# Comparison

A number of problems occur when translating comparative structures (the use of "-er" or "more", the different transla­tions of "tan" etc.).

a) One important problem is the translation of "que". Study the examples to see how "que" is translated in the different comparative structures:

*es* ***más*** *rápido* ***que*** *mi propio PC*

*it's fast****er than*** *my own PC*

*es* ***más*** *difícil* ***que*** *antes*

*it's* ***more*** *difficult* ***than*** *before*

*era* ***tan*** *difícil* ***que*** *no lo pude resolver*

*it was* ***so*** *difficult* ***that*** *I couldn't solve it*

Notice too:

*es* ***tan*** *potente* ***como*** *el mío*

*it's* ***as*** *powerful* ***as*** *mine*

b) Another problem is the use of coordinated comparison to express gradual increase:

*las aplicaciones ocupan* ***cada vez más*** *espacio de disco*

*applications take up* ***more and more*** *disk space*

*los procesadores se hacen* ***cada vez más rápidos***

*processors are getting* ***faster and faster***

c) There is also the correlative comparative construction:

***Cuanto más*** *estudias,* ***más*** *aprendes*

***The more*** *you study,* ***the more*** *you learn*

***Cuanto más*** *comes,* ***más*** *engordas*

***The more*** *you eat,* ***the fatter*** *you get*

d) Finally there is the problem of the translation of the prepositions and conjunctions that express comparison:

***Como***

Preposition ***Like***

When the word *like* is followed by a noun phrase, it may express comparison (or it may introduce examples):

*La memoria de un ordenador es como una biblioteca enorme*

*The memory of a computer is like a huge library*

Adverb **As**

When the conjunction *as* introduces a clause it may express comparison:

Como decía antes .....

As I was saying before ......

Nada es como era antes

Nothing is as it was before

Translation

1. Esta máquina es mucho más lenta que la mayoría de los PCs.

**This machine is slower than most PCs**

1. Escribió una novela[[1]](#footnote-1) tan aburrida que sólo se vendieron dos copias.

**He wrote such a boring novel that only two copies were sold.**

1. El problema no es tan difícil como parece.

**The problema is not as difficult as/so it seems.**

1. Es la peor película que he visto.

**Is the worst film I saw**

1. Los PCs se hacen cada vez más baratos.

**PCs are getting cheaper and cheaper**

1. La mayoría de la gente no entiende el problema.

Most people don’t understand the problem

1. Estos resultados son mejores que los resultados que obtuvimos ayer.

These results are better than the results we got yesterday

1. Cuanto más trabajas, más te cansas.

The more you work, the more you get tired

1. Como muchos usuarios se enfada con el programa.

Like many users, he gets angry with the program.

1. Con Windows March 2005, nada es como te lo imagines.

With Windows March 2005, nothing is as you imagine it.

1. "novel". [↑](#footnote-ref-1)