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“Linguistic elements in the subtitling of *The Big Bang theory*: How Latin American Spanish and Peninsular Spanish translations differ”.

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ABSTRACT

The audiovisual translation is a specialized field that involves different types of translation. Subtitling is one of the most used types of the translation nowadays. Besides, subtitling has gained importance in last few years. In our study, we have decided first to provide some theoretical aspects which will deal different points, such as detailed information about audiovisual translation, different varieties of Spanish; Peninsular Spanish and Latin American Spanish, and even the use of translation techniques. All these points will be useful in order to analyze the different linguistic aspects in a famous series TV *The Big Bang Theory*. Therefore, the main aim in this dissertation is to analyze and compare some linguistic varieties such as morphological, lexical and syntax aspect and the influence of some strategies in the translation.

Keywords: Subtitling, audiovisual translation, Peninsular Spanish, Latin American Spanish, linguistic elements, *The Big Bang Theory*.

RESUMEN

La traducción audiovisual es una rama especializada que abarca diferentes tipos de traducción. Hoy en día, la subtitulación es uno de los tipos más usados en la traducción. Además, la subtitulación ha ganado importancia en los últimos años. En nuestro estudio, primero hemos decidido facilitar algunos aspectos teóricos que tratarán diferentes puntos como información detallada sobre la traducción audiovisual, diferentes variedades del español, español peninsular y español latino americano e incluso el uso de las técnicas de traducción. Todos estos puntos serían prácticos para analizar los diferentes aspectos lingüísticos en una famosa serie de televisión *La Teoría del Big Bang*. Por lo tanto, el principal objetivo en este trabajo es analizar y comparar algunas variedades lingüísticas como el aspecto morfológico, léxico y sintáctico y la influencia de algunas estrategias en la traducción.

Palabras clave: Subtitulación, traducción audiovisual, español peninsular, español latino americano, elementos lingüísticos, *La Teoría del Big Bang*.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Translation is an important medium of communication among different cultures. More specifically, the translation in audiovisual media, which consists of transmitting messages from one language through different communication channels (e.g. cinema and television) currently determinant in the relationship between an original culture (i.e. English culture, mostly) and a target culture. For this reason, the main aim of the present study is to analyze the audiovisual translation in the subtitling of American TV series (i.e. *The Big Bang Theory*) into both Peninsular Spanish and Latin American Spanish, as two varieties of the Spanish language which can show differences not only in terms of linguistic characteristics but also in terms of the translation techniques used in each target variety.

This dissertation will be structured in two parts, a theoretical part and practical part. In the theoretical section, we will introduce some works conducted on audiovisual translation in general and subtitling in particular and then we will present the main characteristics of subtitling in American shows TV. The practical part includes a linguistic analysis of Peninsular Spanish and Latin American Spanish translation of season 1 of the TV series *the Big Bang Theory*, in order to observe the differences between both translations at both linguistic and translatology level.

This dissertation will start with a research focused on audiovisual translation, specially, the subtitling. In addition, we will introduce the characteristics of subtitling in American TV shows. Then, we will discuss varieties of language. P Spanish and LA Spanish, and we will comment about the translation of linguistic and cultural elements, and techniques translation.

The second part of the dissertation consists of a practical analysis. This part will deal with the classification of the cultural elements at different linguistic levels and techniques translation applied to Peninsular Spanish and Latin American Spanish subtitles.

Finally, this undergraduate dissertation will include the main results derived from the analysis of the combination of differences at linguistic level and the translation techniques used by each variety when these differences emerge. Besides, the main conclusions drawn from the study of this analysis will be presented.

2. AUDIOVISUAL TRANSLATION AS A TYPE OF TRANSLATION

Subtitling may be defined as a translation practice that consists of presenting a written text, generally on the lower part of the screen, that endeavours to recount the original dialogue of the speakers, as well as the discursive elements that appear in the image (letters, inserts, graffiti, inscriptions, placard, etc.), and the information that is contained on the soundtrack (sounds, voices overs, etc.) (Díaz and Remael 8). According to Díaz and Remael all subtitled programmes are composed by image, spoken words and subtitles (9). These three elements allow the viewer to read the written text. Because of this, subtitles should be synchronized with the image and the dialogue. The relation of the latter of the two elements, image and sound, are constantly on debate when dealing with.

Audiovisual Translation (AVT) is considered by some experts as an adaptation (and not a real translation) due to the fact that these two parameters of the audiovisual medium imply that in subtitling, dubbing and voice- over a synchrony with both codes must be maintained (Díaz and Remael 9). Therefore, image and sound are two essential elements for the synchronization in the subtitling, where, subtitles at the same time, should coincide with the corporal movement of the characters.

Time is another important element in AVT, since the translated text should coincide in length with the original language. In addition, in subtitling, space dimensions on the screen are limited and the written text should have a fixed number of characters. This means that a subtitle should have a maximum of 2 lines and 32 to 41 characters per line (Díaz and Remael 9). All these elements specific for AVT, are the main reasons why the audiovisual translation is considered as an adaptation of the original version rather than a translation itself. However, in the present work, although we will take into consideration some of these elements in its empirical aspect, we will use the term “*translation*” "to refer to a subtitling solution that implies the *translation* of messages from different verbal and non - verbal acoustic codes into verbal and /or non- verbal visual codes" (Díaz and Remael 11).

