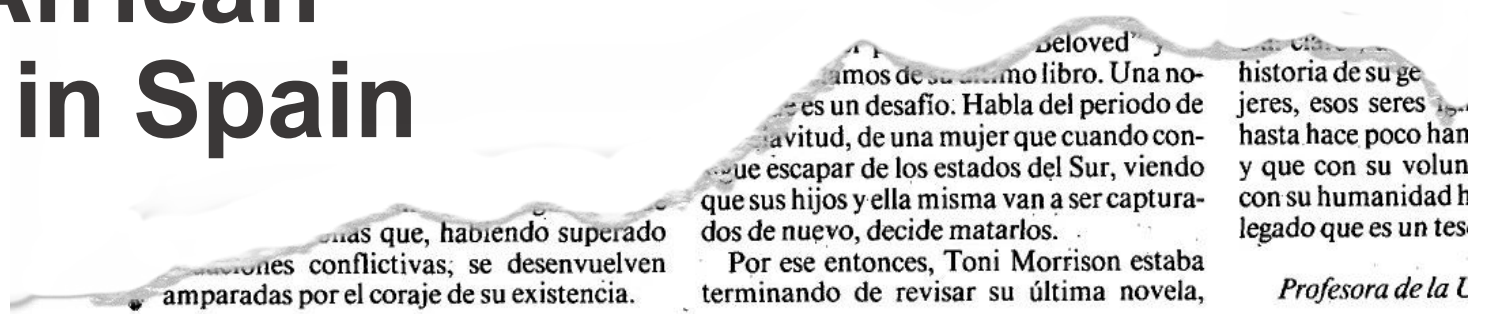


# The Color of Writing

## Translation and Reception of African American Women's Literature in Spain

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### Introduction

My research project presents a descriptive approach to the translation and reception of African American women's literature in Spain

Ever since the Civil Rights Movement (1950-1970) and the raise of the black feminist thought, African American women writers have been gaining ground not only in the literary landscape of the United States, but also in the international sphere.

Consequently, European countries such as France, Germany, Belgium or the United Kingdom have started to conduct research on the translation and reception of black American women at a national level.

However, in Spain, the volume of academic and critical production about this field of study published to date is considerably reduced. In this context, my research will make a significant contribution to contemporary translation and reception studies in Spain, as well as it will point towards future lines of research on related areas.

### Goals

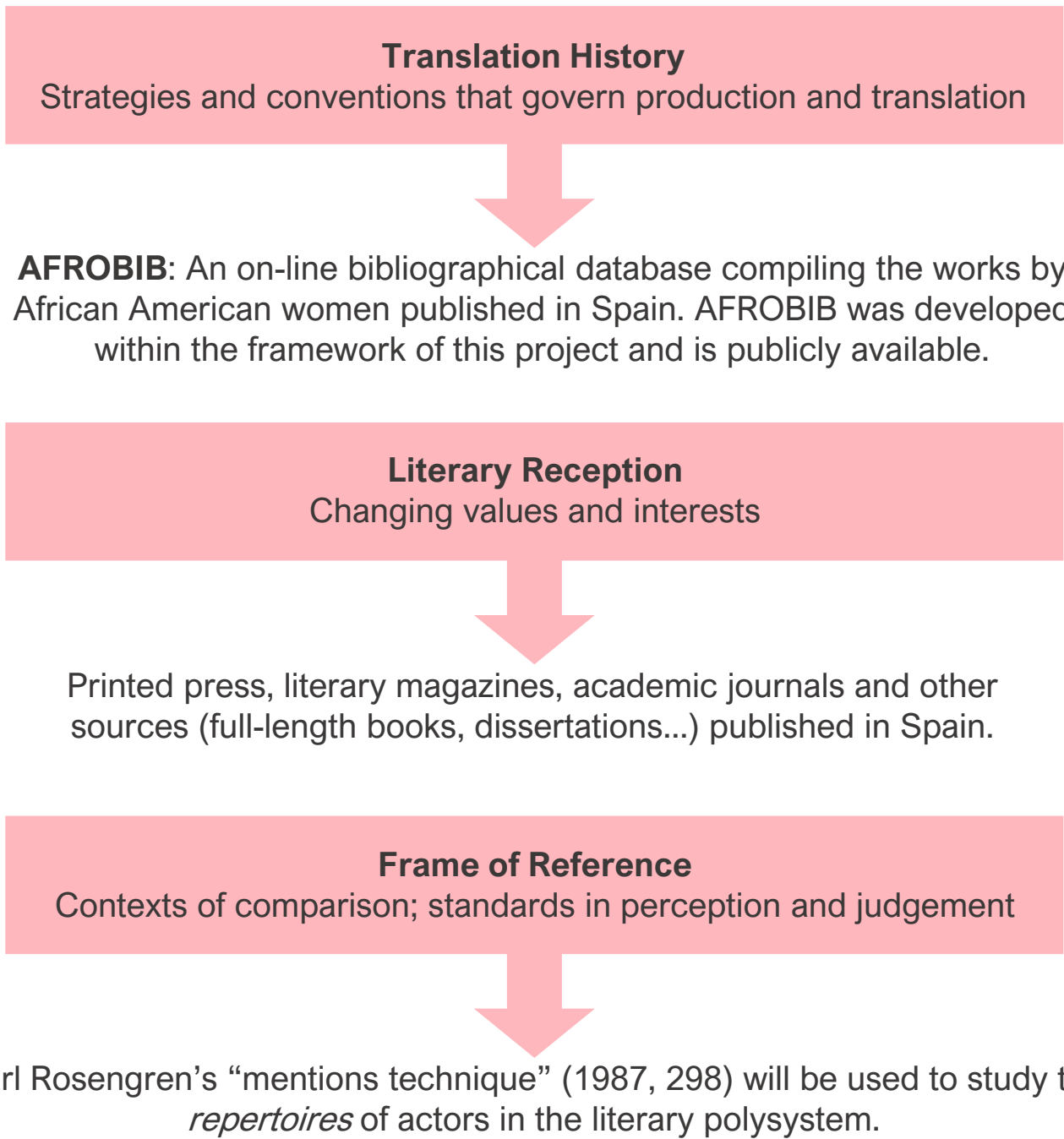
This study aims to:

- ✓ Investigate the role of the **African American women's literary tradition** in the source culture.
- ✓ Analyze the **translation history** of African American literature written by women in Spain.
- ✓ Study the **critical response** that this literature has generated.

Describe the presence of African American women's literature in Spain.

### Method

This methodological framework is based on Even-Zohar (1997) and Andringa (2006). It follows **three main criteria** for the study of reception and translation:



### Results

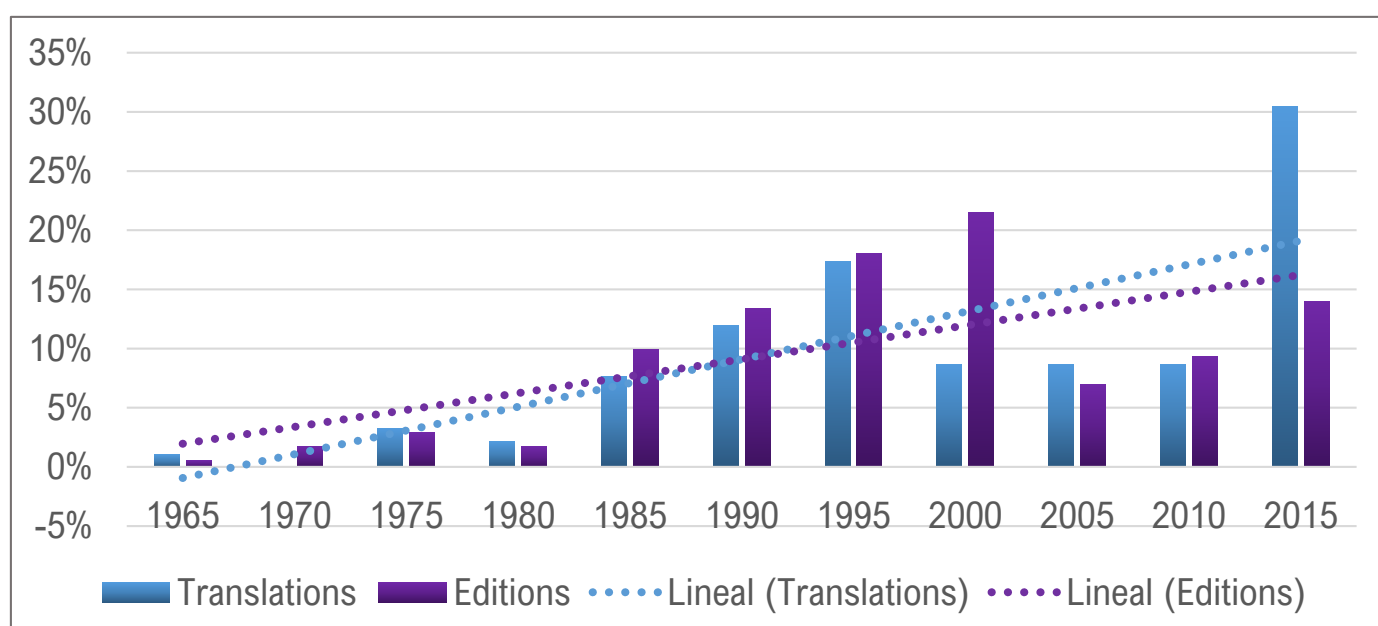


Fig. 1. Rate of published translations and editions according to AFROBIB

The evolution in the publication of translated African American women's literature in Spain is **irregular**. However, the data also reveal a **general upward trend** for both translations and editions.

There was a correlation between the publication of translations and editions until years 2000 to 2005. Since 2005, edition rates have lowered, while years 2015 to 2020 registered the highest peak of translations, partly thanks to the work of independent publishing houses.

Figure 2 shows the proportion of translations and mentions of African American women writers in sources of critical reception per decade.

The graph displays a **progressive increase** of both mentions and translations over time, with mentions surpassing translations only during the decade of 1970 and, most prominently, in 2000.

These data ultimately indicate that the reception of AFROBIB authors in the target (poly)system starts with their translation.

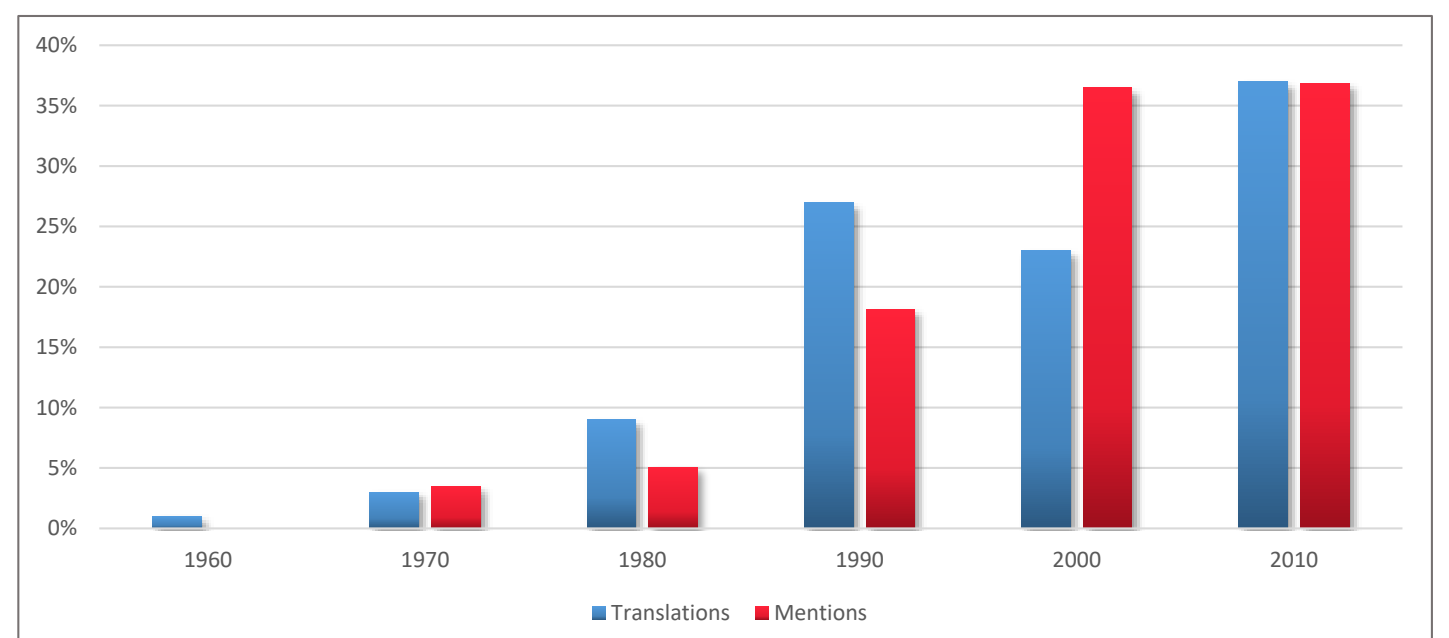


Fig. 2. Percentages of the sums of mentions and translations of AFROBIB authors

### Conclusions

- The dissemination of African American women's literature in Spain is conditioned by **external factors** that have helped specific authors or works reach a certain degree of prestige or recognition. These factors comprise from the success of film adaptations to the award of international prizes.
- Such conditions have facilitated the dissemination of a **limited amount of works and authors** among Spanish audiences, which tend to be identified as representative of the whole collective.
- Even if the interest of major publishing houses in this literature has declined in later years, new translations continue to circulate, and the national press and academia are currently paying more attention than ever to these writers.

### More info.



### References

- Even-Zohar, I. 1997. "Factors and Dependencies in Culture: A Revised Outline for Polysystem Culture Research." *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature* 10: 15-33.
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- Rosengren, K. 1987. "Literary Criticism: Future Invented." *Poetics* 16: 295-325.