary education. In light of the increasing media and scholarly focus on immigration and refugee rights, exploring the role of translation and interpreting in early education, including the use of ITr, is arguably both timely and relevant. For instance, to what extent are immigrant or refugee children acting as interpreters for their multilingual guardians or parents? Are professionals in the education sector, including teachers and administrative staff, receiving adequate training to engage with children who may need to translate for their guardians, even indirectly? Are immigration departments or refugee councils sufficiently equipped to address the educational needs of immigrant children who assume the role of (relay) interpreters for their guardians? Lastly, what specific resources or training are currently lacking from educational institutions of all levels that could better assist non-immigrant students to aid their immigrant/refugee peers through (indirect) translation?

Previously, this thesis suggested that ITr acts as a bridge connecting the fields of TS and CS. In this section, it is further argued that the synergy between research and education offers a pathway to bridge the reality of published work with the perspectives of the interviewees. This argument is based on the cyclical interplay between knowledge and

¹⁶⁶ It is relevant to mention that the book *Indirect Translation Explained* by Pięta, Bueno Maia & Torres-Simón, which addresses indirect translation as a topic for translator training, was published in 2023. However, since 2023 falls outside the timeframe analysed in this thesis, the book was not included in the textual corpus.

practice within the context of TS (Olohan 2017: 176), as explained in the Introduction to this thesis, and is further informed by the concept of a feedback loop. As more research is published on ITr, scholars and institutions may be increasingly inclined to incorporate it into their curricula. In turn, as more institutions adopt ITr into their curricula, the resulting increase in engagement is expected to drive further research on the topic, including studies focused on TTrain. Ultimately, this reciprocal relationship, where research informs education and education informs research, has the potential to narrow the gap between the reality of publications and scholars' perspectives.

In Chapter 4, it was argued that the discrepancy between the reality of publications and the perceptions of interviewees regarding ITr-feature could be examined through both negative and positive lenses. From a negative perspective, this discrepancy may indicate a lack of awareness concerning the evolution of ITr research, but it may also yield positive outcomes. This thesis has established that ITr-subject represents the predominant typological approach in present publications, thus opening avenues for greater awareness, and perhaps even interest, among TS scholars regarding the ITr phenomenon. Even scholars dedicated to improving translation as a profession, who may harbour reservations against ITr, can benefit from publications that approach ITr-subject. A comprehensive understanding of ITr, rather than categorically dismissing it as inferior or anachronistic, has the potential to mitigate its frequent application. This unbiased understanding may even ultimately lead to ways to promote direct translations, should this be a goal.

For scholars with prior knowledge of ITr, and a positive disposition towards it, gaining a deeper understanding of its typological scenario may encourage the development of more strategic and focused approaches for future research. For instance, researchers might consider prioritising ITr as the central focus of their analyses, rather than engaging with other topics while relying on existing ITr chains only to ensure that the materials qualify as such. While initiatives by members of the IndirecTrans network arguably aim to consolidate the subfield, engaging in research that acknowledges ITr only for the purpose of labelling it may not be the most effective strategy for elevating its profile or altering its perceived status. Conversely, a concentrated effort to treat ITr as a standalone subject, examining its

implications, ramifications, and limitations, might catalyse an unforeseen shift in the ITr research landscape. This shift could propel studies involving ITr, which may have previously been overlooked as such, to explicitly recognise and classify the phenomenon. As a result, these studies could evolve from being unacknowledged forms of ITr research to systematically categorised ITr research, now referred to as studies that approach ITr-feature. Additionally, scholars who already acknowledge the phenomenon without engaging with it could shift their focus from ITr-feature to ITr-strategy or ITr-subject, or potentially even pursue both approaches at once.

