

**TRANSEUROPEENNES**  
*Translating in the Mediterranean*



**TRANSLATION FROM ARABIC INTO THE OFFICIAL  
LANGUAGES OF SPAIN  
(1995-2010)**

Data collection, analysis and writing

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## Preamble

This study has been conducted by the School of Translators of Toledo (University of Castilla-La Mancha), a member of the Mediterranean network of institutions which was created in 2010 within the program *Traduire en Méditerranée*. Under the coordination of *Transeuropéennes* and the *Anna Lindh Foundation*, this program brings together fifteen universities, research centers, foundations and institutes from the Northern, Southern and Eastern areas of the Mediterranean.

The members gathered around *Traduire en Méditerranée* in order to develop a map of translations throughout the Mediterranean. They share the idea that translation enriches languages, contributes to the development of societies, encourages the production and spread of ideas, and plays a central role in Euro-Mediterranean relationships. The members will use this report in order to plan actions in the medium and long term.

## Introduction

This report intends to trace a mapping of translation from Arabic into the official languages of Spain (Spanish, Catalan, Basque and Galician) from 1995 to 2010, with a particular focus on the major trends and areas of translation as well as on the status of translators.

The methodology used for this work focuses, in its initial phase, on the bibliography of translated works and its subsequent counting. In a second phase, the collected data will be analyzed.

The data contained in this paper has been mostly drawn from the online library catalogs of the ISBN, of the National Library (BNE), of the Red of University Libraries (REBIUN) and of the Index Translationum, as outlined in the final bibliography. Each of these catalogs meets different cataloging criteria and requires different search systems. The data collection has been a painstaking matching work between the information provided by each of them. We conducted on-site consultations whenever possible, but due to the scattering of the works in several libraries all over Spain, it was not always possible to verify whether the data collected in the bibliographic information corresponded exactly to the actual content of the work. The rigor of this report is therefore subject to this limitation.

At the end of our study, the editorial publication for the year 2010 has not been closed yet, this is the reason why the data for this year is incomplete.

Finally, we would like to thank Mariluz Comendador Pérez, Librarian of the School of Translators of Toledo, for her priceless assistance throughout the process of preparing this report.

## ***1. The history of the Arabic-Spanish translation***

The first translations from Arabic on record in the Iberian Peninsula date back to the twelfth century when the Archbishop Don Raimundo promoted the translation of works of philosophy and religion from Arabic into Latin. A century later, in the reign of King Alfonso X, treatises of astronomy, physics, alchemy and mathematics began to be translated directly into Romance Languages. Translation activity continued in force, due to the existence of a large Arabic-speaking Hispanic community, throughout the Middle Ages until the enforcement of the expulsion orders against Muslims, which began in 1492 and continued through much of the sixteenth century. Thereafter, the Moors (Spanish of Muslim origin converted to Christianity), played an important role in the translation of Arabic works into Spanish, with notable names such as Alonso del Castillo and Miguel de Luna.

With varying levels of activity, Arabic studies in Spain were maintained during the eighteenth century thanks to figures such as Miguel Casiri, José Banqueri or Father Canes.

From the nineteenth century, Arabic studies in Spain were developed as a proper academic field, focusing on Andalusia and undertaking a systematic work of editing and translating of the historical sources about Al-Andalus. At this time, we found the great founding figures of Spanish Arabism: Pascual de Gayangos, Francisco Codera y Zaidín, Julián Ribera, Miguel Asín Palacios, etc.

In 1954, Emilio García Gómez (a successor to the generation of the important Arabists mentioned above) founded the Hispanic Institute of Arab Culture (IHAC), giving way to a new generation of Arabists within new fields of study. García Gómez was the promoter of the first collection of Arabic literature translations titled "Contemporary Arab Authors", published by IHAC, and was the translator of the first two works of contemporary Arabic prose translated into Spanish: *Los días* (Taha Husayn, 1954) and *Diario de un fiscal rural* (Tawfiq al-Hakim, 1955).

From the mid sixties, theater anthologies began to emerge, as well as short stories and poetry. Works by Tawfiq al-Hakim, Husayn Kamil, Muhammad Taymur, Mahmud al-Badawi and Yusuf Idris, among others, were translated. Among the translators, we find Federico Corriente, María Eugenia Gálvez, María Jesús Viguera, Vallvé Joaquín, José María Fornes and Pedro Chalmeta.

At this time, IHAC was joined by two other institutions that publish translations from Arabic into Spanish: the Egyptian Institute for Islamic Studies in Madrid (IEEI) and the Casa Hispano-Árabe.

Starting from the 1970s, the upsurge of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the political commitment of a large and active sector of the Spanish University have been encouraging new research, characterized by an increasing contact with the social and political realities of the Arab World. The genres preferred by translators are in order: poetry, novels, plays and essays.

The first collection of translated contemporary poetry was edited in 1958 by Pedro Martínez Montávez, author and translator who triggered a growing interest in research and translation of contemporary Arabic literature, especially poetry. Other relevant translators during this period were Marcelino Villegas and María Jesús Viguera, both dedicated to narrative literature.

As for the publishing activity, we should underline the birth in 1985 of the first commercial publisher specialized in Arab literature, the editorial CantArabia, and the CSIC collections devoted to the editing and translation of classical sources of the history of Al-Andalus.

