

**THE SWORN TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE  
BRITISH GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE: A FIRST GLANCE AT THEIR  
TERMINOLOGY IN THE ENGLISH–SPANISH AND ENGLISH–  
GALICIAN LANGUAGE COMBINATIONS**

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## 1. Introduction

Documents issued by official bodies, depending on their various degrees of specialisation,<sup>1</sup> may sometimes resort to vocabulary from different areas of expertise such as law or economics. Consequently, translators tasked with the interlingual, and cross-cultural transfer of these texts must possess not only a thorough understanding but also a strong command of numerous specialised terms, expressions, and formulas in the relevant languages. For instance, when translating a marriage certificate issued by the British General Register Office, a translator must effectively handle legal vocabulary and be familiar with legal language conventions.

Moreover, when working with documents from the aforementioned institution, certain similarities and differences may become apparent. According to Borja Albi (2007: 203), similarities are particularly evident in the macrostructure of the documents, as this is established by law. These similarities facilitate the translator's work because once a document has been translated, the same target text can serve as a template for future assignments.

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<sup>1</sup> Following Mayoral Asensio and Diaz Fouces (2011: 47–48), we have chosen to categorise communication along a gradient based on its degree of specialisation, while rejecting the “specialised” and “non-specialised” binary distinction when discussing the same topic. Accordingly, Franco Aixelá (2015: 2) maintains that for a text to be considered specialised, it only needs to make use of a particular vocabulary, as well as refer to concepts that require a certain degree of expertise. Consequently, Franco Aixelá considers that the use of the term “specialised” becomes meaningless, as it could be employed to refer to any text.



Additionally, the potential resemblances between texts in the two languages suggest that constructing corpora is an effective solution, as it provides valuable linguistic resources for professional translation practice (Borja Albi 2007: 203). Differences, on the other hand, primarily arise from potential variations depending on the county in the United Kingdom where the certificates are issued.

Consequently, this paper has a two-fold aim. First, it seeks to provide a preliminary approach to the linguistic and cultural transfer of certificates issued by the British General Register Office, with a focus on their sworn translation, which tends to be the most common transfer modality for such documents. Second, it aims to provide an overview of the construction of specialised multilingual glossaries from comparable textual collections.<sup>2</sup> As for the languages involved, the work to be done involves English as the source language and Spanish and Galician —a minority language spoken in Galicia, a region in north-western Spain— as the target languages.

## 2. Sworn translation: a unique translation modality

The terms “legal translation” and “sworn translation” concern translation modalities that are sometimes misleading, especially to those unfamiliar with professional translation practice. While there are some similarities between the two modalities in certain aspects, they differ in some other respects, as described in the next subsection.

### 2.1. *Legal translation and sworn translation: similarities and differences*

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<sup>2</sup> Comparable corpora, whether bilingual or multilingual, consist of “collections of original texts in two or more languages, which are assembled on the basis of similar design criteria, e.g., subject matter, topic, communicative situation” (Laviosa 2010: 84). The texts those corpora contain “are comparable but not in translational relationship to one another” (Hu 2016: 41); they are mainly employed “to discover functional translation equivalents” (Laviosa 2010: 84) and are “often used in contrastive analysis between different languages” (Hu 2016: 42). Furthermore, comparable corpora can also be monolingual when they “consist of two sets of texts in the same language, one containing original text and the other translations” (Saldanha and O’Brien 2013: 67).

Legal translation, according to Borja Albi (2007: 29, 33), involves the transfer of documents used in legal relations, either between citizens and the government (such as complaints or lawsuits) or between citizens themselves, whenever there is legal significance (for example, agreements or powers of attorney). Highlighting its key aspects, Sierocka (2023: 1630) posits that translators must not only understand the specialised concepts in the legal systems involved but also have a good knowledge of the nature of these concepts, which “are deeply rooted in the culture, history, philosophy, ethics as well as the religions of a particular nation”.

