

Nexus of translating contexts: a scoping review on translation studies

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ABSTRACT

This article conducts a scoping review to illuminate the complex interplay between theory, issues, and effect in translation studies. It aims to map the existing research landscape at the intersection of the three vital components. Highlighting a gap in existing literature, it emphasizes the need for a comprehensive understanding of how these diverse contexts influence translation practices and theoretical frameworks. Employing scoping analysis techniques, the study methodically shifts through relevant literature to identify, select, and synthesize studies that reveal trends, gaps, and emergent themes concerning the contexts on translation. This study uses scoping analysis technique in the Scopus database for the inclusive criteria of 2023 publication year of research article in relation to translation, editing, theory, issues and effect related to translation studies. The findings elucidate that translation studies as a critical intersection of linguistic, cultural, technological, and societal considerations, emphasizing the importance of continuous learning, adaptation, and dialogue among translators, editors, researchers, and practitioners. The conclusion advocates for future research to develop context-aware theoretical and practical approaches, aiming to enhance the effectiveness and cultural relevance of translations. This review sets a foundation for exploring new research directions that could enrich our understanding of the nexus of translation studies.

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1. INTRODUCTION

As globalization continues to accelerate, translation plays a more critical role than ever in bridging communication gaps and fostering intercultural understanding. However, translation transcends the mere substitution of words between languages. It delves into a nuanced interplay between meaning, context, and the complex editorial decisions that shape the translated text. This study is conducted to achieve two key objectives. The first is to explore the theoretical frameworks that underpin research in translation studies. The second is to identify and analyze the key issues and their effects within the field of translation studies. Besides, this study seeks to answer the following research questions: i) What are the prevailing theoretical frameworks used in translation studies, and how do they shape the research agenda? ii) What are the primary issues in translation studies; and iii) How do they affect theory and practice?

This study of the scoping article maps the existing research landscape at the intersection of these three vital components: theory, issues, and effect in translation studies. Traditionally, translation studies positioned itself within a linguistics framework, focusing primarily on finding equivalent terms across languages [1]. However, over the past two decades, the focus of translation studies has gradually shifted from

linguistics toward cultural studies, while contemporary studies highlight translation as intercultural communication, where ideological factors significantly shape the process [2], [3]. This shift underscores the translator's vital role as a mediator, navigating complex contexts to deliver a translated text that captures the source material's essence and resonates with the audience, highlighting their creativity in the communication process [4], [5].

Professional translators employ strategies such as localization, adaptation, cultural equivalents, annotation, and cultural consultation to bridge cultural gaps and ensure both accuracy and relevance, highlighting the importance of cultural competence in effective translation across various domains [6]. This aligns with the broader integration of linguistic theories in translation studies, suggesting that translation's practical engagement with linguistic structures offers a more evident site for applying linguistic principles, with potential for interdisciplinary applications [7]. However, translation is further complicated by the inherent elasticity of meaning, as words and phrases carry layers of significance, cultural associations, and multiple connotations that defy direct translation, as exemplified by challenges in translating Arabic and English socio-cultural expressions [8]. This underscores the translator's critical role as an interpreter, understanding not just the linguistic but also the cultural nuances embedded in the source material.

Beyond the translator's expertise, the editorial process adds another layer of complexity, with studies revealing how students' attitudes toward self-revision and other revisions in translation training reflect on the skills and benefits associated with improving editing competence in higher education [9]. Empirical findings further highlight that revision often adds minimal value due to challenges faced by revisers such as difficulty focusing and over-editing, thereby stressing the need for better training, supervision, and alternative methods like advisory and oral revision [10]. In literary translation, this complexity is amplified, as it demands attention to cultural and linguistic factors, the artistic nature of the task, and thorough editing across all stages to ensure both accuracy and aesthetic effectiveness [11]. Translation revision emerges as a crucial quality assessment process with various types and stages, including monolingual, bilingual, self-, and other revisions, emphasizing its significance alongside the translation process itself despite persistent terminological ambiguities in the field [12]. Editors and translators often collaborate, making nuanced decisions about when a faithful, literal translation is appropriate and when a more creative approach is necessary to preserve the essence and impact of the source text on the target audience. This interplay necessitates clear communication and shared goals between the translator and editor to ensure a cohesive and impactful final product.

Despite the wealth of research on translation strategies and editorial practices, a comprehensive mapping of how translation theory, contextual challenges, and their effects interconnect remains underexplored. This study offers a novel contribution by systematically examining the intersection of these factors through a scoping review. Unlike previous studies that focus on isolated aspects of translation, this research employs a holistic approach to analyze trends, gaps, and emergent themes. By leveraging a structured analysis of recent studies from the Scopus database, this review not only provides new insights into the dynamic nature of translation but also advocates for context-aware theoretical and practical frameworks that enhance both the effectiveness and cultural relevance of translations.

2. METHOD

Scopus is a leading citation database covering diverse disciplines, including humanities, social sciences, and technology. Its extensive indexing of high-quality peer-reviewed sources and robust tools for tracking citations make it ideal for scoping reviews. This study uses the Scopus database for this research because of its extensive coverage of peer-reviewed journals, along with its powerful tools for citation tracking and trend analysis, making it ideal for conducting comprehensive scoping reviews and mapping the literature. As this is a scoping review article, it employs a structured research design to map the breadth and depth of existing literature on a topic, in this case, translation studies. The process includes defining clear research objectives and questions, developing a comprehensive search strategy using keywords and Boolean operators, and systematically screening studies based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. Relevant studies are selected through title and abstract, and data are extracted using standardized forms to identify patterns, themes, and gaps. Findings are synthesized through narrative methods and reported transparently, providing a comprehensive overview of the research landscape and guiding future inquiries.

This study adopts the preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses or PRISMA flow diagram, as in Figure 1, providing a visual representation of the study's methodological flow. It uses a scoping review approach guided by the Arksey and O'Malley [6] framework, the review is conducted by identifying relevant literature, screening published studies, eligibility of the articles, and included the articles in the study by synthesizing and reporting the findings.

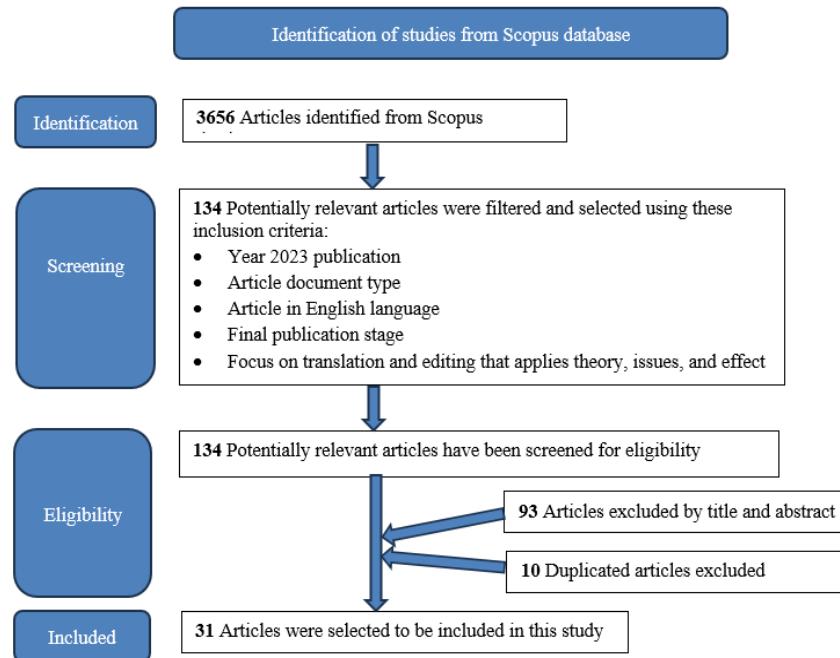


Figure 1. PRISMA diagram flowchart

To comprehensively map the current literature on translation editing, this research uses the scoping analysis method, whereby the search string is listed in Table 1 from the Scopus database focusing on publication year 2023 for research articles only in English language and in the final publication stage. Three scoping represent three themes with a total of 31 articles to be discussed. For scoping 1, which will be discussed under the theme “translation and theory”, it comprises three keywords: translation, edit*, and theory, whereby 11 articles fit into this theme. This is followed by the second theme entitled “translation and issues” with 10 articles; inclusion of translation, edit*, and issues as keywords with the result of 10 articles. Finally, the third theme, “translation and effect”, streams three keywords of translation, edit*, and effect for 10 articles.

Table 1. Scopus database search string

Scoping	String	Result of articles
Scoping 1	TITLE-ABS-KEY (translation AND edit* AND theory) AND PUBYEAR = 2023 AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE , "English")) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE , "final"))	11
Scoping 2	TITLE-ABS-KEY (translation AND edit* AND issues) AND PUBYEAR = 2023 AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE , "English")) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE , "final"))	10
Scoping 3	TITLE-ABS-KEY (translation AND edit* AND effect) AND PUBYEAR = 2023 AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE , "English")) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE , "final"))	10
Total		31

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Translation studies have long been an area of interest for scholars and researchers [13], [14]. The findings of this paper are divided into three themes, composing translation and theory; translation and issues; and translation and effect. These themes delve into the various aspects that shape the field of translation studies and shed light on the theoretical foundations, practical challenges, and effect of translation on communication and understanding between languages and cultures. As a result, the translator becomes the center and focus of the translation studies.

3.1. Translation and theory

Embarking on an intricate exploration within the “translation and theory” category, this comprehensive examination unfolds through 11 diverse articles, each presenting a unique perspective on the

nuanced interplay between translation practices and theoretical frameworks, thus creating a rich tapestry of scholarly inquiry. This is in line with the research done on the translation strategies used for Indonesian articles on Universitas Gadjah Mada's website into English. Data from 15 articles in Indonesian language were analyzed using Bielsa and Bassnett's news translation theory. Out of 227 data, 30.40% were used, with the rest being eliminated, added, summarized, changed in paragraph order, and title and lead strategies [15]. A chapter on translation theories of a book mentioned explores the translation theories and methodologies, examining how they allow contradictory messages and questioning the hermeneutical nature of translation. It covers the history of translation theory, focusing on issues like equivalence, accuracy, fidelity, commensurability, and falsification [16].

As the first paper that falls under this theme, the initial foray into this realm begins with a detailed analysis of paratextual devices in English-language editions of "fortress besieged", showcasing how these critical elements are strategically redesigned to cater to the socio-political contexts and specific publication environments, thereby repositioning modern Chinese literature within the esteemed domain of high-value literature, offering a compelling narrative on the adaptive nature of translation [17]. This discourse is complemented by an introspective reflection on the process of translating "Romeo and Juliet" into Romanian for student performance, an endeavor enriched by the translator's significant participation in four international theatre festivals and his dedicated involvement in the ambitious Shakespeare for the New Millennium project, which seeks to retranslate Shakespeare's complete works, thereby revealing the intricate balance between performability, audience engagement, and cultural translation [18]. The narrative then adeptly transitions to the technological domain, through a rigorous evaluation of the efficacy of neural machine translation (NMT) technology within the context of audiovisual translation teaching. This meticulous study uniquely positions Google Translate as a frontrunner, distinguished for its superior performance in enhancing post-edited subtitles across multiple levels, thereby marking a significant milestone in the application and comprehensive assessment of NMT technologies in educational settings, illuminating the path for future explorations in this area [19].

A broad and sweeping review of the evolution of translation studies over two decades further enriches the dialogue, meticulously identifying the key research clusters that span from translation competence to web localization, offering profound insights into the discipline's dynamic trajectory and suggesting intriguing directions for future scholarly endeavors [20]. Further deepening the discourse, the examination delves into the literary translation of "Shakespeare's Sonnets" by Janez Menart, emphasizing not only the translation's steadfast adherence to Skopos theory but also its cultural resonance and significance within the Slovene linguistic landscape, thereby highlighting the enduring impact of thoughtful and theory-driven literary translation [21]. The role of translation in the vibrant French literary reviews during the tumultuous period of 1968 is meticulously examined, spotlighting the strategic decisions, publication choices, and the broader implications of translation in fostering a transnational dimension of literary discourse, thereby underscoring the transformative power of translation in shaping the literary landscapes [22]. János Kriza's esteemed collection of Székely folklore and his seminal contributions to the comparative study of folk traditions are brought to light, revealing the intricate relationship between translation, national identity, and the elusive "untranslatable" qualities of auditory folklore, thus offering a window into the complex interplay between culture, translation, and national heritage [23].

The narrative then thoughtfully explores the transfer of European pedagogical ideas to Croatia through the lens of translation, emphasizing the pivotal role of teachers and the foundational efforts of the Croatian Pedagogical-Literary Assembly in significantly shaping the educational discourse and impacting pedagogical developments, thereby illustrating the crucial role of translation in educational reform and knowledge dissemination [24]. The indispensable significance of academic translation in facilitating the transnational circulation of ideas within the Humanities and Social Sciences is articulated, highlighting its unique challenges and contributions against the backdrop of literary and scientific translations, thereby affirming the vital role of translation in academic discourse [25]. José Medina Echavarría's influential work during his exile is profiled, illustrating his profound impact on the institutionalization of sociology in Latin America through an array of translations, editorials, and foundational academic endeavors, thereby showcasing the transformative potential of translation in the global exchange of ideas [26]. Finally, the introduction of Iranian Marxist theoretician, Kamal Khosravi to Western audiences encapsulates the vibrant and necessary exchange of Marxist and methodological ideas across cultural divides, highlighting the indispensable role of translation in fostering rich intellectual dialogues and bridging disparate scholarly communities [27].

In summary, these articles underscore the integral role of translation in connecting linguistic, cultural, and disciplinary boundaries, offering deep and nuanced insights into the dynamic interplay between translation practices and theoretical considerations. The comprehensive examination of translation and theory explores the interplay between translation practices and theoretical frameworks. The analysis begins with a

detailed analysis of paratextual devices in English-language editions of “fortress besieged”, highlighting the adaptive nature of translation. The narrative then transitions to the technological domain, evaluating the efficacy of NMT technology in audiovisual translation teaching. The study positions Google Translate as a frontrunner in this area, highlighting its superior performance in enhancing post-edited subtitles. The evolution of translation studies over two decades is also discussed, highlighting key research clusters and the impact of translation on literary landscapes. The narrative also explores the transfer of European pedagogical ideas to Croatia, the pivotal role of teachers in shaping educational discourse, and the vital role of academic translation in facilitating the transnational circulation of ideas. The introduction of Iranian Marxist theoretician Kamal Khosravi to Western audiences underscores the importance of translation in fostering intellectual dialogues and bridging disparate scholarly communities.

3.2. Translation and issues

This theme relates to the translation issues faced in the translation studies scope. It was also discussed that translation theory and practice are interconnected, with mastering translation theory enabling appropriate preservation of meaning while using appropriate language forms. This paper discusses translation linguistics, meaning, equivalence, and strategies, aiming to aid translation learners and translators in producing effective translations [28]. The paper discusses the challenges and difficulties in translating news media texts, focusing on linguistic and stylistic features. It proposes strategies for culturally acceptable translation from English to Armenian [29].

Within the expansive field of translation studies, the interconnectedness of translation theory and practice emerges as a prominent theme, elucidating the complex challenges and strategies pivotal to the discipline. This intricate theme unfolds through a series of studies that collectively navigate the multifaceted aspects of translation, beginning with an insightful exploration of the publishing practices within the social sciences and humanities in Spain. Highlighting the considerable effort required to produce publishable texts in English, for the first paper under this theme, a study [30] delves into the assimilatory strategies adopted by academics to translate or edit their texts into standard academic English, aiming to gain prestige while confronting the linguistic, methodological, and structural challenges inherent in publishing within the global academic lingua franca. Progressing further, the discourse transitions to the realm of public sociology, where the dissemination of sociological research to a broader audience is scrutinized [31]. Through the lens of the society pages, a prominent sociological hub, the study illuminates the core challenges associated with writing for nonacademic audiences, emphasizing the crucial role of graduate students in bridging the gap between scholarly research and public engagement, thereby asserting that sociologists are uniquely positioned to share their work effectively. The theme then ventures into the technical complexities of neural machine translation (NMT) [32], where the precision of translating processes, including the risks of over-translation and under-translation, is examined. Proposing the integration of a reconstructor and post-editor during NMT training, the study presents an innovative approach to enhance NMT performance across multiple translation tasks, showcasing the ongoing evolution and adaptation within translation technologies.

A pivotal study by the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE) [33] sheds light on the dominance of English in scientific publications, revealing the disproportionate representation of English-speaking authors in the global dissemination of research findings. This study advocates for the inclusion of non-English-speaking authors, editors, and journals to enrich the diversity, transparency, and impact of scientific discourse. The transformation of the translation industry through technological advancements is further explored [34], particularly focusing on the expansion of machine translation and post-editing (MTPE) services. An exploratory study in Italy underscores the disparity between the ideal requirements of translation training programs and the actual needs of the evolving market, highlighting the imperative for curriculum adaptation to equip trainees with the necessary skills and competencies. Delving into the practices of bilingual quality checking of translations [35], the study examines the influence of reading order on error detection during self-revision, other-revision, and post-editing, revealing the nuanced preferences and behaviors of translators in navigating textual accuracy and coherence.

The theme also encapsulates the global solidarity and cultural resonance invoked by the play “Insulted. Belarus” [36], translated into 18 languages in response to the 2020 Belarus protests. This cultural artifact, through its widespread digital dissemination, becomes a symbol of resistance against authoritarianism, systemic racism, and sexism, reflecting the power of translation in fostering global awareness and solidarity. The effectiveness of collaborative learning strategies in enhancing learning outcomes for university students in special translation [37] is scrutinized, emphasizing the importance of cultural understanding and communication strategies in effective translation practices. This study advocates for the adoption of collaborative learning approaches to boost motivation and proficiency among students. An investigation into the perceived quality of machine-translated post-edited interlingual subtitles [38] offers insights into the challenges and perceptions of Brazilian professional translators, highlighting the nuanced balance between linguistic accuracy and technical considerations in subtitle translation. Lastly, the study

examining Kevin O'Rourke's translations of traditional Korean poetry [39] delves into the stylistic and format choices across different stages of his career, addressing the challenges and aesthetic considerations in translating traditional poetic forms, thereby underscoring the intricate relationship between form, meaning, and cultural expression in translation practices.

In summary, the studies illuminate the dynamic interplay between theory and practice in translation studies, revealing the diverse challenges, innovations, and strategies that shape the discipline and its impact on global communication and cultural exchange. These articles discuss the importance of publishing in English for social sciences and humanities in Spain, highlighting the need for academics to dedicate time and effort to obtaining publishable texts. It also discusses the challenges of public sociology, NMT, and the need for more targeted curricula in translation training programs. The article also explores the order in which source text and translation are read during bilingual quality checking of translations and the effectiveness of collaborative learning strategies in improving learning outcomes for university students in special translation. It also examines the perceived quality of machine-translated post-edited interlingual subtitles and Kevin O'Rourke's translations of traditional Korean poetry.

3.3. Translation and effect

The importance of studying effect in relation to translation was highlighted by other scholars such as Translation is crucial in the globalized era, facilitating effective communication between people of different languages. It bridges language barriers and fosters familiarity with diverse linguistic communities. However, good knowledge of multiple languages is required [40] and Mary Kate Hurley's book explores translation effects in medieval texts, highlighting how narrative transmission connects old and new communities, using "Beowulf" as a case study [41]. As such, this section will discuss the third theme.

In a landscape rich with linguistic diversity, contemporary literary texts often reflect the complex tapestry of multilingualism, interweaving narratives that traverse the terrains of foreignness, strangeness, and the nuanced experiences of characters caught in the webs of in-betweenness, rejection, or displacement. A study delves into short narratives translated into Spanish, shedding light on the strategies employed to preserve the essence of strangeness, articulate feelings of unbelonging, and express multifaceted identities through a lens that embraces cosmopolitanism, diversity, and postcolonial perspectives [42]. Another inquiry compares traditional post-editing (TPE) and interactive post-editing (IPE) in machine translation, revealing a preference for IPE among professional translators for its empowerment and control, suggesting a paradigm shift towards improved user experience and productivity in translation practices [43]. The shadows of the cold war, with its pervasive influence on the international cultural field, illuminate the complex dynamics of national literatures navigating the challenges of expansion into traditionally unreachable environments, while grappling with exclusions and dogmatic impositions that threatened writers' autonomy. This narrative unfolds through an analysis of the reception of Latin American literature in socialist Romania, offering a window into the evolving political-cultural landscape of the period [44].

Further exploration into post-editing methods in subtitle production through an experimental approach using English-Chinese language pairs employs eye-tracking and keystroke-logging techniques to gauge cognitive effort, revealing efficiencies in production duration and keystroke reduction during post-editing processes [45]. Investigating the impact of text input methods on translators' performance, a study involving Chinese translation trainees examines the efficacy of automatic speech recognition, uncovering insights into its influence on task duration, editing operations, and translation quality, presenting a nuanced understanding of technology's role in translation workflows [46]. Research by OpenAI, Open Research, and the University of Pennsylvania ventures into the implications of large language models like generative pre-training transformers (GPTs) on the job market, particularly for interpreters and translators, highlighting the transformative and challenging aspects of artificial intelligence (AI) integration into professional practices [47], as in Figure 2. The translation realm also witnesses the introduction of a new translation of William Shakespeare's "The Phoenix and the Turtle" into Brazilian Portuguese, aiming to enrich the corpus of Shakespeare's lyrical poetry in Brazilian literature. This translation adheres to a meticulous methodology, prioritizing poetic characteristics and replicating the original's stanzaic structure and rhyme scheme, offering a fresh perspective on Shakespeare's exploration of ideal love [48].

The value of retranslations of Western literature into Turkish is scrutinized, focusing on the dynamics of copyright, commercial interests, and the influence of artificial intelligence on the translation ecosystem, unravelling the motivations and evolving roles within the translation market [49]. NMT emerges as a revolutionary force in translation studies, creating new avenues for identity formation and knowledge generation. A study focusing on the impact of pre-editing operations on the translation of audiovisual children's literary texts from English to Arabic via Trados (a machine translation software) delves into the mechanisms and challenges of pre-editing, proposing avenues for further investigation [50]. Lastly, the rapid advancement of technological and AI tools in audiovisual production and translation is examined, highlighting

the ongoing debates surrounding quality, ethics, and working conditions; underscoring the imperative for continued research and dialogue in navigating the future of audiovisual translation workflows [51].

In summary, we found that these studies paint a vivid picture of the evolving landscape of translation studies, marked by technological innovation, cultural complexity, and the continuous pursuit of understanding and navigating the intricacies of multilingual and multicultural realities. The papers explore multilingualism in contemporary literary texts, focusing on strategies used to preserve strangeness and express diverse identities. It also examines the impact of post-editing methods on translation quality and productivity. The Cold War influenced the international cultural field, leading to exclusions and dogmatic impositions. The study also investigates the impact of text input methods on translators' performance. The paper also discusses the value of retranslations of Western literature into Turkish, the relationship between copyright, commercial interests, and plagiarism, and the influence of artificial intelligence on the translation ecosystem. The paper concludes by emphasizing the need for further research on NMT and AI-based tools in audiovisual translation workflows.

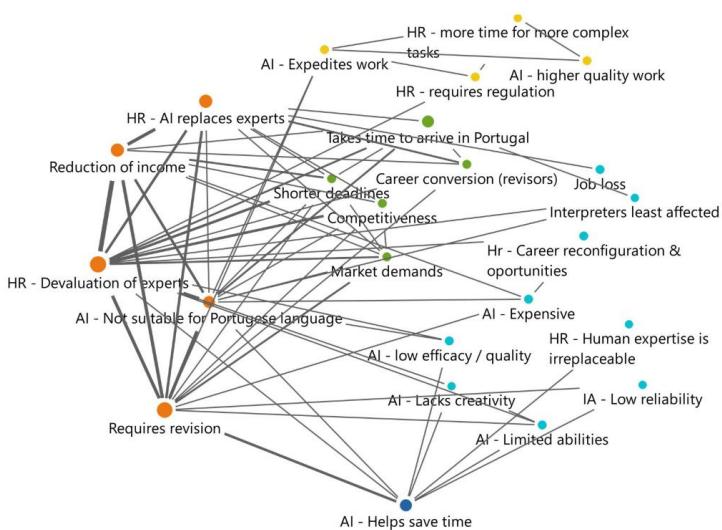


Figure 2. Codes' map for the future implications of AI in the Portuguese language services market [47]

4. CONCLUSION

Our findings reveal the dynamic and multifaceted nature of translation studies. They highlight the nuanced role of paratextual devices in navigating socio-political and cultural contexts, the impact of technological advancements on translation practices, and the importance of translation in global exchanges, education, and the arts. Together, these studies underscore translation's critical role in fostering understanding, connectivity, and innovation in a rapidly evolving world. The discussion delves into public sociology, machine translation user experience, and literary reception across geopolitical divides, highlighting translation's challenges and opportunities in fostering knowledge accessibility and cultural exchange. It examines AI's transformative impact on the job market, copyright, commercial interests, and the broader translation ecosystem. Additionally, studies on multilingualism in literature, post-editing in subtitles, and text input methods emphasize the need for continued research, innovation, and adaptability to improve translation quality, efficiency, and cultural sensitivity.

These themes highlight translation studies as a vital intersection of linguistic, cultural, technological, and societal factors, underscoring the need for continuous learning and collaboration among practitioners and researchers. As the field evolves with technological advancements and global interconnectedness, these studies affirm translation's enduring role in bridging languages, cultures, and communities to foster understanding and connection. This research of translation studies addresses cultural, technological, and ethical challenges, highlighting gaps in AI impact, user experiences, and marginalized languages, in such a way, calling for further research to advance the field.

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C : Conceptualization

M : Methodology

So : Software

Va : Validation

Fo : Formal analysis

I : Investigation

R : Resources

D : Data Curation

O : Writing - Original Draft

E : Writing - Review & Editing

Vi : Visualization

Su : Supervision

P : Project administration

Fu : Funding acquisition

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Authors state no conflict of interest.

DATA AVAILABILITY

The authors confirm that the data supporting the findings of this study are available within the article [and/or its supplementary materials].

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