Noteworthy in the last decade of the twentieth century are: first, the founding of the School of Translators of Toledo, a research center belonging to the University of Castilla la Mancha for the training of Arabic translators and for the translation of Arab intellectual work, which currently runs four programs on translation and editing; secondly, the renewed interest in Morocco - after a period of lower interest manifested by the academic Arabism - which opened a new area of research. This trend was reflected by the creation of a Department of Arabic Studies at the University of Cadiz, which specializes in Moroccan subjects, and also by the creation of a collection of contemporary Moroccan literature, published by the Alcalá Grupo Editorial.

## **2. Major trends**

Using as a point of reference the 472 translations carried out during the period 1995-2010, the predominant area of translations from Arabic into the official languages of Spain is literature, with a total of 326, i.e. 69.21% of the translations. The Egyptian Institute of Islamic Studies and the publishing house Ediciones del Oriente y del Mediterráneo published the greatest number of translations. The preferred genres are the narrative and poetry, in this order.

One of the most translated and reprinted authors is the Nobel Prize laureate Naguib Mahfouz (32 works). For what concerns poetry, the Palestinian Mahmoud Darwish (10) and the Syrian Adonis (8 works) stand out. The Egyptian Tawfiq Al-Hakim emerged as the favorite playwright (9 works) thanks to the distribution of the Egyptian Institute for Islamic Studies.

Other recognized and translated writers in Spain are Huda Barakat, Abderrahmán Munif and Elias Khoury (4 works each).

In the field of sciences, we should mention that most of the published works are academic translations of classical medieval texts. The most translated classical authors are Ibn Arabi (9 works), Averroes (6 works) and Maimonides (4 works).

The translations in the area of religion (51 works) are promoted, in most cases, by the Islamic cultural centers of the Spanish Muslim community.

## **3. Education and language skills**

The availability of Arabic teachers in Spain has been increasing significantly over the past fifteen years and is mainly concentrated in the university and in the Official Language Schools network (Escuelas Oficiales de Idioma EOI) distributed throughout the country, twenty of which include Arabic in their programs. Teaching focuses on Modern Standard Arabic, although the availability of courses of Arabic dialects are becoming more diffused. This especially concerns Moroccan Arabic (Dariya), because of the geographical proximity with Morocco and the relevancy of Moroccan immigrants in the Spanish society, which results in an increasing need for

Moroccan Arabic translators and interpreters in the public services sector (police, courts, social services, medical centers...).

Eight universities offer the opportunity to graduate in Arabic and Islamic Studies (the former Degree in Arabic no longer exists): Salamanca, Madrid (Autónoma and Complutense Universities), Granada, Seville, Cadiz, Alicante and Barcelona.

In the last decade, thanks to a growing demand, the training of Arabic translators has found a niche in the degree of Translation and Interpretation offered by the University of Granada, and in the Course of Arabic-Spanish Translation at the University of Castilla-La Mancha.

Apart from these institutions, more and more centers, driven by cultural or religious reasons, offer Arabic courses or activities related to the Arabic language. Foundations, mosques, cultural centers and private schools proliferate in large cities and in areas where the Arab population reaches an important census. The Casa Árabe in Madrid, the Fundación Tres Culturas in Sevilla and the Islamic Cultural Centre in Valencia and Madrid are relevant examples.

#### **4. Access to intellectual output in original language**

Various channels through which it is possible to get access to intellectual output in Arabic have been experiencing a slight and positive development over the past five years in Spain.

The libraries of universities that include in their programs the teaching of Arabic language and the study of the Arab-Islamic civilization offer fairly complete collections of works in original language.

We should also add other specialized libraries belonging to research institutes or cultural institutions, some of which host large and valuable collections of great tradition, such as the Islamic Library Félix María Pareja (AECID)<sup>1</sup> and the Schools for Arab Studies in Madrid and Granada, which belong to the CSIC<sup>2</sup>. There are also newer but noteworthy centers, such as the

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1 <http://www.aecid.es/es/servicios/bibliotecas/catalogos/islamica/> [16/11/11]

2 [http://www.eea.csic.es/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=101&Itemid=50](http://www.eea.csic.es/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=101&Itemid=50) [16/11/11]

Mediathèque of the Casa Árabe<sup>3</sup> and the library of the School of Translators of Toledo<sup>4</sup>, which belongs to the Library of the University of Castilla-La Mancha.

The network of public libraries in most regional administrations tries to include in its catalogs some original works in Arabic that are available for the immigrant population.

We should also note an increasing supply of digitized works online (which is usually limited to classical works whose copyrights have expired) and the efficient inter-library loan system, which is offered by almost all libraries, whether academic, public or research.

The purchase of books has also undergone significant improvement through electronic sales and the opening of some specialized bookstores, such as Baïbars<sup>5</sup>, which has offices in Madrid and Barcelona, Albujaïra<sup>6</sup> and Kálamo<sup>7</sup>.

## **5. Institutions and organizations**

Funds for the translation of foreign languages into Spanish are awarded through public and private grants and awards.

Amongst domestic and international institutions who subsidize these projects we find:

- **Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)**<sup>8</sup>: the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation) contributes to the internationalization of Spanish artistic production and to the cultural and scientific dissemination in various forms.

- **The European Cultural Foundation**<sup>9</sup> subsidized the translation program "Mediterranean Memories", directed in Spain by the School of Translators of Toledo and whose results were published by Ediciones del Oriente y del Mediterráneo.