Regarding the translation process itself, Borja Albi (2007: 31-32) argues that methodologies in legal translation cannot be simplified into categories like literal versus free translation. Instead, other important features, such as the *skopos* of the translated text, must be considered. This also applies to translation techniques, as each situation must be approached independently to select the best alternatives for each specific case.

Sworn translation, however, is a different modality. At the beginning of this century, Mayoral Asensio (2003: 1) noted that sworn translation was gaining importance in society and was of interest to students, trainers, and practitioners. The main difference lies in the agent authorised to perform the task. In this sense, sworn translations can only be produced by accredited translators, who act as notary publics, attesting to the accuracy of the target text compared to the source text.

Also known as “official translation” or “certified translation”, sworn translation involves transferring documents with legal effect, regardless of their content, which can be legal or of another nature, such as scientific, economic, or literary (Borja Albi 2007: 38). Even a love letter could be subject to sworn translation if its content is relevant, for instance, in a court proceeding. As Mayoral Asensio (1999: 35) remarks, any text can be required in a legal process or in communication with an official institution. Thus, the target texts are considered “translations that meet the requirements to serve as legally valid instruments in a target country” (Mayoral Asensio 2003: 1). Ortega Arjonilla (2005: 116-117) adds that the scope of sworn translation is not limited by the nature of the source texts but by the purpose of the target texts, which is to verify their authenticity.

Additionally, another relevant aspect that must also be considered given the aim of this article concerns the different strategies translators use. As Prieto Ramos (2002: 31) observes, although the purpose of the target text is important in legal translation, it gains even more relevance in sworn translation. The author himself provides the translation of a *Cédula de emplazamiento* into English as an example and asserts that “in the translation of court names, ‘emphasis’ must be put on their identification, and we must ‘focus’ on the SC [source culture]” (Prieto Ramos 2002: 31).

Regarding translation procedures and techniques, special attention should be paid to the differences between “sworn translation” and “conventional translation”.<sup>3</sup> In sworn translation, the purpose of the text is considered, in addition to translation techniques (which vary more compared to legal translation). Additionally, the two modalities differ in other aspects, such as the format of the target texts or the possibility of employing translators’ notes, either within the text (Prieto Ramos 2002: 35) or on a separate page (Mariotto 1991: 30), to provide supplementary information that clarifies certain concepts for the target reader or explains cultural nuances.

## 2.2. Sworn translation practice in Spain

In Spain, the *Oficina de Interpretación de Lenguas*,<sup>4</sup> which reports to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, is responsible for sworn translation from a foreign language into Spanish and vice versa. For sworn translation into and from Spain’s co-official languages (Basque, Catalan, and Galician), this competence has been transferred to the respective autonomous governments. In the case of the present research, the *Secretaría*

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<sup>3</sup> The term “conventional translation” is used here to refer to the most common type of translation, as opposed to “sworn translation”. The former refers to the type of translation that most laypeople are familiar with. The latter requires a different working methodology, in addition to the fact that the target texts must contain a sworn translator’s declaration at the end, together with the seal and signature of the translator responsible for the transfer process, at least on the last page of the translation, although the rest of the document may also be signed and sealed.

<sup>4</sup> Information regarding sworn translation and interpretation in Spain is available on its website:

<<https://www.exteriores.gob.es/es/ServiciosAlCiudadano/Paginas/Traductores-Interpretes-jurados.aspx>> [accessed 4 December 2024].

*Xeral de Política Lingüística*,<sup>5</sup> which reports to the Galician autonomous government *Xunta de Galicia*, is the institution responsible for sworn translation into and from Galician.<sup>6</sup>

In addition, regarding regulations and recommendations for sworn translation practice in Spain, there are no mandatory provisions beyond the legal requirements published by the aforementioned institutions, such as on how to introduce the paratextual elements that must be included in sworn translations (signature, seal, and translators’ declaration).<sup>7</sup> Notwithstanding the above, some translator associations have published guidelines that, while not legally binding, “have become common practice among TIJs [*traductores-intérpretes jurados*, sworn translators-interpreters]” (Castillo Bernal 2017: 493). These include the *Asociación Profesional Española de Traductores e Intérpretes* (APETI) (APETI 1992) and the *Asociación Galega de Profesionais da Tradución e da Interpretación* (AGPTI), whose guidelines are freely available online.<sup>8</sup>

