

Pilot-testing an experimental study on the acquisition of the cultural competence in trainee translators.

Main findings

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1. About the study



2. Results

Acceptability

The acceptability of the selected rich points ranges from 0.00 to 0.60. All culturemes present some kind of difficulty. Standard deviations range from 0.00 to 0.58. Subjects are not homogeneous in the way they solve these rich points.

	Mean	SD
Ostalgie	0.60	0.55
Spreemetropole	0.60	0.55
Grenzeruniformen	0.00	0.00
Arbeiter- und Bauernstaat	0.33	0.58
Especially rich point	0.30	0.48
Experimental group	0.37	0.20

Cultural knowledge

Indexes’ results are constant (cultural declarative knowledge: 0.50; identified culturemes: 0.55; characterised culturemes: 0.45; knowledge about the text topic: 0.47). Variability is generally high because of the text topic, which may be more accessible to some subjects depending on their background.

	Mean	SD
Organisation of environment	0.55	0.35
Organisation of cultural patrimony	0.42	0.14
Organisation of society	0.50	0.06
Linguistic and communicative needs	0.53	0.18
Experimental group’s index	0.50	0.09

Index of cultural declarative knowledge

	Index
Mean	0.55
SD	0.21

Index of identified culturemes

	Index
Mean	0.45
SD	0.27

Index of cuturemes characterised according to the experts’ characterisation

	Index
Mean	0.47
SD	0.34

Index of cultural declarative knowledge of the text topic

Decision-making

Neither the subjects’ previous knowledge about the rich points by itself nor the documentation resources only are enough to solve the selected cultural translation problems.

Type of sequence	Valid percent
Internal support (automatized)	4.30
Predominantly internal support	39.10
Predominantly external support	39.10
External support	17.40

Knowledge of translation

The means of the dynamic index of knowledge of translation range from 0.25 to 0.75 and variability is moderate. The experimental group’s index is 0.45, the same value obtained in 4th year students that took part in PACTE’s ATC experiment.

	Coefficient
Mean	0.75
SD	0.29

Coherence coefficient of knowledge of translation

	Mean	SD
Pair 1 (brief and TT audience)	0.75	0.28
Pair 2 (methods)	0.37	0.25
Pair 3 (methods)	0.62	0.25
Pair 4 (methods)	0.25	0.28
Pair 5 (methods)	0.25	0.28
Index	0.45	0.10