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3 <http://www.casaarabe-ieam.es/servicios/show/centro-de-documentacion-cdd> [16/11/11]

4 <http://www.uclm.es/escueladetraductores/biblioteca/> [16/11/11]

5 <http://www.baibars.com/> [16/11/11]

6 <http://www.libreria.albujaïra.com/arabe/index.php?language=es> [16/11/11]

7 <http://www.mundoarabe.org/> [16/11/11]

8 [http://www.aecid.es/web/es/cooperacion/coop\\_cultural/subvenciones\\_int\\_cult\\_esp/](http://www.aecid.es/web/es/cooperacion/coop_cultural/subvenciones_int_cult_esp/) [16/11/11]

9 <http://www.eurocult.org/home> [16/11/11]



The leading translation prizes in Spain are:

- **National Translation Award**, organized by the Ministry of Culture. It has two categories: the best translation prize and the best translator's work as a whole. The reward for both is 20,000 €.

There are also other regional scholarships, awards, grants and subsidies.

- Andalusia: **Andalusia Prize for Translation** and **Francisco Ayala Translation Prize**.

- Catalonia: **Translation Prize Angel Crespo**, **Rafael Jaume Award**, **Ciutat de Barcelona Award**, **Giovanni Pontiero Translation Prize**, **Vidal Alcover Translation Prize**, among others.

- Basque Countries: **Euskadi Prize**, awarded to the best literary translation into Basque.

- Galicia: **Ramón Cabanillas** and the **Nobel Prize for Translation laureate Plácido Castro**.

La **Casa del Traductor of Tarazona**, by granting scholarships, is the only center that offers translation residencies in its facilities.

## **6. Acquisition of copyright**

In Spain, the Intellectual Property Law (LPI) of November the 11<sup>th</sup> 1987, further consolidated in 1996 by the Royal Decree 1 / 1996 and subsequently amended by the Law 5 / 1998 and the Law 19 and 23 / 2006, regulates, among other things, copyright. Under this law, copyrights in Spain last for the author's lifetime and survives 70 years after his death or declaration of death. After this time, the work enters the public domain and may be used freely, while always respecting the authorship and integrity of the work.

The authorization for the translation of a work can be granted directly, i.e. the author of the work or his successors directly authorize the translation. The other possibility consists of the indirect authorization, granted by literary agents, publishers or other intermediaries.

The translation of a work is considered as a new work, the result of the conversion of an existing work, and therefore enjoys the same period of protection as the original version.

## 7. Percentage of Arabic translations compared with other languages

In December 2008, the Documentation Centre of Books and Reading (Spanish Ministry of Culture) published the compilation of the works translated into Spanish in the period between 2000 and 2007:

**Table I: Spanish translations 2000-2007<sup>10</sup>**

Translation Languages		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total 2000/07
1	English	7.075	8.243	8.101	9.670	8.419	8.747	9.731	8.360	68.346
2	French	1.560	1.781	1.659	2.008	1.998	2.124	1.961	1.702	14.793
3	German	1.037	990	1.055	1.287	1.089	1.220	1.181	923	8.782
4	Italian	846	849	743	934	947	824	854	763	6.760
5	Catalan	233	339	358	394	385	385	394	536	3.024
6	Japanese	17	81	57	82	468	534	657	442	2.338
7	Portuguese	108	200	180	147	232	170	182	227	1.446
8	Greek	125	84	151	131	83	90	84	159	907
9	Galician	53	74	62	70	104	74	109	93	639
10	Russian	67	81	65	93	97	97	95	78	673
11	Latin	108	116	140	119	102	92	110	76	863
12	Basque	31	44	39	49	54	79	46	53	395
13	Dutch	29	39	24	52	43	36	73	52	348
14	Arabic*	36	29	27	29	18	44	29	47	259

<sup>10</sup> “La traducción editorial en España”. Centro de Documentación del Libro y la Lectura. Dirección General del Libro, Archivos y Bibliotecas. Ministerio de Cultura. December, 2008.

15	Polish	11	18	17	39	63	57	35	34	274
16	Swedish	25	30	26	25	47	29	33	29	244
17	Chinese	18	22	27	24	35	14	10	22	172
18	Norwegian	29	13	14	21	23	20	10	21	151
19	Turkish	10	6	3	3	4	4	13	16	59
20	Hungarian	4	14	8	22	12	22	22	15	119
21	Czech	10	12	10	9	6	10	12	14	83
22	Danish	10	10	7	17	19	27	17	13	120
23	Finish	6	3	2	4	2	2	2	10	31
24	Valencian	11	11	10	11	17	17	14	8	99
25	Hebrew*	3	14	13	11	9	16	11	18	95
25	Romanian	2	-	6	3	4	1	6	5	27
26	Serbian	4	3	4	3	1	2	4	4	25
27	Sanskrit	5	5	5	9	1	3	3	3	34
28	Croatian	1	1	-	2	4	1	3	2	14
29	Slovakian	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	3

Source: Overview of the Spanish edition of Books. Spanish Ministry of Culture, 2008.

\* The figures for translated works from Arabic and Hebrew have been amended in line with data obtained in our investigation, and therefore, we have altered the final totals.

The total amount of translations from Arabic into the official languages of Spain published between 1995 and 2010 consists of 472 works. Of these, 420 are translated into Spanish, 48 into Catalan and 4 into Basque. We could not find any translation into Galician over this period of time.

Some of these translations are realized through a “bridge language” (English, French, Spanish ...), as in 3 of the 4 translations into Basque, which have been made from their respective Spanish translation. It is noteworthy that in 2010, the first direct translation from Arabic into Basque was published<sup>11</sup>.

