I. PACTE GROUP’S RESEARCH INTO THE ACQUISITION OF TRANSLATION COMPETENCE

1. Research objectives
2. Translation competence: Definitions and theoretical model
3. Translation competence: Research design
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II. DESIGNING PACTE’S EXPERIMENT TO STUDY THE ACQUISITION OF TRANSLATION COMPETENCE

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III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

PUBLICATIONS

Zwischenbilanz und Perspektiven aus der Außensicht, Berlin, Frank & Timme, p.327-432.


More information (in English, Spanish and Catalan) on the PACTE Group is available from http://grupsderecerc.uab.cat/pacte.
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 sub-competences.

**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.)

**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 sub-competences 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
(adapted from PACTE 2005a, 2005b)

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<td>The subject’s implicit knowledge about the principles of translation and aspects of the translation profession</td>
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<td>Decisions made during the translation process which involve the use of automatized and non-automatized cognitive resources (internal support) and the use of different sources of documentation (external support) (Alves, 1995, 1997)</td>
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<td>Total time taken; time taken at each stage of the translation process (orientation, development, revision); acceptability</td>
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**KNOWLEDGE ABOUT TRANSLATION**

**CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION**

The subject’s implicit knowledge about the principles of translation and aspects of the translation profession.

**INDICATORS**

Dynamic index and coherence coefficient.

**INSTRUMENTS**

Questionnaire on knowledge about translation.

**TRANSLATION PROJECT**

**CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION**

The subject’s approach to the translation of a specific text and of the units it comprises.

**INDICATORS**

Dynamic index in the overall translation project and that of each Rich Point; coherence between the overall translation project and that of each Rich Point; acceptability.

**INSTRUMENTS**

Translation problems questionnaire and retrospective interview.

**IDENTIFICATION AND SOLUTION OF TRANSLATION PROBLEMS**

**CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION**

Difficulties encountered by the subjects when carrying out a translation task.

**INDICATORS**

Coefficient of perception of the overall difficulty of the translation of the text; identification of prototypical translation problems; characterisation of prototypical translation problems; coefficient of satisfaction; acceptability.

**INSTRUMENTS**

Translation problems questionnaire and retrospective interview.

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**DECISION-MAKING**

**CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION**

Decisions made during the translation process which involve the use of automatized and non-automatized cognitive resources (internal support) and the use of different sources of documentation (external support) (Alves, 1995, 1997).

**INDICATORS**

Sequences of actions; type of internal support; acceptability.

**INSTRUMENTS**

Translations, direct observation charts, PROXY and Camtasia recordings.

**EFFICACY OF THE TRANSLATION PROCESS**

**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.

**INSTRUMENTS**

Translations, direct observation chart, PROXY and Camtasia recordings.

**USE OF INSTRUMENTAL RESOURCES**

**CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION**

Strategies used when consulting documentary resources in electronic format (websites, dictionaries and encyclopaedias in CD-ROM).

**INDICATORS**

Variety of resources, number of searches, time spent on searches (total and for each phase).

**INSTRUMENTS**

PROXY and Camtasia recordings, Catalogue of searches.

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