



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.</p> <p>A distortion can occur in an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.</p>	<p>a) Source language text: <i>this week</i> 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: the witness described the thief as a young man with <u>black</u> hair 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.</p> <p>An unjustified omission can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.</p>	<p>Source language text: 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> 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, <u>y 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.</i> (Omission of the underlined clause results in a major loss of meaning in the context of the whole sentence.)</p>



<p>3. Unjustified insertion: An element of meaning that does not exist in the source text is added to the target text.</p> <p>An unjustified insertion 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></p> <p>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></p> <p>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></p> <p>(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: An expression or variety of language considered by a native speaker to be inappropriate to the specific context in which it is used.</p>	<p>Source language text: <i>The President has come under fire from parents angry about the content of his speech</i></p> <p>Correct version: <i>El Presidente recibió fuertes críticas de padres <u>irritados</u> con el contenido de su discurso</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>El Presidente recibió fuertes críticas de padres <u>cabreados</u> con el contenido de su discurso</i></p> <p>(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></p> <p>Correct version: <i>El hombre <u>va</u> para su casa.</i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>El hombre <u>camina</u> para su casa.</i></p> <p>(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] <i>Occupation: engineer</i></p> <p>Correct version: [en un formulario oficial] <i>Profesión: <u>ingeniero</u></i></p> <p>Incorrect version: <i>Trabajo: ingeniero</i></p> <p>(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 muchos de nosotros haríamos algún sacrificio.</u></i> Incorrect version: <i>Es el tipo de casa <u>la cual muchos de nosotros haríamos algún sacrificio por ella.</u></i> (Incorrect, unidiomatic sentence structure)</p>



<p>7. Error of spelling: Error in forming words with letters or characters. E.g. misspelling of a word/character, incorrect capitalisation.</p>	<p>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 <i>Argentino</i> is the name of the lake, it should have a capital letter in Spanish.)</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.)</p>