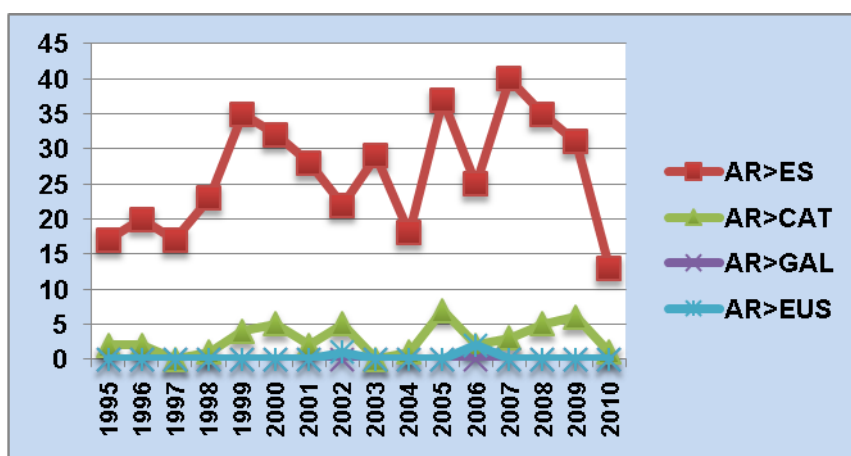
<sup>11</sup> The autobiography of Mohammed Chukri *Al-jubz al-hafi*.

**Table 2: Number of books translated by language combination**

Language Combination	N° of translations
Arabic > Spanish	420
Arabic > Catalan	48
Arabic > Basque	4
Arabic > Galician	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>472</b>

If we look in details at the annual development of the translations made from Arabic into the official languages of Spain we can notice that figures vary between 17 and 39 translations per year. Among these figures, it is possible to remark a rebound in 2005 (44 works) and in 2007 (47).

**Figure 1: Annual change in the number of books translated from Arabic into the official languages of Spain (1995-2010)<sup>12</sup>**



<sup>12</sup> Translator's note: AR stands for Arabic, ES Spanish, CAT Catalan, GAL Galician, EUS Basque.

**Table 3: Detailed annual evolution Arabic > official languages of Spain (1995-2010)**

<b>Annual Change Arabic &gt; Official Languages of Spain 1995-2010</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>Arabic &gt; Spanish</b>	<b>Arabic &gt; Catalan</b>	<b>Arabic &gt; Basque</b>	<b>Arabic &gt; Galician</b>	<b>Total of works</b>
1995	17	2	-	-	<b>19</b>
1996	20	2	-	-	<b>22</b>
1997	17	-	-	-	<b>17</b>
1998	23	1	-	-	<b>24</b>
1999	35	4	-	-	<b>39</b>
2000	32	4	-	-	<b>36</b>
2001	27	2	-	-	<b>29</b>
2002	21	5	1	-	<b>28</b>
2003	29	-	-	-	<b>29</b>
2004	18	1	-	-	<b>19</b>
2005	37	7	-	-	<b>44</b>
2006	25	2	2	-	<b>29</b>
2007	42	5	-	-	<b>47</b>
2008	34	5	-	-	<b>39</b>
2009	29	6	-	-	<b>35</b>
2010	14	2	1	-	<b>17</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>472</b>

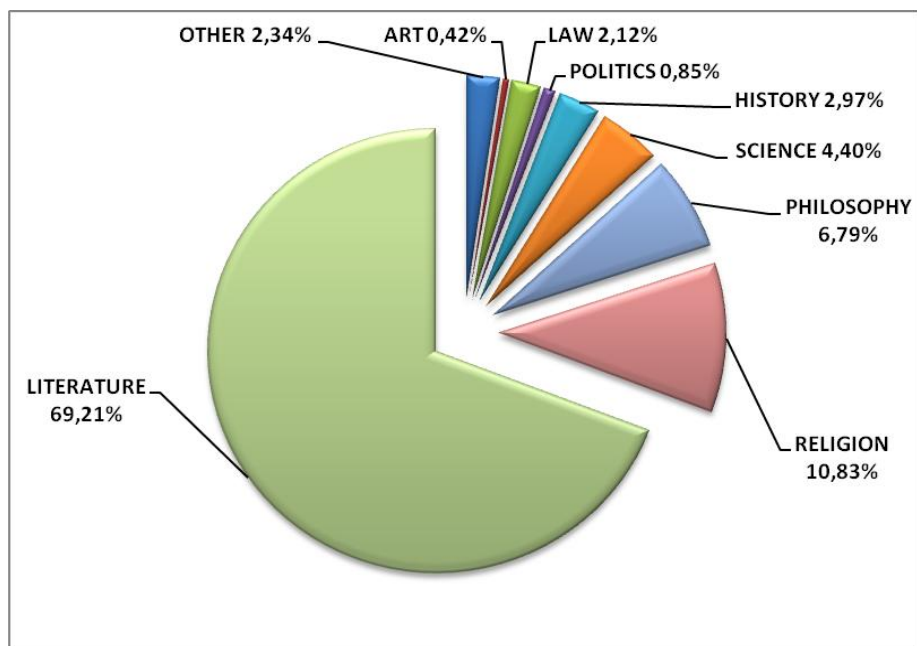
## **8. Areas of translation**

The translations from Arabic into the official languages of Spain that were carried out during the period 1995-2010 reflect a predominance in the domain of literature, which represents 69.21% of the works translated in this period. The distribution of translated works by area shows the following results:

**Table 4: Distribution of works by fields of knowledge (1995-2010)**

<b>Areas</b>	<b>Translations</b>
<b>LITERATURE</b>	<b>326</b>
<b>RELIGION</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>FILOSOPHY</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>LAW</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>POLITICS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ART</b>	<b>2</b>

