Gender Issues of Language in Translation: A Systematic Literature Review

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ABSTRACT

The exploration of gender issues in the field of translation encompasses a complex array of linguistic, cultural, and socio-political dimensions. Since the 1990s, there has been a growing emphasis on gender-related concerns within translation studies. However, a comprehensive review of the literature on current trends and research challenges in this area remains lacking. To bridge this gap, the current study employs the PRISMA framework to conduct a systematic literature review, drawing on databases such as Google Scholar and Scopus for data retrieval. This review focuses on a variety of topics, including seminal works, the most cited articles, the primary interests of feminist theorists, key research objectives, and findings. Utilizing a qualitative review methodology, this study aims to provide insights into the predominant themes explored to date and identify future research directions, particularly concerning feminist theories and language. A content analysis of 15 selected papers from peer-reviewed international journals published between 2002 and 2022 was conducted. These papers were chosen based on their relevance to the research question, the representativeness of the topic, and their scholarly quality. The findings highlight a significant increase in the depiction of gender in literary translation over the past five years, especially regarding the translation of gender stereotypes. This research presents a systematic overview of the field, offering conclusions on trends, results, methodological approaches, and challenges faced. Key findings include an increased focus on the study of internal language processing, the observation of inconsistent effects, and the identification of a notable disparity in the reliability of translations between individuals who identify as male and female.

Keywords: feminist theory, gender issues, linguistic issues, systematic literature reviews, translation studies.

INTRODUCTION

The word "systematic review" is utilised as a description of how to accomplish a literature review in which relevant publications are identified, chosen among, and evaluated by employing particular and systematic procedures concerning a specified investigational issue (Pollock & Berge, 2018). The systematic review method relies on literature review methods. To narrow the search to studies that match certain standards Establishing reasonable confirmation and rigor of the evidence from prior articles is considered a crucial feature of a systematic review. The application of strict criteria to examine the credibility and validity of past investigations. This study reviews previous research on gender disadvantages in text, examining similarities and differences with concerns raised by academics and sociologists when it comes to the downsides of gender in text.

Over the previous thirty or forty years, translations and gender themes have just recently acquired a foothold. Since the 1980s, advancements have resulted in the emergence of a cultural shift, which has added a substantial dimension to translation (Bassnett & Lefevere, 1990). Its emphasis has switched from how and what translates to what translations do and how translations impact. The literary world and societal perception, are one of the most essential aspects of gender concerns, according to (Chen & Chen, 2016, p. 178). The challenges in translation depend on various factors such as text type, linguistic variety, and over-time impacts (Chamberlain, 1998). Several variables are provided when compilers must pick their gender, displaying a type of difficulty that occurs while converting gender in a community. This is especially problematic in translation language terms, since establishing a social gender is more difficult and perplexing than defining expressions that truly belong to a certain gender (Drumsta, 2021).

Translation has contributed to connecting communities, cultures, ideologies, ideas, and languages, paving the way for globalization. This one has decided to invade other aspects of life and has introduced most of the world's languages. Gender, or more generally, "gender dissimilarities," has done the same. It penetrates every aspect of our lives and influences how we view and think about the world (Wallmach, 2006). Moreover, the academic field course has earned worldwide recognition and is recognized by all national and international organizations. Translation academics, philosophers, and investigators began to concentrate their research on issues like sex and feminism in the 1990s, and their results have influenced many academic disciplines around the world (Hou et al., 2020). Gender is a relational power defined in religious writings that have been translated and rewritten into several languages, such as the Qur'an and the Bible. It still sparks disputes and squabbles among conservatives and editors, influencing how it is checked. Hence, feminist translators are proponents of an end to the masculine's violent and illogical supremacy over the feminine in language.

This section continues to peek at linguistics and gender in various stages, not to mention the influence of phonemic, lexicon, and other grammatical studies (Anna & Greville, 2008). When the nouns in question are naturally female or male and the masculine gender is assigned. Grammatical genders (made up of male, female, and neuter categories) differ according to a formal norm anchored in each language's cultural perspective; the purpose of the term produces semantic genders, including "Hero" and "Heroine". Nonetheless, in social categorization, the lexical gender "drag queen" is negatively connected with a homosexual guy

having heterosexual sex. Moving away from issues that languages represent various ways of viewing reality, it is contended here that language syntax is related to gender (i.e., grammar versus implicit genders), despite gender norms having a considerable influence on the translating procedure and thus how it is intended (Lanka, 2023).