Because the classification of the ITr as a focal point in research approaches was developed exclusively for this thesis and is not based on previous studies, it leaves ample room for further development and refinement. Future research could further develop this classification by accounting for overlaps and nuances associated with each approach. Such refinements may prove particularly valuable for meta-analyses of ITr research, but it could also enable analogous classifications in other subfields of TS, such as self-translation and pseudo-translation. For instance, a key question to consider is whether publications in these subfields can be categorised as employing self-translation or pseudo-translation as translation strategies, akin to ITr-strategy. Alternatively, these publications could be classified as focusing their analyses on standalone subjects, similar to ITr-subject. Another possibility is to categorise the analyses on these publications as simply acknowledging the existence of the phenomena without engaging with them as part of the analysis, aligning instead with ITr-feature. Developing typological frameworks for categorising other subfields can contribute to the identification of gaps in TS research, and may particularly benefit LT research, which currently stands as one of the leading overarching themes in the field.

This thesis has demonstrated that most ITr-feature outputs align with the overarching theme of LT. By recognising previously unclassified LT outputs as consistent with ITr-feature, this group of research expands the current knowledge of the field's relationship with LT. The misclassification or failure to categorise primary materials as ITr may hinder the recognition of potential analytical nuances, constraining the scope and complexity of LT research. Recognising these nuances sheds light to complex issues raised by interviewees, including

power imbalances, gender dynamics, and immigration concerns. Addressing these complex issues can provide deeper insight into the extent to which translators are invisible or, rather, made invisible. This line of questioning raises the question of whether indirect translators could be made invisible simply because they are part of an indirect translation chain (and ITr “should” be kept a secret) or whether other factors are at play. For instance, how closely is the omission of intermediate translators related to gender dynamics? Could women translators be assigned the role of relay translators as a means of obscuring their contributions, or could they be perceived as invisible precisely because they occupy the specific role of intermediates? The intersection between ITr-feature and LT publications in Lusophone contexts offers further support for understanding these nuances. For example, if gender dynamics influence the exclusion of women serving as intermediate translators, to what extent might geopolitics and language status also contribute to this phenomenon? What other intersectional categories could have shaped the practice of ITr? While definitive answers may be elusive, addressing these questions is a first step in advancing TS’ understanding of the particularities pertaining not only to ITr, but also to LT.

It is pertinent to note the existing connection between LT and both ITr-feature and ITr-subject, while a clear disconnect exists between LT and ITr-strategy. Despite projections indicating a drastic decrease in ITr-strategy, this prediction may still be reversible. Future research has the potential to not only preserve ITr-strategy research, but also to integrate it with LT through a targeted and systematic approach. For instance, what is lacking in translator training and academia that is preventing scholars from engaging with LT through an ITr-strategy approach? Is it simply because of the basic, and perhaps now even naïve, explanation that ITr is often regarded as a negative practice or are there more complex factors influencing research practices? The convergence of LT research and ITr-strategy has the potential to improve translation training programmes. In addition to equipping students with a range of tools to refine their skills as potential indirect translators, a practice that this thesis has shown to be common in AVT, addressing this convergence in the classroom can foster the development of fast and critical thinking, as well as problem-solving abilities. This pedagogical approach empowers students to engage with other translation practices besides ITr, such as,

once again, self-translation and pseudo-translation. Improving critical thinking and problem-solving skills by approaching ITr, self-translation, pseudo-translation in class can establish a meaningful connection between the practical and theoretical dimensions in academia

Combining systematic knowledge of ITr to that of other emerging or peripheral subfields can be a valuable approach for identifying gaps in both literature and pedagogical practices. Once again, the devil lies in the detail: recognising what is missing from curricula holds equal significance to what is being actively taught. For instance, although PDT is the predominant research models in ITr research, this predominance might not necessarily extend to the broader field of TS. PDT's substantial prevalence in the context of ITr, however, may indicate that it is also favoured in emerging or deemed peripheral subfields, such as feminist translation, self-translation, or pseudo-translation. It is worthwhile conducting meta-analyses of other TS subfields to assess the patterns of research models and test to what extent subfields tend to have similar publishing landscapes. If they do, what implications would it hold for supporting and expanding emerging or peripheral subfields? If they do not, is this a reflection of deficiencies in teaching translation theory? How can these subfields be integrated into the curriculum in a way that surpasses the simple acknowledgment of their existence?

