

Abstract

The thesis focuses on intercultural and interlingual communication on the Spanish-Mapuche frontier during the colonial period, with a special emphasis on interpreting as a mediated intercultural communication during peace negotiations, the so-called *parlamentos*. Drawing on sources such as records from the *parlamentos* or chronicles, the thesis outlines the characteristics, development, and areas of interpreting. It also examines interpreters as individuals, their origins, status, abilities, and the way they are represented in the sources. It also deals with the perceptions of the Mapuche alterity and processes of transculturation within the *parlamentos*. In the area of interpretation and the profession of an interpreter, the thesis draws on approaches from the theory of interpreting applicable to the history of interpreting (e.g. role, quality, professionalism, etc.). In the analysis of the perceptions of the Mapuche alterity and processes of transculturation within the *parlamentos*, it uses the concepts associated with the encounter of cultures in areas where colonisation efforts were taking place, i.e. the concept of the frontier, transculturation, hybridisation, or alterity.

Key words: Mapuche; colonial period; Spanish America; Chile; intercultural communication; parlamentos; history of interpreting.