

	ACTRES Project
	English-Spanish Contrastive Analysis and Translation
	Universities of León, Valladolid, Cantabria & Brighton

	Main points:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1. Introduction and description of the ACTRES Project ■ 2. Working procedure employed at the University of León (demo) ■ 3. Description of the English-Spanish translation corpus under construction

	PART 1
	INTRODUCTION TO ACTRES

	Overview of research lines at the University of León
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ TRACE project: TRANslation & CEnsorship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – English-Spanish translations and censorship in the Franco era (1939-1975) ■ ACTRES project: Análisis Contrastivo y TRaducción ESpecializada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – English-Spanish contrastive analysis and translation

	Interface between DTS and Contrastive Analysis (CA)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ TRACE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – use parallel corpora to unveil regularities in translation behaviour (including language transfer) – interpret regularities as 'translation norms' (Toury 1995) ■ ACTRES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – use comparable corpora to identify forms in Eng. & Sp. for particular meaning areas – provide translational options with typicality – applicability: translation practice, translator training & translation quality assessment

	ACTRES project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Functional, corpus-based CA ■ Levels of analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Contrastive rhetoric – Contrastive grammar – Contrastive phraseology – Contrastive lexicology & terminology

ACTRES project

- Language for special purposes (economics, biomedical sciences, maths, etc.) (Universities of Valladolid, León & Cantabria) → parallel & comparable corpora (Wordsmith Tools)
- General language (University of León) → reference corpora Cobuild¹ & CREA²

- 1. Cobuild/Bank of English: <http://titania.cobuild.collins.co.uk>
- 2. CREA (Reference Corpus of Contemporary Spanish): <http://www.rae.es>

ACTRES project: León

- Some semantic functions analysed in general language studies:
 - Quantification (Labrador de la Cruz 2002)
 - Characterisation (Ramón García 2003)
 - Modality (Rabadán, forthcoming)

PART 2

WORKING PROCEDURE

Theoretical background

- MODEL
 - Functionalist approaches to language description (Halliday 1994; Bondarko 1991).
 - Functional Contrastive Studies (Chesterman 1998)
- METHOD
 - Corpus linguistics (Sinclair 1991)
 - Corpus-based Contrastive Studies (Aijmer et al. 1996; Johansson & Oksefjell 1998; Altenberg & Granger 2002)

FUNCTIONALISM

- Halliday (1994)
 - Form is shaped by use
 - Language as a system of choices
- Bondarko (1991)
 - “A functional-semantic field is a bilateral unity of form and content which embraces the concrete means of a given language with all the characteristics of their form and content.” (Bondarko 1991: 22)
 - Typicality: central vs. peripheral.
- Chesterman (1998)
 - Starting point: perceived similarity
 - From meaning to form

Corpus-based approach

- Large amounts of authentic text
- Real language in use
- Frequency of occurrence of patterns
- Confirmation of the paradigmatic organization of language
- Language is not random, but structured in patterns (Sinclair 1991)
- Use for CA (Filipovic 1974)
- Corpora & a revival of CA in the 90s

WORKING PROCEDURES

- identifying problem area
- selecting data from the corpora
- description of typical resources
- juxtaposition of expressive means
- contrast & translational options available

Characterising nouns in English and Spanish

- Qualitative modification of nouns in attributive position
- Major translation problem between English and Spanish
- Wide range of different grammatical resources for this meaning in both languages
- Similar formal means, but different distribution in use

Data selection process

- Nouns as semantic nodes
- Frequency lists
- Statistically representative number of concordances:

$$n = \frac{N}{(N-1) E^2 + 1}$$

- n: sample analysed
- N: whole sample
- E: estimated error (0.05, for a confidence margin of 95%)

Data selection table: English

Total nº of instances	Sample analysed
Time: 49,940	397
Year: 44,769	396
World: 31,091	395
Way: 26,279	394
Day: 25,532	394
Man: 23,330	393
Home: 23,246	393
Life: 22,428	393
Night: 19,276	392
Week: 18,888	392