The lack of recommendations for sworn translation practice occasionally results in an absence of uniformity regarding certain formal aspects of the target texts, such as the use of stamp-impressed paper or the format of the translations. As Mayoral Asensio (2000: 134) points out, there is no obligation, either by the

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<sup>5</sup> Information regarding sworn translation and interpretation from and into Galician can be found on its website: <<https://www.lingua.gal/a-secretaria-xeral/servizos/traducion-e-interpretacion-xurada>> [accessed 4 December 2024].

<sup>6</sup> Related to this, Galanes Santos (2010) provides a thorough overview of the appointment of sworn translators and interpreters in Spain. On his part, Vigier-Moreno (2009) delves into the so-called “academic accreditation”—that is, the process of becoming a sworn translator and interpreter through credit validation available for those who can prove that they have received the necessary training on legal and business translation and interpretation.

<sup>7</sup> Sworn translation and interpretation from a foreign language into Spanish and vice versa is governed by the *Real Decreto 724/2020, de 4 de agosto, por el que se aprueba el Reglamento de la Oficina de Interpretación de Lenguas del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación*; while sworn translation and interpretation from and into Galician is governed by the *Decreto 267/2002, do 13 de xuño, polo que se regula a habilitación profesional para a tradución e a interpretación xurada doutras linguas para o galego, e viceversa*, modified by the *Decreto 43/2009, do 26 de febreiro, polo que se modifica o Decreto 267/20002, do 13 de xuño, polo que se regula a habilitación profesional para a tradución e a interpretación xurada doutras linguas para o galego e viceversa*.

<sup>8</sup> The guidelines published by AGPTI are available at: <[https://www.agpti.org/wp-content/uploads/AGPTI\\_orientacions\\_metodoloxicas\\_para\\_a\\_realizacion\\_de\\_traducions\\_xuradaspdf.pdf](https://www.agpti.org/wp-content/uploads/AGPTI_orientacions_metodoloxicas_para_a_realizacion_de_traducions_xuradaspdf.pdf)> [accessed 4 December 2024].

corresponding accreditation bodies or by any association of translators, to conform to a particular format. Consequently, some translators may opt to keep the format of the original text unchanged in the translation (Prieto Ramos 2002: 35), following Borja Albi’s (2007: 220) recommendations, while others may proceed differently, such as drafting the translated document as body text (Romans 1997: 182–183). Ultimately, the final decision rests with the translator.

### 2.3. *Research on sworn translation*

Sworn translation has not been a popular subject for researchers, at least until recent times. This might be due to its distinctive nature when compared to other translation modalities. A search for the terms “sworn translation” and its Spanish equivalent “traducción jurada” on the BITRA (Bibliography of Interpreting and Translation) database<sup>9</sup> returns a total of 209 and 121 occurrences, respectively. These results contrast with the data gathered for “legal translation” and “traducción jurídica”, which yield 3,411 and 501 occurrences, respectively. A similar situation occurs with the Scopus database.<sup>10</sup> The queries for “sworn translation” and “traducción jurada” return 61 and 6 occurrences, respectively; whereas “legal translation” and “traducción jurídica” yield 3,652 and 37 occurrences, respectively. Furthermore, based on data retrieved from the Scopus database, research on sworn translation was fairly limited until 2010, gaining significance from 2011 onwards. This may be due to a significant change in 2009 concerning the criteria for practising as a sworn translator and interpreter in Spain.

