



Book Review

Gallego Hernández, D. (2012). *Traducción económica y corpus: del concepto a la concordancia. Aplicación al francés y al español*. Alicante: Universidad de Alicante

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As its title would indicate, this volume addresses economic translation and the use of corpora from both a theoretical and conceptual approach, which the author Daniel Gallego illustrates with a number of examples applied to translation in the French-Spanish language pair. However, this book is far more ambitious and interesting than the title suggests at first glance, given its two main objectives and its potential usefulness for different types of readers.

The first aim of the author is to lay the theoretical foundation for defining the concept of economic translation, understood as translation applied in the fields of economics, trade and finance. The second aim is to present a documentation model to use and create corpora in the practice of economic translation. The documentation methodology proposed by Dr Gallego is based on the use of Internet as a primary tool both to obtain information from textual resources (web as corpus), as demonstrated by the author in his doctoral thesis, and to compile such resources (web for corpus).

To achieve his purpose, Gallego has structured the presentation of the results of his exhaustive research work into seven chapters, of which I will only present the most significant aspects.

In the first chapter (1), the author considers diverse variables, realities and interpretations to analyse the concepts of economic translation and economic language, providing a framework to identify the parameters for defining these two notions. Of special interest is the concept of economic language – in a broad sense (through verbal statements on economics as a discipline and in its professional dimension) and also a more limited one – as well as the relationship of the many denominations and labels attributed to it (economic language/academic language and business language /professional languages) according to each communicative situation.

In the second chapter (2) Gallego analyses in depth the different names used to refer to economic translation. To this end, he presents the relevant definitions considering the agents (socio-economic, commercial) and entities (organizations) involved in this type of translation. He concludes by providing two definitions of economic translation (one broad, the other more limited), opting for the former (the broad one) which he proceeds to address in a coherent manner in the next chapter covering the literature on economic translation.

The author's analysis in the third chapter (3) of works related to economic translation in its broadest sense offers a bibliographic classification to characterise this activity and identify the problems involved in practising and training for it. The criteria used for this purpose include subject matter categories – such as economic terminology and its variants; the terminology creation process and its translation (cultural anisomorphism or intercultural asymmetry); the debate on the use of Anglicisms in economic translation; the use of metaphors (one of the most common features in economic and financial discourse) – and the methodological approach of several works.

Chapter four (4) deals with the implications of using the Internet in the documentary process (sources and available resources) for the translation of economic texts. The nature of the primary documentary sources, classified by the author as linguistic, thematic and personal, determines the types of queries and tools according to the corresponding digital environment. Particularly interesting is the analysis of the use of parallel texts (as a thematic and linguistic documentary source), which is the basis of the work methodology proposed by the author, and the need to verify information due to the complementary nature of resources used depending on various factors.

In the fifth chapter (5), Gallego explains the specific theoretical and practical framework that enables the translator to perform an online query of parallel texts consciously and strategically. Thus, the author addresses the use of search engines (especially Google), various possibilities when formulating search strings, and the analysis of different tools and software for text retrieval. Hence, the model proposed, based on corpus linguistics, can be used to find and query parallel texts on the web (*Web as corpus*) as well as to compile and exploit *ad hoc* corpora (*Web for corpus*).

In the last two chapters, the author illustrates how to use the proposed methodology in eight case studies. The four case studies presented in chapter six (6) illustrate the “web as corpus” methodology for finding and querying parallel texts. Each case consists of two subsections: the first presents the methodology used to formulate the search parameters with keywords, sites, titles, bilingual texts and customised searches to define the set of parallel texts on the Web; the second discusses examples of how to exploit parallel texts to resolve problems and difficulties when translating.

Chapter seven (7) explains the use of the “web for corpus” approach, in four more case studies that are again subdivided into two sections. The first presents the methodology used to locate parallel texts on the Web, download and convert them into a readable software-ready format. The second section presents strategies to exploit such corpora considering the problems and difficulties of translation found in the original texts.

Given the structure of the book and its potential readers, I believe that the theoretical chapters (1-3) should be mandatory reading for any researcher in the field of economic translation. Moreover, the extensive conceptual and bibliographic review, as well as the proposed classification of the works analysed, is a valuable contribution not only for researchers but also for economic translator trainers when planning and structuring their teaching and courses.

The practical contributions of chapters 4-7 are of special interest for students of economic translation and professional translators seeking to augment the specific skills (subject proficiency, conceptual and terminological knowledge, textual conventions of various genres) required in this field. In fact, the methodology proposed by Gallego, closely linked to instrumental/documentary competence, helps the translator to solve many of the problems and difficulties encountered in economic translation.

In short, and as indicated by the author, this book presents economic translation as "an untapped translational mine" (p. 115) for performing translator training research and conducting descriptive studies of translation practice (procedures and processes). I would add that the methodology proposed by Gallego is not only useful for economic translation in various other language pairs but may also be applied to specialised translation in other fields (legal, scientific, technical ...).

In my opinion, Gallego has more than achieved the objectives set out in the Presentation of his book, in line with the importance of today's application of Internet and corpus linguistics to the practice of economic translation. The results of his rigorous research are displayed through a well-structured work whose solid theoretical foundation is complemented by its highly practical bent.

In summary, this is a significant contribution by Daniel Gallego, and I hope that this brief review of his book will help promote its well-deserved dissemination beyond the Spanish-speaking world.