ANNOTATION OF INTERPRETERS' CONVERSATION MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS AND STRATEGIES IN A CORPUS OF CRIMINAL TRIALS IN SPAIN: THE CASE OF NON-RENDITIONS.

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Abstract

Although corpus-based research on conference interpreting has increased recently, for public service interpreting, there is still a lack of studies with data samples large enough to allow reliable generalizations about interpreter performance. This article reviews the design and methodology that was developed for compiling and exploiting corpora for the TIPp project, which was conducted in Barcelona. The corpus was transcribed and annotated using the EXMARaLDA software tools designed for working with oral corpora. The annotation system took into account Wadensjö's (1998) distinction between "talk as text" and "talk as action" in order to classify the various problems faced by interpreters when they are working with criminal proceedings and the various strategies or techniques the interpreters adopt to deal with these problems. The article provides the results of an analysis of a pilot sample of 20 criminal proceedings, focusing on non-renditions and distinguishing between those that are "justified" and those that are "unjustified". The article then discusses these preliminary results as part of the ongoing project.

1. Introduction

Corpora can be used to analyze the performance of interpreters, provided that the data samples are large enough. For conference interpreting, corpus-based research has increased recently. For public service interpreting (PSI), however, two factors hinder this kind of research: it takes a long time to collect data and transcribe dialogue encounters, and access to authentic data is limited, since these types of interactions are usually confidential and public services are seldom willing to collaborate. Consequently, there is still a shortage of studies with data samples large enough to make general observations about the performance of public service interpreters.

To help address this problem, the MIRAS research group,[1] based at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), is conducting the TIPp research project (*Translation and Interpreting in Criminal Proceedings*) in partnership with the criminal courts of the Province of Barcelona, which have provided access to real data.

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[1] MIRAS is a research group at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona that is engaged in the study of PSI and intercultural mediation. Its previous projects focused mainly on defining PSI, an emerging profession in Catalonia (Arumí *et al* 2011a, 2011b; Vargas-Urpi 2012), and on analysing the use of PSI in social services, education and healthcare (Arumí & Vargas-Urpi 2017, Burdeus Domingo 2015, among others). The exception was Liudmila Onos (2014), which focused on Romanian-Spanish/Catalan court interpreting and provided a first description of the situation of court interpreting in Barcelona based on the observation of criminal proceedings and interviews to interpreters and judicial staff. Onos' findings stressed the need for more detailed analysis to describe the deficiencies of court interpreting in Barcelona.

The TIPp project aims to compile, exploit, annotate and analyze a large corpus from real criminal proceedings conducted in three language pairs (English/French/Romanian-Spanish) in five Spanish criminal courts. This paper reviews the design of the corpus and the methodology developed to compile and exploit it. It also addresses the main challenges and considerations that have emerged for the research group as it has worked with the data. Finally, the paper looks at the problems related to interaction and conversation management that have been annotated and analyzed, and it explores the specific case of non-renditions in a sample of the corpus.

For the first time in an annotated PSI corpus, the researchers distinguished between 'talk-as-text' and 'talk-as-activity', understanding interpreting not only as a translation task, but also as mediation and coordination (Wadensjö 1998: 21). This distinction is also coherent with Wadensjö's (1993) description of the double role of dialogue interpreters, namely to relay original utterances (renditions) and to coordinate conversation (non-renditions). By making this distinction, we annotated textual problems and interactional problems separately. Textual problems refer specifically to issues regarding the faithfulness of the message conveyed, whereas interactional problems encompass all matters related to dialogue-building and multi-party encounters[2] where the interpreter is an active participant in the conversation.