The nature of the aforementioned studies varies greatly. Some delve specifically into the issue under discussion. These have been released not only in book format —for example, Elena García (2001), Mayoral Asensio (2003), and Cayron (2017)— but also in

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<sup>9</sup> BITRA is an open access database that is freely available to all here: <[https://aplicacionesua.cpd.ua.es/tra\\_int/usu/buscar.asp?idioma=en](https://aplicacionesua.cpd.ua.es/tra_int/usu/buscar.asp?idioma=en)> [accessed 4 December 2024]. As of December 2023, it consists of ca. 94,000 entries, including more than 56,000 abstracts and nearly 130,000 citations assigned (Franco Aixelá 2001–2024).

<sup>10</sup> The Scopus database can be accessed online on a subscription basis here: <<https://www.scopus.com/search/form.uri?display=basic#basic>> [accessed 4 December 2024].



paper or book chapter format, such as Duro Moreno (1997), Mayoral Asensio (1991, 1994, 1995, 2008, and 2012), Romans (1997), Castillo Bernal (2017), Cascales Serrano (2021), Ordóñez-López (2021), and Taibi and Ozolins (2023). Additionally, some doctoral research focuses specifically on the topic, such as that by Caurel Santiago (2019).

Other research investigates both legal and sworn translation, perhaps due to their similarities in certain respects, as mentioned in subsection 2.1. These analyses, in either book or volume format, include San Ginés Aguilar and Ortega Arjonilla (1997), Šarčević (1997), Alcaraz Varó and Hughes (2002), Borja Albi (2007), Baigorri Jalón and Campbell (2009), Alonso Araguás, Baigorri Jalón, and Campbell (2010), Borja Albi and Prieto Ramos (2013), and Fernández de Casadevante Mayordomo (2021).

Finally, several journal articles focus particularly on the practice of sworn translation and address the transference of precise documents, while others examine this topic more generally. Among the most relevant are Mayoral Asensio (2002), Fera García (1999), Galanes Santos, Del Pozo Triviño and Cruces Colado (2012), Moreiras Corral (2013), and Barceló Martínez (2021).

### 3. Cultural implications of the translation of official documents

The British General Register Office and the Spanish *Registro Civil* are the two institutions issuing the certificates that are the focus of this research. To a certain extent, they can be considered reasonably equivalent in their respective countries given the roles they play. It should be noted that the *Registro Civil* is under the Spanish Department of Justice, whereas the jurisdiction of the General Register Office depends on the British regional administration (counties). Regardless, it is important to remember that we are mediating between two different legal systems (namely Common Law and Continental Law). In this regard, Mayoral Asensio (2012: 204) posits:

Quando traducimos entre sistemas tan diferentes como el Common Law y el derecho continental español, es importante y útil mantener un sistema de referencia del país de la traducción que nos permita establecer equivalencias, comparaciones, analogías, diferencias, etc., así como abrirnos la posibilidad de utilizar estructuras macro

o microtextuales y formas terminológicas, fraseológicas o formulaicas que den verosimilitud al documento traducido.

Concerning the foregoing, the British General Register Office, according to the information available on its website,<sup>11</sup> “holds records of births, deaths, marriages, civil partnerships, stillbirths, and adoptions in England and Wales.” As for the Spanish *Registro Civil*, based on the information on its website,<sup>12</sup> it keeps records concerning the civil status of people, namely:

El nacimiento, la filiación, el nombre y apellidos y cambios sobre los mismos, la emancipación y habilitación de edad, las modificaciones judiciales de la capacidad de las personas o que éstas han sido declaradas en concurso, quiebra o suspensión de pagos, las declaraciones de ausencia o fallecimiento, la nacionalidad y vecindad, la patria potestad, tutela y demás representaciones que señala la Ley, el matrimonio y la defunción.

The Spanish *Registro Civil* is organised into four sections:<sup>13</sup> *Nacimientos y general* (*Nacimientos e xeral*, Births and General); *Matrimonios* (*Matrimonios*, Marriages); *Defunciones* (*Defuncions*, Deaths); and *Tutelas y representaciones legales* (*Tutelas e representacions legais*, Guardianships and legal representations).

