

PRESENTATION

This 9th issue of *TradTerm* presents a set of papers containing research results conducted within the framework of a line of investigation which has become known as *translation modalities*. Taking as a starting point the translation procedures originally proposed by J.P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet, in their classic work *Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais* (1958, 1977), this is a descriptive model which fundamentally aims at measuring the degrees of proximity and distance between a text taken as the “original” and a text taken as a translation of such “original” (see, *inter alia*, Aubert, 1998).

Based, like any model in this field, on a given understanding of language and of translation, the *translation modalities* tool is not a theory or a translational hypothesis as such, but, rather, a descriptive instrument. As such, it has proven useful, as one among several other possible descriptive approaches, to identify certain linguistic phenomena observed under the comparison of source and target texts. It allows for extracting quantitative data, affording a certain degree of statistical treatment, which, in turn, leads to a determination of probabilities within the framework of specified variables. It detects tendencies, suggesting possible bearings for qualitative analyses. At sentence and sub-sentence level, it unveils translational options suggestive of specific strategies, whereupon certain processes can be inferred from the product.

The texts collected in this volume illustrate certain paths and potentialities of the methodology. Thus, Diva Cardoso de Camargo, in her paper ‘*Beloved, Breathing lesson, The Russia house, Rabbit at rest, No greater love, and Rising sun* translated into Portuguese’, summarizes the major findings in samples of English → Portuguese literary translations, establishing a standard of predictability for translations within this text typology. Her second article, ‘*Procedimentos tradutórios mais frequentes em textos jurídicos, corporativos e jornalísticos*’ [*High frequency translational procedures in legal, corporate and journalistic texts*], supplements the first, inasmuch as it establishes a basic reference (“standard”, in the quantitative sense of the term) for the distribution of the modalities typical for three sets of text typologies. Thereof, expectancy parameters are

depreended, offering a basis for comparing other texts within the same typologies, and, as the case may be, for detecting variations which might require a more thorough qualitative appraisal.

In 'A tradução dos marcadores culturais extra-lingüísticos: Jorge Amado traduzido' [The translation of extralinguistic cultural markers: Jorge Amado in translation], Regina Helena Machado Aquino Corrêa presents a synthesis of her Ph.D. dissertation, showing the relevance of the model for analyses which take into account the cultural referent in the interaction established by the translational act. An essential point is the longitudinal dimension of the multiple translational solutions, disclosing a strategy of cumulative approximations for overcoming cultural barriers to translation.

Sonia Terezinha Gehring, in her paper 'Refrações na bidirecionalidade tradutória inglês ↔ português' [Refractions in English ↔ Portuguese translation], summarizes her main findings from her Ph.D. dissertation, and demonstrates the relevance of translational direction as a determining factor for the distribution of the modalities. This study provides empirical evidence for the hypothesis advanced by Venuti (1995) concerning the tendency of a hegemonic culture to carry out an assimilative (domesticating) translation of texts from peripheral cultures, and, as a supplement to this postulate, Gehring finds that the opposite approach is embraced in translations in which the source text pertains to the hegemonic culture and the target text is inserted in the peripheral culture.

In 'Traduzindo as diferenças extra-lingüísticas: procedimentos e condicionantes' [*Translating extralinguistic differences: procedures and conditioning factors*], Francis Henrik Aubert returns to the issue of cultural referents and their translation. The distributional behaviour of the modalities seem to reflect the relative weight of *constance* and *variation* (in the sense defined by Hjelmslev, 1943), *constance* explaining the predictable (i.e., by structural contrast) differences, and *variation* indicating the effects of the external conditions affecting the production of the translation.

Finally, in 'Reflexos e refrações da alteridade na literatura brasileira traduzida (1) – as versões de *Sagarana* para o francês e para o norueguês' [*Reflections and refractions of otherness in*

translated Brazilian literature (1) – the versions of Sagarana in French and in Norwegian], Adriana Zavaglia and Francis Henrik Aubert present a first essay within the framework of a wider project, which attempts at determining the “translational fortunes” of translated Brazilian literature. Here again, there is a specific concern with cultural markers, to which is added, in the triangular contrast Portuguese/French/Norwegian, the search for the effects of the presence/absence of a hegemonic relationship as a possible conditioning factor for observable translational solutions.

Francis Henrik Aubert

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References

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