

# The translation of Robert Koch's scientific articles on tuberculosis (German-Spanish)

## Appraisal and translation techniques

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### *Abstract*

Scientific translation has traditionally been the subject of fewer studies than its sister discipline, technical translation. However, the increasing digitalisation of publications in open access is boosting research in this area, both from a synchronic and a diachronic perspective. In this paper, following recent works on the translation of scientific publications in German from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the so-called heroic age of German medicine, Robert Koch's articles on tuberculosis and their translations published in Spanish are analysed in terms of text genre conventions, appraisal resources and translation techniques. The purpose of this study is to make a contribution to the fields of scientific translation, history of translation and history of science with a view to promoting interdisciplinary research in these areas.

### *Key Words*

Scientific translation, articles, German, appraisal, translation techniques.



### *1. Introduction*

Scientific and technical translation has been an object of study since as early as the 1960's – albeit as a joint discipline and focusing on the technical rather than on the scientific part. Indeed, a quick look at two recent monographs on this field by Byrne (2014) and Olohan (2016) reveals a stronger focus on technical than on scientific texts. This is probably due to the fact that technical

translation generates a considerable amount of work,<sup>1</sup> while the translation of scientific texts – mostly into English – is nowadays mainly restricted to academia.

By contrast, Montgomery's book *Science in Translation* (2000) provides a groundbreaking historiographical account of the role of translation in the dissemination of science across the centuries and continents. The author highlights the variety of translation practices in the past, often involving oral and written exchange, performed by individuals, by teams, by groups or entire communities, even by machines, on materials including original texts, copied and altered texts, reconstructed and stolen texts, fabricated, falsified, and even imaginary texts. The translation techniques used in these scientific texts were accordingly varied: rewriting, adaptation, ideological reconstitution, word-for-word faithfulness or paraphrasing, to name but a few (Montgomery, 2000: 4). Such phenomena certainly called for further research, and so scientific translation has gained momentum in the last two decades. Special issues such as *Meta* no. 61 on Sciences in Translation (2016) or *The Translator* 17:2 (2011) on Translating Science include some samples of this research.

### *1.1 Prior research on German scientific translation*

Until now, research on scientific production in German in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and its translation has been surprisingly scarce, if we take into account the possibilities digitalisation has afforded us in the past decades by granting access to journals and even entire books that used to be accessible in selected physical libraries only. The importance of this so-called heroic age of the German sciences is undeniable, as showed by the several Nobel prizes and discoveries by German scientists leading to the rise of bacteriology, biochemistry and even genetics.

Among the few works on scientific texts translated from German into Spanish, it is worth mentioning Quijada and Gutierrez' lexicographic studies (2017, 2016, 2015), as well as Sanchez' (2011) analysis of the translator's intervention in a treatise by German neurologist Möbius. Mayor Serrano *et al.* (2011) dedicated a section to psychoanalysis and translation in a special issue of the

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<sup>1</sup> According to Gamero (2001: 28): “Si acudimos a la práctica profesional de la traducción, comprobaremos que en cuanto a porcentaje de mercado, la traducción técnica se sitúa por delante de la científica, ya que la demanda generada por la industria es mucho mayor que la producida en el seno de los organismos de investigación.”

journal *Panace@* on German, where they explored the first renderings of Freud into Spanish in terms of accuracy and translation strategies for key concepts introduced by the Austrian psychiatrist. However, to the best of my knowledge, no study has been conducted so far on linguistic features of scientific articles and translation practice in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which this paper aims to explore.

The present study arises from a previous work on the translation of German scientific articles from the 19<sup>th</sup> century into Spanish (Castillo, 2019) and focuses on the research by the German microbiologist and Nobel laureate Robert Koch on tuberculosis. The purpose is to locate published articles on the subject and their translations, as well as to describe their textual features and the translation techniques employed.

### *1.2 Objectives and research method*

The abovementioned prior review of translated 19-century German articles on microbiology and biochemistry revealed interesting features both in the style of the originals and in the translations, which I now intend to analyse. Focusing on the figure of Robert Koch, considered one of the founders of modern microbiology together with Louis Pasteur, the objectives of this paper are as follows:

- To locate and describe Koch's scientific articles on tuberculosis and their translations
- To analyse papers translated into Spanish in terms of appraisal resources
- To ascertain which translation techniques were used in these articles

With this I aim to contribute to the research on the translation of science from a diachronic perspective, offering a reflection on possible differences in science translation practices at the time the original texts were published and in the present day.

For the analysis of the translations, the classification of techniques proposed by Byrne (2014: 118-131) shall be used. These include literal translation, borrowing, calque, equivalence, transposition, modulation, adaptation (cultural substitution, paraphrasing, omission), expansion/contraction, generalising/particularising, compensation, restructuring, and iconic linkage.

In turn, the textual features of German scientific articles shall be discussed according to the categories of appraisal established by Martin and White (2005) and to the description of scientific articles by Byrne (2014: 63-82) and Montgomery (2009).

