Responding to a growing need for diversification in the language industry:
The place of multiple expertise paradigms in contextualizing competence

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Today's language industry professionals are being impacted by perpetual change to an unprecedented extent. Primary drivers of change include rapid technological advancement, increasingly ubiquitous implementation of artificial intelligence in various stages of project workflows and a transition from desktop-based computing to shared, cloud-based workspaces. Change comes in the form of the very kinds of tasks language industry professionals undertake, the technologies they use to do so and the stakeholders with whom they interact and collaborate in the process. For many, some degree of diversification across tasks along these lines has become the norm, even for those professionals offering value-added deep specialization in a given niche.

An inherent and growing need for diversification is sparking renewed interest among Translation Studies scholars researching facets of expertise, particularly with an eye towards language industry training. Classic psychological paradigms of expertise (Ericsson and Charness, 1997) have been complemented by socio-cognitive paradigms (Muñoz, 2014) that explore expertise based on interaction with artefacts and other actants (see Risku and Schlager, 2021). Discussions of domain-specific, routinized expertise (Shreve, 2002) are now accompanied by discussions of adaptive expertise (Angelone, 2022) and interactional/team expertise, among several other types of expertise (Alves and da Silva, 2021). This presentation will discuss how various types of expertise, both old and new as research paradigms in our field, might inform existing competence models when it comes to addressing an industry need for diversification. These types of expertise will be contextualized based on survey data collected from language industry professionals who graduated from Kent State University's MA in Translation program within the past five years.

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