2. Corpus-based research in interpreting

Since Miriam Shlesinger (1998) published her pioneering paper in the special issue of *Meta* devoted to corpus-based research, corpus-based studies on interpreting have

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[2] Amato (2007) and Vargas-Urpi (2015) use 'multi-party encounters' to describe interpreter-mediated dialogues that go beyond the triadic exchange (provider-interpreter-user) and involve more than one provider and/or more than one user.

increased. However, they are still less common than studies on translation (Laviosa 1998; Baker 1995, 1996; Setton 2011) due to a number of intrinsic challenges (Bendazzoli 2015) involved in compiling interpreting corpora: it is difficult to access large amounts of data, interpreter renditions are normally not recorded, transcriptions are a laborious process, annotations are complex, and many interactions involving interpreters are confidential. Shlesinger (1998, 2) stressed that "many of the observations encountered in the literature on interpreting were based on sparse, often anecdotal data; i.e. observations from the limited number of outputs that the writer had had the opportunity to listen to, usually as a fellow practitioner." To remedy this situation and "deliver results on the basis of a representative and authentic sample" (Bendazzoli 2015, 88), new conference-interpreting corpora have been developed in the last two decades and have been used in research (Straniero Sergio and Falbo 2012) and to a lesser extent in training (Sandrelli et al. 2010). The corpora have contributed to the study of both the product and process of interpreting, and they provide a good basis for study replication. As stated by Bendazzoli (2015), though to a lesser extent, the corpus-based studies of interpreting have also been successfully used to create training language resources and to help professional interpreters to prepare for assignments.

The European Parliament Interpreting Corpus (EPIC) was the world's first fully digital interpreting corpus developed for research and pedagogical purposes (Russo et al. 2006 and Sandrelli et al. 2010). The corpus has been used to test conventional hypotheses and beliefs, mainly regarding aspects such as lexical density and variety, disfluencies, speed and mode of delivery. Silvia Araújo and Ana Correira (2015) include Portuguese-English simultaneous interpreting in the Per-Fide/EPIC corpus.

Other corpora include DIRSI (Bendazzoli 2010), a bilingual parallel Italian-English interpreting corpus of international medical conferences that presents some

relevant concepts regarding conference structure, speech events, participants, etc.;

FOOTIE, a corpus of simultaneous interpreting at football press conferences (Sandrelli 2012); CoSi (House et al. 2012), a corpus of consecutive and simultaneous interpreting, and CorIT (Straniero 2007), a database of interpreting on Italian television over a span of nearly 50 years.

Studies on PSI developed relatively late, especially if compared to conference interpreting, so interest in the study of PSI corpora has been growing recently. Relatively few PSI corpora exist, however, and most are either simulated or relatively small. These include corpora of PSI in healthcare and schools (Baraldi and Gavioli 2012; Bührig *et al*. 2012) and in legal settings (Berk-Seligson 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1999; Cooke 1995; Dunnigan and Downing 1995; Eades 2002; Goldflam 1995; Hale 1997a, 1997b, 1997c, 1999, 2002 and 2008; Hertog 2001; Kadric 1999; Lane, McKenzie-Bridle and Curtis 1999; Mikkelson 1998; Moeketsi 1999; Montalvo 2001; Morris 1999; Nicholson and Martinsen 1997; Niska 1995; Ortega 2006 and 2011; Pousada 1979; Rigney 1999; Stern 1995). Only a handful of larger corpora exist: Claudia Angelelli (2004) explored 392 interpreted medical consultations; Philipp S. Angermeyer (2015) observed over 200 court proceedings and tape-recorded and transcribed 60 hearings; and Sandra Hale (2016) used large corpora of simulated interactions for two projects: "Interpreters in court: witness credibility with interpreted testimony" and "Interpreting Accuracy and Rapport in High Stakes Interviews".

The ComInDat pilot corpus (Angermeyer, Meyer and Schmidt 2012) is the first database on community interpreting to have become available to researchers. One of its stated objectives is to "create an international corpus of interpreting data from a variety

of settings and with a large number of language dyads."[3] The corpus contains audio and video recordings of various types of community interpreting (court proceedings, doctor–patient consultations, etc.) involving a range of community languages in German and US institutions. It contains some genuine audio recordings, but the video recordings are simulated interactions.

Finally, the pilot database CoPilot (Angermeyer et al. 2012) contains material from two corpora of interpreted doctor–patient discussions and one corpus of interpreted court proceedings.

3. The TIPp Project

Compared with many other countries, especially the United States, research on court interpreting in Spain is in its infancy, with academic contributions having begun barely a decade ago. Almost all of the few studies conducted in Spain used the same types of methods (questionnaires, interviews and direct observation) and reached similar conclusions (e.g., Ortega Herráez 2006; Del Pozo Triviño et al. 2014; Onos 2014). A review of the current literature, however, shows that descriptions of the current situation of court interpreting in Spain are not based on authentic, representative data.

