Translation studies is a relatively new discipline that, as Mona Baker points out, has ‘grown at a phenomenal speed’ since the 1970s and 1980s.\(^1\) Introductions to translation studies point to a number of signs of its vitality, including the growing quantity of specialist journals, the establishment of centres for translation studies, and the founding of new series devoted to translation.\(^2\) Also apparent are the first stirrings of popular interest in translation studies, as reflected by the reception of a recent book by David Bellos.\(^3\) There have been similar developments in the French context, although the discipline has grown at a much slower pace in France than in other francophone countries. Two of the most important journals, *Meta: journal des traducteurs* (1955 –) and *TTR: traduction, terminologie, rédaction* (1987 –), were founded in Canada, where progress in the field has been significant from the outset. Other journals promoting scholarship on translation and French include *Babel: revue internationale de la traduction* (1955 –) and *Palimpsestes* (1987 –), both founded in France. The number of research centres for translation studies in French and francophone countries is still growing; the Centre d’études sur la traduction at the Université Paris Diderot-Paris 7, created in 2011, is one of the newest. Not surprisingly, some of the main centres for translation research are in Canada, for example at Concordia University in Montreal, the University of Montreal, and the University of Ottawa. One of the most important centres in France is the Centre d’études et de recherche en traductologie de l’Artois (CERTA), which publishes the series ‘Traductologie’. Professional schools such as the École supérieure d’interprètes et de traducteurs (ESIT) have also contributed to the development of the discipline. Centres in other countries that have fostered interest in French translation include the Centre for Translation Studies (CETRA) at KU Leuven in Belgium, and the Center for Translation Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA.

Today, translation studies is a vast interdisciplinary extending from the arts and humanities through the social sciences to computer science. This état présent,\(^*\) benefited from generous advice from the editors and from two anonymous reviewers. It is also informed by discussions with Andrew Chesterman, Léa Huotari, and Linda Louie. Any errors and omissions are, of course, my own.

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therefore, is necessarily extremely selective, considering only those subfields that are likely to be of greatest interest to French Studies readers. It focuses in particular on translation theory and literary translation, the history of translation, and linguistic approaches to translation studies. Notable subfields excluded from the survey are the more applied areas of machine translation, translation in specialist fields, localization, and interpreting studies. Other regrettable omissions include recent research in the emerging field of cognitive translation studies, as well as work on the place of translation in education, a topic that deserves more attention.

Translation theory and literary translation
This section discusses current scholarship on literary translation alongside the most relevant theoretical developments, all the while maintaining emphasis on French. There is no space here to provide a comprehensive overview of developments in the general field of translation theory. Instead, readers are referred to Anthony Pym’s excellent Exploring Translation Theories, which examines seven different theoretical paradigms: ‘natural equivalence’, ‘directional equivalence’, ‘purposes’, ‘descriptions’, ‘uncertainty’, ‘localization’, and ‘cultural translation’. Although early francophone translation theorists such as Jean-Paul Vinay and Jean Darbelnet are relatively well known across the discipline, the general and the French-specific fields remain quite separate today. There are numerous explanations for this, including, ironically, a linguistic barrier: the fact that for a long time the work of some of the most influential theorists remained untranslated cannot be underestimated. Michael Schreiber, in an insightful article on the reception of French translation theory suggests another reason, namely that there has not yet been any real canonization of theoretical work within the French tradition.

The relative separation of the general and the French fields means that there is considerable variation in the way that translation theory is conceptualized. Where Pym uses a series of paradigmatic shifts to explore the various theories, French scholars often employ a tripartite division between theories that are prescriptive, descriptive, and prospective. Inès Oseki-Dépré’s book illustrates the value that tends to be accorded to prospective theories in the French context; these theories all stem from the experience of translating itself and, in the author’s words, can be considered programmatic ‘au sens où la traduction constitue une activité ouverte

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et, pourquoi pas, artistique’. This book also shows how influential the works of Henri Meschonnic, Jean-René Ladmiral, and Antoine Berman have been in the French tradition. Although Ladmiral has not produced a fully elaborated theory of translation, he covered a lot of ground in Traduire: théorèmes pour la traduction. Meschonnic developed a poetics of translation where translation no longer involves transfer of meaning but is seen ‘comme travail/dans la langue, décentrement, rapport interpoétique entre valeur et signification, structuration d’un sujet et histoire’. Berman is slightly better known outside France, partly because of parallels between Lawrence Venuti’s work and Berman’s promotion of ethics in translation and a foreignizing translation practice.

