Translation Needs in a Multilingual Public Administration

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Languages of Spain

30% of citizens have a regional language as mother tongue

- **Galician**, official in Galicia
- **Astur-Leonese** not official
- **Spanish**, official everywhere
- **Aragonese**
- **Catalan**, official in Catalonia, the Valencian Country and the Balearic Islands
- **Occitan**, official in Catalonia
- **Basque**, official in Euskadi and Navarre

Source: Wikimedia
1. Castilian is the official language of the Spanish State. All Spaniards have the duty to know it and the right to use it.

1. The other languages of Spain shall also be official in the respective Autonomous Regions in accordance with their Statutes.

1. The richness of the different linguistic modalities of Spain is a cultural heritage that will be the object of special respect and protection.
Co-official languages

- The Statutes of Autonomy of the bilingual regions establish the **officiality of their native languages** in their respective territories, together with **Castilian**. The languages are therefore **co-official**.
- They recognize the **right to use** them.
- None of them imposes the **duty to know** them.
Public Administrations in Spain

- General State Administration
  - Central
  - External
  - Peripheral
- Autonomous Regions
- Local Administration
  - Municipalities
  - Provincial Councils
By virtue of the legislative framework, the citizens of the bilingual regions have the right to use the co-official language in their interactions with the Administration, also the State Administration.

This would entail that all documentation should be translated from Castilian/Spanish into the other 3 languages.
● No centralized service.
● Each Ministry, Public Agency and Department takes care of their translation needs.
● Some of them have in-house staff
● Most outsource to translation companies.
Translation in the State Administration

Language Interpretation Office (Ministry of Foreign Affairs):
- 17 translators
- only one to use CAT tools (Déja Vu)
- official translation into Spanish of international treaties and conventions
- requests for translations from the Royal Household, and ministries

Ministry of Presidency:
- 11 translators
- International news in EN/FR/DE into ES
- Translation of their web is outsourced

Ministry of Interior:
- over 230 translators
- many languages into and from Spanish

Ministry of Defense:
- c. 30 translators (plus c. 100 from the National Intelligence Service)
- Deal with many languages, into and from ES
- legal, economic, technical and scientific documents
- many NATO related
Translation in the State Administration

State Tax Administration Agency:
- ES => CAT, GA, EN
- everything is outsourced
- they are starting to claim the TMs

Spanish National Centre for Legal Documentation (CENDOJ):
- will deploy eJustice infrastructure
- EN <=> ES (European Courts)
- CAT => ES

Turespaña / Segittur:
- promote innovation in the Spanish tourism industry
- big languages into and from Spanish
- outsourced (Lionbridge)
- keep the TM
Most State administration websites not translated (or only the menus).

- Exception: the tax agency (exc. for Basque).
- Some use in-house PlaTA MT system (unrevised)
PlaTA (State Administration)

- Developed in 2013, to MT translate websites into co-official languages, plus English, French and Portuguese
- Apertium-based engines for Catalan, Galician, French and Portuguese
- In-house Moses-based engines for English and Basque.
- Not further developed
- Recently integrated with MT@EC
- Not for public use
Sonya Dowsett @ReutersSonyaD

The dangers of using automatic translation on websites: Spanish Industry Ministry main news item about a lady named Dolores del Campo appears on English website as 'It is pain of field ...' 😳

España logra representación en el Comité Internacional de Pesas y Medidas

Se trata de Dolores del Campo, jefa de Área de Temperatura del Centro Español de Metrología dependiente del...

Spain achieves representation in international committee of Weights and measures

It is pain of field, head of Area of temperature Spanish Centre metrology, attached to the ministry of industry,...
Translation at the Basque Administration

• Translation is centralized at the Official Translators Service of the IVAP (Basque Institute of Public Administration)
• 15,000 translation requests per year (25 million words).
• Outsource if they cannot cope
• ES ⇔ EUS (e.g. Basque Official Gazette, summary of the Spanish Gazette (BOE))
• Translations are billed
• Intensive use of CAT tools since 2000 (Trados and Wordfast)
• Good management of TMs, terminology and translated documents
• Since 2012, the Basque Administration offers **Itzultzaila**, an online rule-based MT system, for the general public, initially ES => EUS

• Later extended to cover EUS => ES and EUS <=> EN.

• Developed by Lucy LT Software in Barcelona.

• **EUSKALTERM** is a terminology bank, with the mission to guide users of Basque in the use of terminology.

• Online tools.

• Multilingual
• Since the 1990’s post-edited Machine Translation is commonly used for CA ⇔ ES, facilitated by linguistic closeness between the two languages.
• The Official Journal of Generalitat (DOGC), containing the laws and other acts of the Catalan administration, is published daily in Catalan and Spanish. Also, a summary of the Spanish Gazette (BOE).
• All official websites and documents are at least bilingual, some are also in English and Occitan, some also in French and German.
Translation between Catalan and:
  - Spanish
  - English
  - French
  - German

is provided by Lucy LT MT services, which use feedback to improve their systems.

Translation between Catalan and:
  - Occitan (Aranés)
  - and Spanish and:
    - Occitan (Aranés)

in-house Apertium-based translator.
Open as an online service to the general public.

Integrated in other applications of the Generalitat: e.g open CMS GECO+ for web content editing.
The **Administration of Justice** employs their own MT technology, based on AT Language Solutions system, fine-tuned for legal documents, and integrated in TEMIS (CMS for court documents).

**TERMCAT**:  
- Since 1985 prepares terminological resources  
- Since 1998, its decisions are prescriptive in the scientific and technical publications of the public administration  
- Online tools for use of the general public, including personalized enquiries.  
- Multilingual, linked to IATE
• All official documents and bulletin are published both in Spanish and Galician
• Since 2012, the Galician Xunta offers an on-line MT tool Gaio (developed by Imaxin, based in results from Opentrad).
• TERMIGAL, terminology service for Galician. Online search tool.
Other bilingual regions and Local Administrations

• Situation is similar in the rest of bilingual regions:
  • Valencian Region (Catalan, variant Valencian)
  • Balearic Islands (Catalan)
  • Parts of Navarre (Basque)
• All local administrations of the bilingual regions, face similar needs.
  • 947 municipalities in Catalonia
  • 542 in the Valencian Region
  • 67 in the Balearic Islands
  • 251 in the Basque Country
  • 47 in the Basque-speaking part of Navarre
  • 313 in Galicia
• Citizens living in bilingual regions of Spain have the right to use the regional language with their Public Administrations, but they do not have the obligation to know the regional language.

• Therefore, all documents produced by the Regional Administrations have to be both in Spanish and in the regional language.

• But the State Administration does not feel as compelled to translate everything into the regional languages.
In summary

• The need to translate everything has driven the Regional Administrations to a more disciplined approach to translation as well as to an early and intensive use of CAT and MT technologies.
• All bilingual administrations have invested in development of MT systems between their languages and Spanish, and eventually other languages.
• They have made them available online to the general public, so as to promote the use of their languages.
• They have also created terminology services and banks.
In summary

• Data intensive technology, such as NMT, opens a window of opportunity for the State Administration to catch up technologically, and start providing more comprehensive translated services (both for EU and regional languages), and at the same time modernize their translation services and content management practices.

• The Plan of Impulse of Language technologies, and synergies with the ELRC, ELRI and other CEF projects can certainly help achieve this goal.

Thank you - Gracias - Eskerrik asko - Gràcies - Grazas