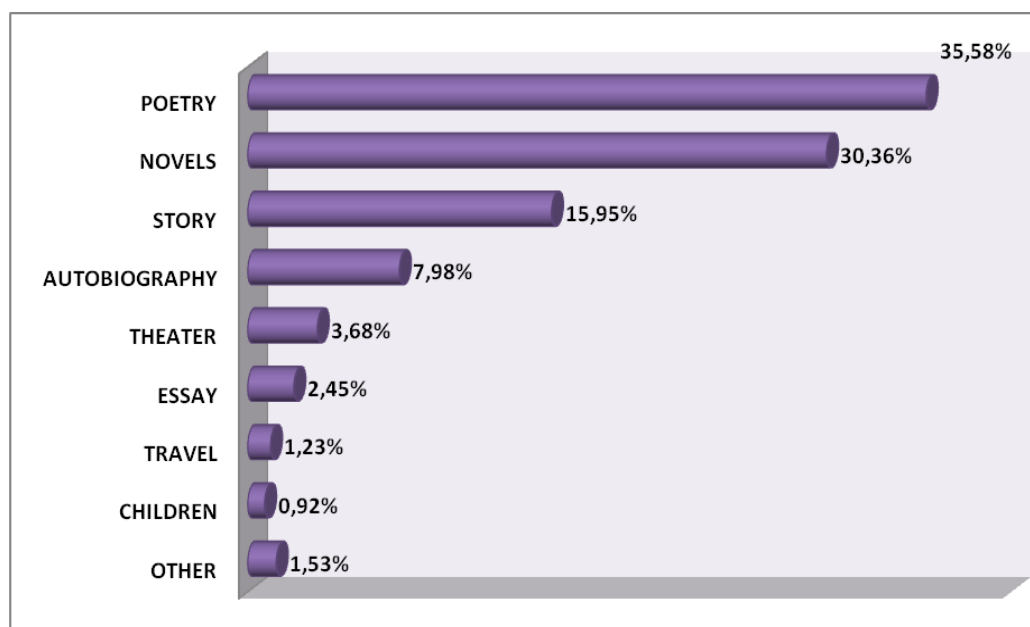
**Figure 2: Percentages of fields of knowledge (1995-2010)**



If we limit our analysis to the major area, "literature" in this case, we notice that the most translated genre is poetry (35.58%), followed by novel (30.36%).

The distribution in terms of percentage is as follows:

**Figure 3: Distribution of literary genres in terms of percentages (1995-2010)**



**Table 5: Distribution of area "literature" by genre (1995-2010)**

<b>Poetry</b>	116
<b>Novel</b>	99
<b>Story</b>	52
<b>Autobiography</b>	26
<b>Theater</b>	12
<b>Essay</b>	9
<b>Travel</b>	4
<b>Children</b>	3
<b>Other</b>	5

### **9. Bilingual works**

According to available data, there are 82 works published in bilingual format (i.e. including the original text and its translation). As far as trilingual editions are concerned, one work of poetry presents also the English translation, and one treatise of science includes the Latin version.

Poetry is the most published genre in bilingual editions, with 57 works. This quantitative difference with respect to other genres is probably due to the literary tradition. Translators and publishers believe that poetic texts, due to their higher figurative content, can never be fully translated and that the original version is needed in order to understand them thoroughly. The detailed distribution of bilingual editions is reflected in the following table:



**Table 6: Distribution of bilingual and trilingual work by genre (1995-2010)**

GENRE	BILINGUAL	TRILINGUAL
Poetry	57	1
Science	6	1
Story	5	-
Religion	5	-
Children	3	-
Essay	1	-
Novel	1	-
Philosophy	1	-
Law	1	-
History	1	-
Other	1	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL 84</b>		

**10. Translators: training, status, remuneration, prices of translation, translators' companies**

The data in this section are collected from:

1. *Libro Blanco de la traducción editorial en España* (2010: 45-83) : The white book of editorial translations in Spain

2. *La traducción editorial en España* (2008:45-60). The editorial translation in Spain

According to the conclusions of the survey conducted by ACE Translators of 3,167 translators associated with CEDRO (ACE Traductores, ACEC, EIZIE, APTIC, ASETRAD and

AGPTI), 614<sup>13</sup> being fully completed, the profiles of the translators of books in Spain are distributed as follows:

–**Genre:** amongst the new professionals who have gone to swell the ranks of literary translators in the last seven years (2003-2010), the vast majority are young women living in Catalonia holding a diploma of secondary education. This data indicates a process of feminization of the translation activity and a growing professionalization.

–**Age:** We observed that translators between 45 and 65 years old cover a significant percentage of the sector.

–**Level of education:** 87.3% have a bachelor's degree and 50.3% have a degree higher than this, which demonstrates a remarkable qualification that was not as pronounced in earlier stages (LBTE97 ACE Translators 2003).

–**Practice of the profession:** we clearly perceived the considerable number of translators who are also high school teachers (40%); after the activity related to literary creation (a remarkable 28%), come the various publishing occupations.