Although he did not treat translation per se directly, Pierre Bourdieu had an impact on the field of translation studies by inspiring the sociological approach that is very popular today. Similarly, Jacques Derrida’s work has been applied to translation in the deconstructionist framework, but, as Schreiber pointed out, we are only just beginning to understand what the real applications of his theories will be for translation studies. Venuti has drawn much attention to an essay on translation by Derrida, first by translating it and then by publishing an article on his own translation. He explains the innovative strategy he used to produce a translation that resists expectations of fluency and transparency in order that the translation should ‘[highlight] its own discursive strategies and thereby [demand] to be read as a translation, as a text that is relatively autonomous from the text on which it depends’.

Some of the new branches that bridge translation theory and literary translation include the study of what appear to be special kinds of translation, such as retranslation, self-translation, and translation at the margins, all of which contribute

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9 Oseki-Dépré, Théories et pratiques, p. 97.
12 Antoine Berman, La Traduction et la lettre, ou, L’auberge du lointain (Paris: Seuil, 1999). Lawrence Venuti, in Translation Changes Everything: Theory and Practice (London: Routledge, 2013), explains that his own thinking has evolved since the 1990s and that he now rejects the instrumentalism in Berman’s approach (p. 4).
16 Ibid., p. 258.
to undermining some common binary oppositions. Ladmiral and Yves Gambier have questioned certain assumptions often made about retranslation, for instance that it is motivated by a belief that some translations age or that ‘great translations’ do not, and the idea that retranslations are closer to the source text than are the first translations (Berman’s ‘retranslation hypothesis’). Recent work on self-translation has also had a complicating effect. Michaël Oustinoff highlights its paradoxical nature: self-translation poses a typological problem that can only result in undermining the traditional distinction between translation and writing. The notions of source and target languages have also been destabilized by the general move from the centre to the periphery, which has forced scholars to confront new configurations of multilingualism and different forms of linguistic hybridity. This is illustrated most obviously by research on translation in the postcolonial context; francophone Africa is one of the strongest centres of interest today.

The expansion away from the traditional literary canon to include other genres can also be seen as part of the move from centre to periphery. Roger Baines has demonstrated the value of studying stage translation, with its two moments of transformation: textual translation, and adaptation for the stage. There is also a rich field of research into audio-visual translation, now studied from a wide range of interdisciplinary perspectives, including the literary-theoretical and sociocultural viewpoints. A recent issue of *Meta* highlights the ideological manipulation that takes place in this domain. Of particular interest for future research are the new kinds of translation that have come to exist alongside the traditional triad of subtitling, dubbing, and voice-over: this includes user-generated translation (fansubbing and fandubbing) and translation for people with disabilities. There is clearly room for growth in scholarship on audio-visual translation and French, as there is in the general field; Aline Remael has suggested that the next turn in translation studies will be the ‘audiovisual turn’.

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19 Some of these oppositions have also been called into question in Clive Scott, *Translating the Perception of Text: Literary Translation and Phenomenology* (Oxford: Legenda, 2012).
25 Lucile Desblache’s AHRC-funded project ‘Translating Music’ is likely to be very interesting in this perspective: <http://www.translatingmusic.com/index.html> [accessed 8 March 2014].
26 Aline Remael, ‘Audiovisual Translation’, in *Handbook of Translation Studies* [see n. 2 above], 1, 12–17 (p. 15).
The application of sociocultural theory to the study of translation means that a whole host of individual themes has been explored in the context of translation. In the general field, for example, Judith Woodsworth cites important volumes on translation and power, translation and identity, and translation and postcolonialism.27 Michel Ballard has edited a number of volumes in French that consider some of these themes.28 Sherry Simon is known for her work on translation and the city.29 Today, research on censorship, power, and ideology stands out as a particularly active field. Ballard’s edited volume Censure et traduction draws attention to two kinds of censorship that sometimes go unrecognized: self-censorship imposed by the translator, and different kinds of invisible censorship present in the West today.30 There is also likely to be further research on gender and translation in the coming years, particularly in the context of social-constructionist approaches, which undermine binary conceptions of gender.31