While it would arguably be ideal for each subfield to have its own dedicated module, this proposition seems unlikely and may be prohibitively expensive for many universities to implement. However, combining these subfields, including ITr, with the teaching of translation theory can be a valuable academic opportunity. This pedagogical approach not only contextualises theoretical teaching, but can also foster experiential learning, assisting students in recognising that the concepts being taught transcend abstract theory, and are part of the professional practices of translators.

Reimagining ITr Research: From Trends to Transformations

The methodology employed in this thesis, which combined datasets from publications and interview transcriptions, yielded a variety of results that drew insights into the timeline and prospective future developments in the subfield. However, as with any methodology, there

are limitations. That said, it is precisely these limitations that may give rise to new and productive avenues for future research questions. By critically engaging with the existing literature and reflecting on its gaps, researchers can identify underexplored areas and uncover insights that have hitherto been overlooked. Expanding on this thesis' method to incorporate a third dataset could amplify and substantiate the results even more. For instance, the perspectives of professional translators could contribute to a more complex and multifaceted understanding of ITr as a practice, complementing the scholarly opinions already examined. Alternatively, university curricula serve as a valuable dataset, offering a more thorough perspective into the potential future of the discipline, since students are positioned to become the practitioners and future scholars of the TS field.

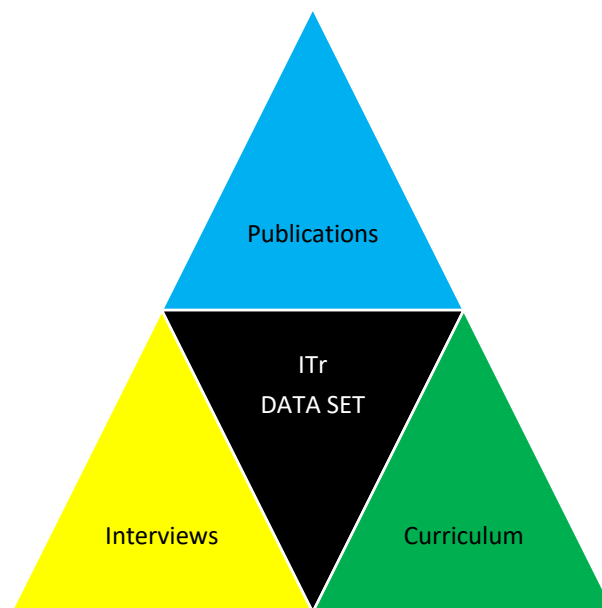


Figure 16 – ITr Datasets

By triangulating data from scholarly publications, professional practice, and information from educational and training, a more thorough and holistic framework for analysing the intersection between theory and practice, as well as reality and perspectives, could be developed. Each of these datasets can be broken down into subcategories, such as:

- Interviews: scholars, translators, interpreters, students etc.
- Curriculum: universities, translation workshops, specific training courses etc.

- Publications: targeted journals, targeted languages, targeted specific themes etc.

The diversity observed in data analysis methods over the analysed years suggests that ITr research is no stranger to using different methods. Thus, adopting a range of methodologies to examine different aspects of this triangulated corpora would contribute to the advancement of ITr research. The feedback loop is likewise present in this context: as researchers expand their methodological approaches, they identify new gaps in literature, which in turn give rise to other research questions. Accordingly, the emergence of further elaborated questions creates opportunities for exploring different methodologies, consequently uncovering yet more gaps in literature. This dynamic interaction sustains an ongoing cycle of scholarly research. Although it is referred to as a cycle, it does not move in circles, but instead progresses research. While it is reasonable to argue that research involving three datasets likely demands more time and larger financial resources, it can also be argued that the inclusion of one or more datasets would make ITr research more robust and rigorous. Although this may not be an entirely novel proposition, it nonetheless serves as an encouragement for ITr research to persist in identifying and addressing existing gaps in literature through diversified methodological approaches.

