

**CORPAS PASTOR, GLORIA (2008): *Investigar con corpus en traducción: los retos de un nuevo paradigma*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 297 p.**

Isabel Durán-Muñoz

---

Volume 55, numéro 3, septembre 2010

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/045083ar>  
DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/045083ar>

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

---

Éditeur(s)

Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal

ISSN

0026-0452 (imprimé)  
1492-1421 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

---

Citer ce compte rendu

Durán-Muñoz, I. (2010). Compte rendu de [CORPAS PASTOR, GLORIA (2008): *Investigar con corpus en traducción: los retos de un nuevo paradigma*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 297 p.] *Meta*, 55(3), 609–610.  
<https://doi.org/10.7202/045083ar>

- concerned with the language of the law but is sometimes, as Mattila points out, "associated with research involving philosophy of language" rather "than involving linguistics proper" (p. 8).
2. The original of this work appeared in 2002 (Mattila, Heikki. *Vertaileva oikeuslainsäädäntö*. Helsinki: Kauppakari).
  3. Cornu (1990: 323-324). See also Fernbach (1991/1992: 919).
  4. See also Mattila (2002).

#### REFERENCES

- BERTELOOT, Pascale (1988): Babylone à Luxembourg, Jurilinguistique à la Cour de Justice. *Vorträge, Reden und Berichte aus dem Europa-Institut*. 136:1-32.
- CHARROW, Robert and CHARROW, Veda (1979): Making Legal Language Understandable: A Psycholinguistic Study of Jury Instructions. *Columbia Law Review* 79(7):1306-1374.
- CORNU, Gérard (1990): *Linguistique juridique*. Paris: Montchrestien.
- CORNU, Gérard (2003): *Entry for «Linguistique Juridique»* In: Denis ALLAND and Stéphane RIALS, eds. *Dictionnaire de la culture juridique*. Paris: PUF, pages.
- FERNBACH, Nicole-Marie (1991/1992): Review of Cornu's *Linguistique Juridique*. *McGill Law Journal*. 917-927.
- GIBBONS, John (2003): *Forensic Linguistics: An Introduction to Language in the Justice System*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- GLENN, Patrick (2007): *Legal Traditions of the World: Sustainable diversity in Law*. Oxford: OUP.
- GROSSFELD, Bernhard (2005): *Core Questions of Comparative Law*. (Translated by Vivian GROSSWALD CURRAN). Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.
- GUTTERIDGE, Harold Cooke (1938): The comparative aspects of legal terminology. *Tulane Law Review*. 12:401-411.
- KLINCK, Dennis (1992): *The Word of the Law*. Ottawa: Carleton University Press.
- MATTILA, Heikki (2002): L'héritage latin dans les langages européens du droit. In: Merja KOSKELA, Christer LAURÉN, Marianne NORDMAN and Nina PILKE, eds. *Porta scientiae I. Lingua specialis. Proceedings of the University of Vaasan*. 95: 50-66.
- MATTILA, Heikki (2006): Comparative Jurilinguistics: A Discipline in Statu Nascendi. In: B. Pozzo and V. JACOMETTI, eds. *Multilingualism and Harmonisation of European Law*. Amsterdam: Kluwer Law, 21-32.
- MIMIN, Pierre (1978): *Le style des jugements*. Paris: Librairies techniques.
- POIRIER, Donald (1997): La common law en français – outil d'assimilation ou de prise en charge. *Revue de la common law en français*. 1(2):215-246.
- RAYMONDIS, Louis Marie and LE GUERN, Michael (1976): *Le langage de la justice pénale*. Paris: CNRS.
- SOURIOUX, Jean-Louis and LERAT, Pierre (1995): Le français juridique comme langue spécialisée. In: Gérard SNOW and Jacques VANDERLINDEN, eds. *Français juridique et science du droit*. Bruxelles: Bruylants, 327-338.
- VARO, Enrique and HUGHES, Brian (2002): *Legal Translation Explained*. Manchester: St Jerome.
- CORPAS PASTOR, GLORIA (2008): *Investigar con corpus en traducción: los retos de un nuevo paradigma*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 297 p.
- Research on translation universals has been the cornerstone of Descriptive Translation Studies throughout the last decade (Baker 1993; Toury 1995; Laviosa 1996; 1997; Moropa 2000). However, these kinds of studies are characterised by the use of introspection and a lack of empirical data and therefore their results can be considered as very preliminary and with a lack of credibility and thoroughness.
- By contrast, the book reviewed here explores translation universals in a very systematic, rigorous and consistent way within a coherent theoretical framework. This study can be considered an outstanding example of a scientific corpus-based translation study.
- The author, Gloria Corpas Pastor, shows how to carry out cutting-edge high-quality research that shatters the preconceptions in preceding studies. She presents an up-to-date study whose specific aim is to check the validity of the three following translation universals: simplification, convergence and transfer. To do so, she employs an empirical methodology based on corpora as the main tool of the study, combined with computational linguistics and natural language processing techniques.
- Throughout the five chapters of this book, the author offers a linear and exhaustive scientific approach that ultimately yields exceptional results with respect to translation universals. Chapters I and II (*Breve recorrido histórico* and *Metodología de corpus para el establecimiento de la equivalencia*) deals with European policies regarding the language industries, corpus-based research in computational linguistics and applied linguistics, studies on equivalence in translation studies, among others. In short, these two chapters constitute the background of the research and serve as an introduction and an update to the use of corpus.
- In the next chapter (*Aportaciones a los estudios de Traducción e Interpretación*), the author focuses on the contribution of corpus research in translation studies. As an extension of the previous

