

## End of Chapter Exercises – Chapter 2

1. Comment on any differences in meaning between the items in each of the following sets. The differences may relate to expressive or evoked meaning. For instance, some items may be register-specific or dialect-specific, others may be derogatory or neutral. If you are not familiar with a particular word or expression, consult a good dictionary of English before you comment on its meaning.

car, auto, automobile, motor, limousine, limo, banger, jalopy

comfortable, comfy, homely, cosy, snug (of a place)

dad, daddy, pa, papa, pop, father, pater, sire, old man

car	coche  carro  buga	Generic, unmarked.  Generic, in American variants.  Slang.
auto	auto	Old-fashioned in peninsular Spanish. Generic in some American variants.
automobile	automóvil, vehículo	Used in technical contexts.

	utilitario	For small (economical) cars.
motor	motor	(only used for 'engine' or in general to refer to the world of cars, as in 'el mundo del motor').
limousine	limusina	Literal.
limo	limusina	The term has not undergone any colloquial apocope, possibly because limos are not a frequent sight in Spanish roads.
banger	carraca  burra	(colloq. or old car)  (colloq. For old car in American Spanish).
jalopy	carraca  burra	As above.

comfortable	(estar) cómodo	Generic, unmarked.  When referring to a sense of
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	(estar) a gusto	ease, usually physical.
	rer cómodo (person)	To be lazy  To be a lazy bones.
	acomodado	Free from financial worry.
comfy	cómodo	Generic; it can be used with places/spaces and people.
	A gusto	Only used to describe people's feeling of comfortableness or security.
homely	Acogedor, cómodo, agradable	Of a place/space (house, hotel, etc).
	Doméstica/o, simple	As in the phrase 'homely pleasures'.
cozy	Acogedor	Used only for spaces

	<p>Calentito</p> <p>(of a relationship, as in ‘the unión reps feel far too cozy with management) llevarse muy/demasiado bien</p>	<p>(households rooms, etc)</p> <p>Related to a feeling of relaxation and warmth.</p> <p>En sentido irónico.</p>
snug	<p>Cómodo, acogedor</p> <p>Seguro, a salvo</p> <p>Ajustada/o</p>	<p>Related to a place (household, room).</p> <p>As in the collocation ‘safe and snug’.</p> <p>Related to clothes.</p>

dad	Mi padre	<p>Generic, as in ‘I saw dad today’)</p> <p>(When used in the</p>
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	Papá	vocative, as in 'Dad, where are you?').
daddy	Papá  Papi	Generic, affectionate.  More affectionate/childish than 'papá'.
pa	Papá  Pa	Extremely familiar term, used among members of the same family.
papa	Papá  Mi papá  Mi papito	Generic.  Old-fashioned or denoting high class.
pop	Papá, papi, pa.	Affectionate/childish.
father	Padre	Generic/Formal way of address.
pater	Padre  Su señor padre	Ironical, as in 'el dinero se lo da su señor padre'.
old man	Mi viejo	Slang/ can be pejorative but not necessarily.

sire	señor	(old use, as in ‘lord and sire’: dueño y señor).
	Señor	(in capital letters if referring to the King)
	Padre, progenitor	Generic or formal.
	Macho, semental	If referring to stallion or bull kept for breeding).

Now list all the words and expressions you can think of which are available in your target language for *car*, *comfortable* and *father*. Comment on any differences in meaning between (a) the individual items in each set, and (b) the English items above and the items in the corresponding sets in your target language.

2. Make a list of all the English verbs you can think of which have to do with speech, such as *say*, *suggest*, *complain*, *mumble*, *mutter*, *murmur*, *whisper*, *speak*, *tell* and so on. Try to group them into sets, starting with the more general ones.

Now list all the verbs of speech you can think of in your target language, starting with the more general ones. Comment on the presence or absence of any semantic gaps in your target language *vis-à-vis* English.

Hablar	Generic for the act of speaking.
Decir	To say, but also to tell (as in ‘decirle a alguien que

	se calle')
Contar, relatar	To tell (a secret, a story, a tale, a joke). 'Relatar' is more formal and collocates with 'una historia, un cuento, un suceso').
Susurrar	Generic for the act of whispering.
Cuchichear, murmurar	Connotes 'gossip', slightly pejorative.
Musitar	Literary (denotes weakness of voice).
Conversar, dialogar, charlar	Generic for the act talking (to one another).
Departir	Formal/literary for 'charlar'.
Proferir	To utter, usually negative things as in 'proferir insultos'.
enunciar	Generic for the act of 'uttering'.
Platicar	To converse, to chat (American Spanish).