Addressing gaps in literature, securing funding, and conducting meaningful and enjoyable research would be ideal for any scholar working in academia. However, this scenario is probably nothing more than wishful thinking. This thesis has demonstrated that the final products of research do not happen in isolation. Research begins in the mind of the researcher, shaped by their perspective of the (sub)field and their desire to (re)shape it. While ITr is not representative of TS in its entirety, the findings from this thesis suggest a potential need to narrow the gap between what scholars aspire to do and what they are actually accomplishing. If scholars are unable to pursue research they consider meaningful, this indicates a problem in the field that must be addressed. If their perspectives of the field diverge significantly from what is being published, this is another issue that needs attention. Although this thesis represents only a small fragment of the TS puzzle, it has highlighted the importance of reconciling perspectives with reality, or, at the very least, the importance of

fostering an understanding of the underlying causes behind potential misalignments. There is still a long way to go from here, but both TS and ITr research are not at the starting line.

Between the *The Arabian Nights* and contemporary literature, ITr research is charting a fast-evolving and dynamic trajectory, and it seems unlikely to reach its endpoint in the near future. Whether embraced or resisted, ITr has existed for a very long time, quietly crafting both the literary landscape and TS as a field. Will it endure? That question remains to be answered. What is certain, however, is that the past informs the present, and the present lays the foundation for the future. Even if ITr as a practice were to disappear, its ripples would continue to influence the TS field on some level, standing as a testament to its impact.

Much like *The Arabian Nights*, this thesis, after an extensive journey, must eventually come to an end. Yet, like the timeless tale, its end might not be final, as new voices can continue to add to its story. The future landscape of ITr research remains an open narrative or, as this thesis' title suggests: "an uncharted path". While the future remains unwritten, this thesis has shown that the echoes of the past reverberating in the present suggest that ITr research is very likely far from over.

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APPENDIX 1

TEXTUAL MATERIALS (PUBLICATIONS) – COMPLETE LIST

Due to the comprehensive nature of this list, it has been made available for ease of access via the following webpage on Trinity's Access to Research Archive (TARA):

< <https://hdl.handle.net/2262/111842> >

APPENDIX 2

DATA MINING TERMS – IDENTIFYING ITR RESEARCH

ENGLISH	1-gram	• Indirect(ly) • ITr • Relay(ed) • Pivot(s) • Pivoting • Eclectic(ly) • Mediated(ly) • Intermediate(ly) • Double(ly) • Compile(ly) • Collaborative(ly) • Second-hand(ly) • Secondhand(ly)
	2-grams	• Indirect translation(s) • Relay translation(s) • Pivot(ing) translation(s) • Eclectic translation(s) • Mediated translation(s) • Intermediate translation(s) • Double translation(s) • Compile translation(s) • Collaborative translation(s) • Back translation(s) • Second-hand translation(s) • Secondhand translation(s) • Second hand
PORTUGUESE	1-gram	• Indire(c)ta(mente)(s) • Intermediada(mente)(s) • Segunda-mão • Desvio • Desviada(mente)(s) • Desviante(s) • Mediada(mente)(s) • Medianeira(mente)(s) • Ecleticá(mente)(s) • Segunda-mão

		• Pivotal(mente)(ais)
	2-grams	• Tradução(ões) indire(c)ta(s) • Tradução(ões) intermediada(s) • Tradução(ões) mediadora(s) • Tradução(ões) eclética(s) • De segunda-mão • Segunda mão • Tradução(ões) desviadas • De desvio • Tradução(ões) pivotal(ais) • Tradução(ões) eclética(s)

APPENDIX 3

DATA MINING – INTERVIEWS

1. Interviewee number
2. Real name
3. Duration of interview
4. Country (based)
5. Employment
6. Academic level
7. Academic background
8. Languages you speak
9. Languages you write in
10. Language you publish in
11. Publications on ITr
12. Current Research
13. Comments on Research
14. Main area of research in general
15. Main area of research in ITr
16. Currently works as a translator (yes/no)
17. Currently works as an academic (yes/no)
18. Research groups/networks in general
19. Research groups/networks in ITr
20. Preferred ITr terminology (English)
21. Preferred ITr terminology (Portuguese)
22. Preferred ITr terminology (other languages)
23. Comments on terminology
24. How to describe/define ITr
25. Desilked terminology
26. Arrival at ITr