chapters, where only the theoretical and technological approaches to corpora were explored, she includes the learning-teaching approach to translation and interpreting. In this chapter, the author also examines the most important descriptive studies about norms, laws and universals of translated language (in particular, simplification, convergence and transfer) that have been carried out so far, and mentions the most relevant authors who have worked on this topic. This chapter serves as an introduction to the following chapters.

The next two chapters (*Investigación de la hipótesis de universalidad: organización de los datos* and *Investigación de la hipótesis de universalidad: experimentos y resultados*) present the empirical studies carried out with regard to the three translation universals (simplification, convergence and transfer). In Chapter IV, the author describes the starting hypothesis and the main objectives, together with the methodology and techniques used in the study. She also provides information about the compilation of the different corpora used, as well as data relevant to the organisation and design of the study. Chapter V is dedicated to the implementation of the study presented in the previous chapter. The author provides an exhaustive description of the experiments carried out to test each of the three universals and the corresponding results. She also analyses the results, questions the results of previous similar studies and demonstrates the existence or non-existence of these three universals. The last chapter is dedicated to the conclusions. Here the author presents a concise summary of all the main ideas appearing in the work and presents possible future research that can be derived from this study. As the main part of this section, she interprets the obtained results and concludes that her research study does not support the existence of the studied translation universals (simplification, convergence and transfer) and therefore, they are far from their *universality*: “Nuestro estudio [...] no apoya suficientemente la existencia de los denominados universales de traducción y arroja serias dudas sobre su existencia” (p. 268).

This book is of inestimable value for two main reasons: firstly, the corpus in translation studies is employed in a very innovative way, which opens up new possibilities of research in the whole applied area of translation studies and to all language combinations; and secondly, it empirically demonstrates that translation universals (simplification, convergence, and transfer) have not been treated adequately in previous studies and that they are not present in translated language as previously thought. Apart from these two main reasons, the study proves that the application of computational linguistics and natural language processing techniques in translation studies can offer highly reliable results. In conclusion, this work is an innovative, coherent, concise, yet in-depth study that shatters the misconceptions of the past and opens up new lines of research in the future.

ISABEL DURÁN-MUÑOZ  
University of Málaga, Málaga, Spain

#### REFERENCES

- BAKER, Mona (1993): Corpus Linguistics and Translation Studies – Implications and Applications. In: Mona BAKER, Gill FRANCIS and Elena TOGNINI-BONELLI, eds. *Text and Technology. In Honour of John Sinclair*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 233-250.
- LAVIOSA, Sara (1996): *The English Comparable Corpus (ECC): A Resource and a Methodology for the Empirical Study of Translation*. Ph.D. Dissertation. Manchester: UMIST.
- LAVIOSA, Sara (1997): Investigating Simplification in an English Comparable Corpus of Newspaper Articles. In: Kinga KLAUDY and Janós KOHN, eds. *Transferre Necesse Est. Proceedings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Current Trends in Studies of Translation and Interpreting*. (Budapest, 5-7 September 1996). Budapest: Scholastica, 531-540.
- MOROPA, Koliswa (2000): A Pilot Study towards a Corpus-based Approach to Investigating universal Features of Translation in Xhosa. *Language Matters: Studies in the Language of Southern Africa*. Special issue *Translation Studies in South Africa*. 31:176-197.
- TOURY, Gideon (1995): *Descriptive Translation Studies and Beyond*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.