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Translated news: The evolving role of translation in journalism

Despite the limited attention paid to translation in journalism/communication studies, translation played a crucial role in the appearance and development of journalism. This talk will consider how translation has historically contributed to news production from the perspective of translation studies, whose interest in this form of cultural and linguistic mediation has increased exponentially over the past two decades. To discuss the evolving role of translation in the news production, I will use concepts that have been widely discussed in translation studies, such as visibility/invisibility (focusing on the shift from the central role of translators in the early modern period to their marginal/invisible role as the practice was professionalized), stable/unstable sources (which exemplify the shift from literal translations of source texts to the gradual disappearance of an original as the source), direct/indirect (with respect to the use of different types of sources in different languages), and domestication/foreignization (as characteristic of the move away from the source text to the target readership). The talk will use examples from different historical periods (e.g. the early modern period, the nineteenth century) and geographical areas (Europe, the Americas, China) to illustrate how these concepts can contribute to understanding this evolution.