The translation of -ing nominal constructions into Spanish: a corpus-based study

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Resumen:

The -ing ending is a complex resource in English that realizes various syntactic functions and conveys a wide range of meanings. A clear understanding of the syntactic functioning of the -ing form might contribute to a correct interpretation of its meaning, which is essential for the translator. In addition to being ambiguous and multifunctional in English, another complication to bear in mind is the fact that one specific -ing construction can be equivalent to various expressions in a given target language. This paper aims at extending our knowledge about the relation between the English -ing form and Spanish. In particular, it deals with the translation of -ing nominal constructions into Spanish on the assumption that the gerund might not be equivalent to such -ing constructions, since it is a central resource to realize adverbial meanings through adverbial-like constructions. My study takes a syntactic approach, focusing on the function of such constructions and their grammatical implications for translation. In order to analyse these phenomena, I have worked with a parallel corpus, where one half is made up of original texts in English that allows us to carry out a descriptive analysis of the constructions that are considered the problem for translation. Simultaneously, the corpus provides an empirical repository of translational options in the target language, which, being functionally equivalent to the original text, provide information on the functional contrastive relation between the two linguistic codes.