I. INTRODUCTION
1. PACTE's research objectives.
2. Holistic translation competence model.

II. PROBLEMS RELATED TO EMPIRICAL RESEARCH IN TRANSLATION
1. Problems related to all kinds of empirical research.
2. Specific problems related to empirical-experimental research in translation.

III. PREPARING THE PACTE TRANSLATION COMPETENCE EXPERIMENT
1. Research design: Define the type of study. Formulate hypotheses. Design experimental tasks and instruments.
2. Preliminary tests: exploratory and pilot tests.
3. Methodological consequences of the exploratory and pilot tests.

IV. THE PACTE TRANSLATION COMPETENCE EXPERIMENT
1. Who is observed? Experimental universe. Independent variables. Selection of the sample.
2. What is observed? Dependent variables and indicators.
3. How is the data collected? Instruments. Examples of instruments developed: Knowledge of translation questionnaire, 'Rich Points'.
4. How is the data represented? Indicators and indexes.

V. DESIGNING THE PACTE ACQUISITION OF TRANSLATION COMPETENCE EXPERIMENT
1. What type of study?
2. Who is observed?
3. What is observed?
4. How is the data collected?
5. How is the data represented?
6. How is the data analysed?

REFERENCES
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-domain 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.).

**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.

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1 Other aspects intervene, such as: knowledge about translation associations, tariffs, taxes, etc.
### DEPENDENT VARIABLES
(adaptation of PACTE 2005a, 2005b)

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<tr>
<th>KNOWLEDGE ABOUT TRANSLATION</th>
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<th>Decision-Making</th>
<th>Translation Project</th>
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<td>Related to the strategic sub-competence</td>
<td>The most complex variable. Related to strategic and instrumental sub-competences, it provides data on subjects’ procedural behaviour</td>
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<td><strong>CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION</strong></td>
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<td>The subject’s knowledge about what translation is and how it works and aspects of the translation profession</td>
<td>Dynamic index and coherence coefficient</td>
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**QUESTIONNAIRE ON KNOWLEDGE OF TRANSLATION**  
(PACTE 2007b, 2008)

What is your opinion about the following statements?

1. As you are read the text you are going to translate, you are already thinking about how to translate it.  
   ![Choice Options]

2. Since words don’t always have the same shade of meaning in different languages, something is always lost in translation.  
   ![Choice Options]

3. It is the client who decides how the translator has to translate a text.  
   ![Choice Options]

4. The aim of every translation is to produce a text as close in form to the original as possible.  
   ![Choice Options]

5. Most translation problems can be solved with the help of a good dictionary.  
   ![Choice Options]

6. The most important thing when translating is to think of the target reader.  
   ![Choice Options]

7. To be able to understand a text you must find out what the words mean.  
   ![Choice Options]

8. If the original text is very different from the same type of text in the target language (e.g. instruction manuals, commercial letters, etc.) you should adapt the translated text to the requirements of the target culture.  
   ![Choice Options]

9. Since you can’t know the meaning of all the words in a text, a bilingual dictionary is the best solution.  
   ![Choice Options]

10. A text should be translated in different ways depending on who the target reader is.  
    ![Choice Options]

11. All translated texts should keep the same paragraphs and divisions in the target text as in the original text.  
    ![Choice Options]

12. The main difficulty when translating a text is to find typical expressions in the target language.  
    ![Choice Options]

13. To be able to translate well, you should concentrate on the vocabulary and the syntax of the original and reproduce them in the target text.  
    ![Choice Options]

14. When translating a specialised text, terminology is not the biggest problem.  
    ![Choice Options]

15. The best way to translate a text is to translate word-for-word except in the case of proverbs, set phrases and metaphors.  
    ![Choice Options]

16. As soon as you find a word or expression you don’t know the meaning of, you should look it up straightaway in a bilingual dictionary.  
    ![Choice Options]

17. When translating a novel, one of the most difficult problems to solve is cultural references (e.g. institutions, traditional dishes, etc.).  
    ![Choice Options]

18. When you translate, you translate first one sentence, then the next, and so on till you come to the end of the text.  
    ![Choice Options]

19. When you translate, you should be aware of the norms and conventions of the target text language.  
    ![Choice Options]

20. It is not enough to know two languages to be able to translate well.  
    ![Choice Options]

21. The most important thing when translating a text is to make sure that the target readers react in the same way to the target text as the readers of the original text.  
    ![Choice Options]
22. When you find a cultural reference in a text (e.g. a traditional dish) you should look for an equivalent in the target culture.

☐ I strongly disagree ☐ I disagree ☐ I agree ☐ I strongly agree

23. If you begin to translate a text using certain criteria (e.g. respecting the format of the original text, adapting the text to target reader, etc.) these should be kept to throughout the text.

☐ I strongly disagree ☐ I disagree ☐ I agree ☐ I strongly agree

24. When you translate a text, you should not be influenced by the target reader.

☐ I strongly disagree ☐ I disagree ☐ I agree ☐ I strongly agree

25. The best way to translate a text is sentence by sentence (line by line)

☐ I strongly disagree ☐ I disagree ☐ I agree ☐ I strongly agree

26. The problems you find when translating a text are the same no matter what kind of text you are translating

☐ I strongly disagree ☐ I disagree ☐ I agree ☐ I strongly agree

27. If you find a word in a text that you don’t understand, you should try to work out its meaning from the context

☐ I strongly disagree ☐ I disagree ☐ I agree ☐ I strongly agree
Email virus strikes in new form

Computer users were warned last night to be on the lookout for an email virus that can steal confidential information and allow hackers to take control of infected machines. The virus, a new variant of the BugBear email worm that infected tens of thousands of computers around the world last October, began to spread rapidly from Australia to Europe and the USA at around 8am yesterday. According to MessageLabs, a Cheltenham-based virus filtering firm which reported about 30,000 infected messages in 115 countries, the propagation rate of BugBear.B almost doubled every hour throughout the morning. There was also a huge surge as US users came online. Like its predecessor, the variant spreads by sending itself as an attachment to every address in an infected machine’s email address book. To disguise where it came from, it uses different subject headings. As well as searching for anti-virus software and disabling it, BugBear.B installs a keylogger to record what the user types, which may allow hackers to record confidential information such as credit card details and passwords. It also installs a "Trojan horse" program which could allow a hacker to take remote control of infected machines. […]

The Guardian - Friday, June 6, 2003

La Plana Novella

La Plana Novella es una antigua heredad adquirida por el Indiano Pere Domenech i Grau en 1885 que se encuentra en una pequeña planicie en el centro del Parc Natural del Garraf y pertenece al municipio de Olivella. La Finca fue declarada colonia agrícola 10 años más tarde por el gobierno alfonsino, pero de aquella época perdura una leyenda de desenfreno y dilapidación que hizo desaparecer la fortuna del americano. El estilo arquitectónico del Palacete es ecléctico, es decir que mezcla diferentes estilos. La geografía comarcal de Cataluña lo califica de "Castillo de Bambalinas" como si fuese un decorado de teatro. Sin ningún tipo de duda la construcción estilísticamente más original de Palau Novella es el lavadero gaudiniano, pero una de las piezas más características y llamativas del Palau es el común, conocido como "la trona".

http://www.laplananovella.

RP1: El Indiano… la fortuna del americano (problem type: extralinguistic and textual)
RP2: gobierno alfonsino (problem type: extralinguistic)
RP3: desenfreno y dilapidación (problem type: linguistic)
RP4: la geografía comarcal de Cataluña (problem type: intentionality)
RP5: común … trona (problem type: intentionality, textual and extralinguistic).

Internal Support (Simple Internal Support). The Definitive Solution is based on Internal Support, no consultation prior to Definitive Solution.

Predominantly Internal Support. The Definitive Solution is based essentially on Internal Support: any combination of consultations that does not contain consultation in bilingual dictionary, result copied.

Predominantly External Support. The Definitive Solution is based essentially on External Support: any combination of consultations that contains consultation in bilingual dictionary, result copied.

External Support (Simple External Support). The Definitive Solution is based exclusively on consultation in bilingual dictionary proposals that are accepted by the subject: only consultations in bilingual dictionary, result copied.