Workshop Report 'Mapping Translation and Translating Maps'
The TransUnit 'Mapping Translation'

While the spatial turn has already gained some popularity among the translation studies (Apter, *The Translation Zone,* 2006; Italiano, *Translation and Geography* 2016), a historical approach to the concept of translation spaces needs yet to be fleshed out. Formed as part of the Priority Programme 2130, the TransUnit 'Mapping Translation' set itself the goal to link historical perspectives on translation cultures with new methods and technologies of digital humanities, or, to be more precise, of geoinformation systems. The idea is to create an interactive online map featuring research data from the individual research projects of the Priority Programme. To discuss the possibilities and limitations of such an endeavor, the TransUnit organized a workshop, which took place on Monday, February 15th, via Webex. Participants were members of the Priority Programme, selected guests with working experience with mapping translations, and an IT-specialist.

The workshop began with presentations from the TransUnit members. AVI SILUK (Frankfurt am Main) presented how the TransUnit developed the idea of the interactive map in coordination with the IT-expert. The creation of an online map, he argued, would provide all members of the Priority Programme with a tool to showcase aspects of their projects in a similar way to scientific posters, which combine text and images in a concise representation of research data. The digital map interface would then represent spatial aspects of translation processes through the movement of persons, objects, and ideas, or the networks that make out translation culture(s). Even though the map would show the data of each participating project on a separate layer, there should be an option to search through all the data for common aspects of translation cultures and processes such as networks, years, persons, or specific topics such as works of literature, missions, and publishing centers.

DIEGO STEFANELLI (Mainz-Germersheim) offered some general remarks and questions concerning the potentialities of geographical/spatial approaches within the history of translation. In the last decade, spatial humanities have explored the connection between history and geography in historiographical studies. Other approaches such as the *histoire croisée* (Werner, Zimmermann) and the *connected history* (Subrahmanyam) have focused on the complex historical interactions between different spaces. These methodologies could be fruitfully adopted for the history of translation and contribute to the conceptualization of a digital map as a scientific tool to imagine a 'connected history' of Early Modern translation cultures. The questions arising from the creation of such a map should be not only of technical nature but also of methodological and historiographical relevance. For instance, which aspects of translation processes could and should be represented? How could the relations between center and periphery as well as the complex nature of borders between different political and cultural spaces be represented?

IRENA FLITER concluded this section of the workshop with some deliberations on translation zones with their national, cultural, and social specificities. She highlighted four ideas where a digital map could serve as a tool to scrutinize established historical narratives: 1) By placing individual projects onto a digital map, we would envision new geographical spaces beyond the confines of national languages or the boundaries of the nation-state. 2) An emphasis on the micro-historical approach would allow us to include peripheries and connected them with established centres of cultural translations. 3) Connecting linguistic-literary, musical, geographical, legal and commercial translation practices on a map could further illuminate the significance and dissemination of early modern translation cultures. 4) Finally, understanding how early modern non-Western individuals conceptualized their world spatially would potentially contest Euro-centric perspectives and help uncover biases within translation practices.

The following discussion highlighted the innovative potential of mapping translation cultures. Yet, it also emphasized that the metaphorical use of space would not suffice for the history of translation, where

one must use a specific (although problematized) idea of space. Due to the tangible spatial approach, the digital map would also require selecting and translating research data. Another focus of the discussion was the intended scalability and the search categories of the map. Whereas the scalability is easily solved by technical programing (following the Google Maps model), the content of the search categories would be a matter of further reflections due to the diverse data expected from the various projects.

In the second panel, three guest speakers presented their academic research papers. IRINA SALADIN (Tübingen) discussed map translation as a process of converting text into geographic drawings. Focusing on the work of the geographers, Claude and Guillaume Delisle, Saladin demonstrated how their historical maps were cartographic texts, pieced together from disparate written and drawn sources of many different languages. For their publication of over 120 maps of all parts of the world, the father and son relied not only on a voluminous source corpus but also on the support of a vast network of friends and colleagues as well as an interpretative approach to the written texts.

PHILIPP HOFENEDER's (Graz) paper was a testimonial on how to convert historical research data into thematic maps. Hofeneder's habilitation project on communication practices in the Russian Tsardom in the early nineteenth century explores multilingual and ethnically pluralistic approaches to translations studies. The paper examined the translations of the multi-volume *History of the Russian State* by Nikolai Michailowitsch Karamsin into several languages (French, German, Italian, Greek, etc.) and, its adaptation into different forms of publications such as schoolbooks, picture books, and even a scientific atlas. By presenting the stations in the life of Friedrich Hauenschild, one of the translators of Karamsin's work, Hofeneder exemplified how thematic maps can show not only patterns of movement and places of production but also help to conceive translation as a social process.

