

Exploring Translation Research Applicability: Description for Assessment (ACTRES/TRACE)

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1. INTRODUCTION

This paper sets out to explore the possibilities of designing an effective and efficient tool to contribute to the assessment of translations by using a limited number of language-pair-bound descriptive anchor phenomena, more specifically grammatical, not lexical anchor phenomena. Our proposal applies to narrative texts, although the working hypothesis is that the procedure is useful for any text type provided the data are relevant and appropriate for other textual varieties.

The proposal consists of two parts: the first focuses on tool building, on how to obtain descriptive data which are relevant for our applied aim; the second deals with the verification of applicability of these results. Basically this means that the procedure needs to be useful and usable, that is, it must identify the descriptive knowledge that is relevant for the applied needs it is meant to serve, and, its intended users must find the tools efficient and effective for their needs.

2. APPLICABILITY: USEFULNESS AND USABILITY

Usefulness is a performance indicator associated with the extent to which tools (technological, conceptual or otherwise) are relevant to the actual needs of a user. When research has an applied goal, not every phenomenon that is interesting from a descriptive point of view is necessarily relevant, but those that tend to be associated with frequent problems in cross-linguistic practice are.

The first requirement of an effective and efficient application is its *usability* -it is imperative to show how descriptive findings can work as an efficient tool for applied purposes. Unlike the usual corpus-based descriptive work, which is not directly usable, in this proposal the procedure, the conceptual tools, and the way to interpret the results must be made available to their final users and be usable (Rabadán: 2007in press). In other words, this is meant to be a contribution to applied TS.

3. THE APPLICABILITY OF DESCRIPTION: ANCHOR PHENOMENA

When examined from a cross-linguistic analytical perspective, certain grammatical areas show clear differences in the meanings some of the resources can convey in each of the languages. Empirical data demonstrate that dissimilarity in the way(s) grammatical meanings are conveyed is a constant source of cross-linguistic problems affecting both text processing and production. These features and their unnecessary transference into the other language also mark the difference between translated and non-translated language. These language-specific associations between grammatical meaning and formal resource can be seen as “anchor phenomena” and can be used as key indicators of the degree of success in cross-linguistic transfer. A performance which is close to non-translated usage of grammatical features would then rate higher for discourse and language quality than another which departs from it.

“Anchor” is used here in the same sense as in “anchor words”: in a parallel corpus, the anchor words are specific words that are defined for the two languages involved and that are related by some type of cross-linguistic equivalence. “Anchor phenomena” would then be those grammatical resources that are perceived as being cross-linguistically equivalent but that tend to and/or do convey partially divergent meanings, for example, the future in English and French (Celle 2005) or progressive forms in English and in Spanish (Rabadán 2005) among others. Since cross-linguistic grammatical meaning dissimilarity cannot be assumed to be the same for different language combinations or in each direction, the form-meaning associations that qualify as anchor phenomena also differ by direction and language combination.

4. ANCHOR PHENOMENON: SUBJECT PRONOUNS

For the pair and direction English→Spanish subject personal pronouns are a good candidate for ‘anchor phenomenon’. Roughly, pronouns have two main functions: deixis and anaphora (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 1463-82); however, the actualization and distribution of these roles is different in English and in Spanish. English always shows a formal filler in the subject slot, whereas in Spanish subject pronouns are typically omitted in the deictic function, as the information related to person, number, and gender (the latter except in the 1st and 2nd person singular) is already included in the verbal inflections. However, Spanish grants subject pronouns a number of extra uses which add pragmatic meanings such as contrast, narrative marker, etc.(Marcos Marín 1978, Alarcos 1980, Fernández Soriano 1999, Luján 1999). It is on these uses that we are going to focus in order to examine the real usefulness of these features as an anchor for assessment.

5. ANCHOR RESULTS STAGE: TOOLS

Monolingual reference corpora in the two languages have been used as comparable corpora (Labrador 2005, Ramón 2003), and more recently a parallel corpus has been compiled containing original English texts and their corresponding Spanish translations, the P-ACTRES corpus. This aligned parallel corpus includes written material from a variety of different registers (fiction, non-fiction, press & miscellanea) published in English in the year 2000 or later, thus representing the contemporary stage of the English language, and translated for the Spanish readership.