Regarding the documents delivered by these legal bodies, although there appear to be similarities, the certificates and reports issued vary slightly. This concerns texts portraying a legal content or effect, implying that variations between the legal systems involved are also of paramount importance when providing the most accurate translation proposals. In this regard, Mayoral Asensio (2012: 204) states:

Respecto a las asimetrías documentales -inexistencia en sistema de la traducción de un documento paralelo existen en el sistema origen-, diremos que no se producen hoy por hoy en lo relativo a

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<sup>11</sup> The website of the British General Register Office can be consulted here: <<https://www.gov.uk/general-register-office>> [accessed 4 December 2024].

<sup>12</sup> The website of the Spanish *Registro Civil* can be consulted here: <<https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/es/ciudadania/estado-civil/registro-civil>> [accessed 4 December 2024].

<sup>13</sup> Translations into the languages concerned in this paper (i.e. English, Spanish, and Galician) are provided here and on subsequent occasions.



nacimientos y defunciones -se producirán cuando el documento registral español sea una ficha única que contenga toda la información personal-. Si habríamos encontrado esta asimetría en caso de habernos ocupado de otros documentos relacionados con la familia y matrimonio, donde son numerosos los documentos originales que no encuentran su paralelo en el sistema español o viceversa: autorización ante notario de los padres para contraer matrimonio frente a certificado de capacidad nupcial; contrato de matrimonio frente a certificado de matrimonio [...].

The documents issued by the British General Register Office are as follows:

- Certificate of birth (*Certificado de nacimiento, Certificado de nacimiento*);
- Certificate of marriage (*Certificado de matrimonio, Certificado de matrimonio*);
- Certificate of death (*Certificado de defunción, Certificado de defunción*);
- Certificate of civil partnership (*Certificado de enlace civil, Certificado de enlace civil*); and
- Certificate of adoption (*Certificado de adopción, Certificado de adopción*).

As for the four sections of the Spanish *Registro Civil*, they are responsible for delivering the following documents:

- *Certificado de nacimiento* (*Certificado de nacimiento, Certificate of birth*);
- *Certificado de matrimonio* (*Certificado de matrimonio, Certificate of marriage*);
- *Certificado de defunción* (*Certificado de defunción, Certificate of death*);
- *Inscripción de nacimiento* (*Inscripción de nacimiento, Registration of birth*);
- *Inscripción de matrimonio* (*Inscripción de matrimonio, Registration of marriage*);
- *Inscripción de defunción* (*Inscripción de defunción, Registration of death*);
- *Certificado de fe de vida y estado* (*Certificado de fe de vida e estado, Life certificate*); and

- *Rectificación registral del sexo (Rectificación rexistral do sexo, Registry corrections related to the sex of people).*

#### 4. Building specialised glossaries

The translation of specialised texts, as mentioned previously, requires that translators address different terms, expressions, and formulas typical of the documents they are working on. In this context, specialised vocabularies and glossaries can become invaluable resources for their work. These glossaries may comprise specialised terminology in the source language in addition to a possible translation proposal into the target language(s). Nevertheless, before closely examining the creation of glossaries, we should examine the first stage, i.e. the original texts that must be translated.

Borja Albi (2007: 203) posits that the certificates issued by the British General Register Office have features typical of the legal and administrative style. Hence, to make terminology extraction easier, she proposes the creation of textual corpora. These compilations will subsequently be used in the construction of multilingual glossaries. Corpus-based approaches are not new in Translation Studies; corpora have been used since the mid-1990s to form a descriptive analysis of the translated text (Corpas Pastor 2008: 98).

The construction of specialised glossaries from text corpora implies that the larger the corpus, the better the glossary, considering that more entries will be included. The terminology mentioned in this article, as noted earlier, is restricted to certificates and documents issued by the British General Register Office. Nevertheless, we do not seek to create an extensive glossary but rather to establish the basis for further research. This means that only the most common terms, expressions, and formulas will be included.