VERA DOROFEEVA-LICHTMANN (Berlin) presented a manuscript map of the Chinese Qing Empire, found in the Göttingen State and University Library collection. After identifying the Chinese astronomer Li Mingche as the creator, she also uncovered he had adapted the map from the French geographer and cartographer, Jean-Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville. Dorofeeva-Lichtmann stressed the peculiarity of translating maps, a complex operation implying the adoption of cartographic properties and traditions such as the north-south orientation and the location of certain natural features. In this regard, the Chinese Qing Empire map is an excellent case study to exhibit the material and cartographic changes between the source map and its adopted translation.

All three papers demonstrated the complexity of map creation and their historical translation as a process commonly relying on an immense volume of data. In the subsequent discussion, several speakers emphasized that digital maps should be as simplified as possible to make them more legible for the intended audience. For this reason, the creators need to reflect on the selection of the map's geographical and historical criteria at the beginning of any map creation.

The third section of the workshop illuminated the practical aspects of creating a digital map. In the beginning, each of the three TranUnit members presented ideas for the representation of their projects on a map. To show the complexity of mapping translation on a tangible case study, DIEGO STEFANELLI presented the example of the *Viaggi alle Due Sicilie e in alcune parti dell'Appennino* (1792-1797) of the Italian scientist Lazzaro Spallanzani (1729-1799), imagining a map of its European translations in the 1790s. IRENA FLITER went a step further showing an excel file structured according to translation categories, protagonist, cities, and dates from her project on the Jewish-Ottoman Camondo family, which could serve as the basis for the creation of her map. AVI SILUK's presented a preliminary map showcasing the routes of the travelling pietist missionaries of Halle and the distribution patterns of Yiddish translations of the New Testament. He created three map layers, each revealing a more detailed depiction of the travel routes and/or further information on the missionary activities.

The concluding session revolved around conceptual, technical, and practical questions regarding creating a digital map. BAHADDIN BATMAZ, the IT-expert, replied to questions about the feasibility of the envisioned digital map and explained the technical side of placing the Priority Programme's diverse data into one platform. First, the programmer creates a neutral map template. Then, each project would choose their translation categories, such as places, routes, and individuals and place them on that template. In a final step, these separate maps layers would be connected through the option to search for specific keywords, dates, or categories. This approach enables each project to have its custom-made map while simultaneously being connected with the broader research on translation cultures.

While the TransUnit is currently working on conceptualizing a digital map, there are still many open questions. For instance, how can we represent different temporalities, such as in the case of early modern translations of literary works of antiquity? What are the elements that unite diverse projects? Are we able to show something beyond movements and networks? How can we link our projects' spatial representation to general research methodologies of translation studies and digital humanities? Many of the practical questions raised in the workshop should be carefully considered before designing a digital map. However, we believe that methodological concerns and ideas will transpire after data has been fed into the map.

Irena Fliter, Avi Siluk and Diego Stefanelli

Workshop program:

Section 1

10.00–11.00: Mapping Translations: Introduction and preliminary remarks on practical, theoretical, and methodological questions

Chair: Avi Siluk

10.15—10.30: Avi Siluk (Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main) - Presentation of the TransUnit and of the idea for an interactive online-map

10.30—10.45: Diego Stefanelli (Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz/Germersheim) - Geography, Maps and Translation Studies (General Remarks)

10.45—11.00: Irena Fliter (Georg August University, Göttingen) - Translation Spaces as New Geographies of Transculturalisation and Spatial Imagination

11.00—11.15: Coffee break

Section 2

11.15—12.30: Translating Maps in the Historical Perspective

Chair: Irena Fliter

11.15–11.30: Irina Saladin (Eberhard Karls University Tübingen) - The Role of Translation in Early Modern Map Making

11.30–11.45: Philipp Hofeneder (Karl-Franzens Universität Graz) – Mapping Translation – some preliminary thoughts on thematic maps about translation history

11.45–12.00: Vera Dorofeeva-Lichtmann (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science) – Manuscript Map of the Qing Empire from the Göttingen Library (ca. 1819-1832). Adapted Translation of French Cartography of East Asia

12.00–12.30: Discussion

12.30—13.30: Lunch break

Section 3

13.30–15.00: Representing Research Projects on a Digital Map

Chair: Diego Stefanelli

13.30-14.00: Avi Siluk, Diego Stefanelli and Irena Fliter: Examples from our research

14.00-15.00: Open Discussion

15.00-15.15 End of Official Program/Coffee Break

Section 4

15.15–16.15: Technical Aspects of the Creation of a Digital Map

Chair: Avi Siluk

General Discussion and Questions to Bahaddin Batmaz (Marburg)