The Spanish media and newspapers have begun to put the spotlight on court interpreting in recent years, publishing several articles that use anecdotal evidence to criticize the lack of professionalism in court interpreting.[4] These reports have led to

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[3] Information available at the ComInDat webpage: http://www.yorku.ca/comindat/comindat.htm

[4] For instance, see: "Confundir 'puñetazo' con 'puñalada', así se traduce en los juzgados de Madrid" [Confusing 'punch' with 'stab', this is translation in Madrid courts], published in *Economía Digital* (17th May, 2016), URL: https://www.economiadigital.es/politica-y-sociedad/confundir-punetazo-con-punalada-asi-se-traduce-en-los-juzgados-de-madrid_183847_102.html; or "Y el acusado recusó... a la traductora" [And the defendant disqualified... the translator], published in *La Voz de Galicia* (8th February, 2017), URL: https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/galicia/2017/02/08/acusado-recuso-traductora/0003_201702G8P12993.htm.

growing social concern about the quality of court interpreting in Spain, and professional associations have stepped up efforts to denounce this situation.

The Spanish Parliament transposed two European Union directives into Spanish law in April 2015: Directive 2010/64/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings and Directive 2012/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 on the right to information in criminal proceedings. The amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure had the stated aim of:

> …significantly reinforcing procedural guarantees in criminal
> proceedings through detailed regulation on the right to translation and
> interpreting in criminal proceedings as well as on the accused person's
> right to information regarding the subject of the criminal proceedings so
> that they can efficiently exercise their right to counsel.[5]

The MIRAS group was aware of these simultaneous developments and concerned by the lack of representative studies that could describe the reality of court interpreting and confirm or adjust assumptions and hypotheses. We therefore decided to launch the TIPp project to create and analyze an oral corpus of real court proceedings involving interpreting. The results from this analysis will be used to create a computer application comprising all the necessary resources to support court interpreters in a single interface. The resources will include:

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[5] Translation of the Spanish Ley Orgánica 5/2015, dated 27 April.

a. A set of guidelines to describe which strategies or translation techniques can be used in which situations;

b. A protocol on conduct and behavior in the most frequent situations in which court interpreters operate;

c. A set of guidelines for judges and judicial staff on the role of interpreters and how to interact with them;

d. A database containing the terms most frequently used in criminal proceedings, with comments and various translation options in the most frequently translated languages.

These objectives have determined the analysis and annotation methods used on the data, as described in the following sections.

4. Corpus description

Mariana Orozco-Jutorán (in press) describes four features that make the TIPp project unique: access to real, video-recorded criminal proceedings; the size and representativeness of the oral corpus; the systems used for transcribing and annotating the corpus; and the number of resources created.

Although it is difficult for PSI researchers to gain access to real data (Angermeyer, Meyer and Schmidt 2012, 276), after long negotiations, the MIRAS research group obtained access to the video recordings of criminal trials where interpreting took place between 2010 and 2015 in almost half of the criminal courts in the city of Barcelona, enabling us to build a substantial, representative corpus.

Transcription is a time-consuming process and we had limited time and human resources, so it was not feasible for us to transcribe all the trials to which we had been

granted access. Orozco-Jutorán (in press) details all the "unexpected events" and decisions made while collecting and selecting court trials in the first stage of the TIPp project. We may add more court proceedings in future, if more funding becomes available.

During this first stage, the corpus comprised the transcriptions of all videos obtained from the proceedings of ten criminal courts in Barcelona during the first six months of 2015 where interpreting took place between English, French or Romanian, and Spanish. Table 1, taken from Orozco-Jutorán (in press), describes the characteristics of the corpus of texts that we transcribed.

