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**THE TRANSLATOR**

STUDIES IN INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION



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*The Translator* is a refereed international journal that seeks to bring professional and academic interests closer together by addressing issues that have relevance in both professional and academic settings. It publishes articles on a variety of issues related to translation and interpreting as acts of intercultural communication, without restriction in scope to any particular school of thought or academic group. By keeping an open mind on how translation can or should be studied and the kind of disciplines that can inform it, *The Translator* hopes to provide a meeting point for existing as well as future approaches and to stimulate interaction between various groups who share a common concern for translation as a profession and translation studies as a discipline. *Translation* is understood to cover all types of translation, whether written or oral, including activities such as literary and commercial translation, various forms of oral interpreting, dubbing, voice-overs, subtitling, translation for the stage, and such under-researched areas as sign language interpreting and community interpreting.

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# THE TRANSLATOR

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*Investigar con corpus en traducción: los retos de un nuevo paradigma* (Corpus-based Research in Translation Studies: A Challenging New Paradigm). Gloria Corpas Pastor. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2008. 297 pp. ISBN 978-3-631-58405-7 (pbk), £36.10/€51.50.

Corpus-based Translation Studies (CTS) has become a well-established sub-discipline within the field of translation studies. It has had a significant impact on Descriptive Translation Studies, where research on translation universals has been of paramount importance over the last decade. However, given that research on translation universals has been characterized by the use of introspection and a lack of empirical data, the findings have been somewhat provisional.

By contrast, *Investigar con corpus en traducción: los retos de un nuevo paradigma* explores translation universals in a systematic and rigorous way within a coherent theoretical framework. Gloria Corpas Pastor successfully combines two important elements in her research reported on in this volume: an empirical methodology based on corpora, and computational linguistics and natural language processing techniques. This innovative study examines the validity of three translation universals: simplification, convergence and transfer. In the process, the author introduces a new research paradigm to CTS that can be applied to all languages and fields. The result is a solid example of scientific corpus-based translation research that breaks with many of the preconceptions about translation universals found in previous studies.

The book is divided into five chapters, followed by a concluding section, references and five appendices. In the first five chapters the author presents a detailed account of her research followed, by a discussion of the main findings in the conclusion. Chapter One, 'Breve recorrido histórico' (A Brief Historical Overview), reviews the projects dealing with language technologies across the European Commission's seven Framework Programmes. It also discusses corpus-based research on the fundamentals, methods and applications of computational linguistics (see Mitkov 2003) and on Applied Linguistics. A discussion of the relationship between corpus linguistics, computational linguistics and translation studies reappears in Chapter Two, 'Metodología de corpus para el establecimiento de la equivalencia' (A Corpus-Based Methodology for Establishing Equivalences). The primary purpose of this chapter is to analyze the use of corpora for the study of equivalence in translation studies. These two chapters constitute the theoretical background and methodological framework informing the research, and serve as an introduction to the use of corpora, including their most recent applications.

In Chapter Three, 'Aportaciones a los Estudios de Traducción e Interpretación' (Contributions to Translation and Interpreting Studies), the author focuses on the contribution of corpora to translation studies or, more specifically, to CTS. Two central themes are explored: a learning-teaching approach to translation and interpreting, and the study of norms, laws and universals of translation, i.e., simplification, explicitation, normalization, convergence and

transfer, as conceptualized in Descriptive Translation Studies (Baker 1993, Toury 1995). This chapter serves as a theoretical introduction to the author's study of universals, which is presented in the two chapters that follow.

In Chapters Four and Five, 'Investigación de la hipótesis de universalidad: organización de los datos' (Research on the Universality Hypothesis: Data Organization) and 'Investigación de la hipótesis de universalidad: experimentos y resultados' (Research on the Universality Hypothesis: Experiments and Results), Corpas Pastor provides details of her analysis of three translation universals, simplification, convergence and transfer. In Chapter Four, she describes the main objectives of the study, and the methodology and techniques used, including the hypothesis on which the study is based. Given her view that previous research on translation universals has been only partially successful due to the type of corpora and data used, she describes in detail the compilation of the different corpora used in her study as well as the data relevant to its organization and design. In Chapter Five, Corpas Pastor provides an exhaustive description of the experiments carried out to test each of the three universals and the corresponding results. She analyzes these results, compares them with those of similar studies and demonstrates the existence or non-existence of the three universals.

In the concluding section, Corpas Pastor summarizes the main findings of the study, interprets her results and suggests future avenues of research that can be derived from her work. She invites the research community to study translation universals bearing in mind two necessary conditions: (1) diversifying the languages, fields and domains under study, and (2) improving techniques and methods.

*Investigar con corpus en traducción: los retos de un nuevo paradigma* is an invaluable contribution to CTS. The book offers a concise and thorough study that both breaks with misconceptions from the past and opens up new lines of research for the future. Its interdisciplinary approach makes it of particular relevance to researchers and postgraduate students not only in translation studies, but also in computational linguistics and corpus linguistics. Corpas Pastor provides an innovative new framework in which traditional translation universals (in particular, simplification, convergence, and transfer) are questioned and rigorously analyzed. She demonstrates that the use of appropriate corpora in translation studies, combined with the application of computational linguistics and NLP techniques, can offer reliable results. In light of both the approach and the results obtained, this volume marks a distinct turning point in Corpus-based research. A paper presentation of the research is due to be published in English (Corpas *et al.*, in press).

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*Translation in Global News*. Esperança Bielsa and Susan Bassnett. London & New York: Routledge, 2009. 168 pp. ISBN 978-0-415-40973-5 (hbk), \$110.00, ISBN 978-0-415-40972-8 (pbk), £24.99/\$41.95.

Contemporary translation studies involves the integration of related disciplines, including: linguistics, literature, cultural history, philosophy, anthropology and sociology. This interdisciplinarity has broadened the nature, status and objectives of translation studies, directing it away from traditional prescriptive approaches. *Translation in Global News* is an insightful attempt to study some of the common concerns of translation studies, globalization studies and media studies, and the first to deal extensively with the issue of translation practices in the context of global news. The authors explore the nature and role of news translation by outlining the conception of translation in different news agencies across the 19th and 20th centuries and conducting textual data analysis of agencies like Reuters, Agence France-Presse (AFP) and Inter Press Service (IPS). Taking news translation as their starting point, Bielsa and Bassnett successfully combine the two interdisciplinary fields of translation and globalization studies; their book demonstrates how news translation involves both interlingual news information transfer and the rewriting of news through translation for the consumption of a new set of readers in the target culture, for whom it is reshaped, edited, synthesized and transformed.

The book consists of seven chapters, a brief introduction and an appendix which explains the aims of the 2004 international symposium on the translation of global news which prompted the authors to conduct the research presented in this innovative book. In Chapter One, 'Power, Language and Translation',