

# Preface

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Pages xxi–xxii of

**Researching Translation Competence by PACTE Group**

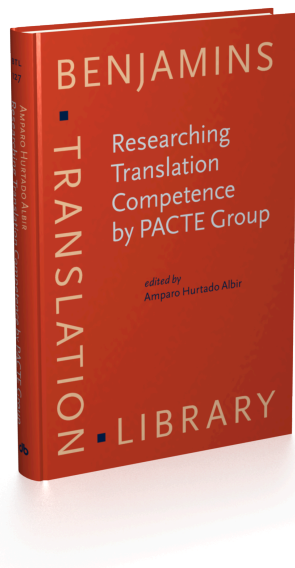
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# Preface

The PACTE research group (Process in the Acquisition of Translation Competence and Evaluation) was formed in October 1997 to investigate the Acquisition of Translation Competence in written translation into and out of the L1 (direct and inverse translation). The founding members of the group were Allison Beeby, Doris Ensinger, Olivia Fox, Amparo Hurtado Albir, Nicole Martínez, Wilhelm Neunzig, Mariana Orozco and Marisa Presas.<sup>1</sup>

Experienced teachers and professional translators, all held posts as lecturers in the Facultat de Traducció i d'Interpretació (FTI) of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and were responsible for teaching courses in inverse translation (from students' L1 Spanish or Catalan, into their L2 English, French or German) or direct translation (from students' L2 into their L1).

As translator trainers in the rapidly evolving field of Translation Studies, the members of the group became increasingly aware of the need for contrasted information about how students learned to translate in order to improve curricular design and assessment and unify pedagogical criteria. Empirical research was required to define the characteristics of Translation Competence and how that competence was acquired.

Thus, in 1997 it was decided to set up a research group. The first task was to build a model of the characteristics that defined the experienced professional translator (Translation Competence) together with a model of how Translation Competence was acquired (Acquisition of Translation Competence). Both these models would subsequently be empirically validated. The next step was to decide an appropriate research design.

Over the years other researchers have joined the group. These include: Laura Berenguer (1997–1999), Félix M. Vega Gliemmo (1998–1999), John Matthews (1999–2000), Mònica Fernández Rodríguez (2000–2012), Inna Kozlova (2001–2009), Margherita Taffarel (2010–2013), Luis Castillo (2010–2015) and Gisela Massana (2010–2016). Still others joined the group and continue to be members: Patricia Rodríguez-Inés (2000), Lupe Romero (2002), Anna Kuznik<sup>2</sup> (2005), Stefanie Wimmer (2007), Anabel Galán-Mañas (2009), Gabriele Grauwinkel (2009) and Christian Olalla (2011).

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1. Doris Ensinger was a member from 1997–2000; Nicole Martínez-Melis from 1997–2002; Mariana Orozco from 1997–2005; Marisa Presas from 1997–2006.

2. At Uniwersytet Wrocławski (Poland) since 2011.