In the creation of specialised vocabularies, languages are also an important aspect. Although it is likely that the most common glossaries are those which comprise two languages (called “bilingual glossaries”), in this case, three languages are involved: English as the source language and Spanish and Galician as the target languages. There are several reasons for including Galician as one of the target languages, one of the most important being the extremely limited number of published studies on this subject in that language. The creation of specialised glossaries including

Galician will be a good starting point for further research into this subject in this language. Nevertheless, the use of certificates in Galician to construct the glossary is mainly limited to the autonomous regional community where this language is spoken.

As for the translation process, due to the significant amount of research that has already been—and is currently being—conducted on the English-Spanish language combination, there is a considerable volume of literature on this topic, implying a greater number of translation solutions. In contrast, research on legal translations between English and Galician is very restricted, entailing more difficulties when consulting materials to provide translation equivalents. In this regard, the use of monolingual and bilingual (Spanish-Galician) legal language manuals (such as García Cancela and Díaz Abreira 1994) will be useful. Moreover, bilingual (Spanish-Galician) parallel corpora (such as the LEGA Corpus),<sup>14</sup> might also be useful for the task referred to above.

## 5. Glossary

Table 1 below comprises a collection of the terms, expressions, and legal formulas commonly employed in documents issued by the British General Register Office.<sup>15</sup> Some are also mentioned in Mayoral Asensio’s (2012) paper on the translation of birth and death certificates from English into Spanish. The data that make up the glossary stems partially from a previous research study on the sworn translation of British birth certificates (Meiriño Gómez 2010).

English	Spanish	Galician
<b>A</b>		
1 Application number	número de solicitud	número de solicitude
<b>B</b>		
2 Bachelor	soltero, soltera	solteiro, solteira

<sup>14</sup> The LEGA Corpus is a Galician-Spanish parallel corpus of legal texts that can be freely consulted online via this link:

<<https://ilg.usc.gal/cluvi/index.php?corpus=11&tipo=3&lang=en>> [accessed 4 December 2024]. The said compilation is a sub-collection of the CLUVI Corpus, which comprises “an open collection of human-annotated sentence-level aligned parallel corpora originally designed to cover specific areas of the contemporary Galician language in relation to other languages” (Gómez Guinovart 2019: 142).

<sup>15</sup> Bracketed information might be added, if necessary, within the translated text itself (intertextual notes) as footnotes or on a separate page, depending on the translator’s criteria.



3	Birth and Deaths Registration Act 1953	<i>Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953</i> [ley que regula las inscripciones en el Registro Civil británico]	<i>Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953</i> [lei que regula as inscriçions no Rexistro Civil británico]
<b>C</b>			
4	Cause of death	causa de la muerte, causa del fallecimiento	causa da morte, causa do falecemento
5	Certified Copy of an Entry of Birth	Acta de nacimiento	Acta de nacemento
6	Certified Copy of an Entry of Death	Acta de defunción	Acta de defunción
7	Certified Copy of an Entry of Marriage	Acta de matrimonio	Acta de matrimonio
8	Civil partnership	unión civil	unión civil
9	Civil Partnership Act 2004	<i>Civil Partnership Act 2004</i> [ley que regula las uniones civiles en Reino Unido]	<i>Civil Partnership Act 2004</i> [lei que regula as unións civís no Reino Unido]
10	Condition	estado civil	estado civil
<b>E</b>			
11	Entry	incripción	inscriçión
<b>G</b>			
12	General Register Office	<i>General Register Office</i> [Registro Civil británico]	<i>General Register Office</i> [Rexistro Civil británico]
13	Given at	Expedido por	Expedido por
<b>I</b>			
14	I _____ Registrar of the District of _____ hereby certify	Yo _____ <i>Registrar</i> [funcionario encargado de llevar los registros de nacimientos, defunciones y matrimonios en Inglaterra y Gales] del distrito de _____ a través de este documento certifico	Eu _____ <i>Registrar</i> [funcionario encargado de levar os rexistros de nacementos, defuncións e matrimonios en Inglaterra e Gales] do distrito de _____ a través deste documento certifico
15	Issue	expedición	expedición
<b>M</b>			
16	Maiden surname	apellido de soltera	apelido de solteira
17	Marital status	estado civil	estado civil
18	Marriage Notice Book	<i>Marriage Notice Book</i> [registro de amonestaciones matrimoniales]	<i>Marriage Notice Book</i> [rexistro de amonestacións matrimoniais]

