

# Machine Translation on the Verge of a Laughing Fit



**A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN  
HUMAN AND MACHINE  
TRANSLATION  
IN ALMODÓVAR'S COMEDIES**

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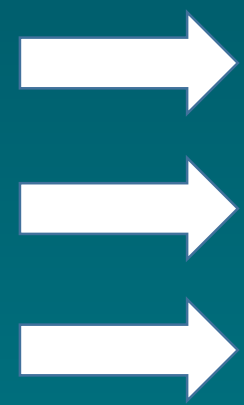
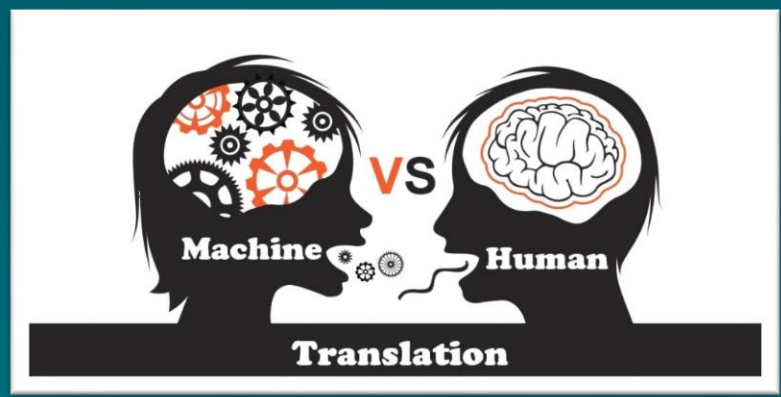
# Outline



- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Research questions
  - ❖ Understand humour
  - ❖ Cultural component
    - ❖ Raphaelson-West's classification
    - ❖ Zabalbeascoa's Taxonomy
  - ❖ Constraints in audiovisual translation
    - ❖ Image
    - ❖ Language
    - ❖ Context
- ❖ Corpus
- ❖ Analysis
- ❖ Conclusions



# Introduction



Scientific

Technical

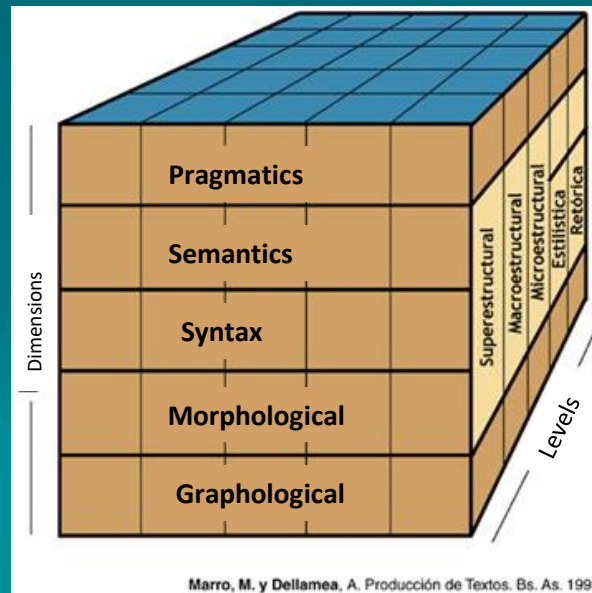
Legal



# Research questions

Are machines able to understand and translate humour?

Van Dijk (1978)



**Benjamin Netanyahu** @netanyahu · 2h  
נטע, את כפרה אמיתית. הבאת הרבה כבוד למדינת ישראל! לשנה הבאה בירושלים!

Translated from Hebrew by Microsoft

Neta, you're a real cow. You have brought much respect for the state of Israel!  
Next year in Jerusalem!



302 1.1K 3.5K

À l'origine en hébreu, traduit par Microsoft

Neta, tu es une vraie vache. Vous avez apporté beaucoup de respect pour l'état d'Israël! L'année prochaine à Jérusalem! לולול

Traducido del hebreo por Microsoft

Neta, eres una verdadera vaca.  
¡ has traído mucho respeto por el estado de Israel! ¡ el año que viene en Jerusalén! לולול





# Research questions

Does machine translation  
take into account  
**cultural components**  
when translating  
humour?