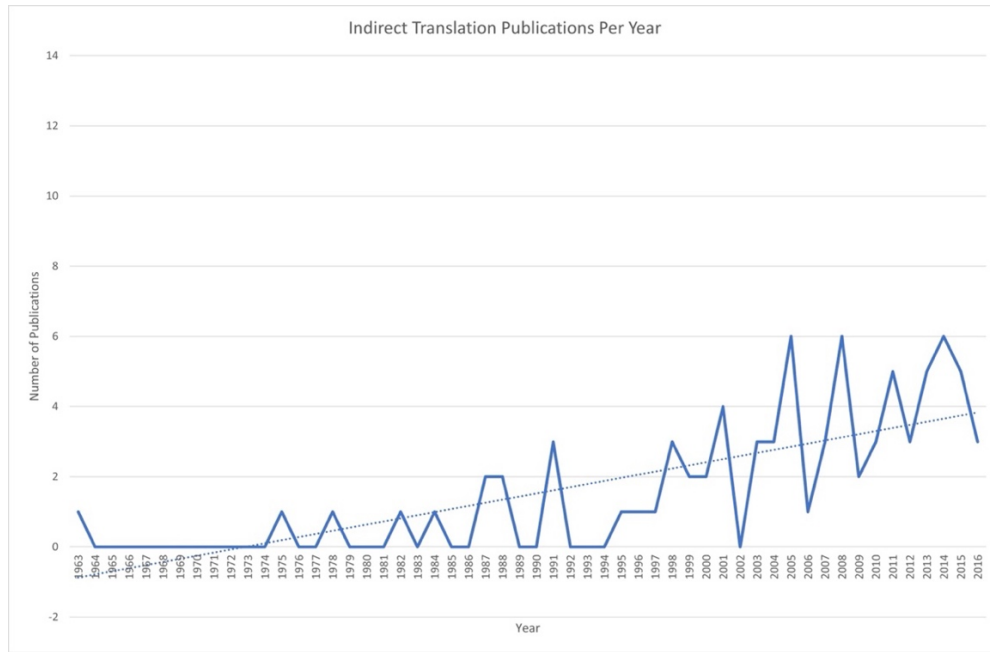
27. Academic reasons to research ITr
28. Personal reasons to research ITr
29. ITr in academia – personal view
30. ITr in translation practices – personal view
31. ITr in other parts of the world – personal view
32. Expected changes in future
33. Collaboration (yes/no)
34. Why (not) collaborate in research
35. Why (not) collaborate in ITr research
36. Why (not) collaborate in ITr practices
37. Current ways to meet peers
38. Proposed ways to connect to scholars and participants
39. How to go about literature review in ITr
40. Research to be highlighted
41. Proposed research (do/wish)
42. Methodologies (used)
43. Methodologies (aspired)
44. Supervised students working with ITr (yes/no)
45. Teaches a dedicated module/course on ITr (yes/no)
46. Teaches ITr as part of another module/course (yes/no)
47. ITr in the classroom: how you teach it
48. ITr in the classroom: how you would like to teach it
49. ITr in the classroom: how you learned it
50. ITr in the classroom: how you would like to have learned it
51. Reasons for NOT teaching ITr
52. University/Department/School: Teaches ITr (yes/no)
53. University/Department/School: Promotes ITr (yes/no)
54. University/Department/School: Created jobs on ITr (yes/no)
55. How to have ITr recognised by colleagues/universities

- 56. Why not have ITr recognised by colleagues/universities
- 57. How to have ITr recognised by readers/community
- 58. English as a *lingua franca*
- 59. Extra (relevant) information
- 60. Research relates to other interviewees