Translation history
The expansion and diversification of the field of translation studies has led to a renewed interest in the historical dimension. Research on the history of French translation theory has played an important role in showcasing theoretical texts that predate the official origins of the academic discipline. In particular, publications by Lieven D’hulst and Ballard have contributed to our understanding of translation theory in the early modern period. Ballard has highlighted important seventeenth-century texts by Bachet de Méziriac and Gaspard de Tende,32 while D’hulst has helped to paint a more nuanced picture of the eighteenth century by going beyond the simple assertion that fidelity was its central concern.33 However, large gaps remain in our understanding of the evolution of French translation theory, whether explicitly formulated in theoretical texts or underpinning practice and attitudes more generally. In this regard, progress is expected with the forthcoming publication of the multivolume Histoire des traductions en langue française. Co-directors

28 These include Europe et traduction, ed. by Michel Ballard (Arras: Artois presses université, 1998); Oralité et traduction, ed. by M. Ballard (Arras: Artois presses université, 2001); La Traduction, contact de langues et de cultures, ed. by M. Ballard, 2 vols (Arras: Artois presses université, 2005–06); and Censure et traduction, ed. by M. Ballard (Arras: Artois presses université, 2011).
30 See also Censure et traduction en deçà et au-delà du monde occidental/Censorship and Translation within and beyond the Western World, ed. by Denise Merkle (= TTR, 25.2 (2010)).
31 Work on gender in the French context include Sherry Simon, Gender in Translation: Cultural Identity and the Politics of Transmission (London: Routledge, 1996); Portraits de traductrices, ed. by Jean Delisle (Ottawa: Presses de l’Université d’Ottawa; Arras: Artois presses université, 2002); and Traduire les genres femmes en traduction, ed. by Pascale Sardin (= Palimpsestes, 22 (2009)).
33 Lieven D’hulst, Cent ans de théorie française de la traduction: de Batteux à Littré (1748–1867) (Lille: Presses universitaires de Lille, 1995), and ‘Unite et diversite de la réflexion traductologique en France (1722–1789)’, in La Traduction en France [see n. 32 above], pp. 84–100.
Yves Chevrel and Jean-Yves Masson anticipate that it will lead to a rethinking of the periodization of the history of translation, and it is likely to complicate some of the generalizations that are used to link individual centuries to particular theoretical movements.

Since the 1990s greater interest has been shown in the history of French translation practice. The substantial quantity of material means that there have been few historical overviews, with scholars preferring to concentrate on particular periods, genres, and translators. The conference and Brepols book series ‘The Medieval Translator’ has focused attention on both theory and practice in the medieval period, and the relatively advanced state of the research on French is reflected in the same publisher’s large-scale project *Translations médiévales*, covering five centuries. A recent collection of essays edited by Emma Campbell and Robert Mills suggests another direction for scholarship on medieval translation, one that involves greater interaction with theoretical developments in contemporary translation studies.

Among a good number of recent studies of translation in the Renaissance and early modern periods, several focus on the translation of English novels in the eighteenth century. Alongside her work on gender and translations of Ann Radcliffe, for example, Élizabeth Durot-Boucé has looked at (self-)censorship in translations of both Radcliffe and Jonathan Swift. Annie Cointre and Annie Rivara have made important contributions with an anthology of prefaces to translations of English novels, and an edited volume on non-literary genres in the eighteenth century. Giovanni Dotoli’s work has helped to improve our understanding of all of these centuries by drawing attention to the continued importance of translation from Italian long after the Renaissance.

