

Think India (Quarterly Journal)

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International Conference on Indigenous Languages and Translation Studies

held on Saturday, 3rd August 2019

Venue- Seminar Hall, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Jain Deemed-to-be-University, Palace Road, Bengaluru, India



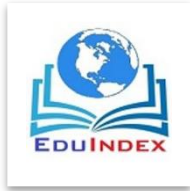
Difficulties in translations from Spanish to English and Vice Versa 'dificultades para traducir del español al ingles.

*Maheshwaran Jayapaul**
Asst.Professor
Jayapaul.maheshwaran@gmail.com
CMS, Jain (Deemed to be University)
Bangalore, India

Abstract

This article primarily focuses on the difficulties one faces while translating from Spanish to English or vice versa. Spanish as a language is markedly different from English, this makes Spanish translation very difficult and as a matter of fact Spanish is one hundred percent of latin root and called Romance Languages as Catalan and Spanish is one among the French, Italian, Portuguese, Occitan, Rhaeto-Romanic and Romanian, and because of these influences these languages are not that easy to translate to other languages due to many linguistic reasons and cultural differences, however one has to prove that he or she is an omniglot or a polyglot than being multilingual. While translating from Spanish to English or vice versa one have to be very careful while converting a document as there a many grammar rules in Spanish that doesn't exist in English at all. Let us look at few grammar differences that the English speakers find it bizarre knowing the unique usage of the Spanish language. In Spanish language an adjective is placed after the noun, however that is not the case in English. So when we translate 'La casa Blanca' it is 'The house white' instead of 'the white house'.

The usage of the definite and indefinite articles in Spanish is a vast difference which is not the case in English. In Spanish there are 14 tenses seven simple and seven compound tenses; however that is not the case in English. Spanish does not involve any one-to-one correspondence as far as use of tenses is concerned. Thus, it can lead to an incorrect use of a simple tense in place of a future or progressive one. If the translator is a native Spanish, he can have a hard time forming negatives or interrogatives in English. This is because in Spanish, there is no auxiliary in



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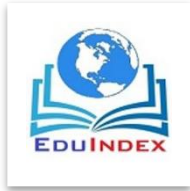
such structures. A translator doing Spanish-English translation should keep this in mind so that there is no issue of non-standard syntax. Even though the word order in Spanish is usually subject-verb-object which is similar to English the entire syntax changes when it comes to possessives as there are no apostrophe in Spanish like for example : in Spanish it is Object + de + person : el gato de Pablo which means Pablo's cat. The apostrophe in English is not in Spanish

To sum up every language has its own colloquialism in place, socio-cultural background that can hinder ones translations and when it comes to grammar the conjugations of different verb tenses, the auxiliaries and the tenses vary so much in comparisons and the morphological differences.

Key words: omniglot, polyglot, multi-lingual, Syntax, auxiliary, conjugation, infinitive of verb morphology and colloquial.

Preamble: The objective of this paper is to throw light on Travails in translation from Spanish to English and vice versa. The researcher aims to highlight the linguistic errors in the landscape of translation. The intention of selecting Spanish as a foreign language to show how unique is this language though it is difficult to learn. Spanish is the second largest language spoken in the world with more than 530 million active speakers and third largest internet users according to the report from the ASALE.

The purpose of the study: This title refers to the linguistics difficulties one faces while translating from Spanish to English vice versa. No languages are simple when it comes to translations from one language to another and this paper focuses on travails in translating from Spanish to English which is unique in form, with lots of exceptions in grammar, the difference in meaning with and without the asento (/) on the vowels. In Spanish, accent marks are important. More often than not, an accent (or lack of it) completely changes the meaning of a word. (í , ó , ú, é,) the tilde (ñ, Ñ) which has a nya sound as in the word canyon, anion , and the palabras de preguntas (the question words or the WH words)(¿), here in the question and the exclamatory words the question mark and the exclamatory mark are upright and right for example Spanish Letters and Accents (á, é, í, ó, ú, ü, ñ, ¿, ¡). Technically these "accent marks" are called diacritics – an extra symbol added to an existing letter. Spanish uses three such diacritics: the diaeresis (ü), the acute accent (é), and the tilde (ñ). What English speakers call a "tilde", Spanish speakers call la virgüilla or la tilde de la eñe.



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Case Studies: findings reveal that the comparisons of unaccented and accented ones for example: **de** (of /from) and where as **dé** (third- person singular present subjunctive); **el** (definite masculine singular) where as **él** (third person singular- he); **si** (if) and **sí** (yes) , **te** (you- object pronoun) and **té** is a tea as in beverage clearly indicates the challenges one can face while translating, this confusion could lead to an ambiguity of the highest order however the other challenges are demonstrative adjective versus demonstrative pronouns. *Este carro no es tan rápido como ése* – “This car isn't as fast as that one” There are also three “neuter” demonstrative pronouns: *esto*, *eso* and *aquello* which are used to refer to abstract concepts and ideas when there's no specific noun being replaced: *me gusta*, *y eso es lo importante*. – “I like it, and that's the important thing”. even though we have lots of online translators one should be aware that the above issues can hinder a good translations. To understand object pronouns, we must first understand the individual parts. English: Raul threw the ball across the hall. Spanish: Raúl tiró la pelota a través del pasillo. The subject of the sentence is “Raul.” He is doing the throwing. “Threw” (“tiró”) is the verb in the sentence. That is the action. The object receives the action, in this case, whatever is getting thrown (“the ball,” “la pelota”).

Colloquial Latin spoken in the provinces of the Roman Empire:

History of Spanish Language originated with dialect of spoken Latin which was brought to the Iberian Peninsula by the Romans during the Second Punic War, in the early 210 BC and evolved in the central parts of the Iberian Peninsula after the fall of the Roman Empire in the fifth century. Language governing bodies – Real Académico Español says that by 2050 America will have 138 million Spanish Speakers adding to 9.2 % to the world's GDP in North America and the European Union.

Which dialect is the best to learn? It depends on the region that you wanted to work, there are many dialects and generally, languages are named after a certain culture or the people or inhabitants of a country. The challenge is there are 21 Spanish speaking countries in the world with lots of colloquial words depending on their socio-cultural backgrounds. There are too many people in the world who think that the only Spanish-speaking countries are Spain and Mexico, but there are lots more!

Let's look at the countries where Spanish is their official language:

Spain

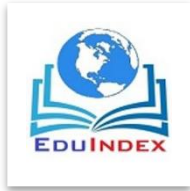
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Estimated population of 46.74 million

Mexico



126 million approximately

South America

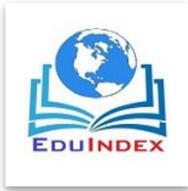
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45 million approximately in Argentina alone

The United States of America



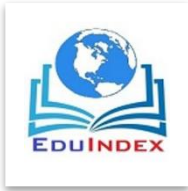
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52 million approximately

The Caribbean Islands



25 million approximately

Over 500 million approximately speak Spanish as an official language.

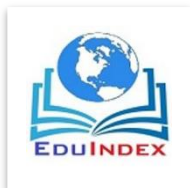
Differences in Morphology

The rules of word formation may vary from language to language. Morphemes are the smallest units of meaning, and they influence the main characteristics of the English language, which is considered to a morphophonemic language.

Morphology of language essentially refers to the inflections of a language. The sequence of acquisition of morphologic constructions can vary between languages depending on the linguistic complexity of the structure in that language (Peña, Bedore & Rappazzo, 2003). For example, Spanish-speaking children acquire reflexive pronouns early, but these develop later in English-speaking children (Gutierrez-Clellen et al., 2000).

Syntax is the linear order of words or phrases in a sentence. Spanish syntax varies in relation to morphologic structure and complexity. The differences in grammatical features between English and Spanish can influence the bilingual Spanish child's use of morphology and syntax in spoken and written English.

Spanish is considered a highly inflected language whereas English is not considered a highly inflected language.



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In Spanish:

Spanish	English
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• inflections are be placed on nouns, verbs, adjectives, articles and pronouns• inflections affect the meaning of the words• verbs can be inflected for aspect, tense, mood, probability/indicative action (has or will occur), person and number• verbs can be conjugated as regular, irregular, reflexive, radical-changing, or orthographical changing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• is not considered a highly inflected language
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The four categories above produce a total of 46 to 47 verb forms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only four or five distinct verb forms are found (Stockwell, Bowen, and Martin, 1965).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Spanish there are two verbs that are not interchangeable (ser and estar of the same verb meaning). ESTAR implies a transitory state of being while SER indicates a permanent state or an innate condition followed by an unique formula DOCTOR and PLACE (Descriptions, Origin, character, time, occupation and relationship) which is always permanent in its form and while translating these conjugations place an important role. The Temporary conditions are Position, location, action.condition and emotions, which are always temporary and one thing very unique is the location being temporary as the world is revolving and the immovable becomes movable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In English there is essentially one copular verb that joins the subject to the verb (is/are).

Conclusion:



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There are many Spanish words that have no English translations as culture is everything, as meaning is really down to context. Translation is about finding the equivalent meaning to a sentence in a different language but more often one finds difficult to get the equivalent words. There is no word like 'insight' in Spanish or one word to say 'shallow' in French. Thus a good translator should know these regions and their cultural background at one's fingertips.

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