5.1. CREA and P-ACTRES

CREA is a very large reference corpus sponsored by the *Real Academia Española* and includes around 175 million words of running texts in a wide range of different registers and geographical varieties of the Spanish language worldwide. On the other hand, P-ACTRES is an open corpus and currently contains over a million words in English with their corresponding translations into peninsular Spanish only. The English-Spanish parallel texts that have been aligned at sentence level and can be searched with the Corpus Work Bench browser (CWB)¹. This aligned version² contains over one million three-hundred thousand words, distributed among fiction (45.88%), non-fiction (30.23%) and press (newspapers with 13.83% and magazines with 10.04%) as follows:

P-ACTRES	English	Spanish	Total
Books – Fiction	396,462	421,065	817,527
Books – Non-Fiction	494,358	553,067	1,047,425
Newspapers	115,502	137,202	252,704
Magazines	119,604	126,989	246,593
Miscellanea	40,178	49,026	89,204
TOTAL	1,166,104	1,287,349	2,453,453

Table 1: Contents of the English-Spanish Parallel Corpus: number of words (June 2007)

¹ We are grateful to Knut Hofland for his co-operation in the setting up of the P-ACTRES parallel corpus.

² A small demo is currently available at: <http://actres.unileon.es>.

5.2. *Tertium comparationis*: Cross-linguistic labels

A further (conceptual) tool which is necessary in the anchor building stage is the *tertium comparationis* (Krzyszowski 1990:15), which in this proposal consists of a set of cross-linguistic labels that function as the ‘model’ against which the degree of cross-linguistic match is measured. Anchor results, to be applicable, need to be both useful and usable. Our labels are useful for cross-linguistic meaning discrimination in the contrastive process (Rabadán 2005). Their role is to help identify the meaning features that are relevant for applied purposes. This means that general linguistics taxonomies are not necessarily useful here as they are geared primarily towards monolingual description. Application-oriented labels use information from any model of linguistic description and from different levels of analysis. This results in labels that show different statuses, since they account for grammatical, pragmatic, semantic, and even interlanguage information (Chesterman 1998:27-40).

In this study the labels have been set up drawing on Enríquez (1984), Luján (1999) and Fernández Soriano (1999) primarily, and they show a very irregular distribution depending on each particular form. Our choice has been to rework the information into the following labels/categories:

1. *Neutral*. This use corresponds to the basic deictic function and is always compulsory. This function is particularly relevant in the case of YO and TÚ (*tú y yo*).
2. *Emphatic*:
 - a. *Optional emphasis*. It refers to a surplus use of the pronoun which does not affect either deixis or anaphora, but that contributes pragmatic meanings such as ‘marker of formality’ (*usted*), focalization (*yo hago mi trabajo*), etc....
 - b. *Non-optional emphasis*. It is particularly relevant in the case of YO and ÉL (*soy yo, Teresa; ¿No fue él quien le pidió que me recibiera en su nombre?*).
 - c. *Contrastive*. This function is particularly relevant in the case of most pronouns. (*... o el matrimonio decidía salir y él se encargaba de aquella vigilancia...; ¡Eres tú quien debería estar aquí, no yo!*)
 - d. *Formulaic*. This function is particularly relevant in the case of TÚ (*vete tú a saber, allá tú.*)
 - e. *Narrative discourse marker*. A type of discourse reference marking which occurs when the explicit pronoun moves the narrative action forward. It is particularly relevant in the case of YO (*no os peleéis, que se lo cuento yo, y yo decía si no hace falta;*) and **USTED** and deserves to be considered separately.

5.3. Statistics

Statistics are useful when interpreting results. They can provide a welcome link between quantitative and qualitative empirical evidence as they help to focus on those uses or functions that trigger cross-linguistic problems. Yet, quantitative data by themselves do not supply applicable information. Results have to be filtered and their representativeness and suitability for the purposes of this study qualitatively assessed. This involves stating whether your results are statistically significant. Under the conditions of the descriptive data we are dealing with here, it is appropriate to use statistical ‘hypothesis testing for independent proportions’, and particularly two indicators: z-score and p-value. Both measure the difference between the data and what is expected under the null hypothesis (that both translated and non-translated grammatical usage are identical). Calculations have been done for a 95% confidence interval and a significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$.

6. METHOD

The working procedure followed in this paper is based on the combined use of data from a monolingual reference corpus in Spanish (CREA, Corpus de Referencia del Español Actual) and data from the P-ACTRES corpus, i.e., from Spanish translations of original English texts. The procedure is based on Krzeszowski’s model (1990) and comprises the following stages: selection and sampling; description, juxtaposition and contrast.

6.1. Selection and sampling

The subcorpus chosen has been in all cases ‘fiction’. The reason for this is that the use of personal pronouns in these texts is much higher than in non-fiction: for example, the unmarked 3rd person singular pronoun in original Spanish use comes to 55.70% for fiction vs. 30.18% non-fiction. A second reason for preferring fiction to other subcorpora is the fact that the results will be applicable to this particular text form, which accounts for both the usefulness and usability of the data.