## *2. Theoretical framework*

Since this paper focuses on the translation of scientific articles, a definition of this field of work should be provided first. This is by no means a simple task, since the translation of scientific articles can take multiple and varied forms. According to Montgomery (2009: 9-10), these include:

- traditional translation of a completed (published) text from one language to another;
- translating sections of an article, report, or book for personal use;
- translating one's own writing for the purpose of publication;
- submitting one's writing to a translation agency or an individual translator;
- partial (incomplete) or less skilful rendering of one's own writing, which is then sent to a colleague or friend (or family member) for full conversion;
- writing/reading of emails, letters and other communications in a non-native language, requiring mental translation during the process;
- discussion among colleagues (in the mother tongue) of an article or talk;
- simultaneous translation/interpretation of a talk;
- scripting one's talk in the mother tongue, then translating this for delivery at a conference;
- audio or video recording a talk, then providing commentary (spoken or written) in the mother tongue;
- reviewing the product when a publisher has one's writing (scientific book, article, web site) translated into another language;

- explaining to a colleague or friend the meaning of an important finding, article, announcement, etc.;
- explaining to a media representative the meaning of one's research, including translation of important phrases, conclusions.

It is probably safe to assume that such varied formats present differences in macrostructural and microstructural features which should be taken into account in a translation analysis. Given that my object of study is written and published translations of scientific articles, I shall refer to the description of this text genre provided by Byrne (2014: 63) in terms of the macrostructure of scientific journal papers, as well as the translation techniques mentioned in section 1.2 above.

As to appraisal theory, it was first introduced by Martin and White (2005) in line with the systemic functional linguistics model of language (Halliday and Martin, 1993). Subsequently, it has been applied to translation by Munday (2012, 2015), whose work will be the basis of my analysis. More specifically, Munday provides an overview of appraisal resources based on Martin and White as shown in Table 1.

<b>Domain of appraisal</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Illustrative realisation</b>
Attitude	Affect	Feelings and emotional reactions	Happy, sad
	Judgement	Of ethics, behaviour, capacity	Wrong, brave
	Appreciation	Of things, phenomena, reactions	Beautiful, authentic
Engagement	Monogloss	Single-voiced	Categorical assertion
	Heterogloss	Contractive Expansive	Show, certainly Claim, nearly, possibly
Graduation	Force	Raise	<b>Totally</b> extinct

		Lower	<b>Slightly</b> worried
	Focus	Sharpen Soften	A <b>true</b> champion <b>Kind of</b> blue

Table 1. Appraisal resources (Munday, 2015: 3-4, adapted from Martin and White, 2005: 38 and Munday, 2012: 34)

1. The domain of ‘attitude’ is divided into affect (emotional), judgement (ethical) and appreciation (aesthetic). According to Munday (2015: 4), despite possible omissions, “translation shifts between attitudinal categories are often relatively minor unless there is a high degree of manipulation, or the value is contested or in some way ambiguous”.

2. The second domain, ‘engagement’, conveys the speaker’s position towards possible responses. It can either be monogloss (when the speaker contemplates no alternatives to their ideas) or heterogloss (which acknowledges possible alternative viewpoints), which in turn can be ‘dialogically expansive’ (opening up to other voices) or ‘dialogically contractive’ (restricting possible responses) (Munday, 2015: 5), as shown in Figure 1.

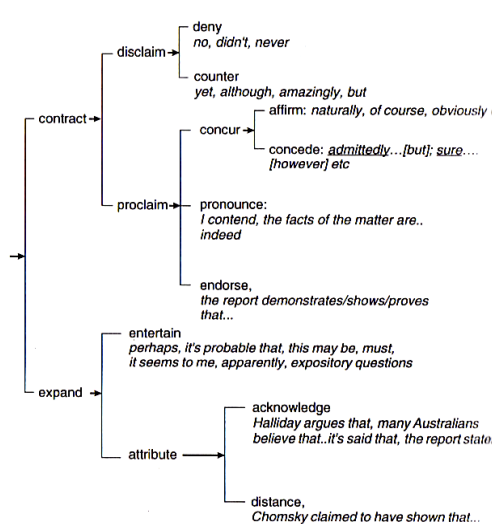


Figure 1. The engagement system: heteroglossic resources (Martin and White, 2005: 134)

3. Finally, as shown in Figure 2, 'graduation' is realised by a scalable axe of focus (a prototypicality of phenomena, upscaled or downscaled, the focus respectively becoming sharper or more blurred) and force (degree of quantification or intensification) (Munday, 2015: 18). The author argues that because intensification is linked to a shared value between writer and reader, the translator may disrupt it due to a lesser investment in the text than that of the intended interlocutors.

