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TECHNOLOGY CRITIQUE IN TRANSLATION STUDIES

Contemporary debates in Translation Studies increasingly see machine translation, CAT tools, and large language models as part of a wider digital environment: platform-based work, constant data processing, and risks that fall unevenly on different actors. This paper explains a paradox: public and academic criticism of these tools is prominent even as translation is increasingly done with them, often in mixed human–machine workflows. Methodologically, the study offers a critical analysis of key research studies and policy documents (2019–2025). I organize the main critiques into four recurring themes: platformization and “digital Taylorism”; unintended data sharing in translation workflows; bias and “smooth” output that can still be wrong; and energy use and carbon footprint. I then compare these concerns with what is happening in practice: growing institutional MT use, post-editing as a normal task, and continued uptake of professional tools. The findings show a trade-off. While these tools can remove repetitive work, they also create more checking, reworking for genre and audience, and on-the-spot ethical decisions about what is safe to share and what is acceptable to publish. Where rules are weak, time savings tend to become tighter deadlines and stronger metric pressure. The paper concludes that outcomes depend on who controls the tools and the terms of use: interoperability and ownership; enforceable labour protections; clear privacy safeguards and accountability; and environmental limits that treat computing as a scarce resource.