

Corpora in Interpreting Studies: East Asian Perspectives. By Andrew K.F. Cheung, Kanglong Liu, and Riccardo Moratto. London: Routledge, 2023. 290 pages. ISBN 9781032456270.

Since Shlesinger's (1998) seminal work on corpus-based interpreting studies, the use of corpora to study interpreting has been a growing area of research that holds promise for advancing both practice and scholarly understanding (Setton 2011; Russo, et al. 2018; Pöchhacker 2022). However, interpreting studies that rely on corpora encounter distinct obstacles when examining East Asian languages, primarily because these languages differ structurally from the more thoroughly researched European languages. To address this gap, *Corpora in Interpreting Studies: East Asian Perspectives* (2024), edited by Andrew K.F. Cheung, Kanglong Liu, and Riccardo Moratto, compiles findings from corpus-based research on interpreting within Chinese, Japanese, and Korean language contexts. As the first book-length treatment of this timely topic, it merits closer examination.

The volume is structured around fifteen chapters, each exploring different aspects of interpreting in East Asian contexts. These chapters can be categorized based on their focus on specific interpreting settings and the research methodologies employed. This organization allows readers to gain a comprehensive understanding of the field while also appreciating the diversity of approaches used in corpus-based interpreting studies.

In terms of interpreting contexts, the book covers a wide range of settings. Legal interpreting receives significant attention, with several chapters dedicated to this area. Chapter 2 examines the speech act of clarification in courtroom settings, exploring the issues in legal discourse interpretation. Building on this, Chapter 8 analyzes the role of interpreters in Hong Kong courts using participation frameworks, offering a localized perspective on legal interpreting. Chapter 10 further explores the Hong Kong context by investigating interpreters' nonrenditions and power manifestations in courtroom discourse, revealing the intricate dynamics at play in legal interpretation. Moving beyond legal settings, the book also addresses medical interpreting. Chapter 7 explores the use of modality verbs by professional and nonprofessional interpreters in online Chinese medical conferences, highlighting the unique challenges and strategies employed in healthcare interpretation. This inclusion of medical

interpreting broadens the book's scope and demonstrates the applicability of corpus-based methods across various specialized fields.

Educational and pedagogical contexts are not overlooked. Chapter 3 presents a corpus-based study of interpreter trainees' reflection journals, providing valuable observations about the learning process and potential areas for improving interpreter education. Complementing this, Chapter 15 provides a comparative analysis of materials used in interpreter training programs in Korea and China, allowing for cross-cultural comparisons in interpreter education approaches.

The book also explores high-stakes international settings, with two chapters focusing on United Nations (UN) interpreting. Chapter 5 investigates the strategies used by English-to-Chinese simultaneous interpreters at the UN General Assembly for coping with word order asymmetry, a critical issue in this language pair. Chapter 10 compares interpreting performances between native and nonnative English interpreters at UN Security Council meetings, addressing the ongoing debate about the impact of language directionality on interpreting quality. Governmental contexts are addressed in Chapter 11, which examines interpreting products as lexicons revealing socio-political and historical perspectives. This unique approach demonstrates how corpus-based studies can contribute not only to interpreting practice but also to broader cultural and historical understanding.

The diversity of research methodologies employed throughout the book is one of its strengths. Several chapters utilize quantitative analyses (Chapters 2 and 9), offering statistical evidence on various aspects of interpreting. Comparative methods are employed in Chapters 5 and 13, allowing for cross-linguistic and cross-cultural comparisons. Corpus-based techniques, which form the core of the book's approach, are used extensively in Chapters 3 to 4, 6 to 8, 12 to 14, demonstrating the versatility of this methodology in interpreting studies.

Some chapters employ novel approaches that push the boundaries of traditional interpreting research. For instance, Chapter 7 utilizes participation frameworks to analyze interpreter roles, while Chapter 6 features a qualitative multimodal investigation of pauses in simultaneous interpreting. This methodological diversity not only shows the range of tools available to researchers in this field but also highlights the potential for interdisciplinary approaches in interpreting studies.

The volume's comprehensive coverage of current corpus-based interpreting studies in East Asian contexts is particularly noteworthy.

Its focus on an understudied linguistic domain significantly strengthens the field, especially in relation to interpreting studies in the Hong Kong context. The Hong Kong focused studies offer regionally specific contributions that illuminate the unique challenges and practices of interpreting in this multilingual, multicultural environment. Although these studies offer compelling qualitative interpretations, there is room for improvement in terms of quantitative analysis. For instance, a further interrogation of the impact of local sociocultural norms and legal practices could enhance the contextualization and implications of the results, as interpreting functions are intricately shaped by environmental influences.

While the book generally presents high quality research, some chapters offer opportunities for further refinement in experimental design and statistical analysis. For instance, Vital and Han's innovative chapter (Chapter 13) on thematic corpora in Chinese-Portuguese conference interpreter training adopts more generalized assessment tools rather than criteria specifically tailored to interpreting skills. This approach, while valuable, may benefit from further differentiation between language proficiency and interpretation competence. Additionally, the chapter could potentially be enriched by a more in-depth exploration of challenges in corpus application, such as the availability and representativeness of thematic data for the Chinese-Portuguese language pair. A more extensive discussion of these aspects would further enhance the study's contribution. Future research building on this work could yield even more valuable findings by incorporating more rigorous testing methodologies.

In contrast, the chapter by Qi and Yang (Chapter 6) stands out as a strong model for corpus-based interpreting research. Their exploration of universal pause patterns in simultaneous interpreting, using a multimodal corpus annotated at the audio text level, offers genuine methodological and empirical advantages. By combining qualitative and quantitative analysis, the researchers present a nuanced examination of findings that provides meaningful perspectives into interpreting processes. This chapter effectively demonstrates how corpus-based studies can offer unique value when rigorous methodologies are applied.

The volume fills a notable gap in the literature by systematically introducing corpus-based interpreting research regarding Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. With its range of exemplary studies, authoritative editorship, and focus on an emerging area ripe for further development, it represents an invaluable resource for scholars, students, and professionals in interpreting studies as well as corpus linguistics. However, in terms

of regionally focused studies, the coverage of Japanese and Korean languages is somewhat limited, with only Chapters 14 and 15 dedicated to these languages. Future research could benefit from a wider inclusion of East Asian language pairs to provide a more extensive picture of interpreting in the region. Additionally, the book primarily focuses on interpreting between East Asian languages and English or other European languages. An interesting direction for future research would be to explore interpreting practices among East Asian languages themselves, such as Chinese-Japanese interpreting in political contexts or Korean-Chinese interpreting in business settings. Such research would not only contribute to interpreting skills research but also shed light on the role of interpreting and challenges in East Asian focused contexts, taking into account the region's unique geopolitical and cultural dynamics. Despite these minor limitations, the book provides a solid foundation for future research through its expert contributors and diversity of high quality studies. It offers valuable insights for interpreting students and practitioners, irrespective of their specific language pairs. The methodologies presented illustrate how corpus applications can enhance various areas of interpreting practice and research.

In conclusion, *Corpora in Interpreting Studies: East Asian Perspectives* represents a significant milestone in interpreting research, particularly for underrepresented language contexts. While its focus on East Asian languages may limit its generalizability to some extent, the methodological lessons presented have broader applications to the field of interpreting studies. This seminal book merits wide readership and discussion to continue advancing interpreting research, especially regarding underrepresented language contexts. It not only fills a crucial gap in the literature but also paves the way for future studies that can further expand our understanding of interpreting in East Asian linguistic and cultural contexts.

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