

Cambridge Elements[≡]

Elements in Translation and Interpreting

edited by
Kirsten Malmkjær
University of Leicester

RISK MANAGEMENT IN TRANSLATION

Anthony Pym
Universitat Rovira i Virgili



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-54684-3 — Risk Management in Translation
Anthony Pym
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009546843

DOI: 10.1017/9781009546836

© Anthony Pym 2025

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009546836

First published 2025

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-009-54684-3 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-54687-4 Paperback

ISSN 2633-6480 (online)

ISSN 2633-6472 (print)

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

Risk Management in Translation

Elements in Translation and Interpreting

DOI: 10.1017/9781009546836
First published online: January 2025

Anthony Pym
Universitat Rovira i Virgili

Author for correspondence: Anthony Pym, anthony.pym@urv.cat

Abstract: Once fidelity and equivalence are abandoned, how can successful translation be understood? Risk management offers an alternative way of looking at the work of translators and their social function. It posits that the greater the cultural differences, the greater the risks of failed communication. What can be done to manage those risks? Drawing on the ways translators and interpreters handle intercultural encounters by adjusting what is said, this Element outlines a series of strategies that can be applied to all kinds of cross-cultural communication. Practical examples are drawn from a wide range of contexts, from Australian bushfires to court interpreting in Barcelona, with special regard for the new kinds of risks presented by machine translation and generative AI. The result is a critical view of the professionalization of translation, and a fresh account of democratized translation as a rich human activity in the service of cross-cultural cooperation.

This element has a video abstract available at: Cambridge.org/EITI_Pym

Keywords: translation, risk management, cooperation, trust, translation technologies

© Anthony Pym 2025

ISBNs: 9781009546843 (HB), 9781009546874 (PB), 9781009546836 (OC)
ISSNs: 2633-6480 (online), 2633-6472 (print)

Contents

1	Why Talk about Risk?	1
2	Risk of What?	8
3	Types of Risk Management	18
4	Trust as Risk Management	31
5	Risks in Automated Translation	38
6	A Case for More Risk-Taking	50
	References	58