19	Marriage solemnized at	matrimonio celebrado en	casamento celebrado en
<b>N</b>			
20	Notice was duly entered	Se realizó la correspondiente inscripción	Realizouse a correspondente inscrición
<b>R</b>			
21	Rank or profession	Rango o profesión	Rango ou profesión
22	Register in my custody	registro bajo mi custodia	rexistro baixo a miña custodia
23	Registrar	<i>registrar</i> [funcionario encargado de llevar los registros de nacimientos, defunciones y matrimonios en Inglaterra y Gales]	<i>registrar</i> [funcionario encargado de levar os rexistros de nacementos, defuncións e matrimonios en Inglaterra e Gales]
24	Registration district	distrito del registro	distrito do rexistro
<b>S</b>			
25	Single	soltero, soltera	solteiro, solteira
26	Superintendent Registrar	<i>Superintendent Registrar</i> [director del Registro Civil en Inglaterra y Gales]	<i>Superintendent Registrar</i> [director do Rexistro Civil en Inglaterra e Gales]
<b>T</b>			
27	True copy	copia fiel	copia fiel
<b>W</b>			
28	Warning: a certificate is not evidence of identity	Aviso: una certificación no sirve como prueba de identidad	Aviso: unha certificación non serve como proba de identidade

Table 1: Multilingual glossary comprising English vocabulary, together with its Spanish and Galician versions

## 6. Conclusions

The main conclusion that can be drawn from this research concerns the necessity to work in the field of sworn translation to create glossaries and vocabularies that would be useful for translators in their professional practice. The main objective of these linguistic resources is not to establish a single translation proposal but to help translators identify the best alternatives for certain terms,

expressions, and formulas that may lead to misunderstandings in the source text or even mistakes in the target text. This preliminary research can also be considered as a first step for future research on this subject. The terminology included in this paper merely represents a sample on which further work can be carried out to increase the number of terms and expressions. Furthermore, it can also be concluded that since research on legal and official translation in Galician is extremely limited, the creation of vocabularies and glossaries in this language would represent a valuable starting point for further investigations, in addition to providing the opportunity to create new terminology in this specific area of knowledge. Finally, the construction of bidirectional glossaries for Galician can prove to be a relevant resource, as translation tends to flow more from Galician into other languages than vice-versa (Cruces Colado, Del Pozo Triviño and Galanes Santos 2008).

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**LA TRADUCCIÓ JURADA DE DOCUMENTS EXPEDITS PEL *GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE* BRITÀNIC: UNA PRIMERA APROXIMACIÓ A LA SEVA TERMINOLOGIA EN LES COMBINACIONS LINGÜÍSTIQUES ANGLÈS-ESPANYOL I ANGLÈS-GALLEC**

**Resum:**

Aquest treball examina la traducció jurada de certificats del *General Register Office* del Regne Unit a les combinacions de llengües anglès-espanyol i anglès-gallec. El seu objectiu és doble. com les expressions i fórmules legals que sovint es fan servir en els esmentats documents, alhora que es proposen solucions de traducció en les combinacions de llengües esmentades. banda, es presta atenció també a l'ús de glossaris multilingües com a eina d'utilitat en la pràctica de la traducció jurada. els recursos dels quals es disposa sobre aquests mateixos temes en gallec, una llengua minoritzada, són força limitats. Això pot ser un obstacle a l'hora de trobar solucions de traducció. en aquesta llengua i, alhora, fa que aquest treball resulti rellevant en el camp de la traducció jurada des de i cap al gallec.

