

DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATION (V): -ING FORMS

ACTIVITY 1

Taking into account the different uses and meanings of *-ing* forms in English, translate the following sentences into Spanish.

1. He read the novel at one sitting.
2. Looking up suddenly, Robert saw a rainbow.
3. The man objected to my playing in the team.
4. The villagers listened to the tolling of the bell.
5. The critics praised her wonderful dancing.
6. They were coming towards the flag.
7. He heard the voice saying the last prayer.
8. It kept on raining.
9. It is not insulting.
10. These happenings are frequent.
11. Seeing is believing.
12. They have finished dining.
13. He went out slamming the door.

14. I suddenly thought of the woman selling trinkets outside the cathedral.

15. Wishing to travel to London immediately, and having no money for the train fare, he decided to hitch a lift.

16. The garden was lit by paper lanterns hanging from the trees.

17. He loves sailing boats.

ACTIVITY 2

Translate the passages below, paying special attention to the *-ing* forms.

1. Living in a small hotel on the left bank in Paris, moving between contacts in the working-class suburbs and among students in the Latin Quarter, Tito gained many left-wing international contacts.

2. 'When translating, I usually start by dictating a quick, rough translation of the foreign language text straight onto a cassette, bypassing any difficulties, if necessary devising ad hoc ways of overcoming them temporarily, and striving to get the general hang of the original, while allowing the natural rhythm of the spoken word to give the translation a shape and a flow which will not be lost by being revised and polished later on.

3. Going backward over the day, I find things of which I am quite certain, other things of which I am almost certain, and other things of which I can become certain by thought.

4. Because there is a certain tension involved in eating in public, restaurants employ two major trends to exploit the mood of their diners. The expensive restaurant, to justify high prices, has to overcome the tensions. It does this by shielding, screening, and partitioning and also by keeping lights dim and sounds muffled, and by having more staff than usual so as to reduce waiter-speeds.

KEY

ACTIVITY 1

1. He read the novel at one sitting.
Se leyó la novela de una sentada.
2. Looking up suddenly, Robert saw a rainbow.
Al mirar hacia arriba de repente/Al levantar la mirada (cross-transposition), Robert vio un arcoíris.
3. The man objected to my playing in the team.
El hombre se opuso a que jugara en el equipo/a mi forma de jugar¹.
4. The villagers listened to the tolling of the bell.
Los lugareños/los del pueblo escucharon el repicar/tañir de la campana.
5. The critics praised her wonderful dancing.
Los críticos alabaron su magnífico baile/su forma de baile/lo bien que había bailado².
6. They were coming towards the flag.
Se acercaban a la bandera.
7. He heard the voice saying the last prayer.
Escuchó a la voz que rezaba la última oración.
8. It kept on raining.
Continuó/siguió lloviendo.
9. It is not insulting.
No es insultante/ofensivo.
10. These happenings are frequent.
Estas situaciones/estas cosas son frecuentes.
11. Seeing is believing.
Ver para creer.
12. They have finished dining.
Han terminado de cenar.
13. He went out slamming the door.
Salió dando un golpe a la puerta.
14. I suddenly thought of the woman selling trinkets outside the cathedral.
De repente me acordé de la mujer que vendía baratijas fuera de la catedral.
15. Wishing to travel to London immediately, and having no money for the train fare, he decided to hitch a lift.

¹ This second translation is possible due to the fact that the word *playing* can be understood both as a verb (*a que jugara*) and as a noun (*a mi forma de jugar*).

² See footnote 1

Como quería viajar a Londres inmediatamente, y no tenía dinero para el billete de tren, decidí hacer auto-stop.

16. The garden was lit by paper lanterns hanging from the trees.

El jardín estaba iluminado por farolillos de papel que colgaban de los árboles.

17. He loves sailing boats.

Le encantan los veleros. // Le encanta navegar.

ACTIVITY 2

English

Spanish

1 Living in a small hotel on the left bank in Paris, moving between contacts in the working-class suburbs and among students in the Latin Quarter, Tito gained many left-wing international contacts.

Como vivía/Al vivir en un pequeño hotel en la ribera izquierda de París, y se codeaba con gente de la clase trabajadora de la periferia/de las afueras y con estudiantes del Barrio Latino, Tito consiguió muchos contactos internacionales de izquierdas.

2. 'When translating, I usually start by dictating a quick, rough translation of the foreign language text straight onto a cassette, bypassing any difficulties, if necessary devising ad hoc ways of overcoming them temporarily, and striving to get the general hang of the original, while allowing the natural rhythm of the spoken word to give the translation a shape and a flow which will not be lost by being revised and polished later on.

Al traducir suelo empezar dictando a un casete una traducción rápida y a grandes rasgos del texto en lengua extranjera, evitando dificultades, y de ser necesario, recurriendo a soluciones ad hoc para remediarlas temporalmente, y buscando captar el sentido general del original, mientras que permito que el ritmo natural de la lengua oral le dé a la traducción una forma y una fluidez que no se perderán cuando se revise y se pule más tarde.

3. Going backward over the day, I find things of which I am quite certain, other things of

Mirando hacia atrás/Al echar la vista atrás, descubro cosas de las que estoy bastante seguro, cosas de las que estoy casi seguro y

which I am almost certain, and other things of which I can become certain by thought. cosas de las que puedo sentirme seguro si reflexiono sobre ellas.

4. Because there is a certain tension involved in eating in public, restaurants employ two major trends to exploit the mood of their diners. The expensive restaurant, to justify high prices, has to overcome the tensions. It does this by shielding, screening, and partitioning and also by keeping lights dim and sounds muffled, and by having more staff than usual so as to reduce waiter-speeds. Debido a la cierta tensión que supone comer en público, los restaurantes emplean dos técnicas principales para explotar el estado de ánimo de sus comensales. Los restaurantes caros, para justificar los altos precios, tienen que superar dichas tensiones. Escudan a los clientes, los separan por biombos y dividen el espacio, y también mantienen una iluminación tenue y el mínimo ruido posible, y contratan a más personal de lo normal para reducir las prisas de los camareros.