University of Heidelberg

Translation Technologies

LSF-330838

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NORMALIZATION PROCESS FOR TERMINOLOGICAL VARIATION IN SPANISH SPORTS TERMINOLOGY

**Introduction**

In the process of creating new translations, new specialized domains must be explored to find equivalents to terms that belong to this specialized domain or to solve problems presented in the domain for future translations. A method that allows to find these solutions and terms is to create a corpus that is representative enough of the specialized domain that said problems can be seen and solved. One these problems that can be presented is the terminological variation within a specialized domain, this is an issue when translating as confusion can be created when a language has multiple terms for one specific meaning, when in another language only has one term for said meaning. This problem is presented in the translation of sports domain from English to Spanish, where in English has mostly only one term to refer to an exercise, in Spanish for some terms there can be multiple terms for one exercise. This creates problems when translating as the translator must choose one of the terms in Spanish to use in the translation, and if the targeted reader is not familiar with the chosen term or all the existing terms for the exercise, the message of the translation will be lost. The purpose of this project is to create a corpus of sports domain to observe this problem and to explore a solution to have a more normalized terminology of this specialized domain. For this purpose, the digital version of the magazine “Men’s Health” has been chosen for the creation of the corpus. Since the magazine is the most known male oriented magazine in the world published in 47 countries and multiples languages, is that this magazine was chosen, and the articles that will be used for the corpus are those related to the topic of sports.

**Set up of the experiment**

The texts selected that will conform the corpus for the experiment are those articles found in the “Men’s Health” magazine that relate to the topic of fitness, and that the exercises found in the articles were equipment-less to ease the possibility to find equivalents in the articles. The English articles were selected from the United States version of the magazine, while the Spanish articles were selected from both the Spain and Latin American versions of the magazine. A total of 40 articles were collected to create a comparable corpus to analyze, out of these 20 were in English and 20 were in Spanish.

The articles found in Spanish were:

- OBTÉN MÁS BENEFICIOS CON ESTE ENTRENAMIENTO DE 4 MOVIMIENTOS DE PESO CORPORAL

- DESPLANTE CON MANCUERNAS

- Zancada invertida con barra, el entrenamiento que hipertrofiará tus piernas y fortalecerá tu core

- Abdominales de pie para definir tu six pack y ganar fuerza en el core

- REALIZA LA PUSH UP PERFECTA

- ¿CUÁNTAS CALORÍAS QUEMAS EN CROSSFIT?

- ESTO PASA SI HACES 10 LAGARTIJAS DIARIAS DURANTE UN MES

- LAGARTIJAS RELOADED

- LAGARTIJAS

- DE 0 A 100 LAGARTIJAS EN 6 SEMANAS

- ¿CÓMO ENTRARLE A LA CALISTENIA?

- Te retamos: ¿cuánto tardas en hacer este entrenamiento de flexiones y thursters?

- Este reto de flexiones tonificará tu pectoral y brazos

- DESARROLLA FUERZA EN CASA CON ESTE ENTRENAMIENTO DE CUERPO COMPLETO UTILIZANDO TU PROPIO PESO

- EL ENTRENAMIENTO DE RYAN REYNOLDS PARA BRAZOS Y PECHO MÁS FUERTES

The articles found in English were:

- Push League

- Bulletproof Chest: Weighted Push-ups

- Power Pushups

- How to Do a Perfect Pushup

- This Terrifyingly Tough Pushup Finisher Will Fry Your Chest and Triceps

- The 12 Best Leg Workouts You Can Do Absolutely Anywhere

- How to Do a Lunge the Right Way

- This Kettlebell Flow Strengthens Your Legs and Shoulders

- This Simple and Savage Lunge Series Will Crush Your Legs

- Crush Your Core and Legs With This Barbell Lunge Workout

- How to Do a Close-Grip Pushup the Right Way

- This Bodyweight Workout Strengthens Your Mountain Climber

- This Kettlebell and Bodyweight Workout Is Harder Than it Looks

- This Bodyweight Circuit Blasts Your Arms and Abs Anywhere

- This 2-Move Arm Pump Workout Doesn't Use Any Weights

- Pump Up Your Chest and Sculpt Your Back With One Dynamic Move

- This Ab Challenge Will Put Your Core to the Test

- How to Do Perfect Planks

- Why You Need to Start Planking On Your Side

- Use These Plank Progressions to Push Your Ab Workout to the Next Level

After the selection of these articles, the text of the articles was extracted and added to a Word document to form the corpus, and to ease their access and use. Then, the SketchEngine program was used to analyze the corpus, as this tool selects the most important terms found in the corpus, see their frequency, and allows to see them in real usage. Then three terms in English were selected and their equivalents in Spanish to see which variations are found. Then one of the found variations will be selected as the preferred term following the ISO 704:2009 norms, these focus on the process of normalization of terms in specialized domains. Once the preferred term is found, the rest of the variations will be analyzed to find their cause of variation, following the classification of Freixa (2002), these are:

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| **Types of Causes** | **Subtypes** |
| 1.- Previous Causes | Linguistic redundancy  The arbitrarily of the linguistic sign  Possibilities of language variation |
| 2.- Dialectal Causes | Geographical variation  Chronological variation  Social variation |
| 3.- Functional Causes | Level of language adequacy  Level of specialization adequacy |
| 4.- Discursive Causes | Avoid repetition  Linguistic economy  Creativity, emphasis y expressiveness |
| 5.- Interlinguistic Causes | Coexistence between the local term and the loan  Diversity of alternative proposals |
| 6.- Cognitive Causes | Conceptual imprecision  Ideological distancing  Differences in conceptualization |

Once the analysis of both the preferred term and the variations is done, the following file will be filled for each of the found equivalents:

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| --- | --- |
| Term in English: | |
| Preferred term in Spanish |  |
| Term variations in Spanish |  |
| Type of variation |  |
| Frequency |  |
| Context |  |
| Observations |  |

**Results**

The English corpus generated a total of 11.537 words, 9.696 tokens and 497 phrases. While the Spanish corpus generated a total of 8.387 words, 9.930 tokens and 451 phrases. The exercises selected for the analysis are “Lunges”, “Push-ups” and “Planks”.

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| Term in English: “Lunges” | |
| Preferred term in Spanish | “Zancadas” |
| Term variations in Spanish | “Desplantes” |
| Type of variation | Dialectal |
| Frequency | “Zancadas” (10) – “Desplantes” (7) |
| Context | - “Zancadas”: “Las zancadas son un excelente ejercicio para tu entrenamiento de piernas (…)”  - “Desplantes”: “Haz un desplante hacia delante con la pierna derecha tan largo como puedas (…)” |
| Observations | The term variation “Zancadas” was found in both Spanish and Latin American versions of the magazine. While the variation “Desplante” was found only in the Latin American version. |

The exercise consists in taking a big step ahead, then bending the knees until the knee of the leg that took the step ends in a 90 degree angle, and the knee of the leg that stayed behind almost touches the floor. After that you return to the original standing position, and then you do the same movement with the other leg.

Two terms were found in the magazine that represented that same movement: “desplantes” and “zancadas”. After analyzing both terms with SketchEngine, “zancada” was found to be used a total of ten times, while “desplantes” was only used seven times. The big difference lies in that “zancada” was found in both Spanish and Latin American versions of the “Men’s Health” magazine. Whereas “desplantes” was only found in the Latin American version of it.

When using the dictionary of the “Real Academia Española” (RAE), “zancadas” are defined as “taking a big step ahead for faster movement or stretching the legs” (RAE, Zancada), this fulfills the general movement that must be made during the exercise. This together with the higher usage and the presence in both the Latin American and Spanish version of the magazine, its why “zancadas” was chosen as the preferred term over “desplantes”. On the other hand, “desplantes” when defined by the RAE, it says that it is a “speech or act full of arrogance, impudence or distaste” (RAE, Desplante), this term refers to the act of bullfighting, in which the bullfighters take the pose of a “lunge” when facing a bull. Due to the vague implication of the movement, and the geographic constrains turn this term into a variation. As to the cause of variation, the presence of “desplantes” only on the Latin American version of the magazine, implies that there are dialectical differences attached to the specific geographical zone. Thus, the cause of variation of “desplantes” is dialectical.