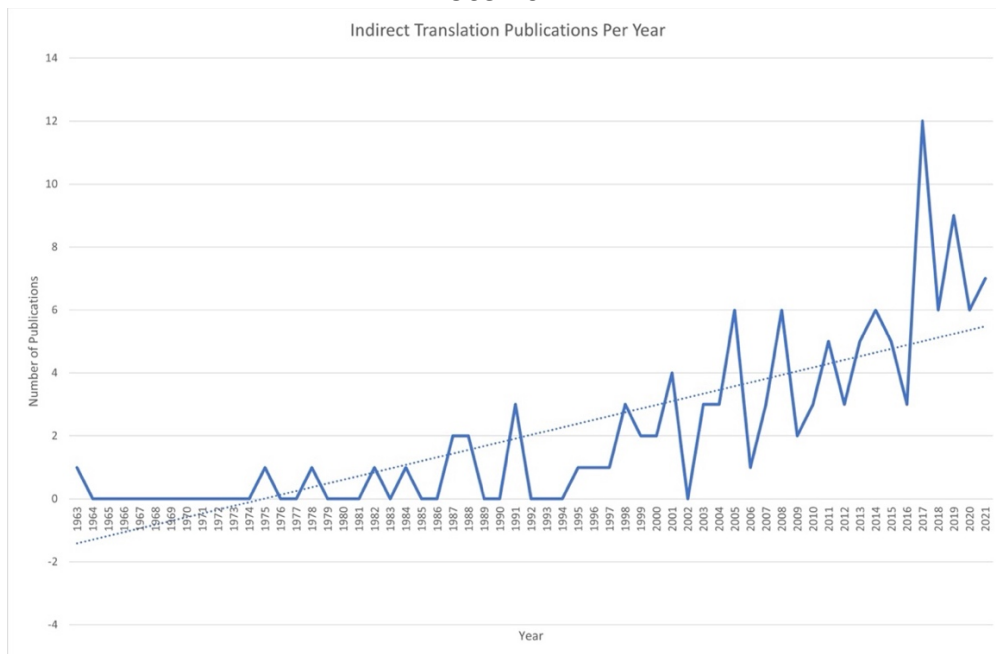
APPENDIX 4

PAST IN GRAPHS

1963-2016:



1963-2021:



Source Hadley (2023: 8-9)

APPENDIX 5

TERMINOLOGY

ENGLISH	1-gram	• Indirect(ly) • ITr • Relay(ed) • Pivot(s) • Pivoting • Mediated(ly) • Second-hand(ly) • Secondhand(ly) • Spanish • Portuguese • Catalan • Galician • Asturian • Aragonese • Aranese • Castilian
	2-grams	• Indirect translation(s) • Relay translation(s) • Pivot(ing) translation(s) • Mediated translation(s) • Second-hand translation(s) • Secondhand translation(s) • Second hand
PORTUGUESE	1-gram	• Indire(c)ta(mente)(s) • Intermediada(mente)(s) • Segunda-mão • Desvio • Desviada(mente)(s) • Desviante(s) • Mediada(mente)(s) • Medianeira(mente)(s) • Segunda-mão • Retransmissão(ões) • Espanhol • Português • Catalão • Galego

		• Asturiano • Aragonês • Aranês • Castelhana
	2-grams	• Tradução(ões) indire(c)ta(s) • Tradução(ões) intermediada(s) • De segunda-mão • Segunda mão • Tradução(ões) desviadas • De desvio • De retransmissão(ões) • Língua espanhola • Língua portuguesa • Língua catalã • Língua galega • Língua asturiana • Língua aragonesa • Língua occitana • Língua castelhana

APPENDIX 6

TYPOLOGIES

ENGLISH	1-gram	• Product-oriented • Product-based • Participant-oriented • Participant-based • Process-oriented • Process-based • Agent-oriented • Agent-based • Context-oriented • Context-based • Content-oriented • Content-based • Product • Participant • Process • Agent • Content • Context • Purpose(s) • Goal(s) • Aim(s) • Objective(s) • Focus(s) • Centre(s)/center(s) • Revolve(s) • Question(s) • Ask(s) • Inquire(s) • Hypothesis(ses) • Support(s) • Propose(s) • Analyse(s) • Challenge(s) • Speculate(s) • Strategy(ies)

		• Technique(s) • Object(s) • Material(s)
	2-grams	• Product oriented • Product based • Participant oriented • Participant based • Agent oriented • Agent based • Process oriented • Process based • Context oriented • Context based • Product-oriented research • Product-oriented study(ies) • Product-oriented approach(es) • Product-based research • Product-based study(ies) • Product-based approach(es) • Participant-oriented research • Participant-oriented study(ies) • Participant-oriented approach(es) • Participant-based research • Participant-based study(ies) • Participant-based approach(es) • Participant-based study(ies) • Process-oriented research • Process-oriented study(ies) • Process-oriented approach(es) • Process-based research • Process-based study(ies) • Process-based approach(es) • Context-oriented research • Context-oriented study(ies) • Context-oriented approach(es) • Context-based research • Context-based study(ies) • Context-based approach(es) • Content-oriented research • Content-oriented study(ies) • Content-oriented approach(es) • Content-based research