- Humour:  
Raphaelson-West's  
Classification



- Culture:  
Zabalbeascoa's Taxonomy



# Research questions

Does machine translation  
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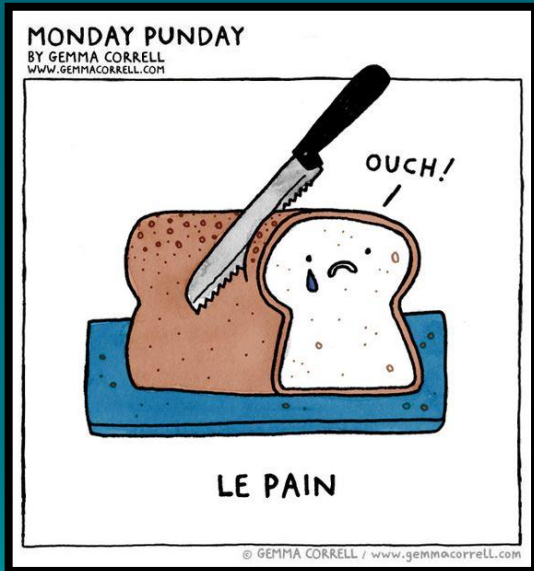
- Humour:  
Raphaelson-West's  
Classification



- Culture:  
Zabalbeascoa's Taxonomy

# Raphaelson-West's classification

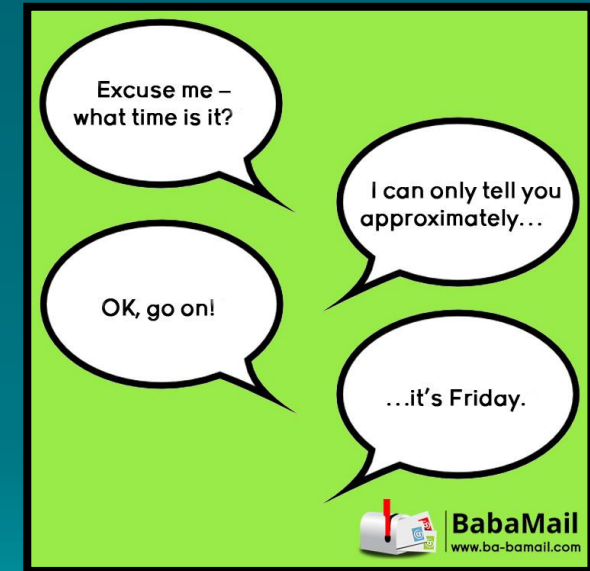
## Linguistic jokes



## Cultural jokes



## Universal jokes





# Zabalbeascoa's taxonomy

- International jokes
- Bi-national-jokes
- National-culture-institutions jokes
- National-sense-of humour-jokes
- Language-dependent jokes
- Visual jokes
- Complex jokes





# Research questions

Is machine translation  
able to overcome  
audiovisual  
translation  
constraints?



- Image



- Language



- Context



# Constraints

- Image cohesion:



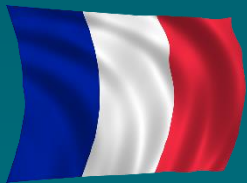
“Green glasses”





# Languages

## Pair of languages



<b>Spanish</b>	Dime algo con amor	Amorfo
<b>Catalan</b>	Digues-me alguna cosa amb amor	Amorf
<b>French</b>	Dis moi quelque chose avec amour	Amorphe
<b>Portuguese</b>	Me diga algo com amor	Amorfo
<b>English</b>	Tell me something with <b>love</b>	<b>Amorphous</b>



# Context

Visual  
Acoustic

vs.

Textual

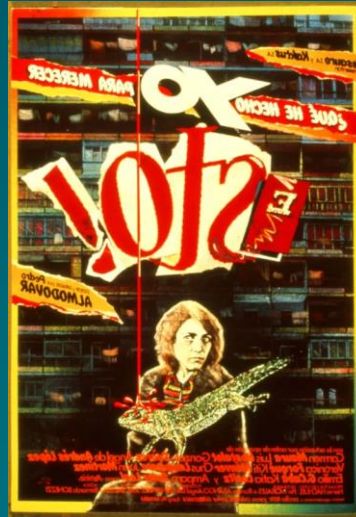




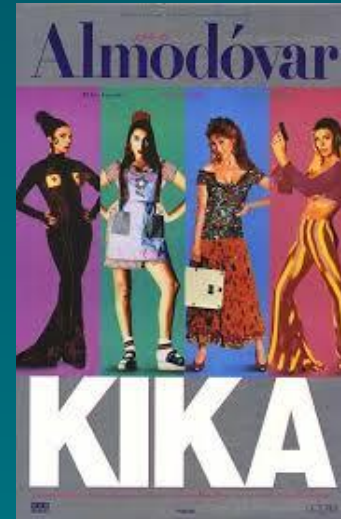
# Corpus



Pepi,  
Luci,  
Bom  
(1980)



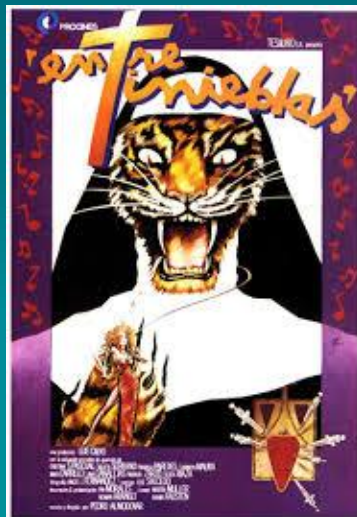
What Have I  
Done to  
Deserve  
This? (1984)



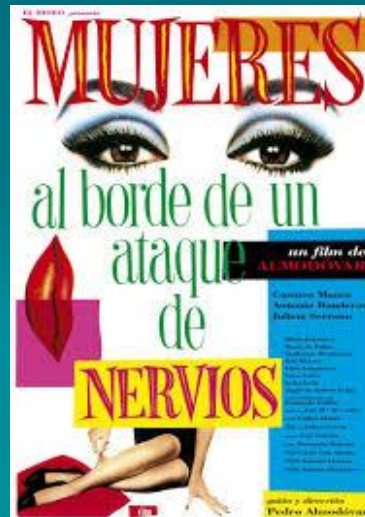
Kika  
(1993)



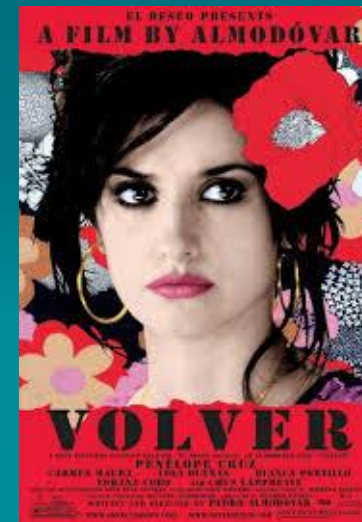
I'm So  
Excited!  
(2013)



Dark  
Habits  
(1983)



Women on  
the Verge of a  
Nervous  
Breakdown  
(1988)



Volver  
(2006)



# Analysis

<b>ST</b>	<b>Me sentía como Noé. En el corral que instalé en la terraza me habría gustado tener una pareja de todas las especies animales. En cualquier caso no conseguí salvar la pareja que más me interesaba: la mía.</b>
<b>Human Translation</b>	I felt like Noah. In the coop on my terrace I wanted to save a couple of each species. Anyway, I couldn't save the couple I cared about the most: Ivan and me.
<b>Machine Translation</b>	I felt like Noah. In the pen I set up on the terrace I would have liked to have had a couple of all the animal species. In any case, I didn't manage to save the pair I was most interested in: my own.





# Analysis

<b>ST</b>	-Arturo, ¿quieres recibir a Eugenia como esposa y prometes serle fiel en las alegrías y en las penas, en la salud y en la enfermedad, todos los días de tu vida? -Sí, creo que quiero.
<b>HT</b>	- Arturo, do you take Eugenia as your wife and promise to be faithful for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do your part? - Yeah, I think so.
<b>MT</b>	-Arturo, will you take Eugenia to be your wife and promise to be faithful to her in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, all the days of your life? -Yes, I think I do.



# Analysis

**ST** Volveré mañana. Ah, y no le diga que he vindo ahora./  
Lo siento, señorito. Pero yo soy Testiga de Jehová y mi religión me prohíbe mentir./  
Yo solo puedo decir la verdad, toda la verdad y nada más que la verdad.

**HT** I'll be back tomorrow. Don't tell her I was here.  
Sir, I'm a Jehovah's Witness and cannot tell lies. /  
Only the truth, and nothing but the truth.

**MT** I'll be back tomorrow. Oh, and don't tell her I'm here now.  
I'm sorry, sir. But I'm a Jehovah's Witness and my religion forbids me to lie./  
I can only tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.



# Analysis

<b>ST</b>	<p>-¿Quién es? -Pepa Marcos./ -¿Está Iván? -¡No!/ -Perdone que la moleste. -No pienso perdonarla.</p>
<b>HT</b>	<p>- Who's this? - Pepa Marcos. Is Ivan there?/ - No! - Forgive my bothering you./ - Not as sorry as I am.</p>
<b>MT</b>	<p>Who is it? -Pepa Marcos./ -Is Ivan here? -No!/ -I'm sorry to bother you. -I won't forgive you.</p>



# Conclusions



Kind of jokes

Language and culture

Typology of cultural references



**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**



# Bibliography

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