Table 1. 2015 corpus description (Orozco-Jutorán, in press)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
2015 (January -June)	Trials where an interpreter was requested	Missing video recordings	Video recordings obtained	Trials with no interpreting	Trials with an interpreter	Transcribed trials	Bilingual minutes transcribed	Total trial minutes transcribed
French	52	9	43	32	11	9	92	286
English	65	10	55	33	22	19	120	393
Romanian	114	37	77	45	32	27	123	568
TOTAL	231	56	175	110	65	55	335	1247

We transcribed a total of 55 trials, far fewer than the 231 trials where an interpreter was requested according to the clerks' records. Columns B and D in Table 1 explain this difference. The videos of some trials were not sent to us, possibly because the trial did not take place (column B) or because the trial was held without an interpreter (D), perhaps because the witness who was going to be interpreted did not appear in court, or because a plea bargain agreement was reached between the parties before the trial started, rendering the interpreter's services unnecessary, among other reasons. There is still a slight difference between the total number of trials where interpreting actually took place (65, as shown in column E) and the actual number of trials transcribed (55, as shown in column F). In the ten recordings not transcribed, either the interpreter did not have to speak (e.g., the defendant or the witness was able to speak Spanish) or the interpreter used *chuchotage*, which is not recorded in the video because the volume is too low.

The 55 trials transcribed lasted 1,247 minutes in total. These 55 trials have been used to describe the reality of legal interpreting in general, but only the 51 trials where the user is the defendant have been used to analyse those aspects which affect his or her procedural guarantees. The total duration corresponds to the total minutes of the trials, whereas the bilingual duration (335 minutes) refers to the minutes in which the interpreter speaks.

We were granted access to real, video-recorded criminal proceedings, but we did not receive detailed information about the specific interpreters that appear in the recordings of the corpus. In general terms, though, court interpreters in Spain are not required to pass any kind of accreditation process (either by means of an exam or training) to interpret in a court of law. Furthermore, the low wages they are paid

(sometimes less than 15€ per hour) are not attractive for those holding degrees in Translation and Interpreting. Thus, we may presume that the court interpreters in the corpus are persons who have claimed being bilingual in the two languages involved in the process, even though their competence in the two languages may have not even been checked by the companies hiring them.[6]

5. Corpus transcription and annotation

We transcribed the trials *verbatim*, using no special symbols. The EXMARaLDA[7] software was used as a transcription and annotation tool. The EXMARaLDA interface resembles a musical score, with each speaker's interventions annotated on a different tier. This meant that phenomena unique to spoken language, such as overlaps and interruptions, are clearly visible and marked by time frames, so transcription symbols are not needed. Furthermore, the kind of annotation and analysis that we envisioned, mostly concerned with the problem-strategy pair in the interpreters' renditions, did not require the thoroughness of conversation analysis transcription systems. In other words, filled pauses, hesitations or vowel lengthening, among other spoken language phenomena, were not important for our analysis.[8] The transcription technicians did, however, include information about the interpreter's visible performance, i.e., whether he or she took notes ("note-taking") and whether he or she used the *chuchotage*

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[6] An article published in a Spanish digital newspaper explained that a journalist had been hired to interpret from and into Arabic even though he had no command of that language. He was even appointed to interpret in a trial. URL: https://www.economiadigital.es/politica-y-sociedad/los-juzgados-me-contrataron-como-traductor-de-arabe-aunque-no-se-ni-una-palabra_183818_102.html

[7] For a thorough description of the tools, see Schmidt and Wörner (2014) and the EXMARaLDA website: http://exmaralda.org/en/

[8] For more information about the transcription system used in the TIPp project, see Orozco-Jutorán (in press).

technique, since although these factors might be visible in video files, they are not audible for transcriptions.

The corpus was also annotated using EXMARaLDA software for oral corpora, which was particularly well suited to our project, because it allowed us to create *ad hoc* categories for annotation and to generate quantifiable data.

The annotation system we created has two main categories based on the kinds of problems that an interpreter may need to solve when interpreting in a court of law: textual problems (e.g., terminology, vocabulary, wording, etc.) and interactional problems (e.g., conversation management problems such as overlaps and interruptions). This classification matches Cecilia Wadensjö's distinction between 'talk-as-activity' and 'talk-as-text' (Wadensjö 1998: 21) and had already been applied in previous research by the MIRAS group concerning PSI in social services and education (Arumí in press; Arumí & Vargas-Urpi 2017). Using this distinction, we sought to classify and annotate the various problems interpreters encounter when interpreting in criminal proceedings and the various strategies or techniques they apply to solve those problems. This paper will focus only on describing the annotation of problems and strategies related to interaction.

