

Translation Analysis with TEI: Robert Southey's *Amadis of Gaul*

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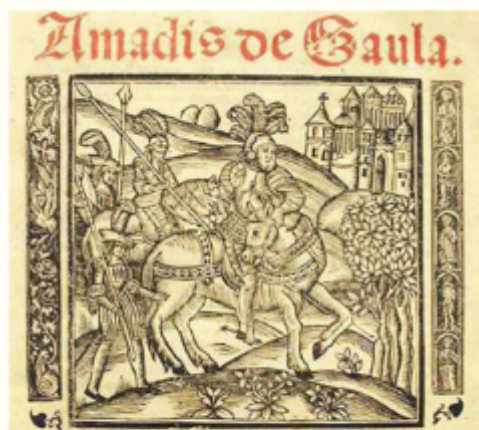
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Amadis in Translation

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Amadis in Translation is a digital study of the transformation of a romance over centuries and across languages, and also a study in translation theory and practice, investigating how translators change texts as well as preserve them in their translations. It is typical to fault translators for adaptations of texts without recognizing the complex interaction between preservation and transformation involved in translation. With this project we seek to study translation and adaptation as complementary activities in the reproduction and transference of texts, activities that yield significant perspective on linguistic and cultural interchange. Our long-range project is to document changes in structure and content from Garci Rodríguez de Montalvo's 1508 *Amadis de Gaula* to the 1547 Sevilla printing of Montalvo's *Amadis* over three centuries and ultimately across three languages (Spanish, French, and English) from the 1500s to the early 1800s.

The first phase of the project, launched in the summer of 2015, is to investigate Robert Southey's 1803 translation of Montalvo's *Amadis*. We chart multiple shifts in form and content of the romance through the efforts of the two textual scholars positioned centuries apart. Southey claimed in his translation to have abridged the early modern Spanish prose romance by half to restore a theoretical "medieval" or "primitive" state. Southey also claimed to remove elements from his source text that he conjectured were superadded by Montalvo to produce in English a simpler, imagined Ur-text. In his introduction to the translation, Southey alleges that he has condensed the romance through linguistic compression, without introducing a "modern style" or eliminating episodes.

We have applied the XML language of the [Text Encoding Initiative \(TEI\)](#) to test Southey's claims and to investigate the kinds and extent of reductions he applied to the Montalvo text. We use the TEI to align Southey's text with Montalvo's and study the omissions, reductions, and semantic shifts applied in Southey's translation process. Our TEI markup helps us to trace and extract, and analyze how much the text was altered in translation.

amadis.newtfire.org

<https://github.com/ebeshero/Amadis-in-Translation>



Texts:

- 15th c fragment
- Garci Rodríguez de Montalvo, *Amadís de Gaula* (1508)
- Spanish editions (1526, 1533)
- Nicolas de Herberay, French translation (1540)
- Anthony Munday, English translation (1590)
- Louis-Élisabeth de la Vergne, Conte de Tressan, French translation (1779)
- Robert Southey, English translation (1803)
- Edwin Place, English translation (1974)

Libro

Aqui comienza el primero libro de esforçado y virtuoso cauallero Amadis hijo del rey Perion de Gaula / y de la reyna Elisena: el qual fue corregido y emédado por el bñado y virtuoso cauallero Garcio: doñez de Abóialuo regidor de la noble villa de medina del campo: y corrigiole de los antiguos originales que estauan corruos y mal compuestos en antiguo estilo: por falta de los diferētes y malos escriptores. Quitando muchas palabras superfluas / y poniendo otras de mas polido y elegante estilo: tocātes a la caualleria y actos della.

Comienca la obra.



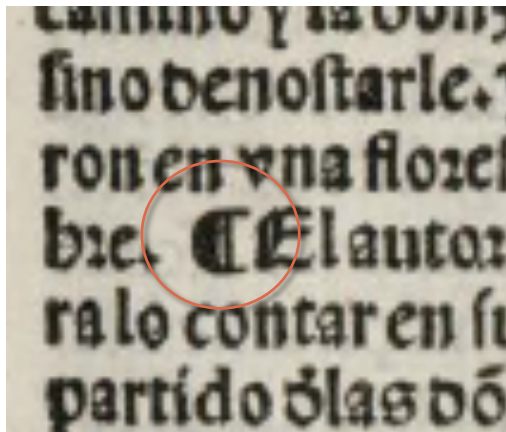
Dichos

años después de la pasión de nro redētor y saluador jesu christo: fue vn rey xpiano en la pequeña Bretaña por nombre llamado garinter: el qual sien

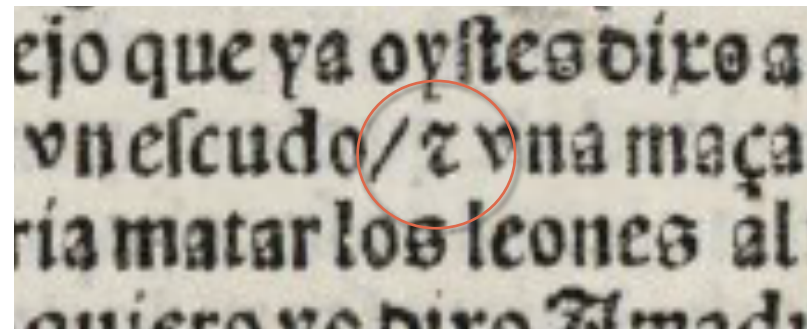
do en la ley de la verdad de mucha deuocion y buenas maneras acompañado. Este rey ouo dos hijas en vna noble dueña su muger: y la

cauallos q̄ sus vassallos erā: q̄ por ser muy soberuios y de malas maneras: y muy emparentados muchos enojos dellos auia rescebido. Asas aq̄l q̄ cō ellos se cōbatia no lo pudo couocer y no se fiando tāto en la bōdad del vno q̄ el miedo de los dos le q̄tasse / apartādo se de ellos la batalla miraua: en fin dīa q̄l por mandas q̄l los dos fuerō vécidos y muertos. Esto fecho el cauallō se vino contra el rey: y como solo lo viesse dixole. Buē hōbre q̄ trāes esta q̄ assi son los cauallōs andātes saltados. El rey le dīxo. No os marauilleys de esso cauallō

The calderón,
paragraph
symbol



The tironian sign
symbol for “and” (y
or et)



Punctuation

/ : .

te si: de que el rey Garinter mucho espâtado
entre si dezia . No sin causa tiene aql fama del
mejor cauallero del mundo. Esto hecho reco
gida toda la compaña hizo en dos palafrenes
cargar el leon y el cieruo: y llevarlos ala villa
con grã plazer. Donde siendo de tal buesped
la reyna auisada: los palacios de grandes z rí
cos atauios / y las mesas puestas hallaron: en
la vna mas alta se sentaron los reyes: y en otra
junto con ella Elisena fu hija: z alli fueron ser /

Editorial declaration:

This digital critical edition seeks to reproduce the reading experience of the 1547 *Amadís de Gaula* (Sevilla: Cromberger) with which Robert Southey worked for his translation in order to facilitate comparisons. The following modifications have been made to the 1547 print edition.

1. We employ the letters i/e/u/y/j as in modern Spanish: i/e/u express vowel sounds and y/j express consonants. For example, “reyna” in the 1547 has been transcribed as “reina” and “cauallero” as “cavallero.” The letter y has vocalic value only at the ends of words, as in “muy” and “rey,” and as the conjunction meaning and.
2. We preserve most of the consonant use of the 1547, including the alternation of b/v and m/n before b/p as well as the absence or presence of h. We normalize the use of qu.
3. Doubled consonants, bb, cc, ff, etc. are resolved as single except where they have phonetic value.

When Garinter saw him fall, he said within himself not without cause is that Knight famed to be the best in the world. Meanwhile their train came up, and then was their prey and venison laid on two horses and carried to the City.

The Queen being advised of her guest they found the palace richly adorned, and the tables covered. At the highest the Kings seated themselves: at the other sate the Queen with Elisena her daugh-


```
<cl xml:id="M0_p1_c63">  
  <milestone unit="said" resp="#Garinter" ana="start"/>No sin causa tiene  
  aquel fama del mejor cavallero del mundo<milestone unit="said" ana="end"  
/>.</cl>  
<cl xml:id="M0_p1_c64">Esto hecho recogida toda la compaña hizo en dos  
palafrenes cargar el león y el ciervo:</cl>  
<cl xml:id="M0_p1_c65">y llevarlos a la villa con gran plazer.</cl>  
<cl xml:id="M0_p1_c66">Donde siendo de tal huésped la reina avisada:</cl>  
<cl xml:id="M0_p1_c67">los palacios de grandes y ricos atavíos/</cl>  
<cl xml:id="M0_p1_c68">y las mesas puestas hallaron:</cl>  
<cl xml:id="M0_p1_c69">en la una más alta se sentaron los reyes:</cl>  
<cl xml:id="M0_p1_c70">y en otra junto con ella Elisena su hija:</cl>  
<cl xml:id="M0_p1_c71">y allí fueron servidos como en casa de tan buen hombre  
ser devía.</cl>
```

```
<S>  
<anchor ana="start" type="add"/>When Garinter saw him fall,<anchor ana="end"/>  
<anchor ana="start" synch="#M0_p1_c62"/>he said within himself<anchor ana="end"/>  
<anchor ana="start" synch="#M0_p1_c63"/>not without cause is that Knight famed to  
be the best in the world.<anchor ana="end"/>
```

```
</S>  
<S>  
<anchor ana="start" type="add"/>Meanwhile<anchor ana="end"/>  
<anchor ana="start" synch="#M0_p1_c64"/>their train came up, and then was their  
prey and venison laid on two horses<anchor ana="end"/>  
<anchor ana="start" synch="#M0_p1_c65"/>and carried to the City.<anchor ana="end"  
</S>
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</p>
```



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<p>
```

```
<S>  
<anchor ana="start" synch="#M0_p1_c66"/>The Queen being advised of her  
guest<anchor ana="end"/>  
<anchor ana="start" synch="#M0_p1_c68"/>they found<anchor ana="end"/>  
<anchor ana="start" synch="#M0_p1_c67"/>the palace richly adorned,<anchor  
ana="end"/>  
<anchor ana="start" synch="#M0_p1_c68"/>and the tables covered.<anchor ana="end"/>  
</S>
```

- **Comiença la obra. --- Chapter 1**

Montalvo  Southey

Omissions and additions by Southey



Montalvo  11.17 words per match
Southey  7.45 words per match

Word count comparison

- **Capítulo primero --- Chapter 2**

Montalvo  Southey

Omissions and additions by Southey



Montalvo  11.12 words per match
Southey  7.02 words per match

Word count comparison

- **Capítu. II --- Chapter 3**

Montalvo  Southey

Omissions and additions by Southey



Montalvo  11.21 words per match
Southey  8.77 words per match

Word count comparison

- **Capítulo XX --- Chapter 21**

Montalvo  Southey

Omissions and additions by Southey



Montalvo  13.4 words per match
Southey  8.77 words per match

Word count comparison

- **Capítulo XXII --- Chapter 23**

Montalvo  Southey

Omissions and additions by Southey

Montalvo  12.98 words per match
Southey  6.62 words per match

Word count comparison

When Garinter saw him fall,			Addition
he said within himself	de que el rey Garinter mucho espantado entre sí dezía.	1.5	Match
not without cause is that Knight famed to be the best in the world.	No sin causa tiene aquel fama del mejor cavallero del mundo.	-0.14	Match
Meanwhile			Addition
their train came up, and then was their prey and venison laid on two horses	Esto hecho recogida toda la compañía hizo en dos palafrenes cargar el león y el ciervo:	0.07	Match
and carried to the City.	y llevarlos a la villa con gran plazer.	0.6	Match
The Queen being advised of her guest	Donde siendo de tal huésped la reina avisada:	0.14	Match
they found	y las mesas puestas hallaron:	1.5	Match
the palace richly adorned,	los palacios de grandes y ricos atavíos/	0.75	Match
and the tables covered.	y las mesas puestas hallaron:	0.25	Match

Think you,	Cómo señora pensáis vos que si yo estas nuevas creyesse que ternía esfuerço para ninguno consolar? No es assí pequeño ni liviano el amor que a mi cormano tengo:	14	Match
	antes assí Dios me salve si con razón lo pudiesse crer a vos ni a cuantos en este mundo que bien le quieren no daría ventaja de lo que por su muerte se devía mostrar y hazer assí que lo hazéis sin ningún provecho y podría mucho daño acarrear: pues que con ello muy presto se podría descubrir lo que tan encelado tenemos/ Oriana oyendo esto le dixo: de esso ya poco cuidado tengo: que agora tarde o aína no puede tardar de ser a todos manifiesto: aunque yo pune de lo encubrir: que quien bivar no dessea ningún peligro temer puede aunque le viniesse: en esto que oís estuvieron todo aquel día diziendo la donzella de Denamarcha a todos cómo Oriana no se osava apartar de Mabilia porque se no matasse: tan grande cuita era la suya/		Omission
said Mabilia,	Mabilia con semblante sañudo le dixo.	2	Match

AMADIS of GAUL.

Book the First.

CHAPTER 1.

Not many years after the passion of our Redeemer there was a Christian King in the lesser Britain, by name Garinter, who being in the law of truth, was of much devotion and good ways. This King had two Daughters by a noble Lady his wife. The eldest was married to Languines King of Scotland; she was called the Lady of the Garland, because her husband taking great pleasure to behold her beautiful tresses, would have them covered only with a chaplet of flowers. Agrayes and Mabilia were their children, a Knight and Damsel of whom in this history much mention is made. Elisena the other daughter was far more beautiful, and although she had been demanded in marriage by many great Princes, yet she would wed with none, but for her solitary and holy life was commonly called the Lost *Devotee, because it was

* La Beata perdida. *Methodist, Puritan, or the Elect*, would perhaps express the meaning of *Beata*, which is in common use, if they were not sectarian words.

Elisena the other daughter was far more beautiful,	La otra fija que Elisena fue llamada en gran cantidad mucho más hermosa que la primera fue.	1.12	Match	
and although she had been demanded in marriage by many great Princes,	E comoquiera que de muy grandes príncipes en casamiento demandada fuesse:	-0.08	Match	
<u>yet she would wed with none, but for her solitary and holy life was commonly called the Lost Devotee</u>	nunca con ninguno de ellos casar le plugo antes su retraimiento y sancta vida dieron causa a que todos	0.15	Match	
, because it was considered that for rank,				

La Beata perdida. Methodist, Puritan, or the Elect, would perhaps express the meaning of Beata, which is in common use, if they were not sectarian words.

Mabilia, though her own grief was so great that greater none could be, yet not for that did she neglect what remedy might profit;	y aunque su cuita era muy grande que más no podía ser quiso remediar lo que convenía:	-0.29	Match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 • Chapter 2 • Chapter 3 • Chapter 21
<u>she took the Princess in her arms, and poured cold water on her face,</u>	porque ninguno así no la viesse y fue a tomar a	1.07	Match	

The English translation says, she unlaced her garments to give her more liberty, and bathed her temples and pulses with vinegar and cold water.

Robert Southey on *Amadís*

“To have translated a closely printed folio would have been absurd. I have reduced it to about half its length, by abridging the words, not the story [...]
There is no vanity in saying, that this has improved the book, for what long work may not be improved by compression?”

What's Next?

- Finish transcribing Montalvo's Book I and find correspondences with Southey
- Classify the alterations Southey makes to Montalvo

Long-range questions:

- **How does Southey translate culture and ideology?**
- **What is “English” about Southey's text?**
- **What is “French” or “Spanish” about other translations and adaptations?**