With the growth of the discipline, we are beginning to see histories that take a broader perspective. This includes Dotoli’s overview of the theory and practice of translation from the Middle Ages to the present day. Chevrel and Masson’s history will be even broader in scope: as Yen-Mai Tran-Gervat explains, they conceive of translation as ‘un phénomène complexe et pluriel’, so that contributors

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37 Élizabeth Durot-Boucé, ‘Traducteurs et traductrices d’Ann Radcliffe, ou la fidélité est-elle une question de sexe?’, in *Traduire le genre* [see n. 31 above], pp. 101–28; and ‘La Traduction des romans anglais au xve siècle: censure ou autocensure?’, in *Censure et traduction* [see n. 28 above], pp. 11–29.
are asked to consider translation into French rather than translation in France and
must take into account more marginal kinds of translation. Jean Delisle has also
contributed to this widening of perspective by focusing not on translations as
texts, products, or processes but on translators themselves. Viewing translation
history from the perspective of the translating subject has the advantage of bring-
ing together theory and practice. This field is likely to continue its expansion to
account for trans- or supranational traditions and non-literary genres, and to
explore new lines of inquiry such as the role of translation in general history.
It is hoped that this will be accompanied by increased reflection on the place and prac-
tice of translation history, as called for by Theo Hermans and by Woodsworth.

Linguistic approaches to translation studies

Linguistic approaches have been subject to serious criticism, particularly on the
part of theorists who advocate prescriptive or prospective approaches to transla-
tion and who are most concerned with literary, philosophical, and poetic transla-
tion. Detractors tend to focus on the limitations of a descriptive approach, and
scholars have been charged with empiricism, echoing wider debates about the use
of digital tools in the humanities. Today this view has begun to look somewhat out
of date. Andrew Chesterman has played an important role in challenging scholars
using an empirical approach to ensure that their work really contributes to advanc-
ing the field. It is also no longer accurate to claim that linguistic approaches
serve a purely descriptive function. Sara Laviosa has pointed to several recent lines
of inquiry that are based on linguistic analysis but that go far beyond description,
including a developing interest in ideology, and the new subfield of translation sty-
listics. She has also called for more interdisciplinary work with scholars who
analyse translation from a literary, philosophical, or culture-theoretic perspective.

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42 Portraits de traducteurs, ed. by Jean Delisle (Ottawa: Presses de l’Université d’Ottawa; Arras: Artois presses université, 1999); Portraits de traductrices, ed. by Delisle [see n. 31 above]; Translators through History, ed. by Delisle and Woodsworth [see n. 27 above].
43 There is already a growing body of work on scientific and medical translation; see, for example, Traduire la science: hier et aujourd’hui, ed. by Pascal Duris (Pessac: Publications de la Maison des sciences de l’homme d’Aquitaine, 2008). Mairi McLaughlin has also highlighted the value for translation studies of research on the history of news translation; see M. McLaughlin, ‘La Traduction et l’innovation linguistique dans la presse d’infor-
mation sous l’Ancien Régime’ (forthcoming).
44 Theo Hermans, ‘Introduction: How is Translation Possible?’, in Between Cultures and Texts: Itineraries in Translation History/Entre les cultures et les textes: itinéraires en histoire de la traduction, ed. by Antoine Chalvin, Anne Lange, and Daniele Monticelli (Frankfurt a.M.: Peter Lang, 2011), pp. 11–18 (p. 13); Woodsworth, ‘Foreword’ [see n. 27 above].
45 Linguistic approaches were also criticized by adherents of the interpretative approach developed by Marianne Lederer and Danica Seleskovic; see Guillemin-Flescher, ‘Théoriser la traduction’ [see n. 8 above], p. 14.
A plethora of recent publications on translation studies and linguistics indicates that this is an area of central concern in the francophone sphere.\(^{48}\)