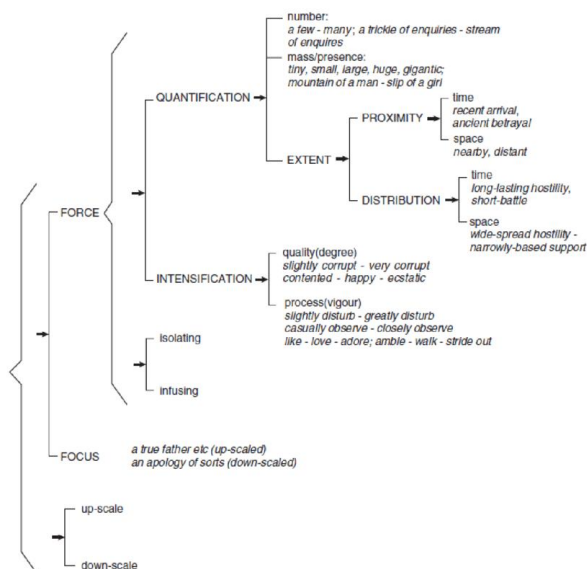


Figure 2. System network for graduation: force and focus (Martin and White, 2005: 154)

Munday concludes that the intervention of a translator/interpreter risks affecting the rhetorical effect by modifying engagement resources towards a distancing from the deictic centre (typically occupied by the speaker) and downscaling the intensity of both attitudinal and engagement values (*ibid.*, 21). He calls for more work in this field to test this hypothesis in order to understand how and under what conditions such variations may occur. To test this theory, the appraisal system will be applied here to the scientific discourse from a diachronic perspective.

### 3. Analysis

In this section, I shall look at two papers on tuberculosis written in German by microbiologist Robert Koch and their translations published in Spanish:

- Koch, R. (1891) ‘Fortsetzung der Mittheilungen über ein Heilmittel gegen Tuberculose.’ *Deutsche medicinische Wochenschrift*, 17(3), pp. 101-102.
- Koch, R. (1891) ‘Tercera comunicación sobre el tratamiento de la tuberculosis. Composición y preparación de la linfa.’ *Semanario farmacéutico*, XIX (17), 25 January, pp. 135-139.
- Koch, R. (1890) ‘Weitere Mittheilungen über ein Heilmittel gegen Tuberculose.’ *Deutsche medicinische Wochenschrift*, 16(46), 1029-1032.
- Koch, R. (1890) ‘Nueva comunicación sobre el tratamiento de la tuberculosis.’ *Crónica Médica*, 13, pp. 681-690.

The translation of Koch’s paper from 1891 was also printed in *Crónica Médica*:

- Koch, R. (1891) ‘Tercera comunicación sobre el tratamiento de la tuberculosis. Composición y preparación de la linfa.’ *Crónica Médica*, 14, pp. 41-46.

However, as both publications are almost identical, with the exception of a few punctuation marks and the title, the translation analysed here will be the one published in *Semanario farmacéutico*.

#### 3.1 Text genre

In my previous work on scientific articles written in German, a lack of a consistent superstructure and of spelling and formal standardisation was detected, suggesting that scientific articles were not consolidated as a genre in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. According to Byrne (2014, p. 63), a typical section division of this genre consists of abstract, introduction, materials (and methods), procedures, results, discussion, conclusions and references. By contrast, Koch’s articles and their translations are structured as shown in Table 2.

Article	Original	Translation
Koch (1891)	No sections	Preámbulo Cómo hice el descubrimiento La composición de la linfa



Koch (1890)	No sections	No sections
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Table 2. Sections in articles by Robert Koch and their translations into Spanish

It should be noted that both published translations of the 1891 article (in *Crónica Médica* and *Semanario farmacéutico*) present the same additional sections, while no sections were inserted in the 1890 translation.

As to the title of the articles, the followings adaptations in Table 3 have been carried out in the translations.

Article	Original	Translation
Koch (1891)	Fortsetzung der Mittheilungen über ein Heilmittel gegen Tuberculose.  Von Prof. R. Koch.	[In <i>Semanario farmacéutico</i> ] NUEVO TRATAMIENTO DE LA TUBERCULOSIS POR EL MÉTODO DE KOCH  TERCERA COMUNICACIÓN SOBRE EL TRATAMIENTO DE LA TUBERCULOSIS  POR EL PROFESOR ROBERTO KOCH  COMPOSICIÓN Y PREPARACIÓN DE LA LINFA  (Del <i>Deutsche med. Wochenschrift</i> del 15 de enero)
Koch (1891)	Fortsetzung der Mittheilungen über ein Heilmittel gegen Tuberculose.  Von Prof. R. Koch.	[In <i>Crónica Médica</i> ] TERCERA COMUNICACIÓN SOBRE EL TRATAMIENTO DE LA TUBERCULOSIS  POR EL PROFESOR KOCH COMPOSICIÓN Y PREPARACIÓN DE LA LINFA
Koch (1890)	I. Weitere Mittheilungen über ein Heilmittel gegen	NUEVA COMUNICACIÓN  SOBRE

	Tuberculose. Von Professor R. Koch, Berlin	UN TRATAMIENTO DE LA TUBERCULOSIS POR EL PROFESOR R. KOCH
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Table 3. Titles of articles by Robert Koch and their translations into Spanish

The article from 1891 shows again an expanded title, which is even longer in the translation published in *Semanario Farmacéutico* with a reference to the original journal (“Del *Deutsche med. Wochenschrift* del 15 de enero”), which has been included in the title. It is remarkable that this article should also be numbered as the “third” on this topic, while there is no such mention in the original number nor could I locate any other article by Koch translated into Spanish as a “second communication”.

