Linguistic Contact and Portuguese-to-Spanish Document Translation During the Iberian Union

Contato linguístico e tradução documental entre português-espanhol durante a União Ibérica

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Abstract

The present paper discusses document translation and analyzes the translation from Portuguese to Spanish of a report of the Council of Portugal, which describes the political-administrative situation of the Moluccas Islands. The concepts of bilingualism and diglossia (FISHMAN, 1967)

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are used to discuss the colonial translation scenario, and the taxonomic framework provided by Barbosa (2004) supports the translation analysis. The main research tools are the selection and editing of manuscripts, and the classification of translation procedures. Results indicate the historical study of document translation between Portuguese and Spanish as a new research field, mainly involving contact between languages; the tendency towards literality as the main feature of Iberian Union (1580-1640) administrative translation, as these are technical documents; punctual translator interference, with instances of source-text omission and rewriting; and the possible comparison between document translation in Asian and American Portuguese colonies.

Keywords

Linguistic Contact; Document Translation; Peninsular Union; Portuguese; Spanish.

Resumo

O objetivo deste artigo é discutir a tradução documental e analisar a tradução do português para o espanhol de um parecer do Conselho de Portugal, que versa sobre a situação político-administrativa das Ilhas Molucas. Os conceitos de bilinguismo e diglossia (FISHMAN, 1967) são utilizados para discutir o cenário da tradução colonial, e o arcabouço taxonômico fornecido por Barbosa (2004) dá suporte à análise da tradução. Os principais procedimentos de pesquisa são a seleção e a edição dos manuscritos, e a classificação dos procedimentos de tradução. Os resultados indicam: o estudo histórico da tradução documental entre português e espanhol como um novo campo de pesquisa, para o qual são acionados os conceitos de diglossia e bilinguismo; e a literalidade como a principal marca da tradução administrativa da União Ibérica (1580-1640). A interferência do tradutor é pontual, mas há casos de omissão e reescrita de trechos do original.

Palavras-chave

Contato Linguístico; Tradução Documental; União Ibérica; Português; Espanhol.

Introduction

Linguistic contact is a characteristic of social relations in the Iberian Peninsula, which was accentuated during the Iberian Union or *Peninsular Union* (1580-1640), in which period Portugal and its colonies were under the rule of the Spanish Crown. Consequently, new administrative demands and other situations of linguistic contact arise, favoring Portuguese and Spanish diglossia and bilingualism in the Iberian metropolises and their territories.

The present paper intends to discuss this linguistic contact, focusing on document translation, a little-studied area in the history of linguistic contact. To this end, this research analyzes the translation into Spanish of a 1609 Portuguese report addressed to the Spanish court. It narrates the Dutch invasions of the Moluccas Islands, an archipelago located between modern-day Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

The study of Indian documentation[1] yields knowledge of details of the political relationship between Portugal and Spain during the Iberian Union. Despite the agreement of non-interference in Portuguese affairs, there are numerous cases of Spanish espionage and mismanagement, in the attempt to take over trade routes, for example.

As a result of this administrative Union, documents produced by the Council of Portugal, the Portuguese representative and administrative body, would have to be translated into Spanish. Nevertheless, a more general analysis shows that only documents on topics of interest to the Spanish government were translated – mostly on foreign invasions of colonies, taking over trade routes, administrative reports and decisions of the Council of Portugal (Procópio; Mota, 2012).

Faced with this problem, the study of Indian documentation takes on a new dimension, in which it is committed to describe: the situations of linguistic contact between Portuguese and Spanish; the linguistic conduct of Portugal, represented by its translator, in informing Spain of its actions; and the perspective of the Spanish Crown on what was important to be translated, as there were several teams of translators who worked directly for the Spanish court.

In this new dimension, the study of Indian documentation gains a new object: translated texts, thus enabling an ecdotic work on damaged texts (torn, mutilated, erased, blurred, etc.), after all, translations of manuscripts produced under various conditions of writing, storage and transmission are analyzed. This work of textual reconstruction is based on the belief of the time, which viewed translation as a type of copy, as stated by Procópio and Mota (2012). Therefore, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries document translation is assumed to be guided by the notion of literality.

Another assumption of this research, in such a context, is that translation reveals the translator's political attitude – in fact, an attitude of the politics in force during the Age of European Expansion. The translation of terms, textual organization, and syntactic configuration demonstrates the perception of the content to be translated and the translators' attitude during the execution of their task.

This paper discusses the linguistic contact between Portuguese and Spanish from a historical perspective, analyzes the *Parecer do Conselho de Portugal* [Council

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[1] A term that refers to legal, historical and administrative documents produced during the colonial period of the West and East Indies, in a broader sense, the American and Asian colonies, according to Real Díaz (1970).

of Portugal Report[2]] – which reports the political-administrative situation of the Moluccas Islands – and its translation, and describes the translation procedures to show the translator's attitudes toward a text with strategic political and economic information. To this end, it characterizes the translation of documents between Portuguese and Spanish in the colonial context; it makes a diplomatic edition of the manuscript produced around 1609, kept in the General Archive of the Indies (Seville) and available at the *Portal de Archivos Españoles* (PARES[3]), a project of the Spanish Ministry of Culture that intends to make available in digital format all the materials preserved in the Spanish archives; finally, it performs a contrastive analysis between the Portuguese and Spanish versions, in order to describe the translation in its historical, philological, textual and grammatical aspect.

The Colonial Translation of Documents

During the colonial period, the Portuguese public administration produced a vast bibliographic collection that includes the most diverse textual genres, such as requirements, ballots, papers, consultations, reports, etc. During the Iberian Union (1580-1640), when Portugal and its colonies were under the Spanish Crown, the translation of documents between Portuguese and Spanish was a norm adopted by the Royal and Supreme Council of Portugal, the body that managed the Portuguese territory in Europe and the colonies.

Despite this norm, the following situations are identified: (1) documents written in Spanish were sent to Lusophone authorities both in the court and in the colonies; (2) their reply was sent in Portuguese; and (3) documents written in Portuguese were sent alongside their translation into Spanish, when they were intended for the Spanish court or when they dealt with colonial matters.

The first two situations demonstrate the bilingual context experienced in Portuguese and Spanish society of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, specifically in the administrative context in which the Portuguese understood Spanish and vice versa, at least in writing. In Portugal, more specifically, it was common in this period for some writers to produce and disseminate their works translated into or written directly in Spanish – there were even cases of self-translation into Spanish (Dasilva, 2017; García Martín, 2010). This bilingualism was also fostered by the circulation of literary texts in Spanish, as Castro (2002) states.

This bilingual relationship between Portuguese and Spanish was socially asymmetric, as there was a preponderance of one language over the other in certain contexts. Even the price of Spanish-into-Portuguese translation was lower than other

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[2] Archivo General de Indias (AGI, Filipinas, 1, n. 135) – 17.05.1609

[3] Available from: http://pares.culturaydeporte.gob.es/inicio.html; Accessed in: 4 apr. 2020.

languages, as Cáceres-Würsig (2004, p. 622) states. This price discrepancy may be justified by the lower demand, as the target audience, the Portuguese, apparently had a grasp on the Castilian language. Consequently, the Spanish language interpretation departments offered few posts for Portuguese translators, and native speakers were almost always in charge of this type of translation.

The study of colonial document translation between Portuguese and Spanish indicates that Portuguese speakers experienced a diglossic situation: they did not necessarily have a full grasp of both languages but presented varying levels of proficiency in Spanish. Portuguese-Spanish bilingualism is disputed by some authors (Castro, 2002; Buescu, 2004; García Martín, 2008), who defend the idea that the use of Spanish in Portugal was not widespread, but functionally distributed (*functional distribution* – Fishman, 1967) throughout the political and cultural centers according to function, prestige, literary tradition, stability, among other characteristics of the notion of diglossia, initially proposed by Ferguson (2003). Diglossia seems to have been a much stronger feature in the colonial Portuguese administrative sphere than bilingualism, which was more typical in the literary sphere.

As for the colonial Portuguese-Spanish translators, it is not possible to categorically state whether or not they were bilingual, because (1) bio-bibliographic information is scarce, and does not enable an account of their professional training; and (2) translations are almost always apocryphal, i.e., translators (or the *scriptorium* or translation department) are not identified.

In addition, the conditions upon which translations were commissioned varied greatly: they could be made at court by an expert of the highest cultural level (for example, the writer and translator Tomás Dantisco Gracián) or by any official in the Portuguese colonies, as exemplified by Procópio and Mota (2012). These conditions of the translation influenced handwriting, spelling clarity and textual layout, maximizing (or not) the use of available paper.

Based on theoretical readings and the analysis of several other document translations, it is hypothesized that colonial translators' linguistic profiles varied between full and partial bilinguals, the former displaying full mastery of both languages, and the latter using Spanish rather instrumentally, with unknown intellectual or linguistic training. This latter type of translator lived a situation of diglossia, with rudimentary knowledge not only of Spanish but possibly of other languages as well, since the exploitation of trade routes attracted people of various nationalities, as described by Procópio and Mota (2016).

From a historical perspective, studies on translation between Portuguese and Spanish practically ignore administrative texts, focusing mainly on literary works, as several authors indicate, such as Castro (2002), Garcia Martín (2010), Pérez-Abadín Barro (2011), Segurado e Campos (2016), Dasilva (2017), and Pérez-Abadín Barro and Blanco González (2018).

This theoretical-methodological preference is explained by the fact that literature enjoys reasonable social privilege over texts from other spheres of human activity. In addition, literary works were, for a long time, the primary research material for Historical Linguistics since most of this literary material has social information, which is extremely important for contextualizing the results.

Following this historical perspective, specifically in traditional Philology, which follows the lachmannian method, not every administrative document has cultural value to become an object of research, and document translation represents the degeneration of textual transmission, as it is almost always apocryphal and deals with ordinary subjects. For traditional Historical Linguistics, the administrative spicilege spells chaos due to the difficulties in reading, cataloging, social characterizing, accessing, etc. For these reasons, literary texts have always been prominent in Historical Linguistics research, which was also the case in the study of translation.

The administrative text becomes suitable for linguistic study with the advent of Sociolinguistics and Discourse Studies, which somehow promote the notion of *linguistic corpus* (or linguistics *with* a corpus) and the view of variation not only within the linguistic system but also in the forms of textual transmission. The document becomes research material for the most diverse areas of Linguistics, and as such is included in corpora organized according to criteria that seek the representativeness of a given theme. New corpora and tools generate new data, new factors and new possibilities for the historical research of language, to paraphrase Kabatek (2016).

The study of Portuguese-Spanish bilingualism focuses on the literary text, produced mainly in Europe, moving away from other textual forms (including administrative texts and their translations) and forgetting the various forms of linguistic contact that occurred in the colonies – after all, what is known about these territories is largely due to what was written about them in (and for) the metropolises.

During the Iberian Union, many Spaniards settled or transited in the Portuguese colonies; many young Brazilians went to study not only in Portugal, but also in Spain (especially in Salamanca), and many Spanish Catholic missionaries settled and developed missions in the colonies, as described by Alonso Romo (2005).

The study of document translation deals with a context involving political, social and economic issues, a society marked by diglossia and bilingualism, and discursive practices that oscillate between appreciation and disdain for the Portuguese-Spanish translation commissions.

Methodological Procedures

In order to discuss the linguistic contact between Portuguese and Spanish and document translation, this research adopts a historical perspective and the concepts of *bilingualism* and *diglossia* to describe the context in which these translations were

made, focusing on the period of the Iberian Union and the documentation produced by the colonies.

The document analyzed below and its translation were selected in the *Portal de Archivos Españoles* (PARES[4]), based on three criteria: (1) source-text in Portuguese with adjoining translation into Spanish; (2) mention of Portuguese colonization in the East; and (3) written during the Iberian Union.

The semi-paleographic transcription follows the philological transcription guidelines of the *Corpus Hispánico y Americano en la Red: Textos Antiguos* (CHARTA[5]), with which this research maintains an ideological link. An initial reading was performed to identify possible paleographic and codicological problems, such as spelling errors, tearing and mutilation, page switch etc. – after all, it is a translated text, and it may have been somehow interfered with in textual transmission. This prospecting reading attests to the value of the document selected for this survey.

The source text (ST) and the target text (TT) were penned in cursive humanistic writing. The pages are well preserved, with no large tears. TT's writing is intelligible and shows few marks that could make transcription difficult. ST's writing is poorly readable, as it has several Gothic features – though not enough to qualify it as hybrid writing.

Transcription presents certain difficulties in identifying some abbreviations and acronyms, as well as the signatures at the end of the documents. After the transcription, a critical (or modernized) edition was made. Some adjustments were made, e.g., in spelling, to standardize the writing to avoid significant changes and to work with a (visually cleaner) less irregular text.

The TT analysis is based on the contrast between the two textual versions, verifying the organization of the genre and the grammatical style. The analysis also adopts the concepts of *genre*, a fundamental unit of language constructed according to conditions, purposes, themes and styles related to the historical-social moment (Marcuschi, 2008), and *retextualization*, which is the continuous process of rewriting a text (Travaglia, 2003). The document's translation is analyzed as the result of a retextualization process, in which the translator manages linguistic, social, cultural and cognitive choices to reach the target language with the information contained in the source language, configuring the translator as a type of co-author, and instituting a discursive genre that holds strong ideological links with the ST.

The characterization of the methodological choices of the objective translation aims to show the methodological path that the expert has chosen to compose the TT, and, consequently, say whether the translation is good or bad; translation criticism requires an underlying theory to answer the question «How to translate», says

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[4] Available from: http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas20/catalogo/search; Accessed in: 20 jan. 2021.

[5] Available from: http://www.corpuscharta.es/; Accessed in: 4 apr. 2020.

Garcia Yebra[6] (1994). The characterization of document translation aims to show the perspective of translation in force in the seventeenth century and the public administration's *modus operandi* regarding information exchange during the Iberian Union.

In order to do this, we adopt the nomenclature of Barbosa (2004), which is a synthesis of four previous terminological proposals[7]. Barbosa (2004) classifies translation procedures into 14 types, which are: (1) word-for-word translation, (2) literal translation, (3) transposition, (4) modulation, (5) equivalence, (6) omission, (7) explicitation, (8) compensation, (9) reconstruction of periods, (10) improvement, (11) transfer (foreignism, transliteration, acclimatization and transfer with explanation), (12) explanation, (13) calque and (14) adaptation.

Translation analysis follows from source to target language (Portuguese/PT → Spanish/ESP). This same path is adopted in the examples, the languages identified by the acronyms *PT* and *ESP*.

Results and discussions

The contrastive analysis between the ST/PT and TT/ESP intends to characterize document translation during the Iberian Union, especially by describing translation procedures. For this purpose, the notion of *genre* is adopted to indicate that this analysis relates contextual and linguistic elements to characterize each translation units (the sentence in its compositional terms). Also, the notion of *genre* is not restricted to the lexical-grammatical level, as it is not composed only of syntactic structures but is the result of the combination of pragmatic, semantic and grammatical elements.

The documents analyzed are a report and its respective translation, issued by the Council of Portugal and addressed to the Spanish King, describing the political and administrative situation of the Moluccas Islands, specifically the invasion of the Fortress of Ternate, located on the island of the same name. The report also narrates the measures to regain control of the island, the administrative precautions to ensure a continued rule and the negotiations with the natives.

The Moluccas Islands, also known as *Maluku* or *Spice Islands*, is an Indonesian group of islands in the Indo-Australian Archipelago, located between Southeast Asia and Australia. The Portuguese were the first to arrive in the Moluccas around the year 1512, in an expedition commanded by Antônio Abreu. Fernão de Magalhães' Spanish expedition arrived on the islands in 1521. Magalhães' arrival displeased the Portuguese, who saw it as an act of disregard for the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494),

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[6] In the original: *La crítica de la traducción supone, pues, una teoría de la traducción. Para poder decir se una traducción está bien o mal hecha es necesario saber cómo debe hacerse. Y cómo debe hacerse una traducción lo enseña la teoría de la traducción.* (García Yebra, 1994, p. 430)

[7] They are: Vinay and Darbelnet (1977), Newmark (1981 and 1988), Vasquez-Ayora (1977) and Catford (1965).

and the issue was resolved with the Treaty of Zaragoza (1529), which established the zones of Portuguese and Spanish influence in Asia.

The Dutch, however, who were interested in the spice trade, began to arrive in the region and take possession of the most productive islands. In 1607, they invaded and seized the island of Ternate, and began their campaign to expel the Spaniards, which was achieved around 1663. Figure 1 below shows the geographical location of the Moluccas.
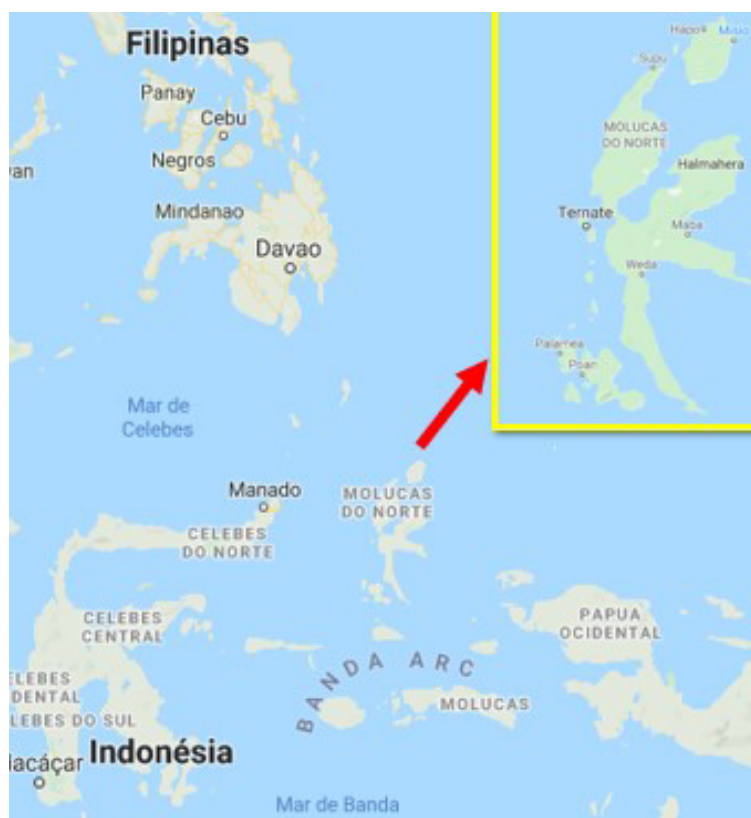
Figure 1. Moluccas Islands
Source: Google Maps, 2020.

Regarding the Moluccas expedition, there is some difficulty in locating information on some events that occurred at the time the documents were produced and identifying two men cited as important in the account: Pedro de Baeza and Diego Lobo, possibly men from wealthy families, who worked in the colonial expeditions on behalf of His Majesty. Neither the documents nor the file in which they are kept present information on the translator.

It is known, however, that there was a type of secretary of language (called *the língua*), an employee specialized in translation. In West Indian translations, for example, Tomás Dantisco Gracián, a Spanish writer of a humanist family, is often identified. In East Indian translations, the practice seems to have been not to identify the translator, as there is no record of his name, which could have been written in the header or in the closing.

In general, ST and TT have the same textual organization. The translator's changes focus on the syntactic configuration level, for which no clear motivation is identified. Possibly, these changes characterize the translator's style in the sense that he takes on the role of co-author and reworks certain passages.

The text is organized into paragraphs, which form large thematic blocks and are not marked with Roman numerals, as was common. Some other marks appear on both texts, such as doodles, ink stains from previous pages, erasures, etc. The translator maintains the original textual standard by respecting the organization of the paragraphs.

Both ST and TT have twelve pages, which, for the most part, are preserved and without graphic impurities that would make reading difficult, with only a few doodles and ink stains absorbed from the obverse, and erasures on the sides.

Both are penned in the cursive humanistic type, although there are traces of cursive Gothic. The writing of the TT presents no reading and transcription impediments, but the writing of the ST is poorly readable, which hinders transcription at some points. At the end of the twelve pages, there are three signatures that are difficult to decode.

Regarding the classification of translation procedures, **literal translation** predominates, alongside **word-for-word translation**, because they are more usual (or recommended) strategies for document translation, as the TT is supposed to mirror its source.

The use of literal translation is motivated by the phylogenic proximity between Portuguese and Spanish, demonstrating that linguistic proximity facilitates document translation, especially when it is done on a large scale, since the historical-political context required many translations, especially of texts the subject matter of which was of direct interest on both sides, as can be seen in document searches in PARES.

As for the other translation procedures, there were identified 26 occurrences of five types. Most of them are located in the first folios.

The first of these procedures is **modulation**, with six occurrences. Modulation occurs when the ST message is reproduced in the TT, but from a different point of view, thus reflecting a difference in how both languages interpret experience (Barbosa, 2004, p. 67). In the example, the translator changes the verbal form by translating a simple gerund for a compound gerund. The simple form privileges aspect, in that it indicates that a verbal action was taking place when a second action occurred (indicated by the main verb). The compound form mainly indicates «a perfect or finished action, preceding that of the main verb» (Sarmiento; Sánchez, 1989, p. 144). The verbal construction in Spanish allows a causative reading, considering that, for the Dutch to capture the Fortress of Ternate, they should have arrived before the Spanish troops landed. The following excerpt shows an example 1 of modulation:

Example 1	
PT – Porém <u>sucedendo</u> antes de ele chegar	ESP – Aquella empresa, pero <u>aviendo sucedido</u>
(But <u>happening</u> before he arrived)	(That enterprise, but <u>having happened</u>)
Simple gerund	Gerund periphrasis

The second procedure is **reconstruction of periods**, with ten occurrences, which consists in changing the division or grouping of phrases and sentences (Barbosa, 2004, p. 70); Barbosa seems to suggest that this takes place above sentence level (for example, by dividing a long relative clause into simpler sentences); here, however, it takes place under sentence level, by switching noun phrase positions. This procedure is triggered to generate a style closer to that of the target language, and not because there is a syntactic obligation to reproduce in Spanish the same order the components displayed in Portuguese. In the following example 2 and 3, the ST phrases *aquella fortalesa* and *ao Rey de Tenarte* switches places in the TT:

Example 2	
PT – que tomou <u>ao Rey de Ternate</u> <u>aquella fortalesa</u> en ela	ESP – que tomó <u>aquella furtaleza</u> <u>al Rey de Ternate</u>
(that took <u>from the King of Tenarte</u> <u>that fortress</u>)	(that took <u>that fortress</u> <u>from the King of Tenarte</u>)
TOMAR + IO + DO	TOMAR + DO + ID

Example 3	
PT – e posto que no discurso destes tempos despois de ter fundada outra fortaleza na Ilha de Tidore com que senhorearão o cravo e mais drogas daquelas partes	ESP – y aun que en el discurso de estos tiempos (después de aver fundado otra furtaleza en la Isla de Tidore, con que señorearon al Clavo, y demás drogas de aquellas partes)
and given that in the talk of these times after having founded another fortress in Tidore Island with which they came to control over the clove and other spices of those regions	and given that in the talk of these times (after having founded another fortress in Tidore Island, with which they will be have control over the Clove, and other spices of those regions)

The third of these procedures is **word-for-word translation**, with four occurrences. As mentioned earlier, word-by-word translation is present throughout the entire text, as the languages under analysis are very close. However, the following examples are technical terms that the translator chooses to translate *ipsis litteris*, keeping the grammatical elements in the same syntactic order (which is also lexical, as the proximity between both languages is also lexicogenic). This translation strategy allows the maintenance of technical terms known to the readers of this text, and can also be classified as terminology adequacy:

Example 4	
PT – **viso rey** dom Martim Afonso de Castro	ESP – **ViRey** don Martim Alfonso
Viso rey → ViRey (Viceroy)	

The fourth procedure is **transfer**, with two occurrences; it consists of introducing source-language material into the TT, and it can take the following forms: foreignism, transliteration, acclimatization and the transfer with explanation. In this research, transfer occurs as **transliteration**, which is the replacement of one writing system by another, which is the case, for example, in a translation from Japanese (which uses ideograms and two syllabaries) into Portuguese (which uses the Roman alphabet). In the case of the documents under analysis, source and target languages share the same writing system; however, the translator changes how numbers are written, as example 5 below illustrates. In this study, transliteration occurs not between writing systems but between conventions on how to write numbers (spelling or using digits: e.g., *two* x *2*).

Dates (especially day and year) are maintained as they appear in the ST, as well as the monetary figures (thousands and millions), including the typical abbreviation of the time for the number thousand, which is the letter *U* or *V* in capital letters: *300 V ducados* [three hundred thousand ducats]. Transliteration occurs specifically in these ordinal numbers:

Example 5	
PT – ALEXANDRE **SEISTO**	ESP – ALEXAANDRE **6º**
PT – EL REY DOM JOÃO O **2º** DE PORTUGUAL	ESP – y el Rey Don Juan **Segundo**
PT – **2ª** condição	ESP – segunda condición

The translator also operates a change, which may be an instance of correction. ST records *trezentos e cinquenta mil ducados* [three hundred and fifty thousand ducats], which is rendered as a higher value: *trescientos y sesenta mil ducados* [three hundred and sixty thousand ducats].

Another type of transfer in TT is **foreignism**, which consists in transcribing or copying source-language words or expressions that refer to a concept/technique in the ST. The word *sucesso* is used in both languages, with their own specificities in spelling (since, in Modern Spanish, the digraph *ss* is not used) and semantics: *sucesso*/PT means «success», whereas *suceso*/ESP means «event». They differ in meaning, despite their common etymological origin. In the past (with some lingering uses), *sucesso*/PT could be understood as current *suceso*/ESP: (1) something that happens, especially when it is of some importance; (2) success, result (DRAE/RAE). In the translation, the preference is to maintain the semantic equivalence close to the spelling, that is, *sucesso* as a synonym for «success»; also, in the TT, there are no instances of the spelling *suceso*.

Example 6	
PT – [01] {24} que tinha fazer jornada a Maluco a qual fez com tão bom **sucesso**	ESP – que venia hazer jornada a Maluco, la cual hiço con tan buen **sucesso**
who travelled to Moluccas, which was done with great success	who travelled to Moluccas, which was done with great success

The fifth of these procedures is the **omission**, with only two occurrences, which consists of suppressing ST elements that are unnecessary or overly repetitive (Barbosa, 2004, p. 68). In one of the occurrences, the translator omits a full sentence in the TT. The reason for this suppression is unknown. The translator may have thought the information to be unnecessary, perhaps for political reasons, or it may be a typo (*lapsus calami*). In the following example, ST and TT excerpts are presented. The omitted information is underlined:

Example 7	
PT – tão grande o interesse que recebem os moradores da Nova Espanha, e das Filipinas em levar a sua prata à China e de lá as mercadorias a Nova Espanha que nem tudo das ditas	ESP – tan grande el interés que reçiven los moradores de Nueva Hespaña que nin guna de las dichas prohibiçiones ha sido hasta ahora bastante a reprimidos
So great is the interest that the residents of New Spain and the Philippines receive in taking their silver to China and from there their goods to New Spain that not all of those prohibitions...	The interest received by the inhabitants of Nueva Hespaña is so great that none of the said prohibitions have so far been enough to repress them...

Final Remarks

The study of document translation cannot be secondary within Linguistics and Philology since translation has historically enabled the expansion of the lexicon and the incorporation of discursive models (Fernández-Ordóñez, 2004), as well as the raising of Siglo de Oro speakers' linguistic awareness (Gauger, 2004), for example.

More specifically, the historical study of translation between Portuguese and Spanish is a new field of research, especially regarding linguistic contact, because it leaves the literary sphere and enters the sphere of spontaneous language use. In this new research proposal, the administrative documentation (specifically, the colonial documentation) is the ideal corpus to describe the relations between these two languages in their new habitat, the American, Asian and African colonies.

This analysis concludes that literality (literal and word-for-word translation) underpins the translator's work, which only occasionally interferes with the translation of the ST. Thus, the concept of *retextualization* is used to demonstrate that translation is one of the ramifications of the writing process that began in Portuguese. When translating the report, the text is inserted in another context. It begins to

respond to other social demands (the reasons for writing and for translating meet two different needs), which, in turn, arouse other translation procedures, among which stand out: modulation, reconstruction of periods, word-for-word translation, transfer (as transliteration and foreignism) and omission.

The analyzed translation does not present errors, which may be explained by the quality of the writing of the original text, which provides a more precise reading to the expert.

Acknowledgments

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