

PILAR SÁNCHEZ-GIJÓN, OLGA TORRES-HOSTENCH AND  
BARTOLOMÉ MESA-LAO

## Preface

This book is a collection of some of the more recent research initiatives in the field of translation technologies,<sup>1</sup> which, as a unified whole, are a perfect fit for the philosophy of the *New Trends in Translation Studies* book series by Peter Lang. The book emerged from the research group *Tradumàtica*'s desire to make investigations into translation technologies better known. *Tradumàtica* (tradumatica.net) is a research group at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, UAB) that was created in 1997. It is an active research group that has been successful in setting up funded projects in the field of machine translation, post-editing and computer-assisted translation tools. The group has published the digital e-journal *Revista Tradumàtica* annually since 2000 and has also designed and coordinated a master's programme in translation technologies since 2002. It has set up collaboration agreements with numerous localisation companies in the Barcelona area and has organised international forums on the use of technologies applied to translation, such as the T3L International Congress (*Tradumàtica*, Translation Technologies and Localization) in 2011.

We felt the need to write a book that would invite an unhurried and composed reading of specific actions being carried out using translation technologies, and that would explain the different projects, initiatives and methodologies that have served as sources of inspiration for other

1 This book has been published with the support of the Ministry of Spanish Economy and Competitiveness (FFI2010-10167-E); the Post-editing Training Network Post-IT (FFI2011-16021-E), and the master's programme in *Tradumàtica* at UAB (Autonomous University of Barcelona).

researchers and teachers in the field. Those responsible for editing the book are Pilar Sánchez-Gijón, Olga Torres-Hostench and Bartolomé Mesa-Lao. Pilar Sánchez-Gijón, a researcher in translation technologies, is currently in charge of the Spanish Network for Training Post-editors and of the Translation, Interpreting and East Asian Studies Department at UAB, one of the oldest translation departments in Spain and one with a solid research tradition. Olga Torres-Hostench has enjoyed a long professional career in the multimedia localisation sector, which she combines with her teaching and research, as well as the management of financed projects. She also represents *Tradumàtica* on committees that draw up quality standards in translation (standard CEN15038 and a future ISO standard). Bartolomé Mesa-Lao is a trainer and consultant on translation tools and translation-related processes at the Center for Research and Innovation in Translation and Translation Technology (CRITT), Copenhagen Business School.

The selection of contributions in this volume was designed with a view to fostering exchanges and discussions on the topic of translation technologies. Contributions come from researchers who use translation technologies extensively in different areas. As such, the book maps out current trends in the field. Different profiles of readers with an interest in human (translator)–computer interaction will find interesting insights in this volume, since it contains reflections which may be inspiring for both scholars and practitioners looking for new avenues to explore.

The topics discussed in this book range from state-of-the-art methodologies for designing technology-based research projects to specific experiences in the use of technology in translation training and society. The book offers a diverse and global perspective on the use of technologies in translation. It presents work from researchers from three different continents and 15 prestigious universities: the Language Technologies Research Center at the Université du Québec en Outaouais, the European University of Madrid, the Polytechnic University of Valencia, the Hong Kong Shue Yan University, London Metropolitan University as well as the Universities of Salamanca, Alicante, Valencia, Limerick, Castilla-La Mancha, Porto, Trieste, Geneva, and the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

The co-editors would like to thank Debbie Folaron from Concordia University, Canada, for joining the project and accepting our invitation

to write the foreword. Her passion and commitment to the project and her valuable contributions to debates on the relationship between translation, technology and digital society made her the ideal person to write a foreword for this book that not only puts the subject in context, but also introduces the content of the book. The foreword offers a vision that invites readers to reflect on the role of translation technologies not only from a technological but also from a social and cultural point of view.