### 3.2 Appraisal

In this section I will present some fragments of the abovementioned articles<sup>2</sup> where appraisal resources can be observed, as described in section 2.

Fragment 1 shown in Table 4 is the second paragraph of the article and provides some background information about the publication of Koch’s research on tuberculosis.

Original	Translation
Eigentlich war es meine Absicht, die Untersuchungen vollständig zum Abschluss zu bringen und namentlich auch ausreichende Erfahrungen über die Anwendung des Mittels in der Praxis und seine Herstellung in grösserem Maassstabe zu gewinnen, ehe ich etwas darüber veröffentlichte. Aber es ist trotz aller Vorsichtsmaassregeln zu viel davon, und zwar in entstellter und übertriebener Weise, in die Oeffentlichkeit gedrungen, so dass es mir geboten erscheint, um keine	Declaro que hubiera preferido terminar completamente las experiencias, sobre todo en lo que concierne á la colección de experiencias suficientes al empleo del remedio en la práctica. Hubiera querido también estudiar y establecer reglas exactas sobre el método de la fabricación de este agente en gran escala, antes de hablar al público médico. Pero en estos momentos, á pesar de todas las precauciones tomadas, se ha hablado mucho y no con toda la

<sup>2</sup> Archaic spelling can be observed in both German and Spanish. I have not altered this in my transcription (e.g. *Maassstabe, Injection, á, éstas*).

<p>falschen Vorstellungen aufkommen zu lassen, schon jetzt eine orientierende Uebersicht über den augenblicklichen Stand der Sache zu geben. Allerdings kann dieselbe unter den gegebenen Verhältnissen nur kurz ausfallen und muss manche wichtige Fragen noch offen lassen.</p>	<p>exactitud que fuera de desear, que me ha parecido debía orientar á los médicos sobre el estado actual de esta cuestión, con el objeto de que sea imposible que se formen ideas falsas. Es verdad que no puedo decir mucho aun y que debo dejar de tratar más de una cuestión importante.</p>
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Table 4. Fragment 1 of Koch (1890: 1079)

As Báguena points out, Koch was probably forced to publish some of his preliminary results by the German government due to the competition between his country and France in terms of microbiological research:

En 1890, Koch expuso los resultados de una investigación que había llevado en secreto y completamente solo en su laboratorio: el descubrimiento de una sustancia que podía prevenir el crecimiento del bacilo tuberculoso tanto en el tubo de ensayo como en el organismo. Su inoculación en cobayas los hacía resistentes a la enfermedad. Koch no hacía mención a la naturaleza y preparación de esta sustancia y probablemente se vio presionado por el gobierno alemán para anunciar unos resultados todavía provisionales debido a la encarnizada lucha con Francia y Pasteur a la cabeza, por la supremacía en la investigación microbiológica. Se le presionó también para que ensayara su medio en el hombre y así se hizo en el hospital de la Charité de Berlín. (Báguena, 2011: 4)

In this context, the following appraisal resources can be observed in Fragment 1:

- Attitude: markers of judgement about the quality of the information that has become public. *In entstellter und übertriebener Weise* is translated with a lesser emphasis as “mucho y no con toda la exactitud que fuera de desear”. By contrast, the appreciation marker *wichtige Fragen* is correctly translated as “cuestión importante”.
- Engagement: Koch expresses his original intentions (*Absicht*, translated with a lesser emphasis as “preferir”) with numerous heteroglossic resources both to contract (counter: *trotz, aber*) and expand (entertain: *mir geboten erscheint*). They are not always translated with precision into Spanish: “declaro” introduces a stronger proclaim-pronounce resource than the original proclaim-concur-concede *eigentlich*; by contrast, “es

verdad” is a much weaker proclaim-concur-concede marker than the original monoglossic expression *kann nur*. However, the stronger modification in this fragment is Koch’s interlocutor: from *Öffentlichkeit* (omitted) and *veröffentlichen*, which refer to the public in general, the translation mentions “el público médico” and “los médicos”, thus restricting a matter of public interest (and national competition) to the attention of medical professionals.

- Graduation: a few force resources (*vollständig, ausreichend, kurz*) are adequately translated.

In the following fragment in Table 5 some omissions have been detected.