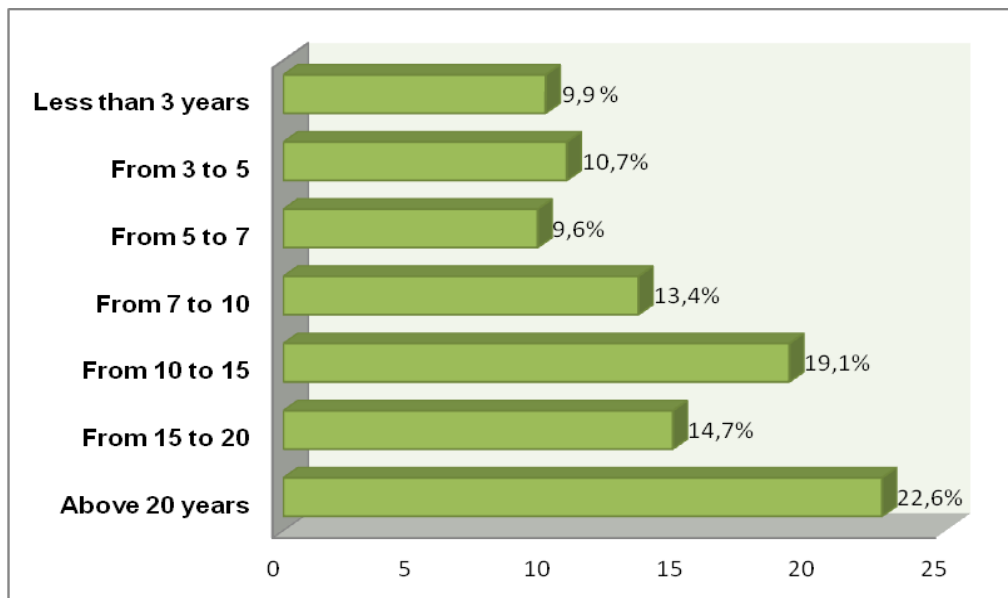
–**Full-time commitment to translation:** 37.5% of those polled say they work full-time, which is a clue to explaining the composition of the sector workforce, but also to understand their professional consciousness. The development of a specific identity, making claims about working conditions and expectations for improvement, is linked to the degree of commitment.

–**Seniority:** the table below shows the distribution of translators by years of practice (without distinguishing between other variables such as age, gender, location, education or qualifications):

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13 LBTE97 worked with a census of 865 translators, with a real census of 670, 270 surveys were completed (which represent 41%). LBTE97, p. 26.

**Figure 3: Length of service in the profession**



Source: *Libro blanco de la traducción editorial en España* (2010: 49)

–**Labour rules:** 49.5% of the translators polled are considered as self-employed by the tax system.

Looking at the overall amount of translations made between 1995 and 2010, we can see that the most prolific translators of this period have higher education in the field of Semitic Philology (Arabic Philology) and are university professors.

Among the most active translators from Arabic into Spanish, we find Maria Luisa Prieto, Milagros Nuin Monreal, Ignacio Gutierrez de Teran, Luis Miguel Pérez Cañada, Juan Pedro Monferrer etc.

In the Arabic-Catalan combination, some of the most active translators in this period are Isaiah González Minetto, Dolors Cinca, Marta Serra, Jaume Ferrer Carmona, Margarita Castells etc.

As stated in the report *The editorial translation in Spain* (2008:45), one of the major advances in the professional field of the Spanish translators was the coming into effect of the Copyright Act of 1987 and its subsequent amendments, which protects the rights of professional translators.

With respect to the remuneration of translations, the most widespread is the charge per page. Within the professional market, the rates of translation agencies and language services in

Spain as well as the final prices depend on variables such as the number of words, the complexity of the original document, the language combination and the time of delivery.

The minimum rates recommended by ACEtt for translations from Arabic are: 13.5 € per page for simple works, and 19.2 € per page for the most difficult works.

Within the landscape of the Spanish associations, there are numerous professional associations of translators. The following are some of the most representative. For further information about other translators' associations and national and regional institutions, refer to ANNEX I:

–**Sección Autónoma de Traductores de Libros de la Asociación Colegial de Escritores de España (ACEtt)**<sup>14</sup>, Autonomous section for Translators of Books of the Writers' Association of Spain.

–**Asociación Española de Traductores, Correctores e Interpretes (ASETRAD)**, Spanish Association of Translators, Correctors and Interpreters.

–**Associació Professional de Traductors i Intèrprets de Catalunya (APTIC)**, Professional Association of Translators and Interpreters of Catalonia.

–**Euskal Itzultzaile Zuzentzaile eta Interpreteen Elkarte, Asociación de Traductores, Correctores e Intèrpretes de Lengua Vasca (EIZIE)**. Association of Translators, Editors and Interpreters of Basque language

–**Asociación Galega de Profesionais da Traducción e da Interpretación (AGPTI)**. Galician Association of Professionals of Translation and Interpretation

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14 In [www.acett.org](http://www.acett.org)

## ***11. Reception and critique of translated works***

The question of the reception of Arabic literature in Spain has not been considerably addressed<sup>15</sup>, but it is clear that its status of minority literature has placed it in a marginal position in comparison with other types of literature.

The reviews of Arabic works published in Spain generally circulate through specialized journals or in the academic environment. Cultural supplements of major newspapers rarely focus upon the Arabic literature and they hardly review translated works. This is further reinforced by the fact that translations from Arabic are usually published by small publishing houses with limited distribution and presence in the media. We can say that, in Spain, the mass appeal cultural press focuses on the production of large publishing groups and relegates the small initiatives, regardless of the quality of their collections.

Another important issue is the preference of the press for those authors and works that are prominent for political or social factors and who awaken curiosity or interest in the Spanish public. Such is the case of women's literature (especially the matters relating to the Muslim women's repression, gender, the veil, etc.), political dissent or religious conflicts.

