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Cognitive Processes in Journalistic News Writing in the Spanish Press

Considerations from a Case Study

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**TITLE: COGNITIVE PROCESSES IN JOURNALISTIC NEWS WRITING IN THE SPANISH PRESS.
CONSIDERATIONS FROM A CASE STUDY.**

As part of my PhD project, I have conducted a case study at the Spanish newspaper, *El Mundo*, which examines cognitive processes in journalistic news writing. It does so by capturing the online writing processes of three journalists by means of keystroke logging, observation and retrospective interviews at the usual workplace of the journalists. On the basis of the empirical material, this paper presents preliminary findings and discusses methodological challenges of research on real-life phenomena, and thus contributes to the relevant discussion of how to capture cognitive processes in real-life text production such as writing and translation.

Writing and translation share common ground and this challenges a clear-cut distinction between the two disciplines. At a general level, the processes involved in both writing and translation can be seen as a transfer of knowledge, where a target text is derived from source text material. The processes are also alike in that they can be divided into similar recursive phases, i.e. planning, formulating, and revising (e.g. Lindgren/Sullivan 2006 and Jakobsen 2003). Real-life news writing and translation can, furthermore, be seen as contextual activities (Risku 2010), where the cognitive processes are influenced by the external processes (Schubert 2009). Due to the many similarities between the processes of the two disciplines, they employ the same set of research methods.

The purpose of this contribution is to discuss the investigation of real-life process research, in general in both writing and translation, and, more specifically, reflect on the investigation of processes of journalistic text production.

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