

VALIDATING THE PACTE TRANSLATION COMPETENCE MODEL - RESULTS OF AN EXPERIMENT

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- 2.Translation competence: definitions and theoretical model

II.- RESEARCH DESIGN

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3. Variables
4. Material for data collection
5. Experimental tasks

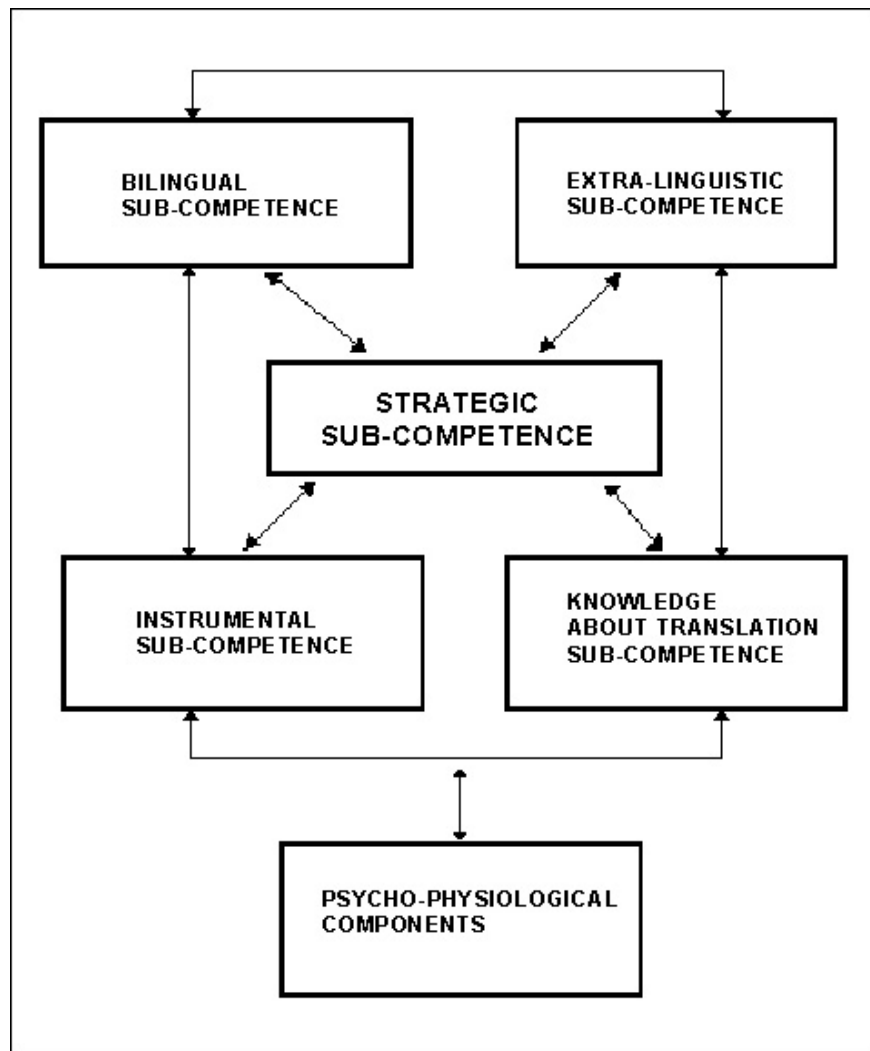
III.- FIRST RESULTS OF THE EXPERIMENT

1. Variable *Knowledge about translation*
 - Instrument
 - Indicators:
 - Dynamic Index
 - Coherence coefficient
 - Results
2. Variable *Efficacy of the Process*
 - Instruments
 - Indicators:
 - Acceptability
 - Total time taken and time at each stage
 - Results
3. Variable *Decision-making*
 - Instruments
 - Indicators:
 - Sequences of actions
 - Acceptability
 - First results

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TRANSLATION COMPETENCE MODEL (PACTE 2003)



TRANSLATION COMPETENCE: Translation competence is the underlying system of declarative and predominantly procedural knowledge required to translate. It comprises a number of interrelated subcompetences.

Bilingual sub-competence. Predominantly procedural knowledge required to communicate in two languages. It comprises pragmatic, socio-linguistic, textual, grammatical and lexical knowledge.

Extra-linguistic sub-competence. Predominantly declarative knowledge, both implicit and explicit, about the world in general, and field-specific. It comprises bicultural, encyclopaedic, and subject knowledge.

Knowledge about translation sub-competence. Predominantly declarative knowledge, both implicit and explicit, about translation and aspects of the profession. It comprises knowledge about how translation functions (translation units, processes required, methods and procedures used and types of problems); and knowledge about professional translation practice (the work market, types of translation briefs, target audiences, etc.)¹.

Instrumental sub-competence. Predominantly procedural knowledge related to the use of documentation resources and information and communication technologies applied to translation (dictionaries of all kinds, encyclopaedias, grammars, style books, parallel texts, electronic corpora, search engines, etc.)

Strategic sub-competence. Procedural knowledge to guarantee the efficiency of the translation process and solve problems encountered. This is an essential sub-competence that affects all the others since it creates links between the different subcompetences as it controls the translation process. Its function is to plan the process and carry out the translation project (selecting the most appropriate method); evaluate the process and the partial results obtained in relation to the final purpose; activate the different sub-competences and compensate for any shortcomings; identify translation problems and apply procedures to solve them.

Psycho-physiological components. Different types of cognitive and attitudinal components and psycho-motor mechanisms. They include: cognitive components such as memory, perception, attention and emotion; attitudinal aspects such as intellectual curiosity, perseverance, rigour, critical spirit, knowledge about and confidence in one's own abilities, the ability to measure one's own abilities, motivation, etc.; abilities such as creativity, logical reasoning, analysis and synthesis, etc.

¹ Other aspects intervene, such as: knowledge about translation associations, tariffs, taxes, etc.

DEPENDENT VARIABLES

(adaptation of PACTE 2005a, 2005b)

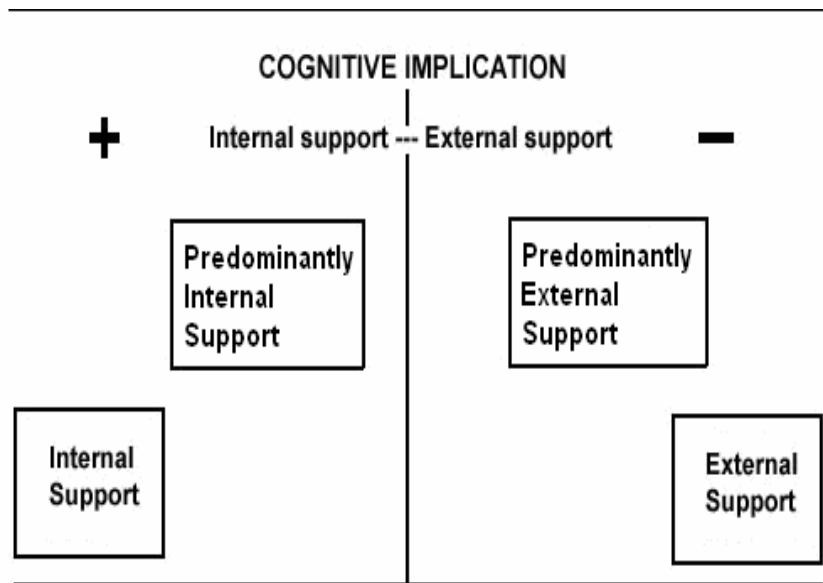
KNOWLEDGE ABOUT TRANSLATION Related to the knowledge about translation sub-competence	
CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION	The subject's implicit knowledge about the principles of translation and aspects of the translation profession
INDICATORS	Dynamic index and coherence coefficient
INSTRUMENTOS	Questionnaire on knowledge about translation
DATA SOURCE	Subjects' answers to the questionnaire
EFFICACY OF THE TRANSLATION PROCESS Related to the strategic sub-competence	
CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION	Optimum relationship between time taken to complete a translation task and the acceptability of the solution
INDICATORS	Total time taken; time taken at each stage of the translation process (orientation, development, revision); acceptability of results
INSTRUMENTS	Translations, direct observation chart, PROXY and Camtasia recordings.
DATA SOURCE	Total time taken and time taken at each stage of the translation process in relation to the acceptable and partially acceptable results obtained
DECISION-MAKING The most complex variable. Related to strategic and instrumental sub-competences , it provides data on subjects' procedural behaviour	
CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION	Process during which TC subcompetences are activated when carrying out a translation task. Both internal and external support is involved (Alves, 1995,

* Based on the distinction made by Jakobsen (2002): "Orientation, Segmentation, and Revision in Translation". In Hansen, G. (ed.) *Empirical Translation Studies: Process and Product*. Copenhagen Studies in Language Series 2. Copenhagen, Samfundslitteratur, pp.191-204

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	1997)**. Internal support: use of automatic and non-automatic cognitive resources. External support: use of any source of documentation
INDICATORS	Types and sequences of actions; acceptability of results
INSTRUMENTS	Translations, direct observation charts, PROXY and Camtasia recordings
DATA SOURCE	Sequences of actions leading to results that are acceptable, partially acceptable and unacceptable in relation to "rich points".
TRANSLATION PROJECT Related to the strategic sub-competence	
CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION	Mental representation or expectations of what the translation of a given text should be like.
INDICADORES	Degree of elaboration and coherence of the translation project
INSTRUMENTS	Translation problems questionnaire and retrospective interview
DATA SOURCE	Elements taken into account by the subject in relation to the translation brief
IDENTIFICACIÓN OF TRANSLATION PROBLEMS Related to the knowledge about translation sub-competence	
CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION	Difficulties encountered by the subjects when carrying out a translation task
INDICATORS	Nature of problems identified, conceptualization of problems, subcompetency activated, subject's degree of satisfaction with the solution found, degree of difficulty of the text
INSTRUMENTS	Translation problems questionnaire and retrospective interview
DATA SOURCE	Problems identified and subjects' comments

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PACTE 2005a , 2005b