Combining different methods of data collection in public service interpreting doctoral research: examples from the Spanish context

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Abstract: During the past ten years, public service interpreting (PSI) has become a flourishing field of research. Different kinds of studies have explored issues such as the role of public service interpreters, accuracy and deviations in their renditions, or primary participants' views on and expectations of PSI. In terms of research methods, it is becoming increasingly popular to combine different data collection methods in the field of PSI, especially in large research projects. The aim of this article is to describe how multiple datasets have been used in a sample of studies. It presents a review of PhD dissertations in Spain that have combined different kinds of surveys, focus groups and/or direct observation. This is followed by a description of how a multimethod approach can contribute to the advance of PSI research and how it can compensate for the limitations of certain single-method approaches to PSI. It argues that, while multimethod research may be more demanding and time-consuming from the researcher's point of view, it is more effective in terms of providing a holistic view of the object of study.

Keywords: public service interpreting, community interpreting, qualitative research, PhD dissertations, triangulation, multimethod approach

1. Introduction

Research into public service interpreting (PSI), also known as community interpreting, has multiplied and diversified over the past ten years. Different kinds of studies have explored issues such as the role of public service interpreters, accuracy and deviations in their renditions, or primary participants' views and expectations of PSI, to name but just a few. As Hale (2007) observes, certain approaches stand out: discourse analysis of the transcriptions of interpreted interactions, ethnography, survey research and experimental approaches (p.204). While PSI is consolidating itself as a field of research within the broader discipline of Translation and Interpreting Studies, it is also at the stage where we can see an increase in the use of multimethod studies, perhaps as a result of increased research funding in the field and the availability of a critical mass of trained researchers.

Combining various data collection methods is becoming popular in the field of PSI, especially in extended research projects such as internationally funded projects or PhD dissertations. This article presents a review of PhD dissertations conducted in Spanish institutions that have relied on multiple

data collection tools, combining different kinds of surveys, focus groups and/or direct observation. This could be regarded as a multimethod approach to PSI. The label 'multimethod approach' refers to research that employs more than one method of data collection or research in a study. Hale and Napier (2013) suggest that 'multimethod research' is a synonym for 'mixed methods' (p.210). However, 'mixed methods' seems to be more related to the mix of qualitative and quantitative paradigms (in both data collection and analysis), while the 'multimethod' approach may fall under one of these paradigms (typically the qualitative), and simply imply the use of different methods of data collection and analysis under that specific paradigm.

According to Brewer & Hunter (2006), "[i]ts fundamental strategy is to attack a research problem with an arsenal of methods that have non-overlapping weaknesses in addition to their complementary strengths." (p. 4). That is, the purpose of using more than one method is to compensate for the possible limitations resulting from adopting only one particular method. For the purpose of this article, the term 'multimethod approach' is used to refer mainly to the combination of different data collection methods in one specific study, although its actual meaning is broader and includes analytical methods.

As Brewer and Hunter (2006) point out, applying different methods often requires some kind of 'triangulation' (or *triangulated measurement* in the authors' words): a strategy which "tries to pinpoint the values of a phenomenon more accurately by sighting in on it from different methodological viewpoints" (pp. 4-5). Campbell & Fiske (1959) were the first to introduce triangulation in a paper addressing quantitative research (as cited in Drisko, 2015). However, it was Denzin (1970, 1978) who introduced "a much more generally applicable, multidimensional conceptualization of triangulation" (as cited in Drisko, 2015), thus expanding the scope and possibilities of triangulation. Denzin's (1978) classification of the four basic types of triangulation has attracted particular scholarly attention:

- data triangulation, in which different data sources are examined using the same method (for example, data collected at different points in time; or interviewing different groups on the same topic) in order to confirm findings or compensate for weaknesses;
- investigator triangulation, in which more than one researcher analyses the same data in a study to confirm findings;
- theory triangulation, in which multiple theories or hypotheses are used to examine a situation or phenomenon (i.e. using divergent theories to identify different issues or concerns);
- methods triangulation, in which various data collection methods are used to check the consistency of findings (i.e. using multiple methods to study a situation or phenomenon).