Original	Translation
<p>Vom Magen aus wirkt das Mittel nicht; um eine zuverlässige Wirkung zu erzielen, muss es subcutan beigebracht werden. Wir haben bei unseren Versuchen zu diesem Zwecke ausschliesslich die von mir für bakteriologische Arbeiten angegebene Spritze benutzt, welche mit einem kleinen Gummiballon versehen ist und keinen Stempel hat. Eine solche Spritze lässt sich leicht und sicher durch Ausspülen mit absolutem Alkohol aseptisch erhalten, und wir schreiben es diesem Umstande zu, dass bei mehr als tausend subcutanen Injectionen nicht ein einziger Abcess entstanden ist.</p>	<p>El remedio ingerido por la boca no ejerce ninguna acción; para obtenerla, es necesario emplearlo en inyecciones subcutáneas. Nosotros nos hemos servido para nuestras inyecciones de una pequeña jeringa con balón de cochú; no teniendo ésta ningún pistón, se conserva fácilmente aséptica lavándola sólo con alcohol absoluto. Creo que á este modo de proceder debemos el no haber observado un solo absceso, á pesar de haber hecho más de mil inyecciones.</p>

Table 5. Fragment 2 of Koch (1890: 1079)

- Attitude-appreciation markers *zuverlässig* (reliable) and *sicher* (safely) have not been translated, as well as the second occurrence of *subcutan*.
- Koch’s self-reference *von mir für bakteriologische Arbeiten angegeben* (indicated by myself for bacteriological work) has also been left out; the graduation-force marker *klein* is displaced in the translation as referring to *Spritze* (jeringa) instead of *Gummiballon*. By contrast, the quantification expressions *nicht ein einziger* and *mehr als tausend* have been

adequately translated with the equivalent emphasis as “no un solo” and “más de mil”.

- As to engagement, the first-person singular has been introduced in “creo” (a marker to expand-entertain) instead of the plural *wir schreiben... zu*, which is in fact an expression to contract-proclaim-pronounce.

Further modifications have been detected in fragment 3 of Table 6.

Original	Translation
Was nun die Wirkung des Mittels auf den Menschen anlangt, so stellte sich gleich beim Beginn der Versuche heraus, dass in einem sehr wichtigen Punkte. der Mensch sich dem Mittel gegenüber wesentlich anders verhält, als das gewöhnlich benutzte Versuchsthier, das Meerschweinchen.	En cuanto á la acción del remedio sobre el hombre, hemos observado desde el principio que el hombre reacciona contra este agente de una manera importante y fácil de observar, pero del todo diferente al conejo de Indias, animal escogido para las experiencias.

Table 6. Fragment 3 of Koch (1890: 1079-1080)

Here, there is again a displacement of the attitude-appreciation marker *wichtig* (importante) where the information “(reacciona) de una manera importante y fácil de observar” is added, thus anticipating information that is otherwise explained in the following paragraphs of the original. The quantification-extent marker *gewöhnlich* (common) is omitted. Further omissions have been detected throughout the article as can be seen in Table 7.<sup>3</sup>

Original	Translation
Der gesunde Mensch reagirt, wie wir gesehen haben, auf 0,01 ccm <u>gar nicht mehr</u> oder in unbedeutender Weise.	Hemos visto que el hombre indemne apenas reacciona á la dosis de 1 centímetro cúbico.
Die Kranken werden von dem Anfall <u>auffallend</u> wenig angegriffen	Los enfermos se fatigan ligeramente por el acceso
(...) kann schliesslich einen ganz <u>bedeutenden</u> Grad erreichen, so dass das Lupusgewebe stellenweise	(...) este estado llega al punto en que el tejido luposo presenta aqui y allá un color rojo obscuro y se

<sup>3</sup> I have underlined omitted words in Table 7 and slightly altered expressions in Table 8.

braunroth und nekrotisch wird.	necrosa.
<u>Als besonders wichtig bei diesem Vorgange</u> muss noch hervorgehoben werden,	Un punto que debe anotarse es,

Table 7. Omissions in Koch (1890: 1080 and ff.)

These affect mainly appreciation and quantification resources (important, apparent, etc.).

Otherwise, there are minor alterations in the rendering of engagement markers as observed in Table 8.

Original	Translation
(...) ich glaube deswegen <u>nicht zu weit zu gehen, wenn ich annehme</u> , dass das Mittel in Zukunft ein unentbehrliches diagnostisches Hilfsmittel bilden wird.	He aquí por qué creo <u>poder decir</u> que para el porvenir estas inyecciones nos servirán como un medio precioso para el diagnóstico.
<u>Man wird</u> damit <u>im Stande sein</u> , (...) <u>selbst dann noch</u> zu diagnosticiren (...)	Mediante este líquido, <u>se podrá</u> diagnosticar (...)
In welcher Weise dieser Vorgang sich vollzieht, <u>lässt sich</u> augenblicklich <u>noch nicht</u> mit Bestimmtheit <u>sagen</u> , da es an den erforderlichen histologischen Untersuchungen fehlt.	<u>Yo no puedo decir</u> exactamente hasta el día de qué manera se verifican estos procesos, toda vez que hacen falta los exámenes histológicos necesarios.
Das Mittel tödtet also, <u>um es noch einmal kurz zu wiederholen</u> , nicht die Tuberkelbacillen (...)	El líquido, <u>repito</u> , no mata, pues, los bacilos de los tubérculos (...)
Ob diese Auffassung und die <u>sich daran knüpfenden</u> Folgerungen richtig sind, das wird die Zukunft lehren müssen.	El porvenir nos demostrará si esta idea y las conclusiones <u>que yo deduzco</u> son justas.
Dieses milde Verfahren <u>schien mir</u> namentlich bei solchen Kranken <u>geboten</u> , deren Kräftezustand ein geringer war.	Según <u>creo</u> , este procedimiento ha de seguirse en enfermos que tienen pocas fuerzas

Nach diesen Erfahrungen <u>möchte ich annehmen, dass beginnende Phthisis durch das Mittel mit Sicherheit zu heilen ist.</u>	Como resultado de éstas experiencias, <u>estoy dispuesto á admitir</u> QUE UNA TISIS INCIPIENTE PUEDE SER CURADA DE UNA MANERA CIERTA CON LA AYUDA DE ESTE REMEDIO.
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Table 8. Koch (1890: 1080 and ff.)

