# 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 PC.

**This machine is much slower than most PCs**

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

**He wrote such as boring novel than only two copies were sold.**

1. El problema no es tan difícil como parece.

**The problem is not as difficult as it seems**

1. Es la peor película que he visto.

**It’s the worst film I’ve ever seen**

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 of 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 tired you get**

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**

1. "novel". [↑](#footnote-ref-1)