Nevertheless, the term 'triangulation' has also been the object of certain criticism. For instance, Hammersley (2008) explains that one of the problems with 'triangulation' is that it has been attributed at least four different meanings:

- Triangulation as validity checking, i.e. triangulation is used as a way of "checking the validity of an interpretation based on a single source of data by recourse to at least one further source that is of a strategically different type" (Bergman, 2008, p.23). Very often, researchers report having drawn data from different sources or using different methods of analysis to "reduce the chances of reaching false conclusions" (ibid.).
- Indefinite triangulation. This term was coined by Cicourel (1974),

who designed 'indefinite triangulation' to "make visible the practicality and inherent reflexivity of everyday accounts". According to Seale (2003), 'indefinite triangulation' suggests that "every reading of a text is likely to produce a new interpretation, with no version assuming privileged status" (p.179).

- Triangulation as seeking complementary information. As Hammersley (2008) suggests, this is the most common meaning: researchers talk about triangulation when they use different methods to investigate a specific reality; however, even though these different perspectives "might not be useful to validate each other (…) [they] might yield a fuller and more complete picture of the phenomenon concerned if brought together" (Erzberger & Kelle, 2003, as cited in Hammersley, 2008, p.27).

- Triangulation as epistemological dialogue or juxtaposition. According to Flick (1998), the focus of triangulation "has shifted increasingly toward further enriching and completing knowledge and towards transgressing the (always limited) epistemological potentials of the individual method" (p.230). Or, as Hammersley (2008) explains, "different methods construct the social world in divergent ways, so that combining them may not lead to either validation or to increasing the completeness of the picture" (p.28).

What emerges as the common denominator is that different data collection tools are employed and that, very often, different datasets are analysed independently, yielding different sets of results. Researchers may then use this duplicated (or triplicated) information on the same phenomenon either to cross-check each set of results (which would entail some kind of validation), to compare different interpretations of the same reality, to draw a broader picture of what they are examining (i.e. the results from one dataset are used to complement the results of other datasets) or to juxtapose diverging epistemological positions.

Section two reviews and discusses various studies which have used multiple data collection methods in PSI, while section three contextualises the work reported in section two vis-à-vis a brief overview of PSI doctoral research across Europe.

2. Multiple data collection methods in PSI doctoral research in Spain

PSI has produced many different research themes over recent years (Vargas-Urpi, 2012a). Many of the studies developed in the field have tried to provide a holistic —while also detailed— view of this emerging profession in certain settings or countries. Furthermore, PSI is interdisciplinary in essence: it is a complex activity that requires explanations which can only be provided by different disciplines. This may well explain why various disciplines (e.g. interpreting studies, applied linguistics, sociology, psychology, anthropology or communication sciences) have complemented each other in PSI research (Vargas-Urpi, 2011). This has fostered the trend towards the multimethod approaches described in this article, which have been particularly noticeable in large research projects as well as in PhD dissertations, where researchers usually have more space and time to collect data from different sources and build different datasets.

This section reviews various studies that have used multiple data collection tools. It focuses on 16 PhD dissertations defended over the past 10

years (2006-2015) in Spain. A significant number of theses on interpreting have been defended in Spain in recent years, partially due to the pressure on faculty members to have PhDs in order to obtain tenure (Xu, 2015, p.34). This is of course a small sample that does not account for the research in PSI worldwide, but the purpose here is to illustrate how multiple data collection methods have been developed in the frame of PhD dissertations in the specific case of Spain. The choice of the Spanish context has been motivated by the author's facilitated access to this body of dissertations (not only the abstracts).

The first source used to identify dissertations on PSI in Spain was BITRA: Bibliography of Interpreting and Translation (Franco Aixelá, 2001-2016). BITRA, developed at the University of Alicante, is one of the world's largest bibliographic repositories of Translation and Interpreting Studies, with over 68,000 entries at the time of writing this article. On 10th March 2017, a search in BITRA using the keywords 'Interpreting' + 'Community' while adding the type of document ("dissertation") and the time span selected (2006-2015) produced 15 results, of which only 6 were defended in Spain. As new references are constantly being incorporated into BITRA, future searches may produce slightly different results.

This small number is due to some dissertations not being labelled as 'community' but as 'legal' or 'medicine', while others have only been labelled as 'interpreting', such as Davitti's (2012) thesis on dialogue interpreting. For this reason, a second search was performed using only 'interpreting' as the keyword, "dissertation" as the type of document, and the time span selected. This second search rendered 116 matches, which were revised one by one by the author. From these, 26 concerned PSI,[i] among which 10 had been defended in a Spanish university.

This list was then completed with references from an unpublished catalogue of PhD dissertations, MA theses and undergraduate theses on PSI in Spain, which is being developed by the Comunica network and currently under construction.[ii] From this catalogue, a total of 6 dissertations were added, making up a sample of 16 theses devoted to PSI for the period of 2006-2015 (see Annex 1). This sample is not exhaustive of the period 2006-2015, because there may be theses that do not appear in either of these catalogues. These dissertations have been reviewed taking into consideration three major aspects: (a) the data collection procedures used; (b) whether the theses explicitly mention the application of any kind of triangulation; (c) their length in pages (see Annex 1 for more detailed information).

Of the sample of 16 dissertations, 12 combined different kinds of data collection tools (75%). Four of these explicitly mention that they relied on an ethnographic approach (Baixauli Olmos, 2012; Nevado Llopis, 2013; Onos, 2014; Vargas-Urpi, 2012b). Nevado Llopis (2013) quotes Guber's (2001) definition of 'ethnography', where the term is understood as both the "conception and practice of knowledge that seeks to understand social phenomena from the perspective of its members (members being understood as 'actors', 'agents' or 'social subjects'".[iii] If we consider PSI a social phenomenon that involves members from various groups (interpreters, users, public service providers, coordinators and managers of PSI services, and policy-makers), the use of different data collection methods may facilitate access to all their perspectives. This also stresses the interdisciplinary nature of PSI. Perhaps the most representative of these studies is that of Nevado Llopis (2013) on healthcare interpreting, which describes four different data collection methods under the approach of ethnography:

- Collection of documents related to immigrants' rights, patients' access and use of healthcare services, reproductive health, etc. for document analysis;

- 49 semi-structured in-depth interviews with healthcare providers and migrant users;
- Non-participant observation of 14 medical consultations;
- 3 focus groups.

It may be worth mentioning that the focus groups pursued the confirmation of the data collected through the other three methods, especially in the case of ambiguous results. Nevado Llopis mentions the application of different kinds of triangulation (data triangulation, theoretical triangulation and methodological triangulation) to ensure accuracy and bring breadth and depth to the study.

Baixauli-Olmos (2012) pursued a similar approach, even though his object of study is substantially different: a critical review of deontological codes from the point of view of their (potential) application to interpreting in prisons. More specifically, his data collection involved:

- Collection of deontological codes for document analysis;
- 5 semi-structured interviews with prison managers (2) and public service interpreters (3);
- 72 semi-structured questionnaires with prison managers (6), workers (10), inmates (9) and public service interpreters (47);
- Direct observation through visits to a prison and through the organisation of a workshop for inmates.

Baixauli-Olmos (2012) explains that his first intention was to become a public service interpreter for a prison, a first-hand experience that would give him a privileged glimpse of the field of practice (p.178). However, due to security restrictions, he was not granted the necessary authorisation and had to change his strategy, which is the reason he resorted to visits and a workshop for inmates who had some experience in interpreting for other inmates. Baixauli-Olmos (2012) also mentions having used a multiple-triangulation approach (data triangulation, theoretical triangulation and methodological triangulation), quoting Denzin (1989), in order to merge the data obtained from different sources that were then analysed according to different theories and using different methods (p.164). He also describes his own research as "inter-methodological" and "transdiciplinary".

Nevado Llopis' (2013) and Baixauli-Olmos' (2012) are the two dissertations that have employed the most significant combinations of data collection techniques. This may also be a consequence of sharing the same supervisors (Dr. Raga Gimeno and Dr. Sales Salvador) at Jaume I University.

What is also frequent is the combination of just two or three data collection tools, and, particularly, the use of questionnaires or interviews complemented with direct observation. For instance, Onos (2014), in a dissertation about Romanian interpreting in courts in Barcelona, used 14 semi-structured interviews with some of the actors involved in court interpreting (5 interpreters, 4 judges and 5 lawyers) and observation of 56 court sessions (trials or proceedings) where interpreting for Romanian defendants was required; while Bodzer (2014), researching PSI for gender violence victims, relied on extensive fieldwork by means of questionnaires and brief interviews with interpreters, lawyers, psychologists, social workers, victims and managers of emergency centres and shelter houses;[iv] and observation of 37 trials involving gender violence in Madrid. Isac (2008) also used questionnaires and direct observation, but in her case it was clearly 'participant observation' because her position as a practitioner gave her easy access to the field. Martínez-Gómez (2011) had a more focused objective — evaluating the quality of natural interpreters in prison settings— and used the following combination of data collection instruments:

- She distributed two questionnaires to the direct users of interpretation in a prison setting, i.e. inmates and prison officers. The first questionnaire was completed before an interpreted meeting and it contained questions about users' expectations of interpreting; the second questionnaire was answered after the interpreted meeting and it collected users' evaluations of the interpretation received.
- She also collected basic information about the interpreters using a questionnaire.
- She recorded 19 interpreted meetings in order to determine their quality by means of an evaluation matrix.

Other theses have synthesised compilations of documents (for document analysis) with questionnaires or interviews. This is the case of Wallace (2012), who collected 84 questionnaires and then analysed nearly 6,000 raw certification exam scores in the Spanish-English language pair.[v] Ortega Herráez (2006) devotes the first part of his dissertation to the description of the situation of court interpreting in Spain, mainly by examining legislative and other kinds of documents, while in the second part, he analyses the 83 questionnaires he had given to court interpreters.

Both Vargas-Urpi (2012b) and Burdeus Domingo (2015) used interviews which were complemented with data collected by means of questionnaires. In both cases, the interviews and questionnaires were grouped according to the informants' roles (e.g. interpreters, managers and stakeholders, users, etc., see Annex 1 for more detailed information about the number of interviews conducted). This resulted in different datasets that could be analysed independently and then triangulated in a final stage.

The triangulation used as a strategy to compare and complement the data extracted from the analyses of different datasets is a common feature in the dissertations by Vargas-Urpi (2012b), Onos (2014) and Burdeus Domingo (2015). In fact, both Vargas-Urpi and Onos use triangulation to discuss their findings and to introduce the conclusions of their research. Burdeus Domingo (2015) used interviews to elicit data from various samples of informants (interpreters and mediators, coordinators of interpreting and mediation services, and doctors) and questionnaires to collect users' views. The same multiple data collection methods were also conducted in two cities: Barcelona and Montreal. Thus, her dissertation includes three triangulations: one for the results of the data collected in Montreal; one for the results of the data collected in Barcelona; and finally, one for the comparison of each city's results.

Another interesting aspect about the PSI doctoral theses reviewed is their average length: 594 pages. In fact, seven of the dissertations exceed 600 pages: Baixauli-Olmos (2012), Bodzer (2014), Burdeus Domingo (2015), Martínez-Gómez (2011), Nevado Llopis (2013), Ortega Herráez (2006) and Vargas-Urpi (2012b), and this may also be related to the use of multiple data collection strategies (and, consequently, multiple data analysis methods according to each type of data).

Finally, although not a dissertation, it is also worth mentioning the SOS-VICS project, led by the University of Vigo, which is another illustrative example of the multimethod approach in PSI. The SOS-VICS project had the objective of describing communication between non-Spanish speaking victims of gender violence and the public service providers involved in their assistance (police, judges, lawyers, social workers, psychologists, interpreters, etc.). This information was then used to prepare training material and resources for interpreters as well as recommendations for public service providers. The use of a truly multimethod data collection strategy was especially useful for the

broad objective of describing communication in the wide range of contexts and situations that gender violence involves:

- Questionnaires were distributed to public service providers (Del Pozo Triviño et al., 2014a);
- A questionnaire using the Delphi approach[vi] was distributed to interpreters with experience interpreting for victims of gender violence (Del Pozo Triviño et al., 2014b);
- In-depth interviews were conducted with non-Spanish speaking victims of gender violence and with expert informants (e.g. emergency centre managers, coordinators of projects focussed on gender violence, or psychologists specialised in gender violence, among others);
- Workshops with public service providers were organised to promote brainstorming on the issues that should be included in the materials produced as a result of the project.

The data collection was extensive and each dataset produced wide-ranging results, which clearly provided a panoramic view of the object of study, while also considering the perspectives of all the actors involved. No specific triangulation strategy was employed in this study to merge the results extracted from each dataset, so while it presents a specific reality from a holistic perspective, it only does so from a detailed description of the different elements that compose it. It is true that some of the questions posed to interpreters (e.g. "what contents would you like to find in a specialised training course for interpreting for gender violence victims?") were not triangulable with responses from the other datasets, which may be one of the reasons why no overall triangulation was conducted.

3. Doctoral research in Spain vis-à-vis its European counterparts

In order to contextualise the work reported in the previous section, this section briefly provides general information about a sample of theses presented in the European context and retrieved through BITRA.

As already explained, a search using the keyword 'interpreting' and adding the type of document ("dissertation") and the time span selected (2006-2015) produced 116 matches. From these, 26 concerned PSI; 10 had been defended in Spain, 13 in other European countries and 3 in non-European countries (Australia, Japan and China). One may object to a potential bias in favour of including theses defended in Spain because BITRA is maintained and updated in this country, but a glimpse at the overall figures reveals its global scope: according to its latest report, published in November 2016, it includes 68,050 entries, of which 1,599 correspond to theses (Franco Aixelá, 2001-2016). Despite not being exhaustive, it is aleatory; therefore, the 13 theses retrieved by BITRA may be useful to contextualise the information presented in the previous section (see Annex 2 for more information).

Among the 13 theses on PSI presented in Europe and retrieved by means of BITRA, 4 have used various methods of data collection (Fowler, 2012; Hussein, 2011; Keselman, 2009; Krystallidou, 2013). The proportion is clearly smaller than in the Spanish case: while 75% of PSI doctoral research in Spain has used multiple data collection tools, only 31% has done so in this second sample of European (non-Spanish) theses.

Accordingly, triangulation is only mentioned by Fowler (2012), who justifies its use because it is "the methodological approach most likely to fulfil

the conditions of reducing (but not eliminating) the possibility of ambiguity or bias in the interpretation of the data" (p.78). Fowler also acknowledges the criticism that triangulation has received.

On average, the European (non-Spanish) doctoral theses on PSI reviewed are also substantially shorter: 292 pages. The theses presented in Spain double the ones presented in other European countries in terms of average length.

4. Conclusions

This article has revisited some examples of research using multiple data collection methods in PSI. I have reviewed various dissertations that relied on the multimethod approach in terms of data collection methods. Most of these dissertations fall under the umbrella of the qualitative paradigm and had the objective of describing and analysing PSI in a broad sense. The diverse methods of data collection used in a qualitative study make it an appropriate approach for studying a phenomenon in greater depth, holistically, and from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Despite the obvious differences, all the studies reviewed in this article share some common ground: they all involved either questionnaires or interviews as part of their data collection methods. These are clearly the two most recurring data collection tools in PSI research —Pöchhacker (2004) also notes the predominance of surveys as a research method in PSI (p.63), while Hale & Napier (2013) devote a whole chapter to questionnaires and various sections to interviews. They have proved useful for very different purposes: they help us understand PSI as a whole in a certain setting or area (e.g., Burdeus Domingo, 2015; or Onos, 2014, among others), or provide specific information about certain aspects (e.g., about certification exams, as in Wallace, 2012; or about nonverbal communication in PSI, as in Vargas-Urpi, 2013). Furthermore, when combined with other data collection methods, interviews (sometimes in the form of a focus group) can also be used as a control device to ensure the validity of data collection procedures (e.g. Hunt Gómez, 2012; Nevado Llopis, 2013).

The studies revisited seem to reflect a clear influence of ethnography, where multiple data collection strategies are also frequent. PSI is a profession that is relatively new in many countries, thus it may be natural that researchers look for inspiration from ethnographic approaches to collecting information to describe this new reality.

The article has also shown that another recurring term in the multimethod approach is triangulation. As we have seen in the studies reviewed, many of them explicitly state that they rely on triangulation to ensure validity and objectivity, but very often it is only used as a method for merging all the results of various analyses and presenting a broader picture of the phenomenon under study. In this regard, we may need to refine our definition of 'triangulation' and its purposes, as already suggested by Hammersley (2008).

All in all, multiple data collection methods are common in the research conducted in Spain, which has been the focus of this article. The sample of European non-Spanish theses was comparatively smaller, but it was aleatory and it still reveals that multiple data collection tools are more frequently used in Spain than in other European countries. Consequently, PSI theses in Spain rely more on triangulation and are substantially longer than their European counterparts. Further research is needed to confirm these differences and to find possible explanations for them. Very often, though, the use of various data collection methods is a 'forced' option when a single data collection

method produces limited data (insufficient for research purposes), possibly due to external factors such as lack of authorisation or limited availability of informants.

Multiple data collection tools present certain disadvantages, which are, in fact, common to most kinds of empirical studies (in any discipline). First of all, collecting data in PSI often implies the unavoidable step of seeking approval to distribute questionnaires, to conduct interviews or to access certain settings for direct observation. This was a particular hurdle in the two dissertations dealing with interpreting in prisons in Spain (Baixauli-Olmos, 2012; Martínez-Gómez, 2011). This is also a reason relatively few empirical studies exist for PSI. The second hindrance is that it is usually quite challenging to make arrangements for PSI informants to participate in interviews, focus groups or direct observation. Data treatment prior to analysis is also time-consuming when various data collection tools have been conducted, and transcribing interviews or recordings of interactions is highly demanding. Finally, what could be regarded as a 'collateral' drawback of such diverse data collection tools is that it is then difficult to make them fit into the limitations of a journal article in order to publish the holistic findings of the research in a more condensed form.

The most significant advantage of multiple data collection tools is perhaps that they are very suitable for studies that seek to provide both detailed and holistic descriptions. Present figures seem to suggest that dissertations using the multimethod approach are currently a trend —at least in Spain. However, the development of research in PSI may also make such vast doctoral theses unnecessary. Instead, more focused interdisciplinary research may be more appropriate in future generations of theses.

Acknowledgements

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Annex 1. Doctoral theses on Public Service Interpreting presented in Spain from 2006 to 2015

Author	Year	Multi-method?	Data collection[vii]	Explicit triangulation?	Length
Abril Martí, María Isabel	2006	No	Documentation	No	852
Baixauli-Olmos, Lluís	2012	Yes	- Collection of deontological codes - 5 semi-structured interviews (two samples of informants) - 72 semi-structured questionnaires (various samples of informants) - Direct observation	Yes	648
Bodzer, Anca	2014	Yes	- 210 questionnaires (various samples of informants) - 6 interviews (two samples of informants) - 37 records of direct observation	Yes	697
Burdeos Domingo, Noelia	2015	Yes	- 81 interviews (six samples of informants) - 110 questionnaires (two samples of informants)	Yes	665
Casamayor Maspons, Reynaldo	2013	Not available (N/A)	N/A	N/A	424
Cayón Sáez, Luis	2013	Yes	- Collection of documents - Interviews	N/A	229
Foulquié Rubio, Ana	2015	No	- 218 questionnaires (75 in the pilot study, 143 in the final study)	No	566
Hunt Gómez, Coral Ivy	2012	Yes	- 127 questionnaires - 2 focus groups	No	428
Isac, Dana	2008	Yes	- Questionnaires - Direct observation	N/A	N/A
Lázaro Gutiérrez, Raquel	2010	No	- Recordings of 75 interactions	No	475
Martínez-Gómez Gómez, Aída	2011	Yes	- Questionnaires - Recordings of 19 meetings	No	738
Nevado Llopis, Almudena	2013	Yes	- Collection of documents - 49 semi-structured interviews - Non-participant	Yes	711

