LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY IN SPANISH IMMIGRATION FILMS. A TRANSLATIONAL APPROACH

Autors

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Linguistic Diversity in Spanish Immigration Films. A Translational Approach

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OBJECTIVES

• To describe how multilingualism is tackled in cinema productions, by using a corpus of polyglot Spanish films

• To identify a set of strategies by which foreign languages are conveyed to the original Spanish audience when these languages appear in the original film

Specific objectives

• To select a representative corpus of Spanish polyglot films released in Spain in the last two decades on DVD

• To analyse these films from a micro-textual, descriptive point of view, by identifying all samples in which immigrants communicate

• To generate a taxonomy of identified translation strategies, like self-translation, liaison interpreting, voice-over, subtitling, and no-translation

• To draw conclusions on the use of the various strategies employed, which may bring up additional considerations on the way in which plurilingualism is handled in Spanish polyglot films
HYPOTHESES

• The number of polyglot films that deal with immigration issues in Spain will show an upward trend over the last two decades.

• More domesticating strategies than foreignising strategies will be found in the translation of foreign languages appearing on these films.

METHODOLOGY

This research project has been developed using descriptive and empirical methodology:

• Selecting a representative corpus
• Watching the films and selecting samples
• Defining a taxonomy of translation strategies of foreign dialogues in the original films

CORPUS

Spanish polyglot films starring immigrant characters released on DVD in Spain in the last 20 years:

Bajarse al moro (Fernando Colomo, 1989).
Las cartas de Alou (Montxo Armendáriz, 1990).
Bwana (Imanol Uribe, 1996).
Susanna (Antonio Chavarriás, 1996).
Saïd (Llorenç Soler, 1998).
CONCLUSIONS

- Concerning the corpus selection:

  - Spanish productions released in Madrid:
    432/3464, or 12.5% \(\rightarrow\) A very low percentage

  - Spanish films containing immigrant characters:
    39/432, or 9% \(\rightarrow\) An even lower percentage

  - Spanish films dealing with the immigration issue released in DVD format:
    25/39, or about 64% \(\rightarrow\) Some interest in this subgenre in the domestic market

- Concerning the translation strategies:

  - No clear trend in the use of translation strategies in Spanish polyglot films.

  - The norm seems to be the use of two strategies:
    - Spanish with an accent (12 films), a relatively domesticating strategy
    - No translation (9 films), an absolutely foreignising strategy.

  - Voice-over is not used at all as a translation strategy.
### APPENDIX 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period (1st Semester 1989-2009)</th>
<th>35mm Films Released in Madrid</th>
<th>35mm Spanish Films Released in Madrid</th>
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APPENDIX 2

The Case of Immigration in Spanish Films

- 35mm Spanish Films Released in Madrid
- 35mm Spanish Films, Possibly with Immigrants on Them, Released in Madrid