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## Trabajo Fin de Grado

Journalistic translation on controversial news:  
characteristics and techniques  
in Pablo Hasél's case

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## Table of contents

<b>1. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. CHARACTERISTICS OF JOURNALISTIC TEXTS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.1. CHARACTERISTICS OF SPANISH JOURNALISTIC TEXTS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.1.1. Generic factors .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.1.2. Linguistic factors.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2.1.3. Journalistic factors.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2.2. EL PAÍS STYLEBOOK.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2.3. CHARACTERISTICS OF ENGLISH JOURNALISTIC TEXTS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>3. ANALYSIS.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>3.1. TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES IN JOURNALISTIC TEXTS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>3.1.1. Linguistic amplification .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>3.1.2. Elision .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>3.1.3. Linguistic compression .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>3.1.4. Modulation .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>3.1.1. Compensation .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>3.2. OTHER TECHNIQUES: TRANSEDITING, GATEKEEPING, TRIBALISATION.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>3.2.1. Transediting.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>3.2.2. Gatekeeping .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>3.2.3. Tribalisation .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>4. CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>29</b>

## **1. Introduction**

This dissertation studies how the translation procedure is developed in the field of journalism when the news is a controversial one, and whether both the English and the Spanish news fulfil the characteristics of journalistic texts in each language.

The motive behind the choice of this subject to study is the growing practice of news translation even without hiring professional translators and to give visibility to a discipline that makes communication and connection between cultures possible. Moreover, I have always been interested in political controversial news, such as the recent events surrounding the rapper Pablo Hasél and the violent demonstrations in his defence.

Now more than ever, thanks to the Internet, the world is increasingly globalised, and so is journalism. The moment an important event happens anywhere in the world, in a matter of minutes the news is already circulating around and published in all the journals and social media. But it has not always been as it is today. How news about events abroad were reported changed radically, as Bielsa and Bassnett states (2009:32), thanks to the telegraph in the second half of the nineteenth century. From that moment, newspapers found themselves obliged to choose the news they published not by proximity, but by relevance. This led to choosing the most recent happenings as newsworthy, which increased the competition among newspapers over who published what first. Time after, at the end of the twentieth century, “the integration of written, oral and audio-visual modalities of human communication through technological transformation, and, most notably, the convergence in the second half of the 1990s of diversified and customized global mass media with computer-mediated interactive communication” was noticed (Bielsa & Bassnett, 2009:33). In the work cited, the authors, through the sociologist Manuel Castells’ words, say that the world has seen an upsurge in communication spearheaded by television in the last three decades (ibid.:33). That type of journalism was

given the name of modern journalism and led to where we are nowadays: global journalism ruled by news agencies who address “their news directly to the public through the internet, which has become an important medium for the integration of text and audio-visual communication” (ibid.:54).

As a result of this globalisation in journalism, linguistic diversity accompanies the production of news in different languages, which gives translation an imperative role in the work of news agencies. The paradox is that these agencies do not hire professional translators to perform these tasks because it “is not conceived as separate from other journalistic tasks of writing up and edition and is mainly assumed by the news editor” (ibid.:57).

The analysis focuses on the news about the imprisonment of Pablo Hasél last February in the Catalan city of Lleida. This news item has been chosen since, aside from being recent, it is a controversial topic for several reasons: it deals with the issue of freedom of speech, the question of support or not for the Spanish Crown (since one of the reasons for which the rapper is imprisoned is for criticising it) and the disturbances that this entailed in the main Catalan cities. As it is a conflictive issue, translating these news items from Spanish into English can be a challenging task for the assigned person to do so, as they must select what and what not to translate following the political line of the newspaper, in this case *El País*, but without positioning it in the conflict.

Consequently, the aim of this dissertation is, on the one hand, to identify the characteristics that journalistic texts in both languages have to adhere to; and, on the other hand, to illustrate how the editor-translators of *El País* deal with this arduous task by means of the use of translations techniques such as linguistic amplification, elision, linguistic compression, modulation and compensation, as well as more secondary

techniques not so directly related to translation such as transediting, gatekeeping and tribalisation.

## **2. Characteristics of journalistic texts**

In this section, the main characteristics of Spanish journalistic texts, which have been extracted from my notes of the subject *Traducción de textos profesionales y académicos* (2020, fourth year, University of Zaragoza), will be explained in terms of different textual variation factors, which comprise generic factors, such as genre and register; linguistic factors, such as morphosyntactic, lexical and rhetorical; and journalistic factors, such as medium, context and norms of the medium. Later, the importance of each newspaper's own stylebook, in this case, the one from *El País*, *Libro de estilo de El País* (Spanish Edition) from 2014, will be described, as well as the characteristics of English journalistic texts, such as the way in which texts are divided in informative journalism, the language that should be used, the importance of the text being coherent and cohesive, the order in which the paragraphs should be placed, and some questions regarding grammar.