Data selection table: Spanish

Total nº of instances	Sample analysed
Ve: 39,752	396
Parte: 38,542	396
Tiempo: 30,417	395
Vida: 28,902	395
Caso: 28,098	394
Día: 27,487	394
Año: 27,440	394
Forma: 25,226	394
Mundo: 23,383	393
Momento: 20,817	392

Concordances analysed

- All in all 7,882:
 - 3,939 in English
 - 3,943 in Spanish
- With nominal modification:
 - 1,136 in English
 - 1,036 in Spanish

DESCRIPTION

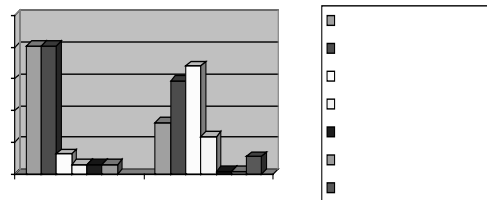
- Onomasiological study: from meaning to form
- Semasiological study: from form to meaning
- Aim: establishing functional-semantic fields in contrast (Bondarko 1991)

DESCRIPTION

- Syntactic classification
 - Traditional grammatical categories
- Semantic classification
 - Broad, adjective-based model
 - Description ~ classification (Teyssier 1968; Warren 1984; Ferris 1993; Biber et al. 1999; Tucker 1998)
 - Overlap of semantic functions

Functions & structures for the noun *day*

JUXTAPOSITION

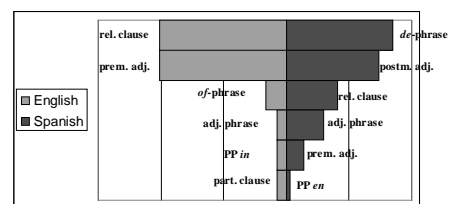


JUXTAPOSITION



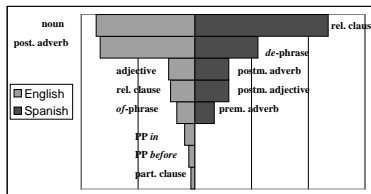
CONTRAST

Descriptive function in contrast



CONTRAST

Temporal function in contrast



CD-Rom demo

SOME RESULTS

- Functions have typical structures (Bondarko 1991)
- Structures have typical functions (Wierzbicka 1988)
- Lexis influences the semantic type of modification
- Importance of *de*-phrases and relative clauses in Spanish
- Importance of premodifying adjectives and nouns in English
- More graphic representation of the world in English (locative function) (Vázquez Ayora 1977)

PART 3

English-Spanish Parallel Corpus

English-Spanish Parallel Corpus

- Reasons for building it:
 - Possibility of checking previous results (translationese)
 - New form-based research possibilities:
 - -ing forms
 - -ly adverbs
 - Bring the two main research lines closer : contrastive analysis & descriptive translation studies

Structure of the parallel corpus

- **CONTENTS**
 - 49% books: fiction & non-fiction
 - 49% press: newspapers & magazines
 - 2% miscellanea
- **ORIGIN OF TEXTS**
 - Original texts in British & American English
 - Translations published in European Spanish
 - One-way only:
 - English originals → Spanish translations
 - Cobuild & CREA as control corpora of original texts

TEXTS INCLUDED

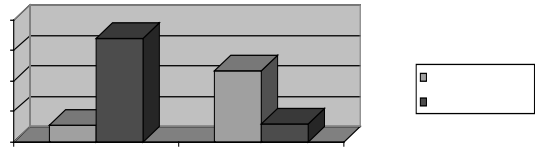
- Books: fragments between 5,000 and 12,000 words
- Press: whole articles
- Miscellanea: whole texts
- Copyright issues

Number of words

	ENGLISH	SPANISH	TOTAL
Books – fiction	93,699	102,742	196,441
Books – non-fiction	29,123	30,903	60,026
Newspapers	46,850	41,340	88,190
Magazines	44,179	44,595	88,774
Miscellanea	33,736	41,168	74,904
TOTAL	247,587	260,748	508,335

Aligned sample corpus.

SAMPLE RESULTS



SUMMING UP

- Corpus-based contrastive studies
- Meaning-based contrastive studies
- Comparable corpora

- Need for a parallel corpus for further contrastive studies

THE END

ACTRES Project
English-Spanish
Contrastive Analysis and Translation