As can be seen above, these modifications affect verbal forms which undergo the following procedures:

- contraction, mainly as modal verbs, sometimes combined with personification: *nicht zu weit...* (poder decir), *im Stande sein* (podrá), *lässt sich nicht sagen* (no puedo decir)
- omission of the force marker *selbst dann noch* (even then)
- personalisation: *um es noch einmal zu wiederholen* (repito), *sich daran knüpfenden* (yo deduzco)
- variation: *schien mir geboten* (a formal expression translated with a more colloquial verb “creo”), *möchte ich annehmen* (estoy dispuesto a admitir)
- emphasis introduced by small caps in the last Spanish fragment.

Overall, a tendency to simplify and personalise hedging or impersonal structures typical of academic writing seems to pervade the Spanish text, perhaps with a view to shortening the translated text.

As regards Koch's article published in 1891, a preliminary analysis of translation techniques is to be published in Castillo (2019, forthcoming), so in what follows I will focus more specifically on appraisal resources. First, it should be noted in Table 9 that the beginning of the text refers to the previous article published in 1890.<sup>4</sup>

Original	Translation
Seit der vor 2 Monaten erfolgten Veröffentlichung (cf. <u>diese Wochenschr. 1890, Nr. 46a</u> ) meiner Versuche mit einem neuen	Desde la publicación, acaecida hace dos meses, de los experimentos practicados según mi nuevo procedimiento de curación de la

<sup>4</sup> In the following tables I have underlined both omitted and modified expressions.

Heilverfahren gegen Tuberkulose haben viele Ärzte das Mittel erhalten und sind dadurch in den Stand gesetzt, sich durch eigene Versuche mit den Eigenschaften desselben bekannt zu machen.	tuberculosis, muchos médicos han recibido el remedio y pueden darse cuenta por sí propios de las propiedades del mismo.
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Table 9. Fragment 4 of Koch (1891: 669)

Neither the translation published in *Seminario farmacéutico* nor the one in *Crónica Médica* include this self-reference, even though the translation of the 1890 article was published in the latter journal. The version in *Seminario farmacéutico* does, however, credit the source of the 1891 original in the title, as discussed in 3.1.

Regarding appraisal, slight differences have been detected in the translation of the following fragments in Table 10.

Original	Translation
Darüber, daß das Mittel eine spezifische Wirkung auf tuberkulöses Gewebe ausübt und. infolgedessen als ein sehr feines und sicheres Reagens zum Nachweis versteckter und zur Diagnose zweifelhafter tuberkulöser Prozesse verwertet werden kann, ist man <u>wohl</u> allgemein einig.	Todos están de acuerdo al reconocer que este remedio ejerce una acción específica sobre los tejidos tuberculosos y que, por consecuencia, puede ser empleado como un reactivo muy delicado y muy seguro para la demostración de un proceso tuberculoso latente y para el diagnóstico de los casos dudosos.
Auch in bezug auf die Heilwirkung des Mittels wird von den meisten berichtet, daß trotz der verhältnismäßig kurzen Dauer der Kur bei vielen Kranken <u>schon</u> mehr oder weniger weitgehende Besserung <u>eingetreten ist</u> . In <u>nicht wenigen Fällen</u> soll wie mir berichtet wurde, selbst Heilung erzielt sein. Nur ganz vereinzelt <u>ist behauptet</u> , daß das Mittel nicht allein bei zu weit vorgeschrittenen Fällen gefährlich	En cuanto á la virtud curativa, la mayoría de los informes hacen constar que, á pesar de la duración, relativamente corta, de la cura, en muchos enfermos <u>prodúcese</u> una mejoría más ó menos considerable; <u>en casos bastante numerosos</u> hasta se ha. llegado á confirmar una curación <u>completa</u> . Según algunos hechos aislados este remedio <u>podría</u> , no tan sólo ser peligroso en casos de tuberculosis



werden könne, was man ohne weiteres zugeben wird, sondern daß es den tuberkulösen Prozeß <u>geradezu</u> befördere, also <u>an und für sich</u> schädlich sei.	muy avanzada (lo que se puede admitir sin dificultad), sino <u>también</u> activar el proceso tuberculoso, y por consecuencia ejercer una acción nociva.
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Table 10. Koch (1891: 669)

In the first case, the engagement-expand-entertain marker *wohl* has been omitted in the translation, therefore turning a heteroglossic expression (it seems like everybody agrees) into a monoglossic one (everybody agrees). In the second fragment, *an und für sich* (in itself) has also been omitted, thus placing less emphasis on the original contract-proclaim-pronounce utterance. It is also interesting to observe that the verb tense “*producese*” (present form) does not convey the meaning of the original *ist eingetreten* (has occurred): together with the omission of *schon* (already), this diminishes the emphasis introduced by the contract-disclaim-counter *trotz* (despite). As to the expand-attribute-acknowledge verbal form *ist behauptet* (it has been stated), it has been translated by the modal form “*podría*”, which again diminishes both the appraising hedging effect and the formal register of the original.