Personal pronouns have been chosen as ‘anchor phenomena’ because of their very distinctive peculiarities in Spanish, as opposed to the rather straightforward use in English. The search has focused on singular personal pronouns (except for 3rd person feminine) in roles other than those where their omission would lead to ungrammatical sequences. This means YO, TÚ, EL and USTED (I, you, he and a 3rd person singular address form similar to French *vous*). Neutral contexts were not considered in the analysis because they do not supply useful information on account of their purely deictic function. These contexts are:

prepositional complementation (de ellos), distributive coordination (tú y yo) and subordinate contexts (menos que usted). Contexts where the pronouns have potentially additional meanings were selected from both CREA and P-ACTRES. Both corpora were sampled using simple random sampling to assure coverage and representativeness.

Because of its intended application this paper has focused exclusively on data from fiction texts, so the searches were restricted in both corpora to the fiction section. In the Spanish monolingual reference corpus CREA the 2000-onwards fiction section including texts only in European Spanish contains 2,379,249 words. The fiction section in P-ACTRES contains 421,065 words. In both cases the number of personal pronouns is very large, so a statistical formula was employed to extract only the necessary number of concordances for the analysis.

PRONOUN	POPULATION (N)	CASES STUDIED IN CREA	POPULATION (N)	CASES STUDIED IN P-ACTRES
yo	4,635	368	1,160	298
tú	1,691	324	177	177
él	2,927	352	625	244
usted	1675	323	198	133

Table 2. Quantitative data for anchor candidates

6.2. Description

A preliminary numerical analysis was carried out on the whole samples of original and translated Spanish in order to determine trends in overuse or underuse of personal pronouns in Spanish translations of English texts. The working hypothesis is that statistically significant differences in the use of pronouns (either over- or underuse) may have consequences in the linguistic quality of the translated text. Figure 1 shows the overall results found.

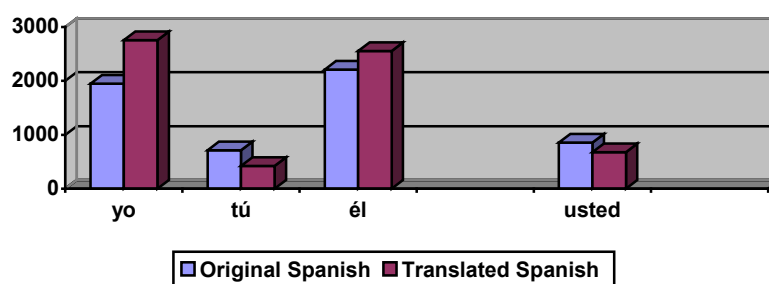


Fig. 1 Number of cases per million words of personal pronouns in original and translated Spanish (fiction texts, all syntactic functions).

It can be seen that there is indeed a trend towards overuse in particular in the cases of the 1st person singular pronoun *yo* and in the case of the 3rd person singular pronoun *él*. Exceptions are the second person singular pronoun *tú* and the formality marker for that same person *usted*, where there is a slight underuse in Spanish translations when compared with Spanish original texts. Pronouns *ella* has not been considered because the difference in the number of translated and non-translated uses is not significant.

FIRST PERSON SINGULAR PRONOUN: YO

The 1st person singular pronoun in Spanish *yo* tends to be omitted in most contexts when it is not emphatic due to its redundancy with respect to the verbal morphology indicating person and number. The analysis of the various functions of the pronoun *yo* in original Spanish texts and in translated texts yielded the following results:

CREA		YO	P-ACTRES	
%	RAW CASES		RAW CASES	%
10.05%	37	<i>Neutral</i>	62	20.80%
21.46%	79	<i>Optional emphasis</i>	82	27.51%
4.07%	15	<i>Non-optional emphasis</i>	10	3.35%
49.18%	181	<i>Contrastive</i>	50	16.77%
5.43%	20	<i>Formulaic</i>	4	1.34%
9.78%	36	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>	90	30.20%
100%	368	TOTALS	298	100%

Table 3 . Quantitative data for YO

It can be noted that the distribution of the various functions identified differs considerably between original and translated Spanish. However, being quantitatively different does not necessarily mean that the difference is significant in qualitative terms. To avoid this pitfall, we need to check whether these differences are statistically significant or are just a symptom (Rabadán 2007 in pressb). Two magnitudes, the z score and the p- value may help here. Both are obtained by calculating the hypothesis test for independent proportions. In both cases the confidence interval is 95% and the margin or error 0.05. To be statistically significant the difference between both proportions (translated and non-translated cases) has to lie outside the curve $\pm 1,96$ for the z-score and must be <0.05 for the p-value. Applying

statistical analyses, it was found that only some of the functions were actually significantly different, as shown in the following table:

YO	z-score	p-value
Contrast	8.74	0.00E
<i>Optional emphasis</i>	-1.81	.0698
Neutral	-3.88	.001
Narrative	-6.69	0.0025
Formulaic	2.82	.0048
<i>Non-optional emphasis</i>	0.49	6267

The main use of the 1st person pronoun in original texts is clearly a contrastive use to emphasize the difference between the 1st person speaker and some other person (2nd or 3rd): *él lo leía y yo le miraba de reajo; usted dijo horror y yo terror*. Curiously enough, this particular function was found in only 17% of cases in Spanish translations, indicating that other uses are favoured by translators.

The category termed as “neutral” here refers to cases where the use of the personal pronoun is obligatory for grammaticality, as in coordinated constructions: *tú y yo*). This function occurs slightly more often in translations than in originals.

The use of the 1st person singular pronoun *yo* for narrative functions occurs in nearly 10% of cases of original Spanish and is typical of fiction texts, in particular of drama. It is often the case that the instance of the pronoun is preceded by the coordinating conjunction *y*, thus indicating a sequence in the action described:

Puri: Y la atamos.

Toña: Y yo le di una hostia, aunque no me arrepiento.

The narrative function is the most common one in Spanish translations with about 30% of the total, three times more common in translations than in original Spanish texts.

The two remaining functions identified are very infrequent in both original and translated texts, and only the formulaic use is statistically significant. The formulaic use of the pronoun *yo* refers to short fossilized expressions including it with a clearly pragmatic meaning as in: *yo qué sé, un qué sé yo, ya lo dije yo*, etc. This function occurs slightly more

frequently in original texts (5%) than in translations (1%), which is an expected result, since pragmatic uses are more difficult to convey in translations.

SECOND PERSON SINGULAR PRONOUN: TÚ

The unmarked form of the 2nd person singular pronoun in Spanish *tú* is four times less common in original Spanish texts than the 1st or the 3rd person pronouns. The pronoun *tú* tends to be omitted in most contexts due to its redundancy with respect to the verbal morphology indicating person and number. An overall numerical analysis revealed that there is a slightly higher number of cases of this personal pronoun in original texts (710 cases) than in translations (420 cases). This difference is statistically significant (p-value = 0).

All the instances of *tú* were analysed and classified manually into various functions. The results of the analysis in original Spanish texts and in translated texts are the following:

CREA		TÚ	P-ACTRES	
%	RAW CASES		RAW CASES	%
13.88%	45	<i>Neutral</i>	35	19.77%
31.79%	103	<i>Optional emphasis</i>	57	32.20%
7.71%	25	<i>Non-optional emphasis</i>	11	6.21%
33.33%	108	<i>Contrastive</i>	66	37.28%
8.95%	29	<i>Formulaic</i>	3	1.69%
1.54%	5	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>	4	2.25%
1.85%	6	<i>Non-native speakers</i>	0	0%
0.92%	3	<i>Generic role</i>	0	0%
0%	0	<i>Metalinguistic use</i>	1	0.56%
100	324	TOTALS	177	100

Table 4 . Quantitative data for TÚ

A first overview of this comparative graph shows that the functions of *tú* follow a similar trend in the two subcorpora, original and translated Spanish, with some interesting divergences. In general, the translations show higher frequencies of the most common functions, thus proving the normalization hypothesis that the typical uses of a particular item are boosted in translations. In particular the ‘neutral’, unproblematic, function occurs in 20% of cases in translations and only in 13% of cases in originals. This same trend was found in the case of the pronoun *yo* discussed above. However, the only statistically significant

difference identified between original and translated uses of *tú* is the one corresponding to the formulaic use.

TÚ	z-score	p-value
<i>Contrast</i>	-0.89	.3742
<i>Optional emphasis</i>	-0.09	.9244
<i>Neutral</i>	-1.72	0.856
Formulaic	3.17	.0015
<i>Non-optional emphasis</i>	0.62	.5339
<i>Non-native speakers</i>	1.82	.0685
<i>Narrative</i>	-0.58	.5637
<i>Generic role</i>	1.28	.1991
<i>Metalinguistic use</i>	-1.35	.1756

The most interesting difference between originals and translations in the use of this pronoun lies with formulaic expressions with pragmatic functions: these occur in 10% of cases in originals and only in 1% of cases in translations. The formulaic expression with *tú* is particularly versatile in original Spanish, with up to 29 examples in our corpus, many of which occurring more than once: *vete tú a saber*; *allá tú*; *tú tranquilo*; *no te lo crees ni tú*; *tú sigue así*; *tú lo has dicho*, etc. The smaller frequency of occurrence of this function in translations relates to its pragmatic nature and its specificity in the Spanish language (unique-functions hypothesis?).