## ***12. Availability of translated works***

Ten years ago in Spain, access to Arabic translations was limited to libraries of institutions dedicated to Arabism and specialized bookstores.

Over the last decade, the availability of these works has been extended to an increased number of bookstores and public libraries, providing access to a lay audience.

With the popularization of the Internet in the late 90's and the introduction of online booksellers, it is easier to get translations of works written in Arabic, although this depends on the commercial and distributing power of the publishing house by which they are published.

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15 DEL AMO, Mercedes y GÓMEZ CAMARERO, Carmen. "Literatura árabe contemporánea en español, 1985-1996". *El Magreb y Europa: literatura y traducción*. Cuenca: Ediciones de la Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, 1999: 213-50 y COMENDADOR, Mariluz y FERNÁNDEZ PARRILLA, Gonzalo. "Traducciones de literatura árabe al español 2001-2005", *Al-Andalus Magreb*, 13 (2006) 69-77.

### ***13. Censorship***

The Spanish Constitution includes among its fundamental rights the right to the freedom of expression, so there is no censorship in Spain. Neither data nor reports of censorship have been found.

### ***14. Sales and reprints***

The publications of Arabic translations have been increasing in recent years thanks to the efforts of translators, institutions and publishers.

The growing number of new editions and reprints of many of these works suggests a considerable volume of demand. Among the most reprinted works are The Qur'an, the One Thousand and One Nights, many of the works of the Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz, The Ring of the Dove of Ibn Hazm and classical works by medieval authors such as Averroes, Ibn Arabi and Maimonides.

## **15. Conclusions**

From the results reported in this report, we conclude that:

1. The translations of works written in Arabic still represent a very small percentage compared to the translations from other languages such as English, French, etc. This concerns (i) the number of works, (ii) the types of publishing houses by which they are published and (iii) the little attention they receive from critics.
2. With regard to earlier stages, where publishing of books written in Arabic was limited to institutional publishers, editions started to appear in commercial publishers, and among them, mainly small publishing houses, even though some authors have managed to step up to the major Spanish publishers.
3. During this period (1995-2010), the Universities began to train translators of Arabic. In Granada, there have been courses in Translation and Interpretation with Arabic as a second language (language B) since 2002 and the University of Castilla-La Mancha has been running a specialized university course in Arabic-Spanish since 1998.
4. In this period, translations from Arabic into Catalan and into the other official languages of Spain began.
5. We notice the predominance of the "literature" area on top of other fields of knowledge, representing 69.21% of the total books translated between 1995-2010.
6. Following the literary trends in general, an increasing number of works written by women is being translated. In the case of Arabic, this is mainly due to sociological reasons because of the particular interest in Arab women within the Spanish society.
7. Well-established authors, such as the Nobel Prize laureate Naguib Mahfouz, Mahmoud Darwish, Adonis and Tawfiq Al-Hakim, are still very present. However, the field is significantly open to other authors such as Huda Barakat, Abdurrahman Munif or Elias Khoury.

## 16. Bibliography

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## **Online Resources:**

### **•ALECSO**

[http://www.alecso.org.tn/lng/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=143&lang=fr](http://www.alecso.org.tn/lng/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=143&lang=fr)

### **•Alexandria Library**

<http://cwg.bibalex.org:8000/cgi-bin/chameleon?skin=default&lng=en>

### **•Biblioteca Islámica Félix María Pareja (AECID)**

<http://www.aecid.es/web/es/bibliotecas/catalogos/islamica/>

### **•Spanish National Library**

<http://www.bne.es/es/Catalogos/CatalogoBibliografico/>

### **•B.O.E.**

<http://www.boe.es/>

### **•CSIC**

[http://aleph.csic.es/F?func=file&file\\_name=find-b](http://aleph.csic.es/F?func=file&file_name=find-b)

### **•Toledo School of Translators**

<https://catalogobiblioteca.uclm.es/cgi-bin/abnetopac/O7057/IDa6a0915c?ACC=101>

### **•Fondation du Roi Abdul Aziz Al Saoud pour les Etudes et les Sciences Humaines Islamiques**

<http://www.fondation.org.ma/fonda/biblio.asp>

### **•Index Translationum**

<http://databases.unesco.org/xtrans/xtra-form.sp.shtml>

### **•Institut Ramon Llull**

[http://www.llull.cat/\\_cat/\\_home/index.cfm?seccio=inici&subseccio=I](http://www.llull.cat/_cat/_home/index.cfm?seccio=inici&subseccio=I)

### **•ISBN**

<http://www.mcu.es/webISBN/tituloSimpleFilter.do?>

[cache=init&prev\\_layout=busquedaisbn&layout=busquedaisbn&language=es](http://www.mcu.es/webISBN/tituloSimpleFilter.do?cache=init&prev_layout=busquedaisbn&layout=busquedaisbn&language=es)

### **•Literatura marroqui**

<http://www.literaturamarroqui.edu.es/>

### **•REBIUN**

<http://www.rebiun.org/bibliotecas.html>

•Red de bibliotecas del Instituto Cervantes (RBIC)Red de bibliotecas del Instituto Cervantes (RBIC)

[http://www.cervantes.es/bibliotecas\\_documentacion\\_espanol/default.htm](http://www.cervantes.es/bibliotecas_documentacion_espanol/default.htm)

## ANNEX I. National and Regional Translators' associations and institutions

### *I. National Associations and Institutions*

–**Sección Autónoma de Traductores de Libros de la Asociación Colegial de Escritores de España (ACEtt)**: the Autonomous Section for Translators of books, from the Writers' Association of Spain is a national institution established in 1983, aiming to defend the rights and interests of book translators and to promote initiatives to improve their situation. The Consejo Europeo de Asociaciones de Traductores Literarios (CEALT, European Council of the Associations of Literary Translators) is a founding member and participates in the governing bodies of the Centro Español de Derechos Reprográficos (CEDRO, Spanish Centre for Copyright). It also participates in calls for translation-related prizes, such as the National Awards for Translation, the Esther Benitez Translation Prize Award and the Stendhal Prize. It currently has a total of 460 members.