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| Term in English: “Push-ups” | |
| Preferred term in Spanish | “Flexiones” |
| Term variations in Spanish | - “Lagartija”  - “Push-ups” |
| Type of variation | - “Lagartija” (Discursive)  - “Push-ups” (Interlinguistic) |
| Frequency | “Lagartija” (44) – “Flexiones” (21) – “Push-up” (8) |
| Context | - “Flexiones”: “Este circuito brutal de flexiones tonificará tu parte superior del cuerpo, y todo el esfuerzo no se concentrará solamente en una zona.”  - “Lagartijas”: “Complementa tus lagartijas con otros ejercicios para construir la parte superior de tu cuerpo.”  - “Push-ups”: “Piensa que estás apretando una nuez entre los omóplatos mientras bajas en la push up.” |
| Observations |  |

The exercise starts by placing the hands on the floor, with extended arms and stretching the legs, with the body being extended and risen from the floor the arms. Bend the arms by the elbow, until they reach a 90 degree angle and the chest almost touches the floor. Then the arms must be extended to return to the original position.

There were found three terms in the magazine that represented the same movement, these are: “lagartijas”, “flexiones” and “push-ups”. After using the concordance tool of SketchEngine, it was determined that “lagartija” was found a total of 44 times, while “flexiones” only 21 times and “push-ups” 8 times. There were no differences found between the Latin American and Spanish versions of the magazine, which means that there are no geographical differences in the usage of the terms.

The term of “flexiones” was chosen as the preferred term, since the meaning of the word “flexiones” is bending, which represents the movement of the exercise in a clearer way than the other proposals. Despite being the one with the most concordance number, “lagartijas” was chosen as a variation, since the word translates to “lizard”, meaning that the term looks for represent the pose that the lizard has when standing on the ground, that is with bended arms. Since this tries to use a more creative way to represent the movement in an easier way, it is that the cause of variation was found to be discursive. The last term found was “push-ups”, which following the classification of translation techniques by Hurtado (2001), “push-ups” it is a loan of the English language and used in the Spanish language. The low usage of the term and the status of a loan word puts “push-ups” as a variation of the term. Since “push-ups” it is a loan word, this means that there is a coexistence with the local term, this means that the cause of variation is interlinguistic.

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| Term in English: “Plank” | |
| Preferred term in Spanish | “Plancha” |
| Term variations in Spanish | “Plank” |
| Type of variation | Interlinguistic |
| Frequency | “Plancha” (38) – “Plank” (8) |
| Context | - “Plancha”: “La plancha tiene éxito en donde muchos ejercicios fallan: entrena todo el core, desde el recto abdominal, pasando por tus oblicuos, hasta la espalda baja e incluso los glúteos.”  - “Plank”: “Acomódate en posición de plank, con los pies y los codos en el suelo, el core apretado y la espalda plana.” |
| Observations |  |

To do this exercise you must rest the forearms on the floor, placing the elbows at shoulder high, extend the body and raising the hips from the ground, leaving only the forearms and the tip of the toes contacting the ground. This position must be maintained as much time as possible or a fixed amount of time.

Within the corpus there were two terms found that replicate the exercise: “plancha” and “plank”. When using the option of concordance of SketchEngine, it was found that “plancha” was used a total of 38 times, while “plank” was only found 8 times. There were no differences found between the Latin American and Spanish versions of the magazine, which means that there are no geographical differences in the usage of the terms.

The term “plancha” was chosen as the preferred term, this was this was done since the objective of the exercise is to maintain a straight pose, like a sheet of wood or metal, the word “plancha” translates to “sheet”. Like the previous case, “plank” is a loan word from the English, this together with its low usage of the word, makes that the term is classified as a variation. The coexistence between the local term with the loan word, makes that the cause of the variation is interlinguistic.

**Conclusions**

Following the objective of the experiment, it was able to gather a representative corpus of the sports domain using the “Men’s Health” magazine. Upon the analysis of the corpus with the SketchEngine tool, there was found the existence of several terminological variations for the equivalents of the terms in English. There was found that these had multiple types of causes for these variations, going from trying to have a more creative way to understand the movement of the exercise, to using a loan word from the English language while coexisting with the local term. Through a process of evaluating the existing equivalents found on the corpus, it was able to find a term that was the preferred term over the other that were classified as variations. Since the terms were found on highly published magazine, the other equivalents were considered admitted term variations, as they are currently being used within the articles of the magazine. The SketchEngine tool helped for this experiment, as the frequency of the terms were able to be found by the concordance tool, and the frequency was a factor that affected the normalization of the terms. This experiment could be crucial should a terminological data base of sports terms wants to be created. However, further analysis must be done with a bigger corpus and analyzing more terms found in the corpus. Furthermore, the process of term creation should be considered, as there is a big amount of loan terms found within the corpus, and an equivalent local term needs to be created.

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