

Language contact in translations from Brazilian Sign Language (LIBRAS) to written Portuguese: analysis, description and functioning of the multilingual constructicon

The description of multilingual grammar in the translation context is the focus of this research. It is based on the analyzes of convergent and divergent translations from Libras – Brazilian Sign Language – into written Brazilian Portuguese and relies on the Diasystematic Construction Grammar (HÖDER, 2012, 2014a, 2014b e 2021; BOAS & HÖDER, 2018) as its theoretical framework. The analyzed texts are extracted from videos in LIBRAS and their subtitles. Data suggested the existence of (i) convergent, (ii) partially convergent and (iii) divergent translations due to different degrees of diasystematic relation shared among L1-L2 constructions. The main ideas supported in the current study are (a) grammatical constructions are the ultimate translation unit and (b) domain general cognitive processes must be taken into account for translation studies. The analysis of translation choices in Brazilian Portuguese was based on constructional criteria, such as schematicity, productivity and compositionality. The overall results suggest that the less entrenched and more idiosyncratic constructions are, the greater the chances of divergences in translation. Such divergences may indicate that L1 idioconstructions still stand out in the reorganization of the multilingual constructicon.