–**Asociación Española de Traductores, Correctores e Intérpretes (ASETTRAD)**: The Spanish Association of Translators, Editors and Interpreters, founded in 2002, focuses on promoting the recognition of professionals working in the field of translation, proofreading and interpretation. It defends their interests, advises them and carries out various activities (courses, seminars, contests...) aimed at improving the professional practice.

–**Asociación Profesional Española de Traductores e Intérpretes (APETI)**: The Spanish Professional Association of Translators and Interpreters was founded in 1954. Its objective is to establish quality standards in the practice of translation (literary and technical) and interpretation. It currently has about 300 members.

–**Escuela de Traductores de Toledo**: The School of Translators of Toledo was once an institution focusing on the translation of scientific, philosophical and literary works from Arabic into Latin and Castilian. Since 1994, it has become a research center belonging to the University of Castilla-La Mancha. It specializes in the training of translators of Arabic and Hebrew into

Spanish through different courses: Specialized University Course in Arabic-Spanish Translation, Seminars on Hebrew-Spanish Translation and introductory courses in Arabic.

## *2. Regional Associations and Institutions*

### **Catalonia:**

–**Asociación Colegial de Escritores de Cataluña (ACEC)**: The Association of Catalonia's Writers aims at defending the moral rights and economic interests of authors (writers, translators...). It also promotes literary works through various initiatives such as the Angel Crespo Translation Prize.

–**Asociación de Escritores en Lengua Catalana (AELC)**: The Association of Catalan Language Writers was founded in 1977 to defend the interests of writers and translators and represent them before the various public and professional sectors linked to the arts. It encourages activities for the promotion of authors, such as several prizes regularly awarded, for example the Rafael Jaume Award. It has 120 members.

–**PEN Català**: Established in 1922, it is a platform for internationally renowned Catalan literature and writers. It actively participates in the objectives of International PEN.

–**Traductores e Intérpretes Asociados Pro-Colegio (TRIAC)**: the Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters is a professional association of 171 members. Established in 1995, its aim is to create a Catalan Association of Translators and Interpreters.

–**Asociación de Traductores e Intérpretes de Cataluña (ATIC)**: the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Catalonia is an independent non-profit organization that develops activities aimed primarily at the professionalization of the sector (training, legal advice and documentation center, etc.). It has 219 members.

–**Institució of Catalan Letters (ILC)**: The Institute for Catalan Arts, created in 1987, was conceived with the aim of promoting the works written in Catalan and their authors. It provides support for translation into Catalan, both for translators and for publishers.

–**Ramon Llull Institute**: Established in 2002, among other initiatives it focuses on: the promotion of Catalan literature abroad through grants distributed to foreign publishers fostering the translation of works into Catalan; the advocacy and spreading of the Catalan language; Catalan participation in book fairs; support for Catalan writers abroad; and the organization of literary activities in other countries.

### **Basque Country:**

–**Asociación de Traductores, Intérpretes y Correctores de Lengua Vasca (EIZIE)**: the Association of Basque Translators, Interpreters and Editors is a professional association of translators and interpreters from or into Basque, with a current total of 261 members. It was created in 1987 with various objectives: promoting the legal protection of these groups and to improving their working conditions and training; to safeguarding the quality of the translations from and into Basque; promoting translations into this language; and defending their economic and social interests. This organization is a member of the International Federation of Translators (Federación Internacional de Traductores, FIT) and the European Council of Literary Translators (Consejo Europeo de Traductores Literarios, CEATL) and it publishes SENEZ, a journal dealing with translation theory and pragmatics, which is published on a yearly basis.

–**Pen Club Vasco**: after several consecutive attempts, this entity was definitively established in 2004 as part of International PEN. There are three committees: the Writers in Prison Committee, the Committee of Linguistic and Translation Rights and the Committee of Women Writers.

## **Galicia:**

–**Asociación de Traductores Gallegos (ATG)**: the Association of Galician Translators was created in 1984 to bring together people working in the field of Galician literary translation. It also awards the Translation Prize Plácido Castro in collaboration with other entities.

–**Asociación Gallega de Profesionales de Traducción e Interpretación (AGPTI)**: the Galician Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters was created in order to establish a joint-platform for translators and interpreters working in Galicia. Its main objectives are to improve their working conditions, to promote the Galician language, to encourage training and to provide legal and material support. There are a total of 71 partners.

–**Pen Club Gallego**: the Galician section of the International PEN consists of Galician writers. This entity delivers on an annual basis the Rosalía de Castro Awards, in recognition of the work of an author in Portuguese, Spanish, Catalan and Basque.

## **Valencia:**

- **Red de Traductores e Intérpretes de la Comunidad Valenciana (XARXA)**: The Network of Translators and Interpreters of the Valencian Community is an independent non-profit association, which protects the interests of professional translators and interpreters of the Valencian Community. It currently represents 33 members.