Gender is described as "the syntactic categorization of verbs but also associated sentences, which roughly translate to gender and gender lossless" (Celis & Childs, 2020). The characteristics of a pronominal category framework per linguistic criteria can exclusively mark the corresponding gender, except for the non-gender-specific it/its/itself and they/them/their/ themselves. Gender names are widely used across languages. Numerous languages, including Spanish, German, and Arabic, classify nouns as masculine or feminine; however, English lacks this difference during that layer. Masculinity is a part used across Arabic and English indicating a sexual morphology to be expected, even when the grammar appears to be flexible (Muassomah et al., 2021). Thus, gender discrimination is far less difficult to deal with if communication occurs between languages that illustrate, all due to the metaphysics of sexuality. The communication process can even generate additional issues. Metaphors and personifications can be ideologically specific, as a single culture may denote a specific masculinity, while another culture may use a different translation, resulting in different connotations and actions.

RESEARCH QUESTION

The objective of this research is to determine and answer two critical questions about the convergence of translation and gender issues. First, it explores changing perspectives on gender issues by delving into how deciding how to translate texts across linguistics impacts the representation and interpretation of gender. This aspect of the study is crucial for mastering the function of translating plays in either perpetuating or challenging gender norms. Second, the study examines contemporary translators' strategies in this field and contrasts them with those of traditional feminist translators. By doing so, it aims to shed light on the evolution of numerous methods used during translation in the context of gender, highlighting how modern approaches may differ from or build upon the foundations laid by earlier feminist translation theories and methodologies.

LITERATURE REVIEW

FEMINIST TRANSLATION THEORY

The Feminist theory was established during the 20th century and has risen in value since the 1980s. The study concentrated on multilingual literary works by women from France, America, and Canada. At one point, the concept was trying to put an end to the experience of translation. However, in the 1990s, the feminist viewpoint garnered a great deal of attention from researchers as well as linguists, resulting in a complex scenario.

On top of that, feminist translators hold views that marginalize women in translation and challenge the authoritarian system. As a result, translation is significantly affected by culture, as Homi Bhabha (2012, p. 14) claimed, "the definition of translating is called into question in a

world of shifting boundaries, emphasizing its potential to identify and represent". Due to such feminism, translation tends to restore the veiled and invisible feminine through the application of male principles. Feminist translators utilize creative words and reproduction of meaning with an emphasis on their natural agency and critical viewpoint in their traditional translations. Conceptions of equivalency are violated by the production of meaning: "to produce comparable texts, which is to downsize both the source writing and the target text to an acceptable level, thus producing in-different texts" (Flotow, 2014, p. 18). The translation is considered a production instead of a reproduction framework. It makes the masculine less prominent and the feminine more prominent in the language. In other words, it refuses to concentrate on language and acknowledges the possibility of another language. As a result, the masculine no longer heads the field, as feminist translators actively assume the feminine position to transform subordination into importance.

A feminist who examines worldwide and informal viewpoints was rewritten by Olga and Emek (2020). Investigated feminist techniques when it comes to different historical and geographical settings in opposition to the context of multinational activities, which oppose various types of dominance. As asserted by one of the writers, "translation is vital for solidarity, and global solidarity is impossible not including it" (Castro & Ergun, 2020, p.19). The chapters exemplify translational action by examining diverse instances from China, France, Galicia, Germany, India, Italy, Morocco, Poland, Spain, Turkey, the UK, and the US. Furthermore, the sections consist of situations in which feminist ideological translation engagement transpires across a context of colonial power dynamics, which create unequal relationships between cultures of words and activists (Deller, 2018).

One of Bracke's recent publications was a new work titled *Translating Feminism: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Text, Place, and Agency,* which was a part of the book series *Palgrave Studies in Language, Gender, and Sexuality (PSLGS).* The book analyses feminists throughout history and in the present day across the world, bridging the gap between empirical research. The editors aim to understand how translation processes reframe visions of a fairer society and reinvent gender roles. The book provides a historical narrative of post-1945 global feminists focusing on international meeting transfers as well as the consequences of words and cultures (Bracke et al., 2021).

