Ten years and five projects: the evolution of research in public service interpreting in Catalonia

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Context

(I)

Source: Statistical Institute of Catalonia (Idescat)
Growing interest for PSI in the academia
Panoramic overview of PSI situation in Catalonia

MIRAS’ research
Results

- Lack of specific training
- Access to PSI services is uneven
- Lack of definition of the role of the interpreter
- Users, in general, satisfied
- Increasing use of telephone interpreting

Ugarte & Vargas-Urpi (2012)
Results

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- **Lack of definition of the role of the interpreter**
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Ugarte & Vargas-Urpi (2012)
CAPSULE 1:
MEDIATOR AND INTERPRETER: DIFFERENT ROLES
Panoramic overview of PSI situation in Catalonia

Accreditation systems around the world

MIRAS’ research
CAPSULE 3:
MINIMUM THREE PARTICIPANTS
AND EACH IN THEIR PLACE
Accreditation systems around the world

Panoramic overview of PSI situation in Catalonia

Problems and strategies in PSI

MIRAS' research
Problems and strategies in PSI

Experimental design based on 30 roleplays (15 Chinese-Catalan/Spanish, 15 Arabic-Catalan/Spanish) + retrospective interviews

Arumí & Vargas-Urpi (2017), Gil-Bardají & Vargas-Urpi (forthcoming)
1. Frequent non-renditions in both language combinations (24% of interpreters’ turns)
   • Used to confirm, complete, or clarify information
   • Used to provide more details (especially to user)
2. Unfrequent use of note-taking
3. Strategic use of non-verbal communication (conversation management + empathy)
4. Strategic use of conversation markers (either to indicate reception of message or empathy)

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Problems and strategies in PSI

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CAPSULE 4: TAKE NOTE!
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Accreditation systems around the world

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MIRAS’ research

TIPp project: study of court interpreting based on a corpus of naturally-occurring data
1. Collection of a corpus of 55 naturally-occurring court proceedings where interpreting took place
2. Transcription and annotation using EXMARaLDA
3. Analysis using both quantitative and qualitative methods

Orozco-Jutorán (2019)
1. Only an average 46% of the total length of the hearing is interpreted.

2. Average frequency of serious mistakes per bilingual hour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Mistake</th>
<th>EN-ES</th>
<th>FR-ES</th>
<th>RO-ES</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serious omission</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious addition</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious false sense</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incomprehensible</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Orozco-Jutorán (2019)
Translation and interpreting in court proceedings

![Average non-renditions per bilingual hour](chart.png)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-renditions</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>Romanian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Justified</td>
<td>8.73</td>
<td>14.35</td>
<td>25.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unjustified</td>
<td>16.66</td>
<td>11.09</td>
<td>65.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Orozco-Jutorán (2019)
CAPSULE 5: WITH THE INTERPRETER'S PERMISSION
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TIPp project: study of court interpreting based on a corpus of naturally-occurring data

Young natural interpreters: child language brokering in education, social services
2019-2021

Main objective:
To provide objective, empirical information about the extent and characteristics of Child Language Brokering among the major migrated communities in Catalonia

Ethnography-inspired method:
Questionnaires, interviews and focus groups

http://pagines.uab.cat/ilm/en
Expanding professional borders: PSI and the challenges of the new Millenium

1. The videos reflect 10 years of research in PSI by MIRAS;
2. The videos try to be realistic and reflect typical situations in Catalan public services;

However...

1. There were latent biases in the first versions of scripts:
   1. Gender bias in certain roles (e.g. interpreter, user)
   2. Ethnic bias (authenticity vs. empowerment)
2. Difficulties in recruiting actors and actresses

All the videos are available at: [http://pagines.uab.cat/expandingpsi/](http://pagines.uab.cat/expandingpsi/)
References + THANK YOU!  
(mireia.vargas@uab.cat)


• Gil-Bardají, Anna; Vargas-Urpi, Mireia (forthcoming, 2020). Estudio comparativo de las prestaciones árabe-español/catalán y chino-español/catalán en dos corpus de simulaciones de ISP. *Hermeneus*, vol. 22.