L'article comença amb una introducció sobre la traducció jurada, seguida d'un apartat on es tracten les seves principals característiques. Posteriorment s'examinen les implicacions culturals dels documents oficials, seguit d'una descripció sobre la construcció de glossaris multilingües com eines útils per a la traducció jurada. Després d'un apartat on s'inclou un glossari de mostra de vocabulari en anglès i propostes de traducció en espanyol i gallec, l'article acaba amb un apartat on s'inclouen les conclusions de l'estudi.

**Paraules clau:** Traducció jurada; Lingüística de corpus; Terminologia jurídica; General Register Office; Registre Civil.

**THE SWORN TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE BRITISH  
GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE: A FIRST GLANCE AT THEIR TERMINOLOGY IN  
THE ENGLISH-SPANISH AND ENGLISH-GALICIAN LANGUAGE COMBINATIONS**

**Abstract:**

This paper examines the sworn translation of certificates issued by the British General Register Office in the English-Spanish and English-Galician language combinations. Its aim is two-fold. First, it seeks to provide a preliminary overview of the specialised vocabulary, legal expressions, and formulas frequently employed in these documents, while offering translation proposals for the target languages. Second, it considers the usefulness of multilingual glossaries extracted from textual corpora for translation practice. Although there is extensive literature on legal and sworn translation in the English-Spanish language combination, resources on the subject in Galician, a minoritized language, are extremely limited. This may hinder the identification of appropriate translation solutions in that language, but simultaneously makes this research relevant as a starting point for sworn translation from and into Galician.

The paper begins with an introduction to sworn translation and an examination of its main characteristics. The cultural implications inherent in the translation of official documents are then considered, followed by an examination of the construction of multilingual glossaries as a useful resource for sworn translation. A sample glossary containing vocabulary from documents issued by the British General Register Office, together with translation proposals into Spanish and Galician, is then provided, followed by the paper’s conclusion.

**Keywords:** Sworn translation; Corpus linguistics; Legal terminology; General Register Office; *Registro Civil*.

**LA TRADUCCIÓN JURADA DE DOCUMENTOS EXPEDIDOS POR EL GENERAL  
REGISTER OFFICE BRITÁNICO: UNA PRIMERA APROXIMACIÓN A SU**



TERMINOLOGÍA EN LAS COMBINACIONES LINGÜÍSTICAS INGLÉS-ESPAÑOL E INGLÉS-GALLEGO

**Resumen:**

Este trabajo examina la traducción jurada de certificados del *General Register Office* del Reino Unido en las combinaciones de lenguas inglés-español e inglés-gallego. Su objetivo es doble. Por un lado, pretende ofrecer una panorámica inicial sobre el vocabulario especializado, así como las expresiones y fórmulas legales que con frecuencia se emplean en los mencionados documentos, al tiempo que se proponen soluciones de traducción en las combinaciones de lenguas mencionadas. Por otro lado, se presta atención también al uso de glosarios multilingües como herramienta de utilidad en la práctica de la traducción jurada. Si bien la bibliografía sobre traducción jurídica y jurada que existe hoy en día en la combinación de lenguas inglés-español es extensa, los recursos de los que se dispone sobre esos mismos temas en gallego, una lengua minorizada, son bastante limitados. Esto puede ser un obstáculo a la hora de encontrar soluciones de traducción en dicha lengua y, a su vez, hace que este trabajo resulte relevante en el campo de la traducción jurada desde y hacia el gallego.

El artículo comienza con una introducción sobre la traducción jurada, seguida de un apartado en el que se tratan sus principales características. Posteriormente se examinan las implicaciones culturales de los documentos oficiales, seguido de una descripción sobre la construcción de glosarios multilingües como herramientas útiles para la traducción jurada. Tras un apartado en el que se incluye un glosario de muestra de vocabulario en inglés y propuestas de traducción en español y gallego, el artículo termina con un apartado en el que se incluyen las conclusiones del estudio.

**Palabras clave:** Traducción jurada; Lingüística de corpus; Terminología jurídica; *General Register Office*; Registro Civil.

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