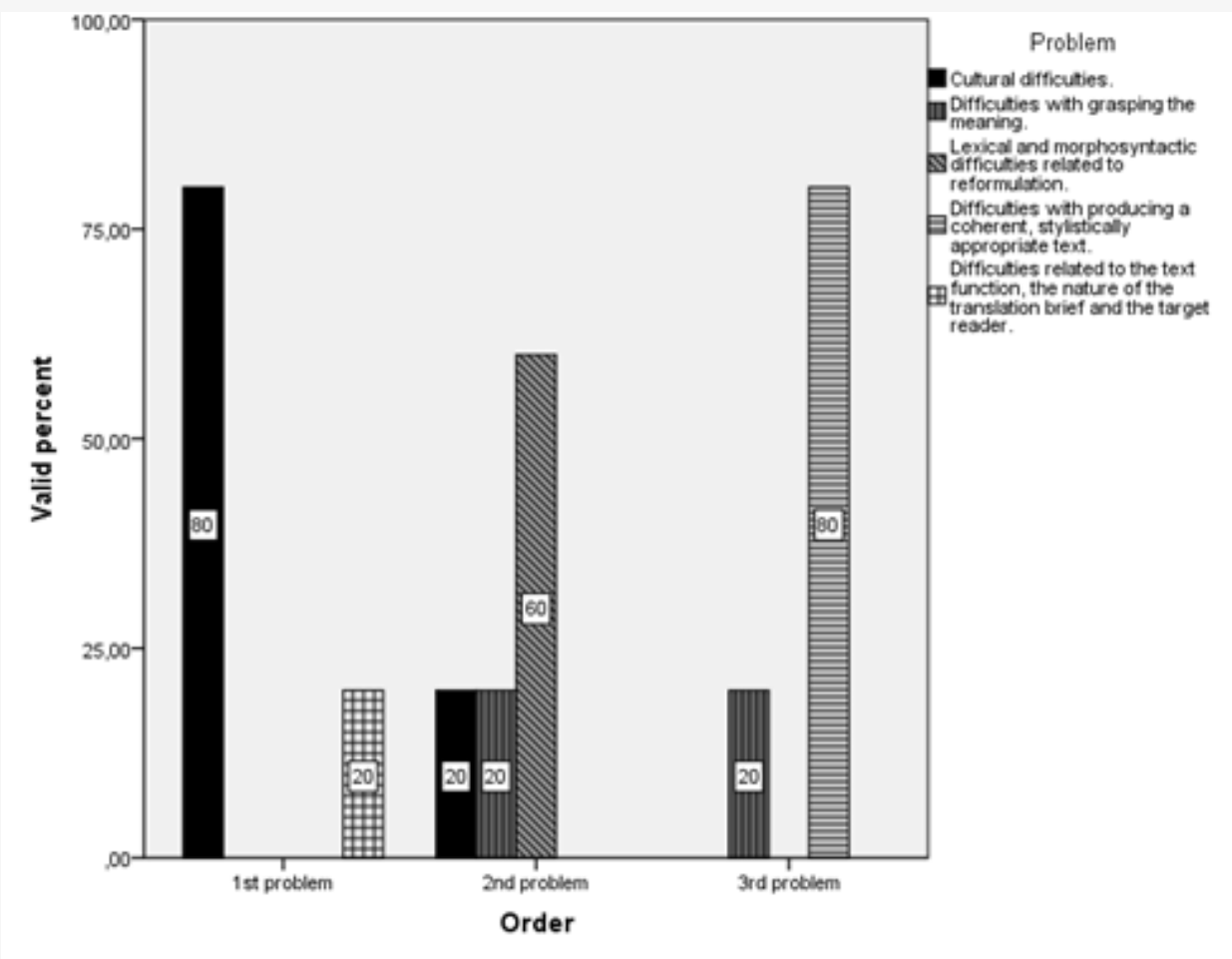
Dynamic index of knowledge of translation

Identification and solution of translation problems

Rich points are identified as cultural translation problems and the text mainly poses difficulties related to cultural aspects.

Rich Point	Percent
Ostalgie	80.00
Spreemetropole	80.00
Grenzeruniformen	100.00
Arbeiter- und Bauernstaat	100.00
Especially rich point	80.00
Experimental group	88.00

Identification of translation problems



	Ostalgie	Spreemetropole	Grenzeruniformen	Arbeiter- und Bauernstaat	Especially Rich Point
Difficulties related to comprehension	20.00	40.00	40.00	60.00	20.00
Difficulties related to reformulation	80.00	20.00	60.00	40.00	80.00
Other difficulties	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Characterisation of the rich points’ difficulties

	Index
Mean	0.64
SD	0.89

Index of perception of the difficulty of translation

3. Conclusions

- The performance of the pilot test’s sample group is similar to the ATC 4th year experiment sample, although there is some variability within the sample in some indicators.
- In the variable “Decision-making”, rich points are solved by mixing internal and external support depending on the subjects’ needs.
- Rich points are identified as cultural translation problems and the text mainly poses both comprehension and reformulation difficulties related to cultural aspects which are not automatically solvable.
- Data collection instruments have worked well, although reliability and validity of the cultural declarative knowledge questionnaire still has to be assessed.
- Some subjects did not have enough time to finish the translation task. The time assigned to each task has been revised and extended.
- Declarative aspects of culture have been measured only. The cultural intelligence scale and the multicultural personality trait questionnaire could be applied to gather useful information about knowledge-related and contrastive abilities and also about multicultural attitudes.