Finally, as to graduation resources, the force-quantification marker *In nicht wenigen Fällen* has been translated as “casos bastante numerosos”, thus increasing the emphasis. Focus expression *geradezu* (precisely) has been translated as an addition (“*también*”).

In the following fragments in Table 11 we shall turn our attention to markers of attitude and force.

Original	Translation
Solange es nur darauf ankam, <u>meine Angaben</u> auf ihre Richtigkeit zu prüfen, war es nicht erforderlich zu wissen, was das Mittel enthält und woher es stammt. Es mußte im Gegenteil die Nachprüfung um so <u>unbefangener</u> ausfallen, je weniger von dem Mittel selbst bekannt war. Nachdem nun aber die Nachprüfung, wie mir scheint, in hinreichendem Maße stattgefunden <u>und die Bedeutung des Mittels ergeben hat,</u>	Mientras se trataba solamente de saber <u>el valor clínico del remedio</u> , no era indispensable conocer su origen, ni de dónde procedía. Lo mismo de la noción relativa á su composición, aseguraba la <u>mayor garantía</u> de los experimentos. Ahora que éstos han sido ya efectuados en suficiente escala, según creo, la independencia del médico exige el absoluto conocimiento de la composición del remedio en

<p><u>wird es die nächste Aufgabe sein, das Mittel auch über den bisherigen Bereich der Anwendung hinaus zu studieren und womöglich die Prinzipien, welche der Entdeckung desselben zugrunde liegen, auch auf andere _____ Krankheiten anzuwenden.</u>Diese Aufgaben verlangen selbstverständlich die volle Kenntnis des Mittels, und ich halte deswegen den Zeitpunkt für gekommen, daß nach dieser Richtung hin die erforderlichen Angaben gemacht werden, was in folgendem geschehen soll.</p>	<p>cuestión, por lo cual voy á dar cuenta del modo cómo he preparado el líquido.</p>
<p><u>Nachdem diese eigentümliche Tatsache gefunden war,</u> habe ich sie nach allen Richtungen hin weiter verfolgt, und <u>es ergab sich</u> dann <u>weiter,</u> daß abgetötete Reinkulturen von Tuberkelbazillen, nachdem sie verrieben und im Wasser aufgeschwemmt sind, bei gesunden Meerschweinchen in großer Menge unter die Haut gespritzt werden können, ohne daß etwas anderes als eine lokale Eiterung entsteht!).</p>	<p>Yo he perseguido este fenómeno particular en todas las direcciones posibles, y <u>he reconocido</u> después que los cultivos puros y muertos de bacilos de la tuberculosis, pulverizados y empapados en agua, pueden ser inyectados en gran cantidad bajo la piel de los conejillos sanos, sin determinar otro fenómeno que una supuración local.</p>

Table 11. Koch (1891: 669-670)

In the first fragment, the attitude-appreciation marker *unbefangen* (unhindered) has been translated with a particularisation (“mayor garantía”); a technique also applied also to some terminological units, such as *meine Angaben* (“el valor clínico del remedio”) and *enthält* (“composición”). It is remarkable how the reference to the application of Koch’s discovery to other illnesses has been omitted, perhaps with the purpose of keeping the reader’s attention focused on the matter at hand (tuberculosis).

In the second fragment, the force-quantification-extent-proximity marker *Nachdem...gefunden war* (after it was found) has been omitted and the

engagement-contract-proclaim-endorse marker *es ergab sich weiter* (furthermore it was detected) is rendered as a proclaim-pronounce personalisation: “he reconocido”.

In comparison with the 1890 article, fewer omissions of specific appraisal resources have been detected in this text. By contrast, whole sentences and paragraphs have been left out in the Spanish version of 1891. In Table 12 below, the translations provided are my own.

