Triangulation in process oriented research in translation

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Foreword

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The articles which appear in this volume stem from papers presented in a sub-section of the II Brazilian International Translators' Forum dedicated to process oriented research in translation. The Congress's main theme, namely Translating the Millennium: Corpora, Cognition, and Culture, is reflected in the seven contributions which aim at fostering the dialogue among translation researchers interested in process oriented investigations. Triangulating Translation highlights one of the event's main axes, focusing on the interfaces between cognition and translation, and more precisely on the investigation of translation processes from three main vantage points: theoretical perspectives, empirical investigations and pedagogical applications. The volume brings together researchers from the Copenhagen Business School (Denmark), the Universidade Autónoma de Barcelona (Spain), the Federal University of Minas Gerais, the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, and the Federal University of Ouro Preto (Brazil).

The title of the volume, Triangulating Translation: perspectives in process oriented research, is to be understood in the light of triangulation as a sailing metaphor which guides the articles presented here. Assuming that navigating through uncharted waters requires several location points to establish one's position, and taking examples from the Social Sciences, the authors focus on the need to apply several instruments of data gathering and analysis in their attempts to throw light on the nature of the process of translation, and mainly on issues related to inferential behavior, intersubjectivity, competence, segmentation, time pressure, dictionary use, and the novice-expert interface. The seven

articles favour triangulation as a methodologically valid alternative to research on translation, and more appropriately on the process of translation.

The articles are grouped in three parts. Part I discusses theoretical perspectives in the field of study under scrutiny and raises issues concerned with the translation-pragmatics interface, the role of subjectivity – or rather, intersubjectivity – as an alternative to the objectivist paradigm in process oriented research, and the attempts at building a model to account for translation competence.

Concentrating on the translation-pragmatics interface, and more precisely on the role played by inferential processes in decision making and problem solving in translation, Fabio Alves and José Luiz Gonçalves build on the notion of interpretive resemblance and suggest that Relevance Theory (RT) can be used in the investigation of inferential processes within translation contexts. The authors discuss the distinction between conceptual and procedural encoding made by RT and argue that it can provide a theoretical framework upon which empirical investigations into the nature of inferential processes in translation can be carried out. Using extracts from TAPs and *Translog* protocols, they show how the ability to consciously manipulate conceptually and procedurally encoded information, coordinated by interpretive resemblance, leads to the inferential reorganization of the source text into a target text counterpart.

Gyde Hansen focuses her research on the evaluation phases, and especially on the interaction between the translators' skills, knowledge and competences and the translator's ability to keep process and product under control in what the American psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi calls a "flow experience". Using phenomenology as her epistemological support, Hansen makes some theoretical and methodological remarks on research in translation processes, mainly on instances of controlling that process. She advocates that if one wants to improve translation processes, it is necessary for translators to learn how to think and to express their thoughts during and after the translation process. Phenomenology with its emphasis on precise explanations and descriptions of phenomena and its efforts through negotiation to reach clarification and intersubjectivity may offer researchers the tools to facilitate this process.

The PACTE Group, formed by Allison Beeby, Monica Fernández Rodríguez, Olivia Fox, Amparo Hurtado, Wilhelm Neunzig, Mariana Orozco, Marisa Presas, Patricia Rodríguez Inés and Lupe Romero, reinforces in this volume the proposal of building a translation competence model. By investigating translation competence from two complementary points of view, namely the translation process and the translation product, and using different instruments and different types of data-collecting methods so that the data can

be collated and cross-referenced, PACTE members consider here other aspects of the analysis of expert translation competence, including the psycho-physiological components, and the position in the model of knowledge about translation, and introduce a Translation Competence Model that has been validated empirically.

Part II focuses on empirical-experimental investigations and aims at examining the process of translation in terms of relevant measurements which can validate some of the instruments used in the triangulation approach.

Using the *Translog* software to generate data from computer keystrokes, logging them in real time, Arnt Lykke Jakobsen designed a study to measure the effect of thinking-aloud on translation speed, the amount of revision undertaken, and the amount of processing segmentation, both in a group of semi-professionals and in a group of experts. Reviewing the seminal work by Ericsson & Simon, his article reveals that the think-aloud condition significantly reduced translation speed, had no effect or an indeterminable effect on the amount of revision undertaken, and significantly increased the relative number of segments per source text unit, thus clearly redefining the application of the TAP technique to the investigations of the translation process.

Further on, Rui Rothe-Neves reports on the influence of working memory (WM) features on some formal aspects of translation performance. For this, he investigates the relationships between WM and translation performance, and more precisely, what measures should be taken and which hypotheses could be considered regarding the relationship between the many ways of measuring processing speed, task coordination and storage capacity as features of WM and translation performance by novices and experts, all of them considered in relation to process and product. In short, Rothe-Neves claims that translation performance does not imply acquiring a completely new ability, but rather organizing a better, more efficient, and resource-saving way of approaching the translation task.

Finally, the articles in Part III foster the application of triangulation as a pedagogical instrument to be applied to the education of translators.

Moving into students' territory, Inge Livbjerg and Inger Mees discuss the results of three experiments at the Copenhagen Business School (CBS) aimed at comparing translation into the foreign language carried out with or without access to dictionaries. Analyzing patterns of dictionary use in non domain-specific translation, the two authors investigate how, and to what extent, students use dictionaries when translating non domain-specific texts and whether the use of dictionaries influenced the quality of the translation product. They claim that by letting students translate texts under conditions

similar to those of their experiments, and then proceeding to discuss their translation behavior and strategies with them, translation teachers can give valuable advice to individual students, with a focus on their specific needs.

Closing the volume, Heloisa Barbosa and Aurora Neiva advocate the use of two modalities of think-aloud protocols to investigate the translation process of inexperienced and experienced translators. The researchers claim that a combination of monologue and dialogue versions of TAPs appears to outweigh potential drawbacks of the TAP technique, thus allowing for triangulation to be carried out. Considering the insights obtained by means of comparisons made between verbal protocols from different research subjects, with different language skill levels and different backgrounds in translation practice itself, Barbosa and Neiva suggest that it may be possible to acquire information that can be helpful in the education of future translators.

Highlighting the cognition-translation interface, the seven articles in this volume form a concise body of knowledge that promotes the integration of theoretical, methodological and pedagogical perspectives linked by the sailing metaphor of triangulation and, thus, give impetus to the debate of how research within the process oriented approach is to be carried out. Embracing the II Brazilian International Translators' Forum's main theme, Translating the Millennium: Corpora, Cognition, and Culture, Triangulating Translation suggests in the advent of the millennium new research avenues, offering uncharted possibilities to explore the complexity of cognitive processes in contexts of translation. A research endeavour certainly worth being further pursued.