Repeat this exercise using nouns which may come under the general heading of PUBLICATIONS. In English, this would include *book, newspaper, magazine, newsletter, bulletin, journal, report, pamphlet, periodical* and so on.

libro	
monografía	
periódico	
diario	
revista	
boletín	
folleto	
informe	
panfleto	
prospecto	
artículo	
ensayo	
opúsculo	

3. Make a list of ten English words which you feel are particularly difficult to translate into your target language. Comment on the source of difficulty in each case.

redundancy	<p>(forced unemployment): despido, pérdida del trabajo, desempleo.</p> <p>(voluntary): baja voluntaria, retiro voluntario.</p> <p>(compensation as in 'redundancy money): indemnización.</p> <p>Generic/in linguistic terms (as in unnecessary repetition): redundancia.</p> <p>Generic/in terms of objects: superfluidad.</p>
but	<p>Pero (in generic adversative sentences)</p> <p>Sin embargo (more emphatic, used as a conjunct).</p> <p>Sino (when the first clause in the sentence is negated).</p>
busy	<p>Of a person (who has many things to do): ocupada/o, atareada/o.</p> <p>Of a house, etc (as in having someone inside, or engaged): habitada/o, ocupada/o.</p> <p>Of a road, street, etc: con</p>



	<p>mucho tráfico, muy transitado/a.</p> <p>Of a schedule: apretado.</p> <p>As a verb (to be busy doing something, to busy oneself with): entretenerse haciendo algo, preocuparse por hacer algo.</p>
take	<p>Generic: llevar.</p> <p>Of a means of transport (as in 'to take the bus'): coger el autobús.</p> <p>Of a road (as in I took the road on the left): Tomar.</p> <p>Of an opportunity: aprovechar.</p>
police	<p>(noun): La policía.</p> <p>(verb): patrullar (if literally undertaken by the police). Supevisar, vigilar.</p>
cleaner	<p>Owing to labour inequality, translators will have to take into account gender prejudices when translating this word. The literal translation often provided by dictionaries, limpiador/limpiadora, is not normally used. Instead, the gender-marked 'señora de la limpieza', 'sirvienta' are more often found. Non-sexist solutions include the</p>

	gender-neutral 'personal de limpieza'.
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4. Make a list of some loan words that are used in your language, and comment on the types of text in which such loan words tend to be used freely (for instance in advertisements). Now consider how you might translate the main text in Figure 3, an advertisement by Trados which appeared in various magazines in 2001, and what loss of propositional, expressive and/or evoked meaning might be involved if you cannot render *Dinero* using a similar loan word in your target text.



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“Money” Again.



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Figure 3 Trados advertisement

**Cuando hayas traducido la palabra ‘dinero’ a ‘money’, ya nunca tendrás que gastar más ‘money’ traduciendo ‘dinero’.**

5. Make a list of three English affixes which systematically produce forms that have no direct equivalents in your target language. Suggest suitable paraphrases for each affix.

**Up- (as in upgrade: mejorar, ascender de categoría, actualizar, etc).**

Ever- (as in ever-changing: en constante estado de cambio).

With- (as in withdraw (retirar, apartar, sacar), withhold (retener, ocultar), withstand (resistir, soportar, aguantar).

6. Make a list of all the English words you can think of that end in *-ism* or *-ist* (such as *racism/racist*, *sexism/sexist*, *ageism/ageist*, *extremism/extremist*, *fanaticism/fanaticist*). Comment on what these words have in common and on the propositional and expressive meanings of the suffix. Now attempt to translate the screen shot in Figure 4, from a video released by the Sizism Awareness Campaign ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOxbi53J5SU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOxbi53J5SU)).

racism	racismo
feminism	feminismo
sexism	machismo, sexismo
fanaticism	fanatismo
extremism	extremismo

However, terms that have been recently coined do not have a literal translation into Spanish yet:

enviromentalism	Movimiento a favour del medio ambiente, movimiento ecologista.
ageism	Discriminación por edad.  The term 'Edadismo' is beginnign to be used, but is not widespread.