Original	My translation
1) Derartige Injektionen gehören zu den einfachsten und sichersten Mitteln, um Eiterungen zu erzeugen, welche frei von lebenden Bakterien sind.	1) Este tipo de inyecciones es uno de los medios más sencillos y seguros de generar supuraciones libres de bacterias vivas.
Der praktischen Anwendung solcher Aufschwemmungen von abgetöteten Tuberkelbazillen stellte sich aber der Umstand entgegen, daß an den Injektionsstellen die Tuberkelbazillennicht etwa resorbiert werden oder in anderer Weise verschwinden, sondern unverändert lange Zeit liegen bleiben und kleinere oder größere Eiterherde erzeugen.	A la aplicación práctica de tales soluciones se oponía sin embargo la circunstancia de que en los puntos inoculados los bacilos tuberculosos no se reabsorben ni desaparecen de ningún otro modo, sino que permanecen presentes durante un largo tiempo sin alteración y producen focos supurantes de mayor o menor tamaño.
Auf solche Weise läßt sich, wenigstens vorläufig, ungezwungen der spezifische Einfluß, welchen das Mittel in ganz bestimmten Dosen auf tuberkulöses Gewebe ausübt, ferner die Möglichkeit, mit diesen Dosen so auffallend schnell zu steigen, und die unter nur einigermaßen günstigen Verhältnissen unverkennbar vorhandene Heilwirkung des Mittels erklären.	De este modo se consigue sin esfuerzo, al menos provisionalmente, el efecto específico que ejerce el remedio en dosis muy concretas sobre el tejido tuberculoso, además de la posibilidad de aumentar dichas dosis de manera tan perceptiblemente rápida, y que explican el indiscutible efecto sanador producido en circunstancias solo moderadamente favorables.

Table 12. Omitted fragments in Koch (1891: 670-672)

As mentioned above, the most likely explanation for these omissions is the desire to focus the discourse on the matter at hand and avoid additional explanations that are deemed unnecessary. However, the omission in the last fragment corresponding to the conclusion of the article causes the Spanish text to end in a somewhat abrupt manner: “En los tuberculosos una cantidad mucho menor de esta substancia basta para provocar en puntos particulares, y al mismo tiempo una necrosis de las células y fenómenos correlativos que invaden el conjunto del organismo.”

### *3.2 Translation techniques*

Although it is not within the scope of this study to provide a quantitative analysis of the detected translation techniques, it is worth commenting briefly on some of the abovementioned findings in this regard. Almost all the techniques proposed by Byrne have been identified in the analysed translations, with the exception of borrowing, cultural substitution and iconic linkage. The most frequently detected techniques as regards the translation of appraisal resources were:

- omission: either applied to specific appraisal items or entire fragments which have been left out.
- restructuring and expansion: mainly referred to titles, footnotes, references, sections, etc., as well as the use of capitals or small caps and italics in order to highlight fragments that were not otherwise marked in the original.
- particularisation: meanings and items were found to be more often specified than generalised.
- transposition and modulation: often used in combination with a change of order of the sentence as required by the target language.
- contraction: mostly applied to verbal forms in engagement expressions, perhaps in search of an economy of words.
- variation: although this is not a technique explicitly mentioned by Byrne in the context of scientific and technical translation, it should be mentioned that omissions and adaptations of expressions typical of academic writing do have an impact on the overall tone of the text, as they diminish the formality of the register.

- displacement:<sup>5</sup> this concerns mainly omissions of references and of fragments in order to focus and adapt the contents to the expectations of the target reader, who had a presumable interest in a remedy for tuberculosis only given the impact of this illness at the time.

Since no equivalence issues were detected, it can also be assumed that the correct terminological equivalents were equally used throughout the texts.

#### *4. Conclusions*

The articles analysed here present an array of appraisal resources that show how scientific texts are not absolutely universal and objective acts of communication, but are subject to discourse strategies and elements that require careful consideration and reader awareness, especially when translated. Among other circumstances, the context in which scientific research is carried out often pervades the text and its undertones, as has been shown here in the case of the microbiology competition between France and Germany in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Above all, the purpose of the translation and the adjustment to the target culture seem to be at the core of translators' decisions here. This is apparent in the adaptations, the particularisation of information and structures, and even the simplification detected in the Spanish texts. As to the target readership of the translations, it seems to be the medical community rather than the general public as was the case in Germany. One should bear in mind the differences in scientific cultures in the two countries at the time: not only was microbiology an unknown field in Spain unlike Germany where it was on the rise, but the context of national competition with France was also foreign to Spanish physicians, whose main interest resided in the epidemiological problem posed by infectious diseases and how to combat them.

Alterations in the translation of appraisal resources do not seem to have an impact on the general meaning of the texts; indeed, the translations have been found to comply with the target language conventions and an easy read at that. The overall tone of the texts, however, can be affected by techniques such as

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<sup>5</sup> As described by Montgomery (2000: 280): “the collection of efforts within the receiving culture to erase or diminish any overt signs of debt to the source culture”; for example by glossing, reorganisation, substitution of indigenous names, titles or terms.

personalisation and contraction, which indeed cause a distancing from the deictic centre of the original, especially in attitudinal and engagement values as predicted by Munday. More specifically, impersonal and collective expressions of authorship are modified in the translations to focus on Koch's persona. Nevertheless, graduation resources have also been affected in the analysed translations, albeit to a lesser degree. A further effect of these modifications is a variation in the register of the translation, which becomes noticeably less academic and formal than the original.

It can also be concluded that neither scientific articles as a text genre nor translations as a professional activity were consolidated at the time, judging from the lack of compliance with genre conventions (i.e. macrostructure) and translation techniques (omissions being mostly inadvisable in specialised translation nowadays). More comprehensive, diachronic research in this field should shed further light on both points.

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