		• Content-based study(ies) • Content-based approach(es) • Goal(s) is/are • Aim(s) is/are • Analysis(ses) focus(es) • Focus on • Centres on/ centers on • Attempt(s) to • Purpose of • Proposes to • Objective(s) is/are • Intention(s) is/are • Find that • Argue(s) that • Ask(s) if/whether • Argue(s) that • Explain(s) that • Material(s) is/are • Material(s) is/are • Object(s) is/are • Study(ies) is/are • Hypothesis(ses) is/are • Research question(s) • Research inquiry,(ies) • Question(s) is/are • Research design
PORTUGUESE	1-gram	• Orientado/a(s) ao(s) • Baseado/a(s) no(s)/em • Direcionado/a(s) ao(s) • Produto(s) • Processo(s) • Participante(s) • Agentes(s) • Conteúdo(s) • Contexto(s) • Objeto(s) • Alvo(s) • Foco(s) • Centro(s) • Estuda(m) • Busca(m) • Pergunta(m)

		• Indaga(m) • Averigua(m) • Sustenta(m) • Argumenta(m) • Propõe(o)e • Propósito(s) • Promove(m) • Defende(m) • Teoriza(m) • Analisa(m) • Especula(m) • Estratégia(m) • Técnica(s) • Hipótese(s) • Fenômeno(s) • Material(ais)
	2-grams	• Pesquisa propõe/pretende/ busca/objetiva/centra- se/foca/pergunta/indaga/questiona/argumenta • Artigo propõe/pretende/ busca/objetiva/centra- se/foca/pergunta/indaga/questiona/argumenta • Estudo propõe/pretende/ busca/objetiva/centra- se/foca/pergunta/indaga/questiona/argumenta • Investigação propõe/pretende/ busca/objetiva/centra- se/foca/pergunta/indaga/questiona/argumenta • Dissertação propõe/pretende/ busca/objetiva/centra- se/foca/pergunta/indaga/questiona/argumenta • Trabalho propõe/pretende/ busca/objetiva/centra- se/foca/pergunta/indaga/questiona/argumenta • Análise propõe/pretende/ busca/objetiva/centra- se/foca/pergunta/indaga/questiona/argumenta

APPENDIX 7

METHODOLOGIES

ENGLISH	1-gram	• Method(s) • Methodology(ies) • Quantitative • Qualitative • Data • Design • Comparative • Contrastive • Archival • Bibliographic • Text • Textual • Observatory • Observational • Statistical • Metric
	2-grams	• Method of/is • Methods are • Methodology of/is • Methodologies are • Data interpretation • Study design • Research/study design • Research/study methodology • Methodological framework(s) • Methodological approach(es) • Methodological consideration(s) • Quantitative research/method(s)/methodology(ies) • Qualitative research/method(s)/methodology(ies)
PORTUGUESE	1-gram	• Método • Metodologia • Protocolo • Procedimento • Estratégia

		• Instrumento • Arcabouço • Abordagem • Dado(s) • Arquivo(s) • Bibliográfico(a)(s)(as) • Textual(ais) • Estatística(s) • Métrica(s)
	2-grams	• Método de/do/da • Metodologia de/do/da • Método empregado • Método utilizado • Metodologia empregada • Metodologia utilizada • Método(s) quantitativo(s) • Método(s) qualitativo(s) • Avaliação(ões) metodológica(s) • Protocolo de/do/da • Abordagem(ns) metodológica(s) • Arcabouço(s) metodológico(s) • Protocolo de/da/do • Desenho(s) metodológico(s) • Estratégia(s) metodológica(s) • Interpretação de • Instrumentos usados • Instrumentos utilizados • Procedimento(s) de/da/do • Procedimento(s) metodológico(s) • De/em campo