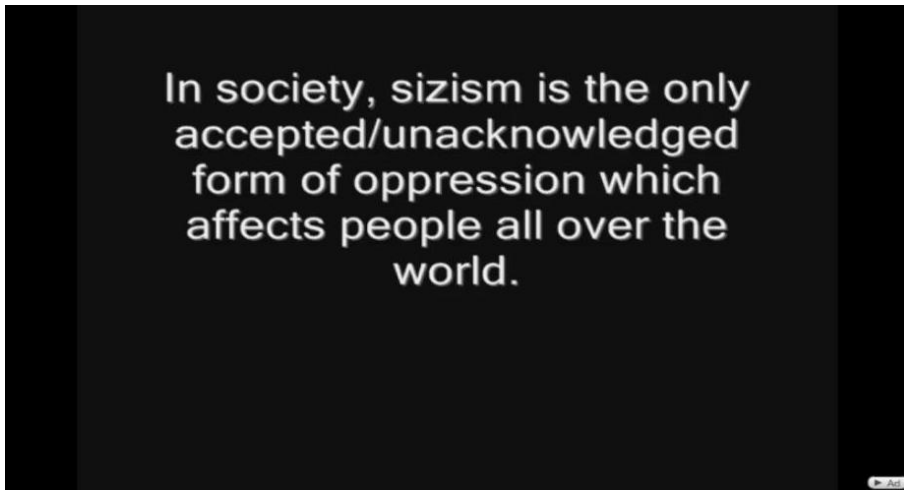


Figure 4 Screen shot from Sizism Awareness Campaign video

**El único prejuicio que afecta a toda la sociedad de un modo aceptado, aunque poco reconocido, es el ‘tallismo’.**

7. Produce two translations in your target language of the following extract from Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time* (1988:1–2). One translation should aim at giving the target reader a straightforward account of the contents of the text. In producing the second translation, assume that Professor Hawking, or his publisher, has authorized you to use whatever strategies are necessary to ensure that the reader's attention is captured in these opening passages.

A well-known scientist (some say it was Bertrand Russell) once gave a public lecture on astronomy. He described how the earth orbits around the sun and how the sun, in turn, orbits around the center of a vast collection of stars called our galaxy. At the end of the lecture, a little old lady at the back of the room got up and said: 'What you have told us is rubbish. The world is really a flat plate supported on the back of a giant tortoise.' The scientist gave a superior smile before replying, 'What is the tortoise standing on?' 'You're very

clever, young man, very clever,’ said the old lady. ‘But it’s turtles all the way down!’

Most people would find the picture of our universe as an infinite tower of tortoises rather ridiculous, but why do we think we know better? What do we know about the universe, and how do we know it? Where did the universe come from, and where is it going? Did the universe have a beginning, and if so, what happened *before* then? What is the nature of time? Will it ever come to an end? Recent breakthroughs in physics, made possible in part by fantastic new technologies, suggest answers to some of these longstanding questions. Someday these answers may seem as obvious to us as the earth orbiting the sun – or perhaps as ridiculous as a tower of tortoises. Only time (whatever that may be) will tell.

Un científico famoso (algunos dicen que fue Bertrand Russell) dio un día una conferencia sobre astronomía. En ella describió cómo la tierra orbita en torno al sol, y cómo el sol orbita a su vez en el centro del inmenso conglomerado de estrellas que llamamos nuestra galaxia. Al final de la conferencia, una señora algo mayor que estaba sentada al final de la sala se levantó y exclamó: ‘Eso que usted dice no tiene ni pies ni cabeza. En realidad, el mundo es una placa apoyada en la concha de una tortuga gigante’. El científico miró a la señora con un aire de superioridad y le preguntó: ‘¿Y en qué se apoya la tortuga, entonces?’. ‘Usted es un señor muy listo, sí’, dijo la señora, ‘pues se lo voy a decir: se apoya en una torre de pequeñas tortugas, hasta llegar abajo de todo’.

A la mayoría de la gente, la idea de que el mundo es una columna infinita de tortugas le parecerá ridícula, pero ¿por qué nos parece que ya lo sabemos todo sobre este tema? ¿Qué sabemos en realidad del universo y cómo hemos llegado a ese conocimiento? ¿De dónde viene el universo y hacia dónde va? ¿El universo tuvo un principio? Y si así fue, ¿qué había antes de este principio? ¿Qué es el tiempo? ¿Se acabará alguna vez? Algunos hallazgos recientes en el campo de la física, que han tenido lugar en parte gracias a las nuevas tecnologías, nos ayudan a responder estas preguntas. Algún día estas cuestiones

**nos parecerán tan obvias como que la tierra orbita alrededor del sol –o quizá tan ridículas como la imagen de una torre de tortugas. Sólo el tiempo (comoquiera que lo definamos) lo dirá.**

Comment on the different strategies used in each translation.