

TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES (III): TRANSPOSITION

It is the procedure whereby correspondences between both languages are sought by means of changes of category or grammatical structure. It is one of the resources which is always present in a translator's practice, even in an unconscious way, since it offers a variety of possibilities that help avoiding the problem of untranslatability.

It may be compulsory due to differences between the grammatical structures of the Source Language and the Target Language, but not necessarily, being in this case the result of a stylistic choice on the part of the translator.

From VP to NP

Before he comes back → *antes de su regreso*

From AdjP to PrepP

Immensely important → *de suma importancia*

From AdjP to VP

The victory was short-lived → *la victoria duró poco*

From AdjP to AdvP

Contestó feliz → *He answered happily*

From present participle to a relative clause

Paper lanterns hanging from the trees → *que colgaban de los árboles*

From the indefinite to the definite article

En un futuro próximo → *in the near future*

Translate the following sentences and pay attention to the grammatical changes that have taken place.

1. I don't care about your anger.
2. Public servants should be held accountable for their management of public goods.
3. A student demonstration.
4. He found it difficult to make ends meet.
5. En un automóvil que les esperaba.
6. La frontera con Chile.

7. If you happen to stay in London.
8. Irrigated crops.
9. We haven't heard from him.
10. The musical makes a plea for positive action.
11. At 12.30 they stopped for lunch.
12. There was still an hour before he had to go to...
13. No tenía aspecto de buena salud.
14. He smoothed the wrinkles off his brow.
15. No smoking.
16. There's a reason for life.
17. Out of order.
18. ¡Necio de mí!
19. He was never bothered again.
20. His heart stood still.
21. Early last year.
22. Of a potentially catastrophic scale.

23. But victory was short-lived.

24. Two hundred years ago, as the eighteenth century was drawing to a close, observers of social and political trends in Europe were deeply troubled. A revolutionary tide, which had first surged in France in 1789, was spreading to neighbouring states, bringing down regimes from Italy to the Netherlands.

25. Not long after his tenth birthday he was entrusted with the mission of taking his seven-year-old sister, Kate, to school.

26. You are wanted on the phone.

27. She went to the corrida to be given tragic sensations

KEY

1. I don't care about your anger.
Que te enfades / tu enfado me trae sin cuidado
2. Public servants should be held accountable for their management of public goods.
Debería responsabilizarse a los funcionarios públicos por el manejo de los bienes públicos.
3. A student demonstration
Una protesta estudiantil
4. He found it difficult to make ends meet
Le costó trabajo/tuvo dificultad en llegar a fin de mes.
5. En un automóvil que les esperaba.
In a car (that was) waiting for them¹.
6. La frontera con Chile.
Chile's border / The Chilean border.
7. If you happen to stay in London.
Si por casualidad te quedas en Londres.
8. Irrigated crops.
Cultivos de regadío.
9. We haven't heard from him.
No sabemos nada de él / no tenemos noticias suyas.
10. The musical makes a plea for positive action.
El musical instiga/invita a la acción positiva / en el musical se hace una llamada al buen hacer / el musical hace un llamamiento al buen hacer / el musical rompe una lanza en favor de la acción positiva.
11. At 12.30 they stopped for lunch.
A las 12:30 pararon para almorzar/comer.
12. There was still an hour before he had to go to...
Todavía (le) quedaba una hora hasta que tuviera que irse a... / Aún (le) faltaba una hora para ir a...
13. No tenía aspecto de buena salud.
He didn't look healthy.
14. He smoothed the wrinkles off his brow.
Desfrunció el ceño.
15. No smoking.
Se prohíbe fumar / No fumar / Prohibido fumar.
16. There's a reason for life.
Hay una razón / razones para vivir.
17. Out of order.
No funciona / Fuera de servicio.

¹ If we omitted the relative pronoun and the verb *to be*, the resulting clause would be a "reduced relative clause", also called a "contact relative clause".

18. ¡Necio de mí!

How silly/stupid of me! How stupid I was! Silly me!

19. He was never bothered again.

Nunca lo molestaron de nuevo / Nadie lo volvió a molestar / No volvió a molestarse / Nunca más lo molestaron / No se le volvió a molestar.

20. His heart stood still.

Dejó de latirle el corazón / Se le paró el corazón.

21. Early last year.

A comienzos / principios del año pasado.

22. Of a potentially catastrophic scale.

Que puede alcanzar proporciones catastróficas / De dimensiones potencialmente catastróficas / De una magnitud potencialmente catastrófica.

23. But victory was short-lived.

Pero la victoria duró poco / no duró mucho.

24. Two hundred years ago, as the eighteenth century was drawing to a close, observers of social and political trends in Europe were deeply troubled. A revolutionary tide, which had first surged in France in 1789, was spreading to neighbouring states, bringing down regimes from Italy to the Netherlands.

Hace doscientos años, conforme el siglo XVIII llegaba a su fin, los estudiosos de las corrientes/tendencias sociales y políticas en Europa estaban tremendamente consternados. Una oleada/marea revolucionaria, surgida por vez primera en Francia en 1789, se extendía a los estados vecinos, derrocando regímenes desde Italia hasta los Países Bajos.

25. Not long after his tenth birthday he was entrusted with the mission of taking his seven-year-old sister, Kate, to school.

Poco después de que cumpliera diez años / de su décimo cumpleaños, se le encomendó la tarea/misión de llevar a su hermana de 7 años, Kate, al colegio.

26. You are wanted on the phone.

Te llaman por teléfono / Ponte al teléfono.

27. She went to the corrida to be given tragic sensations.

Fue a la corrida para experimentar sensaciones trágicas.