Author	Year	Multi-method?	Data collection	Explicit triangulation?	Length
			observation of 14 medical consultations - 3 Focus groups		
Onos, Liudmila	2014	Yes	- 14 semi-structured interviews (3 samples of informants) - Direct observation of 56 court sessions	Yes	544
Ortega Herráez, Juan Miguel	2006	Yes	- Collection of documents - 83 questionnaires	No	908
Vargas-Urpi, Mireia	2012	Yes	-30 semi-structured interviews - 76 questionnaires	Yes	678
Wallace, Melissa	2012	Yes	- 84 questionnaires - Collection of documents (6,000 exam scores)	No	352

Annex 2. Doctoral theses on Public Service Interpreting presented in other European countries from 2006 to 2015 according to BITRA on 10th March 2017

Author	Year	Multi-method?	Data collection	Explicit triangulation?	Length
Amato, Amalia	2007	No	Recordings of naturally-occurring interactions	No	169
Davitti, Elena	2012	No	Recordings of naturally-occurring interactions	No	323
Fowler, Yvonne	2012	Yes	- 11 audio recordings - 10 video recordings - 27 semi-structured interviews - ethnographic observation	Yes	430
Gallez, Emmanuelle	2014	No	Transcripts of three successive speeches	No	441
Hussein, Nadia. M. A.	2011	Yes	- Questionnaires - Semi-structured interviews - Participant observation	No	316
Iacono, Eleonora	2013	No	Recordings of naturally-occurring interactions	No	523
Jiang Lihua	2008	No	Theoretically-oriented research	No	235
Kaczmarek, Lukasz	2010	No	Interviews to various groups of informants	No	301
Keselman, Olga	2009	Yes	- Recordings of authentic asylum hearings - Audiotaped interviews with	No	59

			various groups of informants - Document analysis		
Krystallidou, Demi K.	2013	Yes	- 9 video-recorded mediated consultations - 25 audio recorded semi-structured interviews	N/A	303
Mullamaa, Kristina	2006	N/A	N/A	N/A	236
Niemants, Natacha S. A.	2012	No	- Recordings of simulated interactions	No	353
Zimányi, Krisztina	2010	No	- Recordings of interviews	No	337

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[i] For the purpose of the present article, dissertations on sign language interpreting have not been considered.

[ii] The Comunica network comprises different research groups in Spain devoted to the study of PSI. (URL: http://red-comunica.blogspot.com.es/). Dr. Ortega Herráez is currently coordinating the construction of the aforementioned catalogue.

[iii] "[C]oncepción y práctica de conocimiento que busca comprender los fenómenos sociales desde la perspectiva de sus miembros (entendidos como "actores", "agentes" o "sujetos sociales" (Guber, 2001, p.12). Translated from Spanish by the author of the article.

[iv] Bodzer (2014) describes collecting 210 questionnaires distributed among various samples (a specific questionnaire was designed for each sample): 120 interpreters, 60 lawyers, 9 psychologist, 13 social workers, 2 managers of shelter houses, and 6 victims.

[v] Wallace (2012) used the certification exam administered by the Consortium for Language Access in the Courts (USA). For more information, see: http://www.ncsc.org/Education-and-Careers/State-Interpreter-Certification.aspx (last access 9th March 2017).

[vi] Cuhls (2005) explains that the Delphi method "consists of a survey conducted in two or more rounds and provides the participants in the second round with the results of the first so that they can alter the original assessments if they want to - or stick to their previous opinion. Nobody 'loses face' because the survey is done anonymously using a questionnaire (...)".

[vii] Numerical information is provided whenever it was available (in some cases, only the abstracts of the theses were accessible).