### **2.1. Characteristics of Spanish journalistic texts**

#### **2.1.1. Generic factors**

Journalistic texts are composed of a collection of textual types (genres) which is not uniform. According to Casasús and Núñez Ladevéze (1991), the traditional classification is divided into three genres, each one of them associated with a particular social practice:

- Informative: news and interviews.
- Interpretative: columns and reports.
- Argumentative: opinion articles.

The evolution of these social practices entails modifications of genres. Thus, when this happens, Pastukhov (2020:523) calls it “contamination” of some genres over others, which in Linguistics the scholar calls it “hybridisation”.

Regarding the register, journalistic style is a heterogeneous one, as it depends on the genre, the subject matter, the author, the type of newspaper (since each one has its own stylebook, as it is the case of the newspaper *El País*, which will be discussed later) and the potential audience. Some experts, such as Martínez Albertos (1983:192), define journalistic style as “colloquial speech at an academic level”. Others, such as Lázaro Carreter (1977:20), define it as “between literary, administrative and vulgar style.” Literary because it requires linguistic creativity (metaphor, polysemy, personifications, etc.); administrative because it is characteristic of politicians, who often resort to technicalities, euphemisms and vague expressions (mostly in the argumentative genre); and oral because of the use of colloquial or stereotyped expressions typical of spoken language to convey a spontaneous and informal tone.

### **2.1.2. Linguistic factors**

As stated before, and according to what Dr. Isabel Corona taught us in the subject *Traducción de textos profesionales y académicos* through Hernando Cuadrado (2002:265-269), linguistic factors can be divided into three features:

- Morphosyntactic features: it is the use of nominalisations, the use of the explanatory apposition, a very controlled use of the passive and the gerund, the preference for the present indicative, and the tendency to place the subject at the end. Besides that, the use of connectors, of which only 50% are explicit and, among them, the most frequent semantic connection procedure is addition (copulative coordination), followed by the use of noun, adjective, temporal and purpose subordinates. In terms of paragraphs, the average range is between 30 and 70 words, but it depends on the newspaper and its stylebook (it will be seen later on). Lastly, there is a permanent presence of a blending of direct and indirect style.

- Lexical features: it is the use of specific adjectives and avoidance of topical epithets, such as "*auténtica catástrofe*" since, as Sastre (2006, accessed 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021) states in her article, "experts consider that, in general, the constant and continuous use of these epithets impoverishes the expression, so it is recommended to avoid them except in those exceptional cases in which they are intended to express a special emphasis."; euphemisms, since the choice of vocabulary can be ideologically biased, equivalence should always be sought; journalistic slang, which consists on recurrent formulas and lexical clichés, such as "affirmative action" (Feldmann, 1995); false friends, which are characterised by the mistranslations of international agency teletypes and have imposed on more precise terms that have lost their real meaning (such as "copies" translated as "*copias*" meaning "*ejemplares*"), must be avoided, as Hernando Cuadrado (2002:269) argues, since they do not have the same meaning because "*copias*" means reproduction or imitation of an original, whereas "*ejemplar*" is, according to the RAE (*Real Academia Española*, a cultural institution dedicated to linguistic regularisation in the Hispanic world), a writing taking from the same original or model; the use of neologisms and borrowings (anglicisms). The journalistic translation is one of the ways of transferring forms and usages from other languages since the concept and the term are imported. This includes foreign words, such as reality show, airbag, top model, etc. When they are used, it is necessary to make sure that i) they are accepted by the RAE, ii) they are included in the pertinent stylebook, and iii) the orthotypographical rule must be adapted (use of Italics, etc.). Lastly, the use of acronyms and abbreviations, whose general rules of translation, according to the FundeuRAE (*Fundación del Español Urgente*, a foundation whose aim is to ensure the proper use of the Spanish

language in the media, notably in news media, and which is supported by the RAE), are divided into i) if it is international, use the original (CIA, BBC, FBI); ii) if it is coined or a similar concept exists in the target language, use the equivalent (NGO as ONG, GDP as PIB); iii) if it is local, there are several options:

- First the full name in the target language (henceforth, TL) and then, in parentheses, the acronym in the source language (henceforth, SL) with the formula "*La Oficina de Manejo de la Tierra (BLM, siglas en inglés) (...)*" (El País, 2015).
- First the acronym in the SL and then the translation of the full name in parentheses, as in "*Hope Solo tiene motivos para estar descontenta con la USSF (Federación Estadounidense de Fútbol)*" (Mundo Deportivo, 2018)
- First the SL acronym, then the whole name in parentheses, then the translation of the whole name between commas, as in "*El GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), Acuerdo General sobre Aranceles de Aduanas y Comercio.*" (Página 12, 2020)
- Rhetorical features: it is the use of metonymy, as in "*La ciudad de Los Ángeles prohíbe fumar en los parques públicos*" (El Periódico, 2007); the use of hyperbole, as in "*España entera se volcó con el partido de la Selección*" (ABC, 2010); the use of personification, as in "*el buen comportamiento de los precios*" (Huelva Información, 2008); and the use of metaphors as a mechanism for understanding and expressing complex situations, using more basic concepts known by the reader. The latter has the following translation procedures, according to Serón Ordoñez (2005:205-250): i) keep it, ii) use another equivalent,

iii) use paraphrasing, iv) compensate for the semantic loss elsewhere in the text, and v) remove it, although this is not recommended.

### 2.1.3. Journalistic factors

There are four main factors within the journalistic ones, which are:

- The requirements of the communicative framework of the target text (henceforth, TT), which is the new communication channel, i.e., new newspaper or publication, since the difference between Anglo-Saxon texts is not comparable to the reality of the Spanish national press, which is generally described as being of “quality”.
- The potential audience, since in order to respect the sensibilities of their readers, the most serious newspapers do not include obscene language in their pages, unless it is of undoubtedly informative value or reflects the personality of the person uttering it, in which case it is quoted in inverted commas as someone else's statements.
- The contextual requirements.
- The stylebooks considered as the own internal rules of the newspapers. They work in parallel to the rules of the RAE and even “rule” over it. There are some main differences:
  - Orthotypographic. For instance, with regard to inverted commas in textual quotations: English in *El País* and Spanish, Roman or Angular, in *El Mundo*.
  - Criteria for the transcription of alphabets, for instance, in Irak or Iraq.
  - Use of borrowings.
  - The journalistic style itself, as in the use of courtesy, such as Mr/Mrs/Ms, the translation of names and titles, etc.

## 2.2. El País stylebook

In the present section, several points from the 2014 edition of the stylebook of the Spanish newspaper *El País* will be described. Given the fact that the stylebook covers many topics, these points have been chosen according to their relevance to this dissertation and usefulness in the news analysis in subsequent parts of this paper.

To start with, the first section of the stylebook approaches the ethical principles which every news item published in this newspaper must adhere to. There are many subsections within this section, such as sources, libel and slander, conflicts of interest, treatment of information, information singularities, images, interviews, etc. Following that section, there is one about writing standards. The first points discuss the use of language, and how the writing style should be clear, concise, precise, fluent and easily understandable in order to capture the reader's interest; how journalists are just that, journalists, and have the duty of communicating and making technical or specialised information accessible to the general public. It also states that the use of technical terms does not necessarily show a vast knowledge, but, in many cases, a remarkable ignorance. Therefore, the use of euphemisms should also be avoided. Thus, for instance, "price readjustment" should be called a "rise", and a police officer did not "have to" use riot control means, but he simply used them. In this stylebook (2014), 12 different types of content are distinguished, such as 'news', defined as information without interpretation (2014:39, my own translation), which is the focus of this dissertation and in which, according to *El País* (2014:39), the facts prevail. About this journalistic genre, the stylebook states that an informative text must be self-explanatory (2014:42), that it must be composed in such a way that the reader does not have to recall the antecedents in order to understand the information offered. Each news item must be written as an informative unit, without intuitively linking it to other texts, not even when they are annexed.

Concerning the length of the paragraphs, the stylebook (2014:40-42) indicates that the first paragraph, known as “lead”, should consist of about 60 words in which should be answered the questions what, who, how, where, when and why, although these questions can be distributed throughout the piece. In any case, the lead and the body should not exceed 900 words, except in extraordinary cases.

Regarding typography (2014:86-90), it is important to highlight the use of Italics for non-Spanish terms in exceptional cases (since Spanish predominates provided that an equivalent exists), with exceptions to the non-use of Italics in cases such as common non-Spanish names of urban roads or buildings, the names of ethnic groups, languages, dialects, and many others.

### 2.3. Characteristics of English journalistic texts

As a final part in the section on the characteristics of journalistic texts, a number of features of Anglo-Saxon texts will be described.

As Mayorga de la Cruz (2017) describes in her dissertation, there are multiple ways of dividing a news item in informative journalism, but what all experts agree on is that there should be three parts: lead, body and tail.

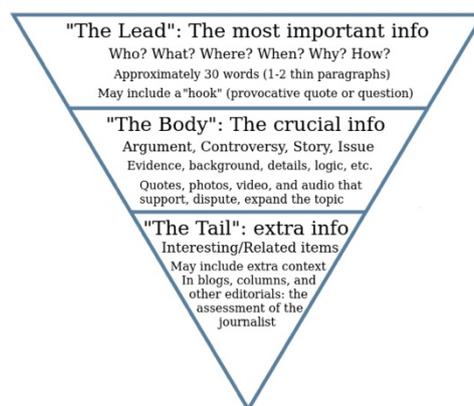


Figure 1: Parts of the news item in informative journalism<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Figure extracted from Wikimedia Commons ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Inverted\\_pyramid\\_in\\_comprehensive\\_form.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Inverted_pyramid_in_comprehensive_form.jpg)), accessed on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Moreover, in the same way as with Spanish texts, and according to Mayorga de la Cruz (2017:11) the writer must use a language which should be understandable to all kinds of audiences. Another important element is that the text should be coherent and cohesive. Since the news item is made up of several paragraphs, they must be properly connected to each other. On grammar, over the years, news has evolved towards a simple format, with direct sentences, using compound clauses but only at certain times so as not to create ambiguity. The active voice is preferred to the passive one, short paragraphs, avoidance of repetition, the use of the third person to avoid subjectivity and the past simple or past perfect verb tenses to narrate an event. Lastly, Mayorga de la Cruz (2017:13) summarises the features that the journalist's style adheres to as: the existence of distance of the reader from the author, as the journalist is a mediator who prevents the use of the first person; the syntax and the journalistic lexicon are normalised to avoid incorrectness; and the writing style is compact in order to economise time and space. To achieve this, there is a high lexical denseness, and relative clauses and nominalisations are prevalent.

Thus, to summarise this section about the characteristics of journalistic texts, it could be said that both Spanish and English journalistic texts have virtually the same features and that what is really important for a journalist is to follow the rules of each newspaper's stylebook.

### **3. Analysis**

The translated texts sometimes undergo significant changes in the new target channel with respect to the original from other media, and these changes involve the application of specific translation techniques. Translation strategies, as Hurtado Albir (2001:240-250) says, are both individual and procedural in nature, and they involve the mechanisms used by the translator to solve the encountered problems in the development of the

translation process based on its specific needs. It is a procedure, usually verbal, visible in the translation result, which is used to achieve translational equivalence, with five major traits: i) they have a bearing on the translation output, ii) they are catalogued in comparison with the original, iii) they cover textual micro-units, iv) they have a discursive and contextual quality, and v) they are functional. (Hurtado Albir, 2001:268, in Hernández Guerrero, 2006:131) Therefore, in this section, an analysis will be made of the news items chosen about the riots that followed the arrest of the rapper Pablo Hasél published in *El País* and their translation into English in *El País English Edition*. Such analysis will consist of two parts: on the one hand, the translation techniques used to translate such news from Spanish into English will be studied; on the other hand, there will be an analysis of the use of other techniques which are not exclusively related to translation, but which are often linked to it in news writing, such as gatekeeping, transediting and tribalisation.

### **3.1. Translation techniques in journalistic texts**

There are several translation techniques, but I have selected the ones that tend to predominate in news translation. As such, five strategies will be analysed in this section, namely: i) linguistic amplification, ii) elision, iii) linguistic compression, iv) modulation, and v) compensation. While the first three techniques (amplification, elision and linguistic compression) are used to insert or delete information from the TT, the last two techniques (modulation and compensation) serve mainly to organise the TT.

#### **3.1.1. Linguistic amplification**

According to Hernández Guerrero (2006:11), linguistic amplification is a technique that consists of providing details that the ST does not contain. In the case of journalistic translation, it is the most frequently used technique, required by the new circumstances

in which the translated item is received. Amplification, says Hernández Guerrero (2006:8-9), is used for different purposes:

- Updating information: the function of informativeness, which is predominant in journalistic genres, sometimes explains the extension of the information in the ST due to new development in the news item.
- Explanation of the information: the news always needs to be easily comprehensible. Since the target audience (henceforth, TA) comes from a different culture or background, several terms will not be understood. For this reason, it is sometimes advisable to clarify the information. Such is the case in the following example, as readers outside Spain may not know who the Mossos d'Esquadra are. So further clarification is needed.

ST: Los Mossos han cruzado por encima del fuego (...). (EP 18th February 2021)

TT: The Catalan regional police, the Mossos d'Esquadra, crossed over the burning barricade, (...). (EPEE 18th February 2021)

- Contextualisation of the information: the new socio-cultural framework sometimes makes it mandatory to place the information in context. The information provided to the new reader is updated and adapted to his or her closest reality. This is the case of the following example, as contextualisation is required since the information is found in the first paragraph of the body of the news item, where the crucial data is located.

ST: Los altercados han regresado a las calles catalanas por tercera noche consecutiva, en el contexto de las manifestaciones para pedir la libertad del rapero Pablo Hasél, encarcelado el martes. (EP 18th February 2021)

TT: Protesters took the streets of Catalonia for a third night in a row on Thursday to demonstrate against the arrest of Spanish rapper Pablo Hasél, who was recently convicted of praising terrorism and insulting the Spanish Crown in messages on social media. (EPEE 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021)

### 3.1.2. Elision

In the case of news genres, the ST is used as the basis for creating a new text in English that must function as news for a different audience and be inserted into the new textual conventions in the TT. It is, therefore, as Hernández Guerrero (2006:135) states, not unusual that parts of the text are frequently elided. Among the general reasons for using this technique, there are two: i) remove information that is not relevant to the TA, and ii) use the given space in a more economical way, as normally news items have a limited space for publication. But there is a third reason, inasmuch news about the protests in Catalonia can be controversial. It may happen that the newspaper cuts those fragments that may be presumably biased for the TA, as it is the case of the example below.

ST: Los manifestantes han volcado contenedores, han cortado calles y han proferido insultos a la policía. Hay al menos un herido y ocho detenidos. Predominaban los jóvenes y estudiantes entre los concentrados que pedían la libertad del rapero. Uno de los concentrados ha tirado la cámara a un periodista de À Punt tras discutir con los agentes y haber sido apartado por sus compañeros del cordón policial que intentaba atravesar. (EP 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021)

TT: The demonstrators tipped over trash containers, blocked streets and yelled insults at officers. At least one person was injured, and eight arrests were made. One protester hit the camera of a journalist from the local Valencian television channel À Punt. (EPEE 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021)

### 3.1.3. Linguistic compression

Linguistic compression focuses on synthesising linguistic elements. By using it, there is a change in the distribution of the same semantic components but with fewer elements. The content of a part of the message is reduced so that, in the case of journalistic translation, space and clarity are obtained. This technique is usually blended with elision, and these two, along with amplification, turn the translator into an editor as well.

Linguistic compression and elision are two fundamental techniques when translating news. Both complement each other as elision removes unnecessary information, while linguistic compression helps to express what is said in many words through very few words, thereby simplifying the task of writing short news articles.

The example below provides a case of linguistic compression (*Italics*) mixed with elision (underlined) in order to extract the core of what is being told in the ST in a shorter version in the TT:

ST: En Valencia, centenares de personas se han concentrado por la tarde para mostrar su respaldo al rapero encarcelado Pablo Hasél y *rechazar las cargas policiales que se han sucedido en varias ciudades españolas condenando su entrada en prisión.* (...) Los concentrados han intentado marchar en manifestación por el centro de la capital valenciana pero un fuerte dispositivo policial les ha cortado el paso. *Entonces han empezado las cargas de los agentes, los golpes y las carreras por las calles aledañas a la plaza de San Agustín, donde estaba convocada la protesta.* (EP 18th February 2021)

TT: In Valencia, hundreds of people also took to the streets on Thursday in support of Hasél and *to protest against the police's response to the recent demonstrations.* (...) At around 7pm, the protesters – made up mostly of young people and students

– gathered in the centre of the city, where they clashed with riot police. (EPEE 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021)

#### **3.1.4. Modulation**

This technique is often used in oblique translation, which occurs when it is impossible to translate word for word. The two most commonly used techniques for this type of translation are transposition and modulation. In the latter, a shift in perspective, approach or thought category is achieved in relation to the original formulation of the text. (Albir, 2001:270) Vinay and Darbelnet propose eleven categories of modulation, among which are abstract for concrete, cause for effect, means for result, a part for the whole, geographical change, etc. (Molina & Hurtado Albir, 2002:500)

The next sample is from the headline of the news item. Writing headlines is one of the most complex tasks in journalistic writing. It has to fulfil a double function: on the one hand, it must summarise the content of the news item or, at least, the important part of it, and, at the same time, it must try to capture the reader's attention.

Vella Ramírez and Martínez López (2012:187) argue that the author of a news headline has a task ahead of him/her that includes, among others, the following aspects:

1. A work of synthesis of the news item prepared, which will lead the author to condense the most relevant part of this news item into a few words or phrases to construct "the headline".
2. A task of identification with the potential reader of the news item, in order to attract his or her attention. To do so, the author will make use of ideological approaches in accordance with the editorial line of the newspaper and of all the linguistic and cultural background shared with the future reader.
3. A use of linguistic-discursive resources which allow for a correct elaboration of the headline, respecting, on the one hand, the coherence between "headline" and

“content” and, on the other hand, making clear, directly or indirectly, the approach or vision which characterises the newspaper in which the news item appears.

Therefore, if these headlines were to be translated into another language, we would not only face a linguistic or discursive problem, but, in most cases, our priority attention would have to focus on the “metalinguistic” dimension, the cultural references or the stylistic dimension of the headline or text to be translated.

