Polysemy and Contrastive Linguistics: The Spanish Verb "escribir" and its Equivalents in German – A Multidisciplinary Approach to Discursive Lexical Variance

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The aim of our contribution is to demonstrate, using various methodological approaches, the range of translation equivalents available in German for the Spanish communication verb *escribir* and the factors that influence the selection from the discursive lexical variance perspective. Our starting point is the research findings of a comprehensive contrastive empirical study based on comparative corpora, examining the highly polysemous verbs *schreiben* and *escribir* in different written text genres (cf. Harras *et al.* 2004, 2007; Proost 2007; Boas 2010; Engelberg *et al.* 2017; González Ribao 2021; X1; X2). The focus is on the combinatory potential and fine-grained analyses at the syntax-semantics interface to identify the different meanings of *both* verbs and their assignment to various frames in which both verbs operate equally (cf. Boas ed. 2009; Boas *et al.* 2024). A significant overlap in the identified readings and frame assignments has shown that, from a semantic perspective, a near 1:1 correspondence exists between the two verbs. Likewise, only minor divergences were documented regarding their combinatory potential at the syntax-semantics interface. To further investigate whether this near 1:1 correspondence also holds from an action-oriented pragmatic perspective, we will present the findings of two pilot studies on translation equivalents from Spanish to German (cf. Nikula 2000; Reisigl/Ziem 2014). The first study focuses on identifying the translation equivalents of the verb *escribir* in the target language, German. To this end, different text genres from parallel corpora are analysed (cf. Doval/Sánchez Nieto eds. 2019; Mas Álvarez 2022). It is assumed that, depending on various genre- and discourse-specific factors, a broader range of verbs within the same class will be used as translation equivalents for the different readings of *escribir*. In addition to *schreiben*, verbs such as *veröffentlichen* (publish), *notieren* (note), *senden* (send), etc., may appear in translations. The second pilot study examines whether this discursive lexical variance is also reflected in machine-generated translations. The expected results of this second study should help to substantiate the assumption formulated above and demonstrate the need to make discursive lexical variance explicit for different application-oriented situations. Confirming the above assumptions would lead to the demand for novel resources for language acquisition, translation activities, and post-editing of machine-generated translations. These resources should offer an onomasiological arrangement of the lexicon in connection with grammatical, genre-, and discourse-specific information, considering both inter- and intralingual perspectives (cf. Fernández Méndez *et al.* 2022; Fernández Méndez/González Ribao 2024; Mas Álvarez/Meliss 2024; Vázquez/Fernández-Montraveta 2024).

Keywords:

Contrastive Linguistics; Corpus Linguistics; Machine Translation; Lexical Polysemy; Verb Classes.

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