With EXMARaLDA, tiers can be added below the transcription for annotations. We created eight tiers to annotate interactional problems and strategies and we introduced a series of acronyms to speed up the annotation process. These tiers fall into three broad categories, described in further detail below: (a) conversation management problems, (b) non-renditions, and (c) direct or reported speech.

5.1. Conversation management problems

Based on previous literature on court interpreting (cf. Angermeyer 2015), we considered three kinds of conversation management problems:

- overlaps, i.e., when two or more judicial staff (including the judge) speak at the same time, or when the interpreter's voice overlaps with that of the judge or any other judicial staff, causing the latter to stop talking;

- interruptions, i.e., when the interpreter is interrupted by any member of the judicial staff, leaving his or her rendition unfinished;

- long turns, i.e., when a member of the judicial staff speaks for more than two minutes in a single turn.

The rationale behind the choice of these three kinds of problems is tightly related to the objective of producing guidelines to help judges and judicial staff to work with interpreters and to help interpreters cope with specific conversation management problems. Because of this objective, we did not annotate overlaps and interruptions caused by the defendant, only those caused by the judges and judicial staff.

Figure 1 is a screenshot of the EXMARaLDA interface. It shows the tiers that were used for transcribing and annotating the TIPp project, with an example of an overlap between two members of the judicial staff.
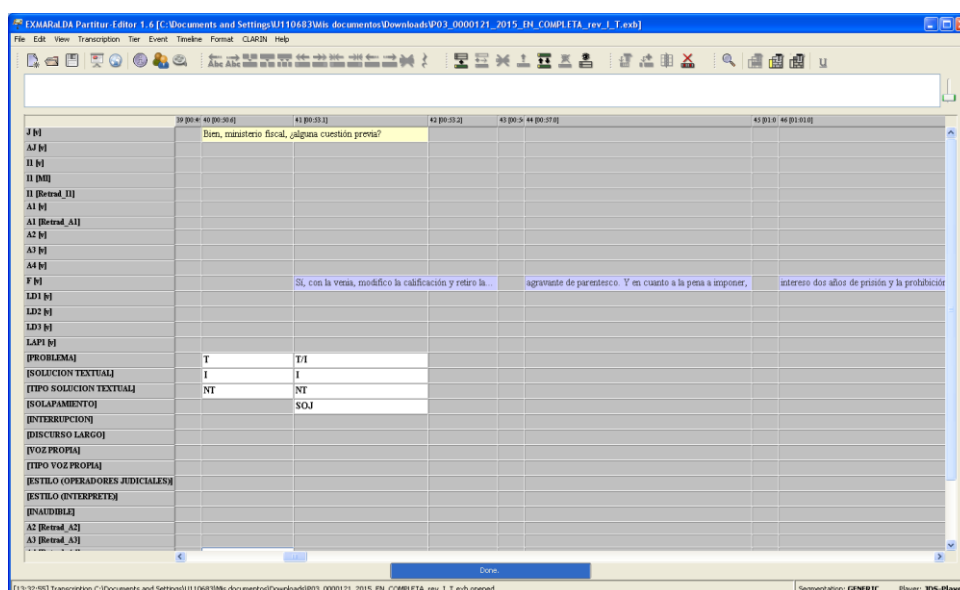
Figure 1. Example of an overlap in the EXMARaLDA interface

Figure 1 illustrates a monolingual discussion between the judge (J) and the public prosecutor (F). The interpreter (I) did not interpret the exchange to the defendant (A). There are multiple tiers for the Interpreter (I), because in the second tier (I1 [MI]), *chuchotage* or sight translation are annotated, and in the third tier (I1 [Retrad_I1]), a retranslation of the interpreters' renditions is provided. There are also multiple tiers for the defendants (A1, A2, A3) and the defense counsels (LD1, LD2, LD3), because some trials involved more than one defendant and, consequently, more than one defense counsel.

The tier for problems (PROBLEMA) is used to annotate whether that segment involves textual problems (T), interactional problems (I) or both (T/I). This is useful to retrieve the number of problems involved in each trial.

The solutions for textual problems are annotated on the [SOLUCION TEXTUAL] (textual solution) and [TIPO SOLUCION TEXTUAL] (type of textual solution) tiers,

which will be explained in future publications. We marked the public prosecutor's overlap with the judge with an "I" for "interactional problem" and with the acronym "SOJ", from the Spanish *solapamiento entre operadores judiciales*, meaning overlap between judicial staff.

