**Testing the Concatenation Effect Hypothesis**

**James Hadley** | Trinity College Dublin

The concatenation effect hypothesis postulates that indirect translations exhibit certain tendencies, such as an observable reduction in the number of culturally specific elements identifiable with the source culture when compared to translations produced directly. These tendencies, the hypothesis infers, are caused by the fact that translators producing translations indirectly not only have their own strategies, but are also unavoidably affected by the strategies of the translators on whose worth their own is based.

Until now, the concatenation effect hypothesis has been explored in a purely qualitative manner, across a variety of linguistic and cultural contexts. However, the research project underpinning this paper is now moving towards an empirical mode of testing the hypothesis, using digital humanities methodologies.

This paper will outline the concatenation effect hypothesis and why it lends itself to empirical testing. It will also outline the range of factors that potentially feed into the concatenation effect, and therefore, require experiments to test them. The paper will then go on to share the preliminary structure of the methodology the project will use to test the hypothesis, raising a series of technical issues still to be addressed, specifically for the analysis of indirect translations between East Asian and European languages.

**Bio-note:** James Hadley is Ussher Assistant Professor in Literary Translation at Trinity College Dublin. He is also the Director of Trinity’s MPhil in Literary Translation and a researcher at the Trinity Centre for Literary Translation. His research and teaching interests are broad, spanning translation theory and translation history. His research covers all languages and contexts, but has a particular focus on translations both into and from Japanese. He is particularly interested in empirical, digital humanities research.