



**Universitatea *Transilvania* din Braşov**

**HABILITATION THESIS  
SUMMARY**

**TRANSLATION AND COMMUNICATION**

**ENDEAVOURS ACROSS DISCIPLINES, LANGUAGES AND CULTURES**

**Domain: Philology**

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The habilitation thesis entitled *Translation and Communication. Endeavours across Disciplines, Languages and Cultures* comprises an outline of my academic activity, focussing particularly on the period after earning the PhD degree. It consists of two main parts presenting my scientific achievements, as well as an account of my educational activities (B-i), and the plans for the future development of my academic career (B-ii).

Part B-i emerges with a brief presentation of my doctoral research, in the first chapter, considering its relevance for my subsequent scientific work. The doctoral thesis, titled *Expressiveness of Linguistic Compression*, falls within the scope of linguistic and literary stylistics and deals with expressiveness generated or enhanced by virtue of lexical reduction and the use of language means to compensate for lexical scarcity or ellipsis.

My academic activity after earning the PhD degree has been chiefly oriented towards Translation Studies, which is the main field of both my scientific and my educational concerns. An important part of the translational research has addressed problems related to the inter-linguistic and intercultural transfer of compressed language devices generating expressiveness. Thereby, the doctoral research has been extended to comparative issues relevant in translating between English and Romanian. The comparative-contrastive approaches were adopted as early as the doctoral research, but Stylistics and Translation Studies have intermingled throughout my scientific activity. The latest paper in the joint disciplines was accepted for publication in *Meta: The Translator's Journal* (62:1) in 2017. The systematic comparative analysis of some linguistic means generating expressiveness marked not only my research, but also my didactic undertakings in the area of Translation Studies, enabling in-depth investigations of such expressive language means as relevant in translation and translator training. I argue that they primarily operate at microcontextual level especially in literary discourse types, further impacting the macrocontext of the target language text semantically, communicatively and emotionally.

The second and most comprising chapter is conceived so as to display the interdisciplinary nature of Translation Studies in general and of my research in Translation Studies in particular. Thus, the association in my research between Translation Studies and other related disciplines is presented in five subchapters following a thematic structure: Translation Studies and Stylistics; Translation Studies and Corpus Linguistics; Translation Studies and Contrastive Linguistics; Translation and Professional Communication; Translation, Corpora and Language Acquisition.

The most substantial subchapter delves into the partnership of Corpus Linguistics with Translation Studies, which brought about the creation of Corpus-based Translation Studies, a relatively new discipline and an emerging one in the Romanian research community. The presentation of the two study areas of Corpus-based Translation Studies, the theoretical one and the applied one, are followed by my argument for resorting to corpus methodology in Translation Studies. It rests on the potential of this methodology to generate automated and large-scale quantitative data to be analyzed qualitatively and possibly bring to the fore new perspectives in the discipline of Translation Studies. Primarily aiming at testing the methodology with Romanian translational corpora, I have initiated a few projects with fellow researchers and graduate students at my host department, but I have also introduced the discipline Corpus-based Translation Studies as elective course to second year graduate students and published a course book to support it. Additionally, I published a monograph on the topic of Corpus-based Translation Studies, the first of the kind in Romania (Institutul European Publishing House, Translation Studies Series) and a number of scientific papers.

Another subchapter starts by accounting for the natural link between Contrastive Linguistics and translation as a necessary means to assist interlingual and intercultural transfer. It then exposes the matter of contrastiveness between two languages as it relates to translation equivalence, determining its level of achievement. The problem of equivalence is discussed with emphasis on the challenges posed by finding translation correspondences when the structural differences between English and Romanian affect the transfer of the communicative value embedded in the source language message. This oftentimes entails the use of compensating target language mechanisms, some of which are herein presented as resulted from my studies.

Aspects of translation in professional environments requiring the use of specialized language registers have also been touched upon, suggesting some novel methods to employ corpora with a view to enhancing intercultural communication through translation in various specialized language contexts.

*Translation, corpora and language acquisition* is the section accounting for my involvement in revitalizing translation among the methods used for language acquisition by employing corpora. If tailored or selected so as to fit the particular learning needs, especially parallel corpora and the incorporated electronic tools can enhance not only the translation performance, but also enable learners to handily retrieve and acquire language data beyond the lexical level. As I attempt to

demonstrate, contrary to the prevailing scholarly belief that language acquisition through translation prevents the learners from developing communication skills, the superiority of corpora as resources for learners as compared to traditional ones, rests on their exhibiting authentic contextualization and offering a comparative perspective, which are essential for the acquisition of communicative abilities in a foreign language.

My research in the area of translator training is presented in a distinct chapter (3) and has important bearing both upon my scientific and my didactic activity. On the one hand, it provided me with precious opportunities to test the corpus-based methodology and, on the other hand, to work on the improvement of my teaching methods. Also related to my translator training endeavours, translation has been approached from a dual perspective, as process and as product. Chapter 4 describes some views addressing especially the pre- and post-stages of the translation process, impacting the optimal end product, the quality of the target language text.

My overall educational activity is further described in Chapter 5 of this thesis, which indicates its consistency with a considerable extent of my research, the two academic areas being complementary and mutually supporting. This chapter also pinpoints other related academic activities, such as research dissemination and recognition, as well as managerial duties.

The development plans I have drafted in part B-ii of this habilitation thesis provide an image of my commitments for upcoming academic activities. Without limiting the range of possible future undertakings, roughly speaking, I view Corpus-based Translation Studies the research area that opens up manifold perspectives both in its theoretical and applied facets, thus providing fertile research material for valuable and long-term engagement and highly promising projects for myself and for my future doctoral students.