

TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES (II): CROSS-TRANSPOSITION

Cross-transposition is in a sense of a shift of word-class, since grammatical structures are often different in different languages, e.g. English *hand knitted* (noun + participle) becomes Spanish *tejido a mano* (participle + adverbial phrase).

Notice in every moment the reversal of concepts in English and in Spanish.

Type I

It applies to English double entities, formed by a verb and a particle. The procedure of cross-transposition is due to the fact that in these English unities, the action, rather than being expressed by the verb, is expressed by the particle. In Spanish, on the contrary, the semantic content lies in the verb, whereas it is the adverbials that express the modality of the action.

He ran up → *Subió corriendo* (notice the order of the concepts in English and Spanish).

Type II

It refers to the construction verb + *-ing* form: *He sat reading* → *Leía sentado*. (notice the order of the concepts in English and Spanish).

Type III

We also find cross-transposition in the translation of verb + *again* as *volver* + verb: *You've done it again* → *has vuelto a hacerlo*.

Now translate the following sentences taking into consideration what we have seen about cross-transposition.

1. Dream on
2. The bus rattled off.
3. It flew away.
4. Salió corriendo/a la carrera.
5. Se volvió al hotel caminando.

6. Cruzó el río a nado.
7. As if an angel had flown across the skies of the country.
8. Salió de puntillas.
9. The burglar slipped out.
10. Mientras pasaban a toda velocidad frente al edificio.
11. The bird flew into the room.
12. El barco entra al puerto.
13. She sat knitting by the fire.
14. Su marido roncaba tendido en el suelo de la cocina.
15. Opposite him sat the girl bolting down frankfurters.
16. Úrsula volvió a verlo.
17. Y cruzamos la calle hacia el Select desde donde John nos sonreía sentado a una mesa de mármol.

KEY

1. Dream on

Sigue soñando.

2. The bus rattled off.

El autobús salió pitando / arrancó haciendo ruido / se alejó traqueteando.

3. It flew away.

Se fue volando / desapareció volando.

4. Salió corriendo/a la carrera.

He ran/hurried/dashed/rushed off/out/away.

5. Se volvió al hotel caminando.

He walked back to the hotel.

6. Cruzó el río a nado.

He crossed the river swimming / He swam across the river.

7. As if an angel had flown across the skies of the country.

Como si un ángel hubiera pasado volando por los cielos del país.

8. Salió de puntillas.

He tiptoed out/off.

9. The burglar slipped out.

El ladrón salió sigilosamente / furtivamente.

10. Mientras pasaban a toda velocidad frente al edificio.

While they sped off/flew off/flushed past/opposite the building.

11. The bird flew into the room.

El pájaro entró volando en la habitación.

12. El barco entra al puerto.

The ship sets/ports/harbours in/sails into the harbour.

13. She sat knitting by the fire.

Tejía/Hacía punto sentada junto al fuego.

14. Su marido roncaba tendido en el suelo de la cocina.

He lay snoring on the kitchen floor.

15. Opposite him sat the girl bolting down frankfurters.

La chica engullía/zampaba salchichas sentada frente a él.

16. Úrsula volvió a verlo.

Úrsula saw him again.

17. Y cruzamos la calle hacia el Select desde donde John nos sonreía sentado a una mesa de mármol.

And we crossed the street towards the Select from where John sat smiling at us from a marble-topped table.