THIRD PERSON SINGULAR PRONOUN: ÉL

ÉL yields the following data, which prove that original Spanish uses this pronoun neutrally in quite a high number of cases (11,93%), similarly to ‘yo’ (10,05%). It is also significant that ‘él’ is mostly used as narrative discourse marker both in non-translated and translated Spanish (43,46% and 40.57% respectively).

CREA		ÉL	P-ACTRES	
%	RAW CASES		RAW CASES	%
11.93	42	<i>Neutral</i>	23	9.43
3.69	13	<i>Optional emphasis</i>	7	2.87

12.22	43	<i>Non-optional emphasis</i>	17	6.97
27.56	97	<i>Contrastive</i>	97	39.75
1.14	4	<i>Formulaic</i>	1	0.41
43.46	153	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>	99	40.57
100	352	TOTALS	244	100

Table 5 . Quantitative data for ÉL

Translated usage shows significant variation in respect to native usage in the areas labelled as contrastive, non-optional emphasis and narrative reference marker. However, only the contrastive and non-optional emphasis uses are statistically significant, as shown in the following table:

ÉL	z-score	p-value
<i>Neutral</i>	0.96	.3346
<i>Optional emphasis</i>	0.55	.5827
<i>Non-optional emphasis</i>	2.09	.0363
<i>Contrastive</i>	-3.12	.0018
<i>Formulaic</i>	0.96	.3390
<i>Narrative reference marker</i>	0.70	.4822

SECOND PERSON FORMAL PRONOUN: USTED

USTED yields the following data, which prove that unless they have pragmatic and textual functions additional to the primary deictic one (7 neutral cases), *usted* is not used at all. It is significant that original Spanish makes a heavy use of ‘*usted*’ as a marker of formality or as a way of clarifying the reference (contrastive function).

CREA		USTED	P-ACTRES	
%	RAW CASES		RAW CASES	%
2.16	7	<i>Neutral</i>	8	6.01
67.18	217	<i>Optional emphasis (Marker of formality)</i>	74	55.63
2.47	8	<i>Non-optional emphasis</i>	17	12.78
13.62	44	<i>Contrastive</i>	19	14.28
5.57	18	<i>Formulaic</i>	8	6.01
8.66	28	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>	7	5.26

100	323	TOTALS	133	100
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Table 6 . Quantitative data for USTED

Translated usage shows differences mainly in the areas labelled as discourse marker, non-optional emphasis and neutral, which may indicate that a) translated texts are less cohesive, b) translated texts overuse emphatic markers, and c) translated texts are less economic in their use of pronominal resources than original language texts.

The statistically significant results for *usted* are shown in the following table:

USTED	z-score	p-value
<i>Emphatic opt</i>	+2.33	.0197
<i>Marker of formality</i>		
<i>Non-optional emphasis</i>	-2.93	.0034
<i>Neutral</i>		
<i>Contrast</i>	-0.19	.8520
<i>Formulaic</i>	-0.19	.8531
<i>Discourse marker</i>	+1.24	.2143

6.3. Juxtaposition and contrast: obtaining the anchor values

At this point we need to determine whether the use of the pronouns in non-translated and translated Spanish is identical, or, if not, which the actual anchor differences are. This tool building process is necessary in order to i) make sure that we are using the strongest possible conclusions from limited amounts of data, that is, that the anchors we are proposing are truly useful for the pair English-Spanish; ii) avoid the ‘confirmation bias’ on our part, that is, the tendency to search for interpretations that confirm our unverified view(s) on the basis of raw quantitative data and iii) to provide a transition from quantitative data to relevant information usable by our intended final users. In other words, comparing results from each translation with just CREA results can be misleading, more time-consuming and force us to reach wrong assessment conclusions. By contrast, focusing on grammatical uses that have been empirically proven to cause distortion -or even unintelligibility- in translations of English narrative into Spanish can be said to be a real help for the evaluation of the linguistic quality of translated texts. The results in the tables above indicate that the most useful values for our assessment purposes are as follows:

ANCHOR USES	YO	TÚ	ÉL	USTED
<i>Neutral</i>	√ overuse			
<i>Optional emphasis</i>				√ underuse
<i>Non-optional emphasis</i>			√ underuse	√ overuse
<i>Contrastive</i>	√ underuse		√ overuse	
<i>Formulaic</i>	√ underuse	√ underuse		
<i>Narrative reference marker</i>	√ overuse			

Table 7 . Anchor uses for YO, TÚ, ÉL, USTED

YO: There is an overuse of the narrative and neutral functions. However, there is a clear underuse of the contrastive and formulaic functions of this pronoun in translations.

TÚ: The only significant difference lies in the underuse of the formulaic function of this pronoun, which is 10 times more frequent in original texts than in translations.

ÉL: Significant differences lie in two main values: contrastive, which is overused in the translations, and non-optional emphasis, which shows an underuse in translated Spanish.

USTED: Significant differences have been corroborated for two values: non-optional emphasis, which is overused in the translations and optional emphasis, which is significantly underused in translation, mainly as a redundant marker of formality.

6.4. Interpretation of anchor results

As noted by Davies (2001:7), what is significant is not the size of the significant results, but their effect and consequences on language use (Rabadán 2007: in press). And in our case these are as follows:

- a. An overuse of the **neutral functions** of the subject pronouns indicates a trend towards verbosity in translations, thus leading to a flattening and cluttering effect in translated texts.
- b. An overuse of **optional emphasis** detracts from text quality as it interferes with and ‘clutters’ the text flow, making it clumsy and, in a way, distracting the reader from the main focus of attention. An underuse of this value may result in an expressive ‘flattening’ of the text, affecting dramatic/ plot tension.
- c. An overuse of **non-optional emphasis** reveals an uneconomic use of the expressive (deictic) resources of Spanish or the existence of modulations transferring pragmatic

emphasis from other parts of the text. In contrast, the underuse of this function results in a downgrading in idiomaticity.

- d. An overuse of **contrastive cases** makes the texts repetitive leading to a more laborious and complicated reading. It renders a text distasteful, as it constantly explicitates information which is already clear to the reader. An underuse of the contrastive function causes ambiguity and a low degree of cohesion in translated texts.
- e. An underuse of the **formulaic function** was observed for the cases of *yo* and *tú*, resulting in a lower degree of idiomaticity of the translations, since there are few fixed expressions containing these pronouns in translated texts.
- f. An overuse of **narrative discourse markers** renders a text redundant and repetitive. An underuse of the same reveals that translated texts are less cohesive, which necessarily affects textual anaphora and severely detracts from textual intelligibility

7. TESTING FOR QUALITY: CASE STUDIES.

The data obtained from comparing the uses of personal pronouns in original Spanish texts and in translated Spanish texts were used again to attempt and provide assessment of other recent Spanish translations of English texts. These have been obtained from the inventory of TRACE II.

7.1. The texts to be assessed: TRACE II

It is an English-Spanish catalogue and open corpus containing 17 contemporary English language narrative translated into Spanish. It has two roles in our research: i) to provide a contemporary counterpart to TRACE I, composed of officially censored texts from the 1940s to the 1980s, and ii) to facilitate the testing and empirical verification of ACTRES applications suitable for this textual register.

Four random extracts from contemporary novels have been chosen for this test: K. Harrison's *The Seal Wife* (2003), T. Wolfe's *I am Charlotte Simmons* (2005), S.M. Kidd's *The Mermaid Chair* (2006) and Joe Hill's *Heart-shaped Box* (2006).

7.2. Case study I: K. Harrison's *The Seal Wife*/ *La mujer de nieve*

The Spanish translation of Harrison's novel was published in Spanish with the title *La mujer de nieve* in 2005. The translator was Encarna Castejón, and the book was published in Barcelona by Anagrama. The extract from the translation included 15,537 words, and there

was only one case of the pronoun *yo* and another case of the pronoun *tú*, both in the same sentence and with a contrastive function: *Tú eres mi madre selva, yo soy tu abeja*.

TT HARRISON'S NOVEL	YO	TÚ	ÉL	USTED
<i>Neutral</i>				
<i>Optional emphasis</i>				
<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>			1	
<i>Contrastive</i>	1	1	20	
<i>Formulaic</i>				
<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>				
TOTALS	1	1	37	

CREA	TT HARRISON'S NOVEL	YO	z-score	p-score
	<i>Neutral</i>			
	<i>Optional emphasis</i>			
	<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>			
181	<i>Contrastive</i>	1	-1.02	0.3101
	<i>Formulaic</i>			
	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>			
368	TOTALS	1		

CREA	TT HARRISON'S NOVEL	ÉL	z-score	p-score
	<i>Neutral</i>			
	<i>Optional emphasis</i>			
43	<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>	1	1.74	0.0822
97	<i>Contrastive</i>	20	-3.34	0.0008
	<i>Formulaic</i>			
	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>			
352	TOTALS	37		

K. Harrison's *The Seal Wife* (2003)/ *La mujer de nieve* does not show significant misuses of most of our chosen anchors. However, it reveals a notorious degree of overuse of subject pronouns with a contrastive function. This necessarily affects textual anaphora and

reference ties and networks and severely detracts from textual intelligibility because of redundancy.

7.3. Case study II: T. Wolfe's *I am Charlotte Simmons/ Soy Charlotte Simmons*

The Spanish translation of Wolfe's novel was published with the title *Yo soy Charlotte Simmons* in 2005. The publishing house was Ediciones B (Barcelona) and the translators were Eduardo Iriarte and Carlos Mayor. The extract of the translation contained 21,489 words.

TT WOLFE'S NOVEL	YO	TÚ	ÉL	USTED
<i>Neutral</i>	13	2		
<i>Optional emphasis</i>		1		2
<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>			9	
<i>Contrastive</i>	5	2	16	
<i>Formulaic</i>	3	2		1
<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>				
TOTALS	32	7	25	3

CREA	TT WOLFE'S NOVEL	YO	z-score	p-score
37	<i>Neutral</i>	13	-5.02	<0
	<i>Optional emphasis</i>			
	<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>			
181	<i>Contrastive</i>	5	3.65	0.0003
20	<i>Formulaic</i>	3	-0.92	0.3584
	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>			
368	TOTALS	32		

CREA	TT WOLFE'S NOVEL	TÚ	z-score	p-score
	<i>Neutral</i>	2		
	<i>Optional emphasis</i>	1		
	<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>			
	<i>Contrastive</i>	2		
29	<i>Formulaic</i>	2	-1.76	0.0779

	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>	
324	TOTALS	7

CREA	TT WOLFE'S NOVEL	ÉL	z-score	p-score
	<i>Neutral</i>			
	<i>Optional emphasis</i>			
43	<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>	9	-1.74	0.0817
97	<i>Contrastive</i>	16	-1.54	0.1247
	<i>Formulaic</i>			
	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>			
352	TOTALS	41		

T. Wolfe's *I am Charlotte Simmons* (2005)/ *Soy Charlotte Simmons* rates well for anchor value 'formulaic', which may be interpreted as a healthy sign of an idiomatic translation. By contrast, it shows a curious and significant overuse of neutral values (Yo/I) and worryingly low scores for the anchor value contrastive. The first indicates verbosity in translations, thus leading to a flattening and cluttering effect in translated texts. Underusing the contrastive function (of yo) causes ambiguity and a low degree of cohesion in this text. This text rates high for overall assessment of linguistic and textual effectiveness. Only yo-management presents some flaws, which not surprisingly mirror the features of translated language as revealed by P-ACTRES.

7.4. Case study III: S.M. Kidd's *The Mermaid Chair*/ *El secreto de la sirena*

Our Spanish translation of S.M. Kidd's novel was published with the title *El secreto de la sirena* in 2007 in the publishing house Edicions B in Barcelona. The translator is Javier Guerrero. The extract contains 15,495 words and there were 57 cases of *yo* and 7 of *tú*. The distribution of the functions of the pronoun *yo* in this extract was the following: narrative (24 cases, 42.10%), optional emphasis (17 cases, 29.82%), contrastive (9 cases, 15.78%), neutral (7 cases, 12.28%).

TT KIDD'S NOVEL	YO	TÚ	ÉL	USTED
<i>Neutral</i>	7	1	0	
<i>Optional emphasis</i>		2		

<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>		1		
<i>Contrastive</i>	9	3	9	
<i>Formulaic</i>	0			1
<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>	24			
TOTALS	57	7	28	1

CREA	TT KIDD'S NOVEL	YO	z-score	p-score
37	<i>Neutral</i>	7	-0.51	0.6077
	<i>Optional emphasis</i>			
	<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>			
181	<i>Contrastive</i>	9	-4.72	0
20	<i>Formulaic</i>	0	1.80	0.0714
36	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>	24	-6.52	0
368	TOTALS	57		

CREA	TT KIDD'S NOVEL	ÉL	z-score	p-score
	<i>Neutral</i>			
	<i>Optional emphasis</i>			
43	<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>	0	1.96	0.0493
97	<i>Contrastive</i>	9	-0.52	0.6025
	<i>Formulaic</i>			
	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>			
352	TOTALS	28		

S.M. Kidd's *The Mermaid Chair* (2006)/ *El secreto de la sirena* rates satisfactorily for anchors neutral and formulaic, which points to both a grammatically correct and idiomatic use of subject pronouns. The ratings for contrastive, narrative discourse marker and non-optional emphasis, however, show a marked departure from efficient usage. Contrastive is underused in the case of yo, which creates areas of slow reading. In short, this creates partial ambiguity and affects text intelligibility. Overusing the anchor narrative discourse marker may affect textual cohesion and roundedness rendering the text redundant and repetitive. The absence of non-optional emphasis also adds to less idiomaticity.

7.5. Case study IV: Joe Hill's *Heart-Shaped Box/ El traje del muerto*

The Spanish translation of Joe Hill's novel has been published under the title *El traje del muerto* in 2007 by Summa de Letras (Madrid). Julio A. Sierra holds the copyright for the translated text. In this text the extract contains 20,000 words +. The raw results for our usable anchor results are 10 *yo*, 4 *tú*, 13 *él* and 23 *usted*.

TT JOE HILL'S NOVEL	YO	TÚ	ÉL	USTED
<i>Neutral</i>	0	2		2
<i>Optional emphasis</i>	5	1		16
<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>	1		0	0
<i>Contrastive</i>	3	1	9	2
<i>Formulaic</i>	0	0		1
<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>	1		4	2
TOTALS	10	4	13	23

Table Raw data in translated text

Table Verification of significance

CREA	TT JOE HILL'S NOVEL	YO	z-score	p-score
37	<i>Neutral</i>	0	1.06	0.02911
	<i>Optional emphasis</i>	5		
	<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>	1		
181	<i>Contrastive</i>	3	1.20	0.2311
20	<i>Formulaic</i>	0	0.76	0.4487
36	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>	1	-0.02	0.9818
368	TOTALS	10		

CREA	TT JOE HILL'S NOVEL	TÚ	z-score	p-score
	<i>Neutral</i>	2		
	<i>Optional emphasis</i>	1		
	<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>			
	<i>Contrastive</i>	1		
29	<i>Formulaic</i>	0	0.63	0.5309
	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>			

324	TOTALS	4
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CREA	TT JOE HILL'S NOVEL	ÉL	z-score	p-score
	<i>Neutral</i>			
	<i>Optional emphasis</i>			
43	<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>	0	1.34	0.5309
97	<i>Contrastive</i>	9	-3.25	0.0012
	<i>Formulaic</i>			
	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>	4		
352	TOTALS	13		

CREA	TT JOE HILL'S NOVEL	USTED	z-score	p-score
	<i>Neutral</i>	2		
217	<i>Optional emphasis</i>	16	-0.242	0.8139
8	<i>Emphatic non-optional</i>	0	-0.76	0.4451
	<i>Contrastive</i>	2		
	<i>Formulaic</i>	1		
	<i>Narrative discourse marker</i>	2		
323	TOTALS	23		

Joe Hill's *Heart-Shaped Box/ El traje del muerto* rates well for all anchor values except for contrastive. This means that differences in usage for most anchors have not been found significant, which may be interpreted as a healthy sign of an idiomatic translation. There is a notorious degree of overuse of subject pronouns with a contrastive function. This necessarily makes the text more repetitive than it is necessary and it leads to a more laborious and complicated reading as it explicates information which is already clear to the reader. This text rates high for overall assessment of linguistic and textual effectiveness. Only contrastive *él* management presents some flaws, which seem to obey to one of the universals of translation behaviour: explicitation (Rabadán, Labrador & Ramón 2007)

8. RESULTS OF TQA APPLICATION

Our results indicate varying degrees of textual and linguistic quality in the four case studies, which range from a remarkably effective use of grammatical resources in the target language

in Harrison's and Hill's texts to some intelligibility problems in Wolfe's text and a disappointing overall performance in S.M. Kidd's Spanish text. The reasons lie overwhelmingly in one area: a defective management of the contrastive use of the pronouns, which affects text progression and intelligibility. The consequences are that the perception of the authors and their work by their Spanish language readers can be negatively affected and render low ratings of readers' appreciation creating thus low commercial and market figures.

The results of our verification of applicability seem to corroborate the working hypothesis we put forward at the beginning: that a number of descriptive anchor values, adequately conceptualized, can be an effective tool for translation assessment. However, to become fully usable by applied professionals different sets of anchors have to be identified and verified for different text varieties and a software tool which makes the process semi-automatic produced. We are refining the set of descriptive anchors and working on the second.

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