



Revision of a Non-Specialised Translation: List of Error Categories for Candidates (English into Spanish)

The translation includes errors at word, phrase or sentence level across the following categories:

Error Category	Examples of Errors
<p>1. Distortion: An element of meaning in the source text is altered in the target text. A distortion can occur in an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.</p>	<p>a) Source language text: <u>this week</u> the government announced that all public servants would get a pay rise Correct version: <i>El gobierno anuncio <u>esta semana</u> que todos los funcionarios recibirían un aumento.</i> Incorrect version: <i>El gobierno anunció que todos los funcionarios recibirían un aumento <u>esta semana</u>.</i> (Moving the <i>this week</i> changes the time reference from the announcement to the pay rise, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.)</p> <p>b) Source language text: <i>the witness described the thief as a young man with <u>black</u> hair</i> Correct version: <i>el testigo describió al ladrón como un joven de pelo <u>negro</u>.</i> Incorrect version: <i>el testigo describió al ladrón como un joven de pelo <u>rubio</u>.</i> (Incorrect translation of the adjective, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.)</p>
<p>2. Unjustified omission: An element of meaning in the source text is not transferred into the target text. An unjustified omission can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.</p>	<p>Source language text: <i>the largest increases in soil carbon levels are obtained in the first 6–8 years after changes in land management, <u>and after 35 years the rate of change drops to zero</u></i> Correct version: <i>Los más grandes incrementos en los niveles de carbono en el suelo se obtienen en los primeros 6 a 8 años tras los cambios en la gestión de la tierra, y <u>35 años después el índice de cambio cae a cero</u></i> Incorrect version: <i>Los más grandes incrementos en los niveles de carbono en el suelo se obtienen en los primeros 6 a 8 años tras los cambios en la gestión de la tierra, y <u>35 años después el índice de cambio cae a cero</u></i> (Omission of the underlined clause results in a major loss of meaning in the context of the whole sentence.)</p>
<p>3. Unjustified addition: An element of meaning that does not exist in the source text is added to the target text. An unjustified addition can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.</p>	<p>Source language text: <i>would guarantee that people leaving the workforce in their mid-60s enjoyed a financially secure retirement</i> Correct version: <i>garantizaría que las personas que se retiran de la fuerza laboral a los sesenta y tantos años disfrutarían de seguridad económica con una jubilación cómoda.</i> Incorrect version: <i>garantizaría que las personas que se retiran de la fuerza laboral a los sesenta y tantos años disfrutarían de seguridad económica con una jubilación cómoda <u>por el resto de sus vidas</u>.</i> (The underlined words were not found in the original text, nor were they implied, and inserting them has a major impact on the transfer of meaning.)</p>



<p>4. Inappropriate register: Incorrect variety of language or inappropriate vocabulary for the text type (e.g. inappropriate level of formality or informality).</p>	<p>Source language text: <i>The President has come under fire from parents angry about the content of his speech</i> Correct version: <i>El Presidente recibió fuertes críticas de padres <u>irritados</u> con el contenido de su discurso</i> Incorrect version: <i>El Presidente recibió fuertes críticas de padres <u>cabreados</u> con el contenido de su discurso</i> (In the formal, educated register expected from a journalistic piece of writing, the use of 'cabreados' would be considered inappropriate.)</p>
<p>5. Unidiomatic expression: An expression sounding unnatural or awkward to a native speaker irrespective of the context in which the expression is used, but the intended meaning can be understood.</p>	<p>a) Source language text: <i>The man goes to his house.</i> Correct version: <i>El hombre <u>va</u> para su casa.</i> Incorrect version: <i>El hombre <u>camina</u> para su casa.</i> (In this context, the word 'va' is commonly used, even though 'camina' would still be understood.)</p> <p>b) Source language text: [on an official form] <u>Occupation</u>: engineer Correct version: [en un formulario oficial] <u>Profesión</u>: ingeniero Incorrect version: <u>Trabajo</u>: ingeniero (In this context, the word 'profesión' is commonly used, even though 'trabajo' would still be understood.)</p> <p>c) Source language text: <i>Many of them dream of finding a well-paid job in Australia.</i> Correct version: <i>Muchos de ellos sueñan <u>con</u> encontrar un trabajo bien remunerado en Australia.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Muchos de ellos sueñan <u>de</u> encontrar un trabajo bien remunerado en Australia</i> (The verb 'soñar' is normally collocated with the preposition 'con', even though the meaning could be understood.)</p>
<p>6. Error of grammar, syntax: Error in structuring words, clauses and phrases of a language. E.g. incorrect word type/form; incorrect verb tense/form; agreement error between subject- verb, noun-pronoun, adjective- noun, etc.</p>	<p>a) Source language text: <i>the symptoms include <u>dizziness and nausea</u></i> Correct version: <i>los síntomas incluyen <u>mareos y náuseas</u></i> Incorrect version: <i>los síntomas incluyen <u>mareado y náuseas</u></i> (Incorrect word form, i.e. use of adjective instead of noun)</p> <p>b) Source language text: <i>Spanish police <u>are</u> conducting a search operation in the area</i> Correct version: <i>La policía española <u>está</u> realizando una operación de búsqueda en la zona</i> Incorrect version: <i>La policía española <u>están</u> realizando una operación de búsqueda en la zona</i> (Number agreement between subject and verb)</p>



	<p>c) Source language text: <i>The asylum-seeker was denied access to legal aid.</i> Correct version: <i>Se <u>le</u> denegó acceso a la ayuda legal al solicitante de asilo.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Se <u>lo</u> denegó acceso a la ayuda legal al solicitante de asilo.</i> (Incorrect pronoun)</p> <p>d) Source language text: <i>It is the kind of house many of us would make a sacrifice for.</i> Correct version: <i>Es el tipo de casa <u>por la que</u> muchos de nosotros haríamos algún sacrificio.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Es el tipo de casa <u>la cual</u> muchos de nosotros haríamos algún sacrificio <u>por ella</u>.</i> (Incorrect, unidiomatic sentence structure)</p>
7. Error of spelling: Error in forming words with letters or characters. E.g. misspelling of a word/character, incorrect capitalisation.	Source language text: <i>Waters from Lake Argentino eventually flow into the Atlantic Ocean.</i> Correct version: <i>Las aguas del <u>Lago Argentino</u> desembocan finalmente en el Océano Atlántico.</i> Incorrect version: <i>Las aguas del <u>Lago argentino</u> desembocan finalmente en el Océano Atlántico</i> (Capitalisation error, i.e. as Argentino is the name of the lake, it should have a capital letter in Spanish.)
8. Error of punctuation: Error in use of marks that separate sentences and their elements, and clarify meaning. E.g. incorrect comma, full-stop, apostrophe, inverted commas, etc.	Source language text: <i>The government is about to change its policy on the taxation of investment trusts.</i> Correct version: <i>El gobierno está a punto de cambiar su política impositiva sobre sociedades de inversiones.</i> Incorrect version: <i>El gobierno, está a punto de cambiar su política impositiva sobre sociedades de inversiones</i> (Incorrect comma usage, i.e. the comma incorrectly separates the subject from its verb.)