This is why, in order to account for this type of translation, an interdisciplinary approach to the object of study should be made, which not only includes the linguistic-discursive dimension, the most studied within Applied Linguistics, but also the cultural elements and the procedures or strategies provided by the field of Translatology to deal with the practice of translating this type of text.

When translating such part of the text, Vella Ramírez and Martínez López (2012:186) state that the translator should decide whether the headline is “exportable” to the TL or not and, in case it has to be replaced with any other element, one of the most common techniques is amplification.

That being said, in the example, the Spanish headline already explains the causes of the protests as well as where they are taking place, so its translation into English has not required the use of amplification. Instead, the translator has used modulation changing the point of view from impersonal active (in Spanish) to personal passive (in English), leading to Catalonia being personified and being seen as the one who has suffered the consequences of the riots and not the demonstrators themselves.

ST: Tercera noche de altercados en Cataluña en las protestas por la prisión de Pablo Hasél. (EP 18th February 2021)

TT: Catalonia rocked by third night of protests over jailing of rapper Pablo Hasél. (EPEE 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021)

### 3.1.1. Compensation

The compensation technique is more related to the reorganisation of the structure of the ST than to matters of adding or deleting information from the ST. Reorganisation can occur both at the level of paragraph order and at the level of the internal structure of each paragraph and sentence.

Compensation can be defined as the technique in which an element of information or stylistic effect is introduced into another part of the TT which could not be reproduced in the same place where it appears in the ST. (Albir, 2001:270)

Among the reasons for reorganising the text through compensation, the main one is to remove information that may be perceived to be “out of place” in the ST due to the adjacent information. In this case, the compensated information is either placed in another paragraph in which the content is related to that compensated data, or a new paragraph is created for such information along with some needed amplifications. In the case of the studied texts in this dissertation, in the Spanish version, the text is divided into paragraphs and, although it covers different geographical areas of Spain where demonstrations have taken place, the way to distinguish a paragraph which refers to, for example, Barcelona, with one that talks about Valencia is simply by introducing the city in which the riots take place at the beginning of such paragraph. On the other hand in the English version, the news is divided into sections and, when the geographical area changes, a new section is created.

ST: (*6th paragraph, talking about concentrations in Valencia*) Uno de los congregados ha leído un discurso desde el móvil en el que ha denunciado la represión policial y ha advertido: “Si quieren guerra, tendrán guerra”, informa Efe. [...]

*(7th paragraph)* Los manifestantes han volcado contenedores, han cortado calles y han proferido insultos a la policía. Hay al menos un herido y ocho detenidos.

*(...)* Uno de los concentrados ha tirado la cámara a un periodista de À Punt *(...)*.

TT: *(12th paragraph)* The demonstrators tipped over trash containers, blocked streets and yelled insults at officers. At least one person was injured and eight arrests were made. One protester hit the camera of a journalist from the local Valencian television channel À Punt. According to the Spanish news agency EFE, at one point during the demonstration, a protester read out a speech donouncing police repression and warning: “if they want a war, they will have a war.”

### **3.2. Other techniques: transediting, gatekeeping, tribalisation**

#### **3.2.1. Transediting**

Recently, research in the field of translation has been on the rise. One of the branches of translation that has grown the most in recent years is news translation. When analysing the role that translation plays in such field, there is a term that has been used regularly: transediting. This term was first used by Karen Stetting in 1989 to refer to the fine line between translating and editing. She argues that “a certain amount of editing has always been included in the translation task” (Stetting, 1989:371, in Schäffner, 2012:867). Examples of what she explains include changing miles to kilometres, adding explanations necessary for the TA to understand the text, and removing information irrelevant to the TA, among other things. She states that “changing, adding and removing are textual actions which editors do with texts in their own language as well” (Schäffner, 2012:867), and she continues, in addition to this, referring to “correcting errors in the source text and to improving on cohesion, grammar, style, as editing acts done by translators” (ibid.:867).

Stetting (1989:377) suggests that there are three different areas of transediting, which are i) cleaning-up transediting, ii) situational transediting, and iii) cultural transediting. Besides, Aktan and Nohl (2010, in Schäffner, 2012:872) differentiate five patterns of transediting:

1. Inserting information, usually to provide explanations.
2. Varying the semantic meaning by stylistic changes and adaptations.
3. Shortening content, e.g., by removing idioms.
4. Omitting information to facilitate understanding, e.g., removing irrelevant information.
5. Data added by the editor.

Given the foregoing in this section of the dissertation, a clear relationship can be gleaned between the analysis made in previous sections on translation techniques in journalistic texts and the different patterns and areas described in this section above.

Among the areas that Stetting distinguishes within transediting, the most related to this paper is the cultural one. This is due to the fact that this type of transediting is based on the adaptation of the text according to the needs and conventions of the target culture. Hence, the technique of linguistic amplification is used in the news about the imprisonment of Pablo Hasél, as it can be noted in the examples given in section 3.1.1. of this dissertation and, more specifically, in the point on “explanation of the information”, where the text is amplified to explain who the Mossos d’Esquadra are in Catalonia.

In a similar vein, another clear example would be the following since English-speaking readers do not necessarily know where the TV channel À Punt is from.

ST: Uno de los concentrados ha tirado la cámara a un periodista de À Punt tras discutir con los agentes y haber sido apartado por sus compañeros del cordón policial que intentaban atravesar. (EP 18th February 2021)

TT: One protester hit the camera of a journalist from the local Valencian television channel À Punt. (EPEE 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021)

It can therefore be said that transediting is ubiquitous in contemporary journalistic translations.

### **3.2.2. Gatekeeping**

Because of the speed at which the world of journalism works, Hursti (2001, in Schäffner, 2012:870) explains that, among the demands of journalism, such as speed of production and readability of texts, he also adds that the criterion for selecting texts depends not only on whether the stories being told are culturally acceptable, but also culturally desirable. He says that “selection, transformation and transfer are operations used for controlling the foreign news flow. He describes them with reference to gatekeeping and sees translation and editing as integral part of the gatekeeping process.” (Schäffner, 2012:870)

On the contrary, for Chessman and Nohl (2010:3, in Schäffner, 2012:872), gatekeeping “refers to what and in which sequential order things are put into a report and is thus an operation which is performed prior translation, whereas transediting denotes (semantic) changes within the selected and reorganised text which occur during translation”. They distinguish between strategies regarding gatekeeping, such as omission, addition and reordering; and transediting strategies, such as reduction and omission of information.

In the two news articles selected for this analysis, it can be clearly perceived how a reorganisation of the ST has occurred alongside the addition of information from other news items to the TT.

The use of gatekeeping in the translation of the news item into English can immediately be seen from the first paragraph, as the Spanish version starts with:

Los altercados han regresado a las calles catalanas por tercera noche consecutiva, en el contexto de las manifestaciones para pedir la libertad del rapero Pablo Hasél, encarcelado el martes. En Barcelona, unas 500 personas se han concentrado delante del Departamento de Interior, donde han empezado algunos lanzamientos a la línea policial. (...) (EP 18th February 2021)

Whilst the English version begins with:

Protesters took to the streets of Catalonia for a third night in a row on Thursday to demonstrate against the arrest of Spanish rapper Pablo Hasél, who was recently convicted of praising terrorism and insulting the Spanish Crown in messages on social media.” (EPEE 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021) And it is two paragraphs later that it explains: “In Barcelona, around 500 protesters clashed with police Thursday night outside the headquarters of the regional Interior department. (...) (EPEE 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021)

Furthermore, in the English version there are two sections that do not exist in the original Spanish news item, which deal, on the one hand, with the division of the Spanish Government due to the different opinions among the coalition’s members and, on the other hand, about what Pablo Hasél was convicted of. Both sections are clear examples of what has been explained above: a news item is not simply chosen to be translated into English, but rather different parts of multiple news items are chosen in order to produce a new article as complete as possible.

### **3.2.3. Tribalisation**

It is no mystery that every newspaper follows a political line and that they have an impact on the opinions of their readers. Croteau and Hoynes (2003:169, in Aslani, 2014:80) explain that

there have been several scholarly findings that explored the ways in which the news media produce an ideological vision of the world. The first finding is that news media reflects the

ideas of the institutions which provide their interests. The second finding is that ‘news reaffirms the basic social order and the values and assumptions it is based on’.

This is why translated news items often undergo a number of changes from the ST “in such a way that the reader's ideological identity and sense of political affiliation are maintained and reinforced” (Orengo, 2005:179). This technique bears the name of tribalisation and, in other words, the TT is tailored to the political inclination of the target readership.

The case of *El País* regarding the news about Pablo Hasél is not an exception. They are controversial news because they are related to issues such as freedom of speech and whether supporting or not the Spanish Crown, among many others. As a result, the topic is prone to create discrepancies in the population and, as a consequence, it is necessary to be cautious in choosing what to translate and how to translate it for the TA. For this reason, a variety of translation techniques are used, such as elision and reduction, to cut those parts which may create conflict, and amplification, to provide needed explanations, but also modulation or compensation to reorganize the text and change the focus of some fragments.

An example of what has just been said is the following:

ST: Los concentrados han intentado marchar en manifestación por el centro de la capital valenciana pero un fuerte dispositivo policial les ha cortado el paso. Entonces han empezado las cargas de los agentes, los golpes y las carreras por las calles aledañas a la plaza de San Agustín, donde estaba convocada la protesta. (EP 18th February 2021)

TT: At around 7pm, the protesters – made up mostly of young people and students – gathered in the centre of the city, where they clashed with riot police. (EPEE 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021)

Apart from eliminating unnecessary information by means of elision, such as the names of the streets where the riots occurred, “las cargas de los agentes, los golpes y las carreras”, which specifies that it is the police who start the attacks, has been changed with the use of modulation, to “they clashed with riot police”, which seems to be the protesters who start the attacks.

Furthermore, throughout the analysis of the news item selected in this dissertation, it has been observed that in the version translated into English more information has been added by means of amplification, than the information that appears in the ST. This is the case of the following paragraph, which does not exist in the Spanish article and adds relevant information of what happened:

TT: The arrest sparked protests across Catalonia on Tuesday, which later spread to Madrid and Valencia. While the demonstrations began in support of freedom of speech, the ensuing clashes with police, in which a 19-year-old woman lost an eye, have also turned into a call against police repression. (EPEE 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021)

It is true that, in the course of the analysis, it has been noticed that most of what is said in the Spanish news has been translated without omitting important information, but the English version includes more information used to provide the necessary context for the target reader’s understanding.

What it has been completely changed to avoid conflict is the last part of the news item in the Spanish version. This shows the opinions of several politicians from different parties in the Valencian community, such as those of Unides Podem, Compromís, PPCV (*Partido Popular de la Comunitat Valenciana*) and Vox; while in the English version only the views of the coalition parties in the Spanish Government are shown, and to a lesser extent the views of the conservative PP (*Partido Popular*) in Madrid. So, this means

that both in the Spanish version and in the English translation, the newspaper has tried to stay out of controversy as much as possible and shows the views of the central Government because those opinions are more important to target international readers than those of a particular region.

#### **4. Conclusion**

This dissertation has aimed to analyse journalistic texts, both in English and Spanish, and to examine the relevant techniques in order to translate these texts from Spanish into English in the context of a controversial news item such as the imprisonment of the rapper Pablo Hasél and the demonstrations resulting from it.

With regard to the characteristics of journalistic texts in Spanish, it has been explained that they can be divided into three factors: generic (which explains that news is divided into three genres: informative, interpretative and argumentative; and includes the study of the register in each type of news, although, by way of summary, it can be defined as colloquial but with an academic tone), linguistic (which are divided into three traits which are: morphosyntactic, lexical and rhetorical) and journalistic (in which the demands of the communicative situation of the TT, the audience, the context and the stylebook of each newspaper, in this case the one from *El País*, are taken into account).

As for the characteristics of journalistic texts in English, it has been shown that these texts can be divided in many different ways, but what they all have in common is that they have three main parts: the lead (displaying the most important information by answering the questions of who, what, where, when, why and how, with the possibility of introducing a “hook”), the body (where the most crucial information is found together with quotes, photographs, evidence, details, etc.) and the tail (where the extra information is placed).

With respect to translation techniques, five major ones have been identified, namely linguistic amplification, elision, linguistic compression, modulation and compensation. These have been arranged in such a way that the first three have been used to either add information or remove it from the TT, and the last two to restructure the TT.

The techniques used to add or remove information have been applied for different purposes, such as adding an explanation to the information or contextualizing the news item so that the TA, coming from a different culture and background, can understand it. These techniques have likewise been implemented to remove information that is unnecessary and irrelevant to the TA's understanding of the news and to tell what the ST news item says but in fewer words. While the techniques used for reorganising the text have been utilised, on the one hand, to elaborate the English version of the headlines of such news item and, on the other hand, to move information from one paragraph to another either to compensate a paragraph that has information related to what the moved paragraph is about or to create a new one and extent that information.

Apart from the above techniques, which could be classified as the main ones, the use of other techniques such as transiting, gatekeeping and tribalisation has also been studied in this dissertation. The first one, transediting, is a technique that points to the connection between translating and editing, as it is believed that they do hand in hand, since, when translating, information is changed, added and removed to adapt the text to the target culture, while at the same time seeking cohesion in the text and the quality of grammar and style to be optimal. Gatekeeping refers to the manipulation of news in the sense of taking information from other articles and adding it to our news, removing unnecessary information and, therefore, creating an entirely fresh piece of news. Lastly, tribalisation is a strategy used especially when the news story is conflictive and controversial, as it is the case of the news analysed in this study. Its aim is to manipulate

the news in such a way that it is told from the political point of view of the newspaper that published it and, therefore, of the newspaper's TA.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the analysis presented here has been very limited by the news items chosen, as it has focused on two specific news reports from the newspaper *El País* and its English version, so what it has been studied here cannot be applied to the general field of translation techniques used to translate controversial news item from Spanish into English.

However, what it can be said, in conclusion, is that what it has been studied indeed complies with the characteristics of journalistic texts described above, although the translation of journalistic texts in general is a field in which much more research is needed.

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