

42/2010

*ESTUDIOS DE LÉXICO ESPECIALIZADO*

BY NATIVIDAD GALLARDO AND JOSEFA GÓMEZ DE ENTERRÍA

Pedro A. Fuertes-Olivera

*University of Valladolid*

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Natividad Gallardo & Josefa Gómez de Enterría (eds.)

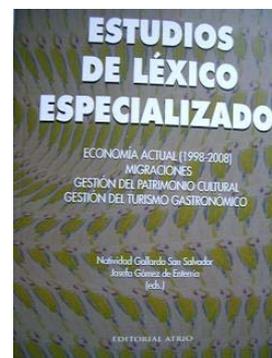
*Estudios de Léxico Especializado.*

*Economía Actual (1998-2008); Migraciones; Gestión del Patrimonio Cultural; Gestión del Turismo Gastronómico.*

Granada: Editorial Atrio, 2009.

ISBN: 978-84-96101-73-9. 485 pages.

<http://www.editorialatrio.es/>



Josefa Gómez de Enterría is an associate professor at the University of Alcalá and main researcher of the research projects Estudio de los lenguajes especializados en español I (Varieties of Spanish Language for Specialised Purposes) or ESLEE I (ref. BFF2001-1506), and ESLEE II (ref.: HUM2005-06109; see [www.eslee.org](http://www.eslee.org)). Natividad Gallardo San Salvador is an associate professor at the University of Granada and head of the Research Group UGR-HUM574 on Terminology and Specialized Translation.

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*Círculo de Lingüística Aplicada a la Comunicación (clac)*, 42, 145-151

Universidad Complutense de Madrid. ISSN 1576-4737. <http://www.ucm.es/info/circulo>

Gómez de Enterría introduces this book by indicating that it offers insights on the vocabularies of four domains: Actual Economics; Migrations; Cultural Heritage Management; and Food Tourism Management. She adds that these four glossaries contain around 5,000 terms in total and explains the publication of the book, here presented as a typical example of the interest Language for Specialised Purposes (LSP) is experimenting in Spain, within the general framework of recent functional approaches to language. My general impression, however, is that the book runs short of expectations, perhaps because it has not paid attention to accepted principles and practices in specialised lexicography/terminology that analyse specialised lexicographical products in terms of the specific needs different user types can have in extra-lexicographical use situations (cf. Fuertes Olivera & Tarp, 2008). For example, the functions of this book, its potential users, and the use situation where it is expected to be used are not commented on in this book.

What we have in the book is a linguistic analysis of four vocabularies, as well as four Spanish-English/English-Spanish word lists concerned with Actual Economics; Migrations; Cultural Heritage Management; and Food Tourism Management. Each part consists of an introduction and a bilingual word list (Spanish-English/English Spanish) that has been elaborated according to traditional practices in specialised lexicography/terminology. On the one hand, the book does not address the relation between LSP and lexicography and its impact on functions, users, and use situations (Bergenholtz et al., 2009). For instance, if by LSP we mean a specific type of text used by technical experts in the course of their work, the vocabularies offered are not very useful considering that they contain few lemmata, do not address the problems of homonymy and polysemy, and offer no culture-specific information. Opitz (1996) referred to these glossaries as deficient from a lexicographical point of view, as such dictionaries tended to be of little interest and to keep their functions to a minimum: they aim at a one-to-one equivalence “and cause continued criticism chiefly in the domain inclusiveness, be it on the grounds of contentious technical scope or in connection with

the perennial problem of obsolescence and innovation which lies at the very heart of all technolects and hence, also of all technical lexicography.” (Opitz 1996: 1079)

If, on the other hand, we consider LSP as a pedagogic concept, these lexicographical products do take almost no notice at all of LSP as a phenomenon and a potential field of action. LSP learners are typically engaged in acquiring basic knowledge in one or more technical subjects. They tend to be young adults, situated in a later phase of their initial occupational training. They are not total beginners in the foreign language, and for them standard specialized dictionaries which are typically designed at the expert level, “are of little help either because equivalences alone do not provide any of the background information necessary to the learner as a novice in his technical subject in order to intelligently de- or encode technical texts in an L2.” (Opitz 1996: 1081) In fact, learners do not master their native terminology and technical insights. Hence, equivalences are usually meaningless. Under these circumstances,

[T]he standard technical dictionary, though generally intended to function chiefly as a translation tool, does virtually nothing to help prevent all sorts of mistakes frequently caused by inadequate discrimination between isomorphs, cogates, conflicting hyperonymization, incompatible standards – in short, by a lack of familiarity with what we might call the idiomatic quality of two different language versions of a technolect.

(Opitz 1996: 1083)

Example (1), below, illustrates that these four glossaries have been elaborated according to the abovementioned old practices:

(1) Entries from *Economía actual (1998-2008) – español / inglés*

**level playing field** (sgm; m)

*level playing field*

**leveraged management buy-out (LMBO)**

*leveraged management buy-out / leveraged management buyout (LMBO)*

⇒ LMBO (Leveraged Management Buy-Out)

⇒ compra apalancada por ejecutivos (CAPE)

**liberalización del mercado** (sgm; f)

*market liberalization*

**licencia shrink-wrap** (sgm; f)

*shrinkwrap licence [GB] / shrink-wrap license [US]*

**licenciario** (m)

*licensee*

**liquidez** (m)

*cash*

**lista muerta** (sgm; f)

*dead list*

**llave privada** (sgm; f) [MX]

⇒ clave privada

**llave pública** (sgm; f) [MX]

⇒ clave pública

**LMBO (leveraged management buy-out)**

⇒ leveraged management buy-out (LMBO)

⇒ compra apalancada por ejecutivos

**localización** (f)

*location*

Example (1) shows that contextualisation (i.e., collocations, examples, etc.) is absent, and that lemma and equivalent selections were not based on *relevance* (for example, **liquidez** translated by *cash* is not a proper term of the sub-field *Economía Actual* (1988-2008)). Example (1) also shows that users can access scattered grammatical data (i.e., the data offered are of little help in most communicative use situations; cf. Fuertes-Olivera & Arribas-Baño 2008; Fuertes-Olivera, 2010). Finally, the dictionary entries quoted in (1) do not include factual information (i.e., they cannot be used in cognitive use situations; cf. Tarp, 2008).

Part 1 is devoted to Actual Economics. Gómez de Enterría and Manuel Martí introduce the “vocabulario de la economía actual (1998-2008)”, a 23-page chapter devoted to explaining “la naturaleza del nuevo vocabulario” (Eng: the nature of the new vocabulary), “el corpus textual” (Eng: text corpus), “las características del glosario” (Eng: characteristics of the glossary), “naturaleza del vocabulario” (Eng: nature of vocabulary), “conclusiones” (Eng: conclusions), and “referencias bibliográficas” (Eng: references). Natividad Gallardo San Salvador describes *migrations* in “El fenómeno social de las migraciones: reflejo en la lengua y su terminología”. This second part also contains an introduction (pages 135 to 161), and two bilingual word lists. The introduction follows the macrostructure previously commented on and highlights the language characteristics of the terms that are lemmatised in the two word lists: the Spanish-English part and the English-Spanish one that contain 890 and 894 dictionary entries respectively. Part 3 deals with cultural tourism. Teresa Abejón Peña and Soledad Hernando Tundidor write “El léxico especializado del turismo cultural” (pages 295 to 318) and elaborate the bilingual glossary *Gestión del Patrimonio Cultural*, whose Spanish-English lists lemmatises 599 lemmata and the English-Spanish part lists 348 lemmas. Finally, Carmen Navarro introduces the language and terminology of food tourism in “Gastronomía: lengua y terminología” that consists of an introduction (pages 409 to 424) and a bilingual glossary: the Spanish-English part contains 308 entries and the English-Spanish section increases up to 458 terms. In general, each part devotes around 70% of the introduction to describing the linguistic characteristics of the term,

which highlights that this book has not paid attention to lexicographical matters such as access routes, user types, dictionary functions, etc. For example, the nature of economic discourse presents economic terms as the result of two well-known processes: de-terminologization and vocabulary extensions through loans, calques, metaphorical extensions, acronyms, and word truncations.

The figures quoted for each part of the four glossaries indicate a surprising fact: the lemmata of the Spanish- English is similar in size to the English-Spanish one (only the word list of food tourism is an exception), a finding that is contrary to accepted wisdom regarding the use of English as *lingua franca*. In particular, research has shown that terms are usually coined in English and then adapted to other languages, and that there are around 30% more English terms than Spanish ones in, say, business/economics vocabularies (Fuertes-Olivera & Arribas-Baño, 2008). These surprising figures may be the result of a flawed process of lemma selection that rest on corpora, but not on relevance, something that must be put into question when selecting the lemmata that must be included in specialised dictionaries (Tarp, 2008).

All in all, and in spite of the abovementioned shortcomings, the book must be welcome: specialised lexicography needs to be part and parcel of main stream in Spanish university communication departments (language, translation, etc.) considering that description of terminologies and compilations of specialised dictionaries are necessary for developing a knowledge-based economy.

Received March 7, 2010

Accepted April 29, 2010

Published May 15, 2010

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