Although in the present work, the term *Audiovisual translation* (AVT) will be used, others prefer to use other type of terms. For instance, “film translation” or “cinema translation”(Díaz and

Remael 12). In English, the term used to refer to audiovisual translation is also “screen translation”. This term encompasses all audiovisual medium presented on screen as television. For the translation of programmes on diverse channels and media as on internet, the common term used is “multimedia translation” (Díaz and Remael 12). However, recently, AVT is a term that has been gaining importance since it refers to different audiovisual media such as cinema or television, in which there is a transmission of messages through of the synchrony of sound and images.

The reason why AVT has been gaining popularity in the last decades is due to the fact that in some countries subtitling and dubbing are part of a huge industry. For instance, Spain is one of the countries where more dubbing is used in some genres, principally, dramatic genres such as films, sitcoms and many others. In addition, there are other audiovisual methods within dubbing, like voice-over or half dubbing that are especially used in the genre of advertising. Voice-over presupposes putting a sound track of the target text over the muffled soundtrack of the original text. This type of audiovisual translation is similar to the narration so neither of them is too restrictive in the synchronization with the body language because the main aim of this type of translation is to maintain synchronization between image and text.

These two types of audiovisual communication, i.e. dubbing and subtitling are considered important in some specific genres such as news, advertising or documental television. According to Agost “Dubbing is a complex process characterized by the necessity of synchrony between voices of voice actors and images of audiovisual text” (qtd. in Martínez 76). As for subtitling, the theatre plays and the operas are two areas where the synchrony, in this case between the images and the text, is important. Of course, the other main issue in subtitling and dubbing is the translation from the source language into the target language since it requires some cultural knowledge by the translator. This means that the original message should be adapted linguistically and technically to facilitate its understanding by the audience.

In the following section we will deal with the specific linguistic and technical difficulties associated with subtitling, which is the type of AVT that we will focus on the present study.

2.1 Subtitling as a type of AVT

Subtitling not only expresses dialogues of actors but also other secondary elements such as the name of institutions, pamphlets, slogans, or any text that may appear on-screen. Since the text must be seen on the screen. Martínez states that there are two types of subtitling in AVT depending on how much text appears on the screen: traditional subtitling, which may be complete or reduced, as in TV programmes such as news or documentaries, and simultaneous subtitling, which is the one used when there is little time for transmitting the message, and requires joint work of an interpreter and a typist like, for instance, a live radio interview. (95, 96). Besides, there are other types of subtitling such as, those for people with hearing impairment, for language learning or even for music, such as karaoke, although it does not imply translation as such.

Therefore, depending on the purpose and format of the audiovisual product subtitling does not present a complete information in terms of the original text due to certain limitations such as space and time; so some parts of the original message may even be eliminated to facilitate comprehension. According to Martínez; the reduction is a defining feature of subtitling and it should be understood as such and not as a castrating strategy that denies validity to the process (my own translation 98).

Therefore, subtitling is a complex method because it is not only a process of reduction but also a process of comprehension by the viewer. This means that the translator should be considered as the “master of the summary” (Martínez 99) to avoid that the viewer perceives lost information.

2.2 Characteristics of subtitling in American TV shows

The most characteristic element in AVT is the limitation in synchronization in space and time. For this reason, the translator depends on both linguistic and technical aspects in the translation. Due to these limitations in the AVT, some authors as Titford defines subtitling as “constrained subtitling” since he thinks that the text is not only an independent element but it is

complemented with other external elements of the communication such as emitter, receiver, noise and the translator (qtd. in Díaz and Remael 9).

Likewise, other authors like Ferriol defines it as “restricted translation” (qtd. in Díaz and Remael 10) because of the same reasons.

Other important limitations in subtitling have to do with time since speech and text should be synchronized. According to Diaz and Remael “the norm of *the six seconds* refers to the time that the audience needs to read and assimilate the information that appears in two lines of a 35 spaces on each one” (103). This norm is applied to all audiovisual channels but there are some that require more characters per line depending on the dimension of the screen (as in the case of the cinema).

All characteristics mentioned above can be adapted to any TV genre, especially to American TV sitcoms where humor plays an important role and so speech and text should be closely linked. However, this type of genre presents some other difficulties within the AVT area, especially in the linguistic aspect. TV sitcoms refer mainly to the American comedies of television, produced by chapters and with the same actors. When released abroad, these comedies may appear dubbed or subtitled being the main difficulty in both formats the translation of humor, which could be interpreted differently in the original and target cultures. This is specially problematic in the case of, TV sitcoms where humoristic or comic effects are produced by means of stereotyped characters whose linguistic and non- verbal behavior is usually linked to cultural elements (such as the main character of *The Big Bang Theory* series, Sheldon Cooper) and to linguistic elements (depending on the Spanish variety as the target language), as we will describe in section 5.

From the point of view of linguistic difficulties in the translation of sitcoms, the aim of the translator is to grasp the comical gag from the original version and to translate that information using a standard vocabulary in the target language. As stated above, the translation of comical elements depends on each culture, so there are terms which have the same meaning in both languages.

On the other hand, the limitations imposed by the translation modalities (subtitling being one of them) usually compel the translator to omit information that is not considered relevant. Agnetta,

based on this assertion, argues that “In television series, certain information can be suppressed without loss in those cases in which the other semiotic systems may provoke some redundancy in the information given by these and by the spoken dialogues” (my own translation 18). When it comes to subtitles, one of the problems when trying to maintain such effect is the characters' original voice, as some elements like thick accents cannot be wholly reflected in the text or, for instance, the translation of those elements that accompany the verbal message, like gestures. Because of this, Agnetta argues that “subtitles cannot reproduce the original intