Introduction

Over the last few years an important change has taken place in research into contrastive linguistics and translation studies. Whereas previously both fields have drawn on largely introspective methodologies, most research is now conducted on large bodies of bilingual or multilingual data, a change which has had the important effect of providing the two disciplines with a much more solid empirical basis.

Many researchers are now working with computerised data, in many cases using specifically designed linguistic software tools to conduct automatic or semi-automatic analyses. Bilingual concordancers are a case in point. Research projects along these lines are becoming more widespread throughout the academic community and initial results are highly encouraging, revealing the enormous potential of computerised corpus analyses both for contrastive linguistics and translation studies.

Of course many researchers are still opting to use purely manual methods of analysis: indeed for many types of linguistic analysis (semantic or discourse analysis for example), they will remain the only option for the foreseeable future. It is also notable that there are very few bilingual computer corpora available. For many therefore, the use of manual methods may not be a question of choice.

This symposium is intended to bring together specialists in the fields of contrastive linguistics and translation studies conducting research on bilingual or multilingual corpora of any type. One important objective will be to demonstrate to what extent detailed corpus analysis can support, contradict or refine introspective contrastive analyses. Another key aim is to examine the strengths and weaknesses of manual and automatic methods of data analysis. And lastly, the meeting will provide a valuable opportunity to exchange and share data, a step on the way to setting up an international multilingual databank available to everyone working in the field.

Symposium Topics

Below is a non-exhaustive list of subject areas which we hope to address during the symposium:

- Contrastive lexicology (in particular, contrastive phraseology)
- Bilingual/multilingual lexicography
- Contrastive semantics
- Contrastive syntax
- Contrastive pragmatics
- Compiling and exploiting bilingual/multilingual computerised corpora
- Software tools for the analysis of bilingual corpora (bilingual concordancing, automatic alignment, multilingual part-of-speech tagging, etc.)
- Bilingual corpora and automatic/computer-aided translation
Languages

English and French will be the two official symposium languages, with most papers given in English.

Symposium venue

The symposium will take place in Louvain-la-Neuve, an entirely pedestrian university campus which, with its cafes, restaurants, shops, sports centre, cinema and theatre, offers all the advantages of a real town. 20 minutes away from Brussels, it is easy to reach by car, train and plane, Brussels National Airport being within very easy reach.

Scientific committee

Bengt Altenberg (University of Lund, Sweden)
Ludo Beheydt (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium)
Hélène Chuquet (University of Poitiers, France)
Jean-Pierre Colson (Institut Libre Marie-Haps Brussels & Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium)
Thierry Fontenelle (European Commission Translation Service, Luxembourg)
Sylviane Granger (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium)
Jacques Lerot (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium)
Raphaël Salkie (University of Brighton, UK)

Organizing committee

Sylviane Granger (Université Catholique de Louvain)
Jacques Lerot (Université Catholique de Louvain)
André Hantson (Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix Namur)
Michel Kefer (Université de Liège)