

Reseñas/Book Reviews



Temas actuales de terminología y estudios sobre el léxico

Miguel Ángel Candel-Mora & Chelo Vargas-Sierra (eds.)
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Languages undergo constant change because the realities they express never cease to evolve. The worlds of medicine, the environment, aviation, communication, the humanities, and so on, are continually going through major transformations, as new concepts, objects, tools, procedures and features appear, all of which require the coining of new terms. This is a phenomenon of great importance, not only because of its direct effect on the languages themselves, but also because of the impact it has on the world of translation. It influences many different aspects, from dictionaries, glossaries and terminology databases to the actual training that translators require, and makes it increasingly necessary for us to think of creating flexible databases that are capable of adapting and growing apace with the proliferation of new concepts and terms.

Within this framework, we can turn for guidance to the volume recently published by Miguel Ángel Candel-Mora and Chelo Vargas-Sierra in Editorial Comares. It consists of nine chapters by specialists from different universities, and particularly from the University of Granada. They focus chiefly on technical sciences like engineering, and on biomedical sciences such as medicine and botany, but a few contributions also devote attention to economics and the language of journalism.

In the first chapter, Juan Carlos Gil-Berrozpe and Pamela Faber discuss “The role of terminological knowledge bases in specialized translation: the use of Umbrella Concepts”, within the framework of the environment, starting out from the limitations found in some specialized dictionaries, thesauri and glossaries, which tend to be based more on terms than on concepts. They consider that lexicographical and terminological resources should reflect the way we conceptualize the world around us, because this

would allow translators to maintain an even higher level of quality than at present. To this end, they propose that we should revisit the concept of hyponymy, which could be done in various ways, one of which would be to create umbrella concepts, understood as artificial concepts that could be inserted at intermediate levels within a hierarchy, in order to specify the meaning of a hyponymic relationship (p. 13). The use of such umbrella concepts has great potential, according to these authors: not only could it be applied in the framework of the tool EcoLexicon (<https://ecolexicon.ugr.es/en/index.htm>), but it could also be used to improve conceptual networks.

The next chapter, “The cognitive bases of terminological variation in medicine”, by Maribel Tercedor Sánchez, discusses the importance, and the contributions, of textual, situational and cognitive contexts to understand the use of terms and their categorization in the field of medicine. This contribution centres on the cognitive dimension of terminological variation in medicine, and has a threefold objective: to study how terminological variants in medicine can be analysed from a situated perspective that reveals a specific dimension of the concept; to reflect on the way in which culture and knowledge of the world influence the names of concepts in the medical field; and finally to classify and register the terminological variations found in the VariMed database (<http://varimed.ugr.es/index.php?op=acercadecontacto>).

“Keeping track of terminological dependency: English-Spanish translation strategies in the medical domain” is the title of the third chapter, by Miguel Sánchez. By studying the translations of the notions in the subdomain of Alzheimer’s disease in English and Spanish, the author aims to show the extent to which a correlation exists between the translation strategies used and the degree of terminological dependency between the two languages.

Juan José Calvo draws our attention to the field of botany in the fourth chapter, which is headed “Exchanging good roots: the terminological substitution of proper nouns in botany”. Within the framework of botanical fieldwork, the author shows that terminology in botany offers a large number of substitutions, rather than processes of appropriation which, in the author’s view, translation studies would tend to presuppose.

In the fifth chapter, “Two ways of looking at opinion in journalism: lexical-rhetorical differences in financial columns in English and Spanish”, we move

from the natural sciences to the language of the media, in particular economic journalism. Here, María Ángeles Orts's excellent chapter argues that the task of translating economic journalism cannot be reduced to the lexical sphere, but that other important aspects are involved, such as metaphor, rhetoric, pragmatics and metadiscourse. This chapter offers a promising way of applying discourse analysis to translation, since among other aspects, we need to pay attention to the way extralinguistic elements take on considerable importance when we translate a media text. Translators need to pay special attention to these elements, since creativity is often needed to cope with culturally embedded neologisms present in the source language.

Economics also forms the background for the next chapter, by Iolanda Galanes "Conceptual and referential neologisms: innovative vocabulary emerging from the crisis". Setting out from a corpus of press releases on the world financial crisis, which gave rise to the coining of many new words, the author presents some techniques for identifying discursive frameworks that bring to light translations of neologisms in the field of economics. Her study offers a detailed account of the typology of linguistic features that can enable us to detect neologisms in newspaper articles about economic issues. It also provides a typology of neologisms, since the process offers several variations. In this sense, her study provides a classification consisting of: terminological neologisms, semantic neologisms, conceptual neologisms, denominative neologisms and referential neologisms.

Chapter seven, "Explicit metalinguistic markers and level of specialization: applications for extracting terminology", by Clara Inés López-Rodríguez, takes us back to the field of medicine. She examines terminological variation as a function of specialization, beginning from the existence of linguistic resources that facilitate the transfer of medical knowledge to a non-specialized audience. Among these, we find the so-called *explicit metalinguistic lexical markers*, which in turn are an adaptation of the notion of *Explicit Metalinguistic Operation* developed by Rodríguez Penagos (2004). The author sets herself the objective of examining the potential of explicit metalinguistic markers for the extraction of terminology in texts for a general readership.

In the next chapter, "Building ontologies with Methontology as a technical resource for specialized translation: OntoUAV Project, a multilingual web ontology (EN/FR/ES) on Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles (UAV) for

specialized translation”, written by María Azahara Veroz, our attention now turns to aeronautical engineering, and in concrete, to the world of drones, a new technology that has expanded rapidly in recent years in terms both of applications and commercialization, but which is still dogged by legislative problems. The author quite rightly points out that this technological reality also poses challenges for linguistics, owing to the fact that this innovation has opened up a huge need for linguistic tools to use in technical documents, negotiations and agreements on an international level. As we might expect, this demand is also having an impact on specialized translation. This chapter presents *OntoUAV*, a multilingual tool designed to solve problems related to communication and specialized translation in the field of aeronautics.

The volume closes with Melania Cabezas-García and Pamela Faber, whose chapter “Exploring the Semantics of multi-word terms by means of paraphrases” focuses on coastal engineering. Starting from the high frequency of multi-word terms, MWTs, in specialized languages, they point out that we sometimes encounter difficulty in understanding their meaning correctly in a given context, particularly where translation processes are involved. According to these authors, the inventories of semantic relations often present limitations when it comes to finding a specification of the meaning of such terms. To overcome this difficulty, they adopt an alternative method proposed by Nakov & Hearst (2006), according to which the process of semantic delimitation of compound terms (MWTs) can be rendered easier through the use of paraphrase.

In general terms, within the context of translation as a whole, the chapters in this volume cover a wide variety of specialized languages, and thus offer a wealth of perspectives and foci. They explain the advantages and shortcomings of various techniques and tools that have been devised to tackle the new challenges that are arising, which makes this book a useful contribution to the world of specialized translation today. In each case, the introduction to the subject, the explanation of the methodology, and the description of the challenges encountered throughout the analytical process, all mean that the volume should be accessible not only to specialists in the field, but also to advanced students. This book should also receive a wide readership beyond the bounds of academia. Some of the studies in this volume have direct relevance for specialized translators, since they offer innovative tools and techniques that can help them to

optimize their professional activities and enhance the quality of their work.

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