There are, of course, many different linguistic approaches to translation studies, but corpus-based translation studies (CTS) has emerged as the most fruitful. It developed out of a desire to apply the methods of corpus linguistics to descriptive translation studies.\(^{49}\) In CTS, large electronic corpora are used to test hypotheses about features of translated language, in either an applied or a theoretical context. In the twenty years since Mona Baker first proposed the approach,\(^{50}\) much of the research in the descriptive-theoretic domain has been used to investigate so-called ‘translation universals’. Although the term was originally inspired by linguistic universals, it is generally no longer understood in an absolute sense. Laviosa recognizes Chesterman’s reframing of the concept, so that the translation universal is now often seen as ‘a descriptive construct, an open-ended working hypothesis about “similarities, regularities, patterns that are shared between particular cases or groups of cases”’.\(^{51}\) The value of translation universals is that they help to capture generalizations about translated language that reveal how it can differ from non-translated language. Common features of translated language include influence from the source language, the underrepresentation of features unique to the target language, explicitation, and a reduction of linguistic variation.\(^{52}\)

There has been a significant amount of research into French translation from a linguistic perspective, with many of the corpus-based studies originating in northern European or in multilingual francophone countries. Recent publications on translation and linguistics all address directly the question of the articulation of the relationship between these two disciplines. Tatiana Milliaressi’s edited volume is an excellent introduction to this debate, since the first section, on metatheoretical approaches, contains papers by theorists with very different perspectives: François Rastier, Ladmiral, and Pym.\(^{53}\) Such volumes also present research that demonstrates the value of linguistic approaches. In Ballard and Al Kaladi’s edited volume, for example, a group of papers uses linguistics to rethink classic translation problems, including metaphor, empathy markers, and tense and aspect.\(^{54}\) The advantages of bridging the gap between literary-theoretic and linguistic-descriptive approaches have also been illustrated by recent studies of translations into French.

\(^{48}\) See, for instance, *Traductologie, linguistique et traduction* [see n. 18 above]; and *De la linguistique à la traductologie* [see n. 8 above]; and *De la linguistique à la traductologie: interpréter/traduire*, ed. by Tatiana Milliaressi (Villeneuve d’Ascq Presses universitaires du Septentrion, 2011).

\(^{49}\) For an up-to-date assessment of the state and future of the corpus-based approach see *Corpus-Based Translation Studies* [see n. 47 above].


\(^{51}\) Andrew Chesterman, ‘Beyond the Particular’, in *Translation Universals: Do They Exist?*, ed. by Anna Mauranen and Pekka Kujamäki (Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2004), pp. 33–49 (p. 33); cited in Laviosa, ‘Corpus-Based Translation Studies’ [see n. 47 above], p. 17.

\(^{52}\) See *Translation Universals* [see n. 11 above].

\(^{53}\) *De la linguistique à la traductologie* [see n. 48 above].

\(^{54}\) *Traductologie, linguistique et traduction* [see n. 6 above]; see also the second section of *De la linguistique à la traductologie* [see n. 6 above].
This includes work by Charlotte Bosseaux on point of view,\textsuperscript{55} by Mairi McLaughlin on dislocated constructions,\textsuperscript{56} and by Kristiina Taivalkoski-Shilov on reported speech.\textsuperscript{57}

There is little doubt that translation studies will continue its expansion along similar lines, with increasing interdisciplinarity accompanied by a shift of balance from the centre to the periphery and from the canon to the non-canonical. As progress is made in each subfield, we shall begin to see moments of reflection, and taking stock has already begun for translation in the medieval period. A crucial moment in the discipline will come when this stage has been reached in a number of different areas, because it will allow higher-level generalizations to be captured. Although the long process of institutionalization has begun for translation studies as an academic discipline, there is still uncertainty about its position. This is felt most keenly in officially monolingual countries such as France, which have traditionally been less receptive to the study of translation. We might hope that, for the future of translation studies and French, this bias will be mitigated by the recognition today that it is monolingualism that is the exception.


\textsuperscript{56} Mairi McLaughlin, ‘(In)visibility: Dislocation in French and the Voice of the Translator’, \textit{French Studies}, 62 (2008), 53–64.

\textsuperscript{57} Kristiina Taivalkoski-Shilov, \textit{La Tierce Main: le discours rapporté dans les traductions françaises de Fielding au XVIIIe siècle} (Arras: Artois presses université, 2006).