Sherry Simon points out that "feminism seems to be another social and ideological stance, able to translate the Bible" (1996, p. 48). Translating religious texts not only provides insight into the interpretation task of translation but also draws attention to the impact of gender language in sacred texts. Some suggestions suggested a Bible version with an inclusive language rather than a limited language that certainly promoted sexism; that is, "they" are inclusive, while "he" or "he" is exclusive and discriminatory by gender; it also excludes the other. The illustration around gender language is Arabic, which consists of gender terms in all aspects of life. Thus, it is the best in grammatical sex. The latest translator of the Quran, Laleh Bakhtiar (2011), believes that the Quran's language is universal, so she largely uses inclusive languages to eliminate sexist languages, leading to misinterpretations. In summary, feminist translators demand an end to offensive and irrational masculinity over femineity in languages.

The Quran is a complex language with various themes compared to the modernized. Arabic and Quranic are rich standard languages with many meanings, and each word has numerous meanings, making translation difficult for native speakers (Yuksel, 2007). Understanding and explaining the Quran requires knowing the historical and social contexts of the Quran and the reason for the revelation of each verse. As a result, many translators translate poetry, while

others are based on prose. Most Muslim female translators, who translated the Quran into English accepted the fact they were close to the original lacking modifying it, and usually followed the arrangement of chapters and poems. Since Arabic is a highly sex-oriented language rather than English, it is highly challenging to convert women from Arabic to English. According to Amina (1999), in her book *"Qur'an and Women,"* she explores the topic of *"woman's views".* She contends that the Arabic translation of the Quran supplies universal principles and counsel that go beyond gender differences, proving that the language does not limit its ability to do so. There is no restriction on the use of gender-specific Arabic vocabulary in the Quran; this proves that the holy book can transcend translation difficulties in addition to providing universal wisdom regardless of gender.

LANGUAGE STRUCTURE AND GENDER DISTINCTION

Grammatical gender is assigned to nouns, pronouns, and other linguistic. Components across a variety of words translating these languages into languages that have no grammatical gender according to formal rules may provide difficulties since the gender-specific subtleties may be diminished or modified. Pauwels (2003) describes a dialect; in this regard, the syntactic framework identity method organizes ideas founded regarding fundamental systemic features. When translating between these two systems, two major issues arise. 1) The gender-specific word is either an adjective in the native tongue (SL) or never in the target language (TL). There are occasions when the gendered usage of the word is purely grammar, yet while are also times when the word must belong to a man or woman to give context to the text. 2) A gender-specific word and otherwise an adjective seems not to be present in SL but offered in TL. Whereas English might simply mention "moon" or even the "girl", inserting "el" before "sol" or "la" before "file" isn't an issue when translating into English or Arabic. Gender is not mentioned in the native languages; the context in the terminus language might alter. Consider the phrase "I do" in several speeches, no gender is linked to the use of the pronoun "I," and not only must the pronoun be gender-specific, but also the verb form "does" should take the gender-specific form.

Semantics sets apart the male and female words from the biologically distinct. It looks like such a paradox, but complications are afoot. In English, for example, if the gender is known, the cat is called "he" or "she"; otherwise, the cat is called "she". This option is not available in many languages. To make matters even more complicated, some cultures try to eliminate gender by using transsexual pronouns such as "zie, zim, zir, zis, zieself" rather than "she" instead. Even LGBT people cannot agree on gender-neutral pronouns, so translators may face some surprising dilemmas in the coming years (Tavits & Pérez, 2019).

Social Gender categorizes nouns according to their sense of the community. A directory to this kind of "socially charged paradox between male and female roles and personality traits," (Barr et al., 2024, p. 14). For instance, the English word "secretary" used to imply that a man filled this role, but this is no longer the case. In other societies, the terms "chef" or "maid" serve a specific social gender purpose. Cameron (2003) highlights that linguistic and gender ideology are both time- and place-specific, changing beyond historic and cultural periods. Romaine (1999) illustrates this with the gender circumstances of "ambiguous" and mentions that gender disparities in a language are rarely context-independent. This happens since a word may mean varied based on who uses it in a certain circumstance.
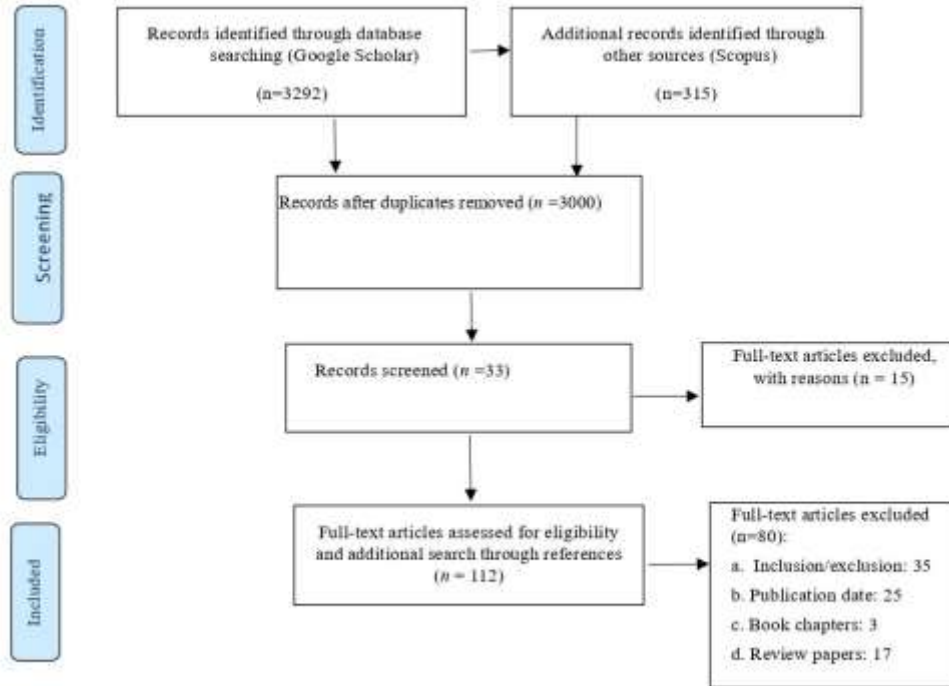
METHODOLOGY

The systematic literature review followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) methodology (Liberati et al., 2009). All research from (2002–2022) approach utilized the historical background of the papers reviewed in the present study (Uman, 2011). The present review used a qualitative review method to analyse each article assembled. Suri and Clarke (2009) describe qualitative research development as the systematic synthesis of qualitative research to increase the reliability, validity, and universality of production results. A systematic and comprehensive review is a study approach with comprehensive procedures to evaluate research literature (Gough et al., 2012). The published studies are the "gold standard" for examining current information on a specific issue since they collected all findings of prior studies that addressed identical or related problems (Boland, 2017).

Figure 1 depicts the flow chart of the study selection process, based on the PRISMA design. Considering using the keywords "gender" or "translation" as the search criteria, a total of obtained using 3292 entries from Google Scholar and 315 records from Scopus during the identifying step. Following filtering and removing duplicates throughout the screening phase, 3000 records were remaining. The database illustrates that Google Scholar produces an important number of items. However, many results are citations, patents, or other types of research that lack the selection criteria. Once the most popular search directories were selected, relevant keywords derived from the search questions were used to search for relevant titles of articles. The titles, keywords, and abstracts were reviewed and evaluated using the previously specified inclusion and exclusion criteria. A total of 112 entries were eliminated because they were unrelated to translation research, according to the exclusion criteria listed above. Each of these articles is analysed and filtered based on the inclusion and exclusion standards. Hence, 15 research papers were incorporated into the analytical process as they met the selection criteria. The period has been restricted since 2002 and 2022, and the relationship between gender and translation increased (Zhu et al., 2023).

Figure 1

PRISMA 2009 flow diagram illustrating the search process.

To reinforce assessments through research, methodological observations, study objectives, subject details, tests conducted, or relevant sources of information. It must be emphasized that works that met the exclusion criteria but were not published in journals, in addition to book chapters, and publications with the term "gender issue of language in translation" were hidden in their references. In addition, studies reporting on its advantages, disadvantages, features, limitations, and cognition and language processing problems were recognized as important standards within the scope of the research. Reviews of traditional literature are generally confined to literature previously unknown to the readers or literature uncovered in short investigations. As a result, rigorous research is frequently mentioned, demonstrating a consistent preference for literary assessments. Systematic findings reduce implicit researcher bias through extensive search techniques, a pre-defined search function, and consistent inclusion and exclusion criteria; systematic studies have successfully encouraged experimenters to pursue investigations outside their subject areas and networks (Mallett et al., 2012). A comprehensive literature assessment is used to evaluate many resources for academic study to adhere to the process described by (Kitchenham, 2009). Consider the following Table 1 in this regard:

Table 1

Inclusion and exclusion criteria.

INCLUSION CRITERIA	EXCLUSION CRITERIA
It should include the gender issue	Articles that do not discuss the gender problem
It must have appeared during the last ten years	Articles must have been published up to ten years ago
It must be written in English	Articles not written in English
Should concentrate on contemporary organizations	Articles investigating traditional organizations

DATA ANALYSIS

The source of knowledge for this report originated from the Web of Science, Google Scholar, Taylor & Francis Online, Springer, and IEEE Xplore. The period was set from 2002 to 2022 and the document type was limited to journal publications as well as conference proceedings. This section provides the audience with a summary of the study's findings on gender issues in translation, as well as key components of implementing feminist translation theory. Based on the written works of 15 topics that were examined and graded. The following is a detailed outline of the review's methodology and literature: 1) Look for important information. Seeking any to obtain the necessary information in papers, books, or undiscovered graduate theses and 2) The author's gathering of data. Indicate the writers, year out of the publisher, technique, and the results of the prior study 3) The topic that did not match the first and any of the last two criteria was eliminated. Rather than focusing on a detailed explanation of the technical work in the area, this allowed for a better understanding of the overall growth of the field of gender translation. The pre-selection criteria were put in place to help with ranking refinement. Table 2 shows the outcomes of the database search.

Table 2

Research terms used.

DATABASE	SEARCH FUNCTION	FINDING
Google Scholar	Gender issue in translation or translation in gender	3292
Scopus	Impact of gender on translation	315
Springer	Impact of translation on gender	108
Taylor and Francis Online	Gender issue or translation in gender	30
IEEE Xplore	Gender issue in translation	14

FINDINGS

The top fifteen articles that opted for the systematic review were reviewed to ensure a standard examination to determine the study's quality. In terms of methodology, most of the studies analysed used both a qualitative approach (n = 10) and a design using both methods (n = 3). Nevertheless, a handful were examined as case studies (n = 2). Relatedly, the research publications spanned from feminist translation studies to gender theories. 25% of the research

focused on feminists, while 30% of the work sought to investigate language structure by gender. Table 3 provides an overview of all the studies that were used; below that, there is more data categorized related to new findings, techniques, issues, rules, and current trends.

Table 3

Analysis of studies

AUTHORS	METHOD	SL-TL	OBJECTIVES
Irshad and Yasmin (2022)	Qualitative	English	The current study's goal is to educate audiences about the possibilities of a feminist statement on a translation through criticism.
Andone (2002)	Case study	English	The feminist theory enhanced linguistics by supplying new standpoints on the exploration process and the translator's gender.
Branch (2016)	Qualitative + Quantitative	Persian_ English	Considering the role language experts play alongside history and the spotlight on gender as a factor influencing translation work.
Eleonora and Vanessa (2012)	Qualitative	English - Italian	The goal of feminist translation studies is to actively reverse the fundamental significance of women in translation performed inside this community by opposing vocabulary which is oppressive as well as racist controlled the globe for years.
Federici and Leonardi (2012)	Case study	English	Gender difference is a considerable stage in recognizing the current situation of art in numerous situations and potential solutions to many challenges.
De Toro (2021)	Qualitative	English - Spanish	This article focuses on the character, whose fundamental paradigm, the fertility/sterility duality, has been adjusted in the Spanish dubbing owing to the phrases' grammatical masculinity.
Jaoudi (2022)	Quantitative	English	Females, as well as translations, share a similar background of oppression and subordination; thus, feminists easily identify themselves in regard to language and find a home during translating discipline because it permits them to make use of language to fight against gendered language.
Yousif (2015)	Quantitative	English- Arabic	Gender theories or prospects are required as it is communal outcomes of how humanity views reality and accepts social standards.
KHAN et al. (2021)	Qualitative + Quantitative	Persian - English	The research aims to examine the novel's ideologically charged lexicon (connected to gender issues) through its translation.
Khoshsaligheh (2013)	Quantitative	Persian – English	Concentrate upon that female problem various scholarly various viewpoints but also translations studies justifications.
Flotow and Scott (2016)	Qualitative review	English	Gender nature-culture is a calming reminder that normative knowledge of gender inequalities is prevalent and valid in its initial situation; in the second example no, such statement is available.
Nissen (2002)	Qualitative	English - Danish	The linguist's involvement in evaluating gender aspects of the source text as well as highlighting the theological influence of gender implications in both the source and target text.
Al-Ramahi (2014)	Qualitative + Quantitative	Arabic - English	The aim is to investigate a variety using language strategies used during gender, including the ideologies it inspires gender marking in both source

			text (ST) and target text (TT).
Shread (2019)	Quantitative	English - Italian	Gender and Ideology in Translation: Do Women and Men Translate Differently? Analysis of contrasts.
Zohra (2016)	Qualitative	Arabic - English	This research seeks to analyze women's sexism throughout the Arab paganism period.