The other tiers are used to annotate various problems or phenomena related to the interactional nature of court interpreting: interruptions [INTERRUPCIÓN], long turns (single turns that lasted more than 2 minutes) [DISCURSO LARGO], non-renditions [VOZ PROPIA], types of non-renditions [TIPO DE VOZ PROPIA], speech style used by the judiciary staff [ESTILO (OPERADORES JUDICIALES)], speech style used by the interpreter [ESTILO (INTÉRPRETE)]. The non-renditions and the speech style annotations are explained in the following sections.

5.2. Non-renditions

Non-renditions (renditions that do not correspond to an original utterance) can be used to manage turn-taking or dialogue, but also for other reasons. The first tier for annotating non-renditions therefore considers whether they are justified (J), e.g. when the interpreter asks for a pause to interpret or for clarification; unjustified (NJ), e.g. when the interpreter gives advice to the defendant; or reactive tokens (RT), when the interpreter's non-rendition merely acknowledges that she or he received the information in the original utterance; for instance, when she or he simply says "vale" (okay) before providing the rendition.

The second tier specifies the type of non-rendition:

- Pause (J): when the interpreter asks for a pause to interpret;

- Clarification (J): when the interpreter asks for clarification or explains something that was expressed ambiguously;

- Confirmation (J): when the interpreter seeks to confirm that he or she has understood or heard the information clearly;

- Retrieval (J): when the interpreter is aware that he or she is missing some information and asks to retrieve it;

- Warning, instructions, advice (NJ): when the interpreter warns the defendant on how to behave, gives instructions on how to answer a question, or gives him or her advice of any kind;

- Answer (NJ): when the interpreter answers on behalf of the defendant, probably because they have already discussed the situation with the defendant or with his or her lawyer prior to the trial;

- Extra information (NJ): when the interpreter gives information to any of the participants or asks them questions not posed in the original utterances.

Specific information about the results of the non-renditions in a pilot sample of 20 trials in the corpus will be discussed in section 6.

5.3. Direct or reported speech

We included the speech style among the interactional problems because of the project's objective of producing guidelines that can improve interpreting in Spanish courts.

Speech style is annotated on two different tiers: one for the judicial staff, one for the interpreters. Table 2 summarizes the codes used for this annotation and includes examples to illustrate them.

Table 2. Codes used for annotating the speech style.

Tier name	Annotation	Example
Speech style used by the judicial staff	Direct speech	**Prosecutor**: ¿Estaba usted en esa discoteca el 15 de diciembre de 2012? [*Were you in that club on December 15th, 2012?*]
	Indirect speech	**Prosecutor**: ¿Estaba el acusado en esa discoteca el 15 de diciembre de 2012? [*Was the defendant in that club on December 15th, 2012?*]
	Reported speech	**Prosecutor**: <u>Por favor, pregúntele al acusado</u> si estaba en esa discoteca el 15 de diciembre de 2012. [<u>*Please ask the defendant*</u> *whether he was in that club on December 15th, 2012.*]
Speech style used by the interpreter	Direct speech (first person)	**Defendant**: No, I wasn't there. **Interpreter**: No, no estuve allí. [*No, I wasn't there.*]
	Indirect speech	**Defendant**: No, I wasn't there. **Interpreter**: No, no estuvo allí. [*No, he wasn't there.*]

Reported speech		**Defendant**: No, I wasn't there.

Interpreter: <u>Dice que</u> no estuvo allí. [*He says that he wasn't there.]* |

6. Retrieving the results of a pilot sample: the specific case of non-renditions

The annotations introduced in EXMARaLDA were exported into Microsoft Excel workbooks created specifically for the present project.[9] Each workbook contains results for a single language combination, with a separate spreadsheet for each trial, plus an additional summary sheet for all the trials for that language combination. Figure 2 shows a screenshot of the summary spreadsheet for the six English-Spanish trials included in the pilot sample.

Figure 2. Example of the summary spreadsheet showing the overall results for the English-Spanish language pair

This paper will focus on columns G (non-renditions or the interpreter's own voice) and H (types of non-renditions). Table 3 shows the number of non-renditions based on the annotations and classifies them as justified, unjustified or reactive tokens.

Table 3: Total non-renditions

Language combination	Number of trials	Total minutes of interpreting	Number of non-renditions		
EN-ES	6	37	74	Justified	19
				Unjustified	41
				Reactive token	14
FR-ES	7	35	29	Justified	14
				Unjustified	12
				Reactive token	3
RO-ES	7	14	30	Justified	6
				Unjustified	24
				Reactive token	0

The table shows that the language pair with the most non-renditions was English-Spanish (74). Romanian-Spanish (29) had a similar number of non-renditions to French-

Spanish (30), even though the number of minutes of interpreting was very different. For English and Romanian, unjustified non-renditions were far more frequent than justified non-renditions, whereas for French, there were more justified renditions (14) than unjustified ones (12).

Table 4: Total justified non-renditions

Total justified non-renditions	Type of justified non-rendition	Total	%
38	Pause	11	28.9%
	Clarification	18	47.4%
	Confirmation	7	18.4%
	Retrieval	2	5.2%

In 47.4% of the non-renditions, interpreters used their own voice to request clarification of information due to ambiguity, density or speed of delivery. The next most frequent type of justified non-renditions (28.9%) were requests for pauses by the interpreter so that they could render what had been said. In 18.4% of the non-renditions, interpreters intervened to confirm they had clearly understood or heard the information. Only 5.2% of the non-renditions were due to the interpreter requesting that information be repeated.

The following extracts show examples of these types of non-renditions. In extract 1, the interpreter asked the defendant to pause twice ("wait", "just hold on") in order to interpret what he was saying:

Extract 1.

Defendant: No, I don't want to go back to jail, because I learned bad -- eh, I don't

want, people is happy because they do something [in the jail]

Interpreter: [Wait]=

Defendant: =Me, I don't do anything, I cannot (...) because...=

Interpreter: Just hol-- so, so, don't speak.

Defendant: Okay.

Interpreter: [inaudible]

Judge: Vale.

Okay.

Interpreter: Sí, sí, dijo que no quiere volver a prisión porque no quiere aprender cosas

malas, hay gent-- hay personas que están felices en prisión, pero él no

[está feliz] en prisión.

Yes, yes, he said that he does not want to go back to prison because he

does not want to learn bad things, there are people who are happy in

prison, but he is not [happy] in prison.

Judge: Vale.

Okay.

In extract 2, the interpreter first asks for clarification, probably not having clearly understood what the defendant said, and then the interpreter asks for confirmation that the information is correct.

Extract 2.

State's attorney: ¿Qué pasó?

What happened?

Interpreter: What happened?

Defendant: I was in LPH eating.

Interpreter: You were...?

Defendant: I was in LPH.

Interpreter: LPH?

Defendant: In front [of Bojangles].

Interpreter: [Okay.] Estaba eh... En el... L... P... H... Los Pollos Hermanos, que está en frente del, del Bojangles (...).

[Okay.] *I was eh… in the… L… P… H…. Los Pollos Hermanos, which is in front of the, the Bojangles (…).*

Table 5: Total unjustified non-renditions

Total unjustified non-renditions	Type of unjustified non-rendition	Total	%

77	Warning	15	19.48%
	Answer	3	3.89%
	Extra information	57	74.02%

The main tendency of the interpreters when freely intervening in the dialogue is clearly to add additional information either for the user or for judicial staff. Such cases accounted for 74.02% of the unjustified non-renditions that we detected. Undoubtedly, as we shall see in the following examples, this has to do with the role adopted by the interpreter, sometimes as an advocate for the powerful participant, sometimes as an advocate for the powerless participant (Hale 2008).

In extract 3, the interpreter adds a second question to the question posed by the judge. This was annotated as "Extra Information", since the interpreter's renditions contain more information than the original utterance.

Extract 3.

Judge: Dígale que si quiere declarar o no.

          Ask him whether he wants to declare or not.

Interpreter: Est-ce que vous voulez déclarer ?... Vous voulez répondre aux questions ou

          pas ?

          Do you want to declare? Do you want to answer the questions or not?

Defendant: Si, je veux répondre aux questions.

          Yes, I want to answer the questions.

Interpreters sometimes abandon their passive, impartial role and become active mediators, talking directly to one of the parties. In the previous extract, the interpreter lowers the register, posing an additional question ("Do you want to answer the questions") that might be easier for the defendant to understand. In 19.48% of the unjustified non-renditions, the interpreter warned the defendant how to behave, instructed the defendant on how to answer a question, or gave some other form of advice. Extract 4 shows an example of an interpreter giving advice to the defendant:

Extract 4.

Judge: Dígale que hay—para obtener dinero, no es, eh, cualquier forma de trabajo, es una forma de obtener ingresos.

Tell her that... To obtain money, it is not just any kind of job, it is a way of obtaining income.

Interpreter: So, in order to get money, any way of work is a way to get money, there's no problem, you can say it.

Defendant: What do they call, eh, *prostitution* in French—eh, in Spanish?

Interpreter: Say it in English.

Defendant: Yeah, prostitute.

Interpreter: Okay, eh, prostitución.

            Okay, eh, *prostitution.*

The interpreter in extract 4 gives advice to the defendant on two occasions: first, she prompts her to answer the judge's question ("there's no problem, you can say it"), then she tells her to answer in English.

Finally, only in a few rare cases (3.89%) did the interpreter answer on behalf of the defendant.

7. Discussion and conclusions

This study contributes to corpus-based studies on PSI and is a further step toward more descriptive and generalizable studies, which are sorely lacking in research on interpreting. The study's innovative approach, which separately analyzes interpreting as a translation process (talk-as-text) and interpreting as interaction (talk-as-activity), helps to show the interpreting process in its entirety and as a linguistic and social competence, taking into account not only the interpreter and the interpreter's performance, but the entire mediated interaction and its context. This dual approach allowed us to analyze the discourse and the interpreter's response both as an oral translator and as the coordinator of the mediated encounter.

One of the main objectives of this pilot research was to validate the use of the EXMARaLDA software for transcribing and annotating court interpreting corpora. In this regard, adopting a systematic, abbreviated transcription system allowed us to extract practical, quantifiable results relatively quickly. Using the annotation system described previously it is possible to quantify the number of interpreting problems per hour, the frequency of each kind of solution provided by interpreters or the frequency of non-renditions, either justified or unjustified, in our corpus.

Nevertheless, because annotations must be concise, aspects not included in the annotation schema for research are lost. Displaying the data in a format similar to that of a musical score made it easy to detect aspects strongly related to conversation management, such as interruptions and overlaps. However, where there are many

participants in the interaction (as is normally the case in the courts), and consequently several tiers, the annotation process can be quite cumbersome. Furthermore, the current version of the software does not allow various annotators to contribute simultaneously, so large research teams need well-coordinated workflows.

As for the preliminary results of the pilot study, the English-Spanish combination had the highest number of unjustified non-renditions, while the French-Spanish combination had a notably low incidence of unjustified non-renditions. Nevertheless, this pilot study used a small sample of trials, so future studies based on more court trials will be needed before we can draw further conclusions regarding differences in the quality of interpreting among different language pairs.

Overall, there was a high incidence of unjustified non-renditions, due—we believe—to two main factors regarding the role of the interpreter and codes of conduct. Firstly, although we recorded only three instances of an interpreter taking over the defendant's voice by directly answering a judge's question, we found that interpreters adopt an active role more often than is recommended. Secondly, interpreters do not have enough clear ethical guidelines they can consult when faced with professional or ethical dilemmas. The absence of a clear code of conduct, mandatory for legal interpreters in Spain, has visible consequences on how the profession is practiced in the country. Since we did not have access to detailed information about the interpreters involved in the trials analysed, we cannot draw further conclusions on this aspect.

Where there were justified non-renditions, the interpreters' interventions showed that they use certain conversation management strategies (pauses, interruptions, asking for repetition) in which their visibility is justified, and indeed necessary, to ensure that the dialogue runs smoothly. However, justified non-renditions were comparatively scarcer and, furthermore, most overlaps among the members of the judicial staff (judges,

prosecutors, defense counsels, etc.) or long turns did not involve non-renditions by the interpreters, who instead, more frequently, decide not to translate these segments (as in the example of figure 1).

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