



EDITORIAL

Inaugural Editorial: Launching the Journal of Language Service Studies

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As we stand at the crossroads of a rapidly evolving global landscape, where information technology and artificial intelligence are reshaping the very fabric of human interaction, the field of language service emerges as a pivotal force in bridging cultures, facilitating knowledge exchange, and driving global collaboration. It is with profound excitement and a sense of academic responsibility that we launch the *Journal of Language Service Studies* (JLSS), the first academic journal in China and indeed around the world, dedicated exclusively to the multifaceted domain of language services. This inaugural issue marks the realization of a long-cherished vision: to establish a platform that nurtures scholarly discourse, fosters innovation, and connects researchers and practitioners across the globe in an endeavor to advance the frontiers of language service studies.

The Genesis: Filling a Critical Void

Language service, a add a space after the hyphen: knowledge- and technology-intensive modern service industry, has witnessed exponential growth in recent years. By 2024, the global language service market exceeded USD 65 billion, while China's industry soared past RMB 198.2 billion. These figures are not merely economic indicators; they reflect the growing recognition of language services as a cornerstone of globalization, international commerce, and cultural diplomacy. Yet, despite this remarkable expansion, the academic landscape has been notably devoid of a specialized outlet that comprehensively addresses the theoretical, methodological, and practical dimensions of language services. Existing journals often relegate language services to a peripheral role within broader

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translation studies or applied linguistics, failing to capture the industry's complexity, technological advancements, and interdisciplinary nature.

JLSS seeks to fill this void by providing a dedicated space where scholars and professionals can explore the intricate interplay between language, technology, society, and commerce. Our mission is twofold: to promote rigorous academic research that deepens our understanding of language service phenomena and to facilitate dialogue between academia and industry, ensuring that theoretical insights inform practical applications and vice versa. In an era where machine translation, artificial intelligence, and globalization are transforming how languages are mediated, there is an urgent need for a journal that engages with these developments critically, systematically, and innovatively.

Scope and Vision: Embracing Diversity and Interdisciplinarity

JLSS is committed to presenting a broad spectrum of research that reflects the rich tapestry of language service studies. Our content spans a wide range of subfields, including but not limited to *Translation and Language Service Education*, *Intelligent Translation and Language Services*, *Business Translation and Language Services*, *Legal Translation and Language Services*, *Medical Translation and Language Services*, *Emergency Language Services*, *Language Services for the Elderly*, *Language Service-scape*, and *Translation and Language Service Technologies*. This diversity of topics is intentional, reflecting our belief that language services are not confined to traditional translation practices but encompass a vast ecosystem of activities that touch every aspect of modern life.

We welcome various types of contributions, including empirical research papers, theoretical essays, case studies, practical experience sharing, literature reviews, and commentaries on trending topics. Whether exploring the pedagogical challenges in training the next generation of language service professionals, analyzing the impact of artificial intelligence on translation quality, examining the role of language services in legal compliance across borders, or investigating the unique needs of elderly populations in accessing language support, all submissions are evaluated for their scholarly merit, originality, and rel-

evance to the field.

A defining feature of JLSS is our international perspective. In an increasingly interconnected world, language service issues are rarely confined to national borders. Our editorial board comprises distinguished scholars and industry experts from China and around the globe, representing a rich diversity of academic traditions, cultural backgrounds, and professional experiences. This global outlook ensures that the journal serves as a genuine forum for cross-cultural dialogue, enabling Chinese scholars to engage with international debates and vice versa. We believe that by bringing together different voices and perspectives, we can foster a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of language service phenomena.

Academic Excellence: Rigor and Integrity in Peer Review

Maintaining the highest standards of academic excellence is at the core of JLSS's mission. To this end, we have established a rigorous double-blind peer review system, whereby each submission is evaluated by two or more experts in the relevant field. This process ensures that only high-quality, original, and intellectually stimulating work reaches our pages. Our editorial team, composed of seasoned scholars and experienced practitioners, works tirelessly to uphold these standards, providing constructive feedback to authors and guiding them through the revision process when necessary.

We are also committed to promoting transparency and integrity in scholarly communication. All articles published in JLSS undergo thorough checks for plagiarism and ethical compliance, and we adhere to the highest standards of academic publishing ethics as outlined by international bodies such as the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). By establishing a reputation for rigor and reliability, we aim to become a trusted source of knowledge for researchers, educators, and professionals worldwide.

Innovation and Impact: Addressing Real-World Challenges

While JLSS is firmly rooted in academic scholarship, we also recognize the importance of engaging with real-world challenges. The language service industry is facing

unprecedented transformations driven by technological innovation, changing global demographics, and evolving societal needs. Issues such as the ethical implications of artificial intelligence in translation, the provision of emergency language services during crises, and the design of inclusive language services for aging populations are not only of academic interest but also have significant practical implications.

Our “practical orientation” feature encourages research that combines theoretical insights with empirical evidence from real-world settings. Case studies and practitioner insights are vital components of our content, as they bridge the gap between academia and industry, offering valuable lessons for both. By promoting such research, we hope to inspire innovative solutions to the challenges facing the language service industry, whether in improving translation quality, enhancing service delivery, or advocating for greater access to language support for underserved communities.

A Call to Collaboration: Building a Global Community

The launch of JLSS is not just an event; it is the beginning of a journey. We invite scholars, researchers, practitioners, and students from all over the world to join us in shaping this new frontier in language service studies. Whether you are submitting an article, reviewing a manuscript, or simply engaging with our content, your participation is essential to creating a vibrant and dynamic academic community.

To our authors, we offer a platform that values creativity, rigor, and relevance. We encourage you to push

the boundaries of traditional scholarship, exploring new methodologies, interdisciplinary approaches, and under-researched topics. To our readers, we promise a diverse and thought-provoking collection of articles that will inform your research, inspire your practice, and broaden your intellectual horizons. To our editorial board members and reviewers, we express our deepest gratitude for your expertise and commitment to maintaining the highest standards of academic excellence.

As we look to the future, we are inspired by the potential of JLSS to make a lasting impact on the field of language service studies. We envision a journal that not only reflects the current state of the art but also anticipates future trends, challenges, and opportunities. With your support, we hope to build a publication that is synonymous with quality, innovation, and global engagement – a journal that serves as a catalyst for change in an increasingly interconnected world.

The inaugural issue of JLSS is a testament to the hard work and dedication of many individuals and institutions, particularly the Institute of International Language Services Studies, Macau Millennium College and ZYIE Publisher, whose vision and support have made this project possible. As Editor-in-Chief, I am honored to lead this endeavor and look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders in advancing the field of language service studies.

Welcome to the *Journal of Language Service studies*. Together, let us embark on a journey of discovery, dialogue, and innovation – a journey that celebrates the power of language to connect, transform, and inspire.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.