DISCUSSION

The role of the gender component of a person determines it. Contributes to the regulation of people's actions and social roles; distinct behaviours, qualities, and personal features are assigned to various genders based on cultural norms and values (Hamidi & Nippoldt, 2019). It influences how people see themselves and serves as a basis for relationships with others (Steensma et al., 2013). Gender identities and manifestations are multifaceted, with a variety of elements and their interactions.

Issues related to gender in the translated texts covered here suggest that when people talk about "transcultural transmission" of ideas (Larkosh, 2014). It probably means a cross-ideological transmission that considers factors like historical context, social shifts, gender roles, preconceptions, and socioeconomic position. Therefore, the translator must have a thorough comprehension of the many factors that influence both ST and TT. There are many aspects of linguistic categories, like gender, that is unknown in source texts, even to native speakers (Hall & Hiramoto, 2021). Studying feminist translation requires drawing upon initiatives from several fields of study and social creation. The reason behind that is evident in gender translation. The target texts are always more ideologically dense than the source materials. Whether discussing more mundane practices or more delicate matters, the translation might be vague at times (Castro & Spoturno, 2020).

It was discovered that both community and audience members. Sometimes, repressed women in translating occupations were seen as less valuable than original employment. The recognition and critique of women's consideration and translation are alternatively fundamental to feminist theory. Instead of stopping at the intersection of literature and community, Simon goes one step further by arguing that translator-author loyalty should exist in dedicated translation projects (Simon, 1996).

According to our findings, many academics have been working on projects using anonymous communication technologies during the last several years (Lu & Wang, 2019). This is a result of the new and exciting avenues that research on discreet dialogue systems is taking. Researchers from across the globe are getting down to the business of solving current open challenges, driven by the pressing expectation of secrecy and safety. This research might potentially be expanded to include more authors to reduce the time it takes to collect data, evaluate it, write up the results, and submit the publication to a journal The majority of academics, according to SLR results, want to publish in scholarly publications, whereas only a small percentage of papers publish in conferences, particularly as well as clarification in metalinguistics (Gholaminia & Marzban, 2014).

The research investigates the connection between writers' genders, contrasting previous reports on gender translation and highlighting the additional impact on gender issues. Many subject areas have revealed very valid disparities in terms of gender. Several factors are presented, for example, physical and emotional factors related to conduct as well as gaps.

Virtually every field, including distinctions, also received attention from numerous investigations. This entails going over which methodologies or procedures different researchers employed while applying feminist translation theory-specific findings. We discovered two distinct applications of feminist theory: 1) an impact on feminist consciousness addition ideology about language activity, and 2) transmissions on gendered translational linguistics used this method for translation and provided the actual details to the destination text. The issue of gender goes beyond translations to studies in previous academic inquiry reflections on identification problems in post-colonial research and social and cultural problems.

CONCLUSION

This article has discussed the critical interplay between translation practices and gender issues, underlining their significance through a systematic literature review. By examining influential research, highly cited works, focal interests, objectives, and findings pertinent to feminist theorists in this domain, the study utilized a qualitative approach to forecasting potential shifts in scholarly leadership tied closely to the topic. It reviewed fifteen international journals from 2002 to 2022, uncovering key findings related to internal language processing, the variability of effects, and notable differences in the reliability of translations across gender identities. The process and implications of conducting a systematic review were critically assessed, highlighting the benefits and challenges of this research methodology. This examination serves as a guide for researchers contemplating the systematic review path and as a resource for supervisors in mentoring students capable of undertaking such comprehensive analyses. It emphasizes the systematic review's educational value in enhancing students' research quality and its positive impact on gender-related studies. However, the study acknowledges certain limitations, including the exclusive reliance on specific databases like the ACM Digital Library, ScienceDirect, and Springer for sourcing materials. The incorporation of additional databases such as Google Scholar, Scopus, IEEE Xplore, and Taylor & Francis is recommended for a more exhaustive exploration of the subject matter. This broader approach aims to enrich the understanding and insights into the complex relationship between translation and gender, thereby contributing to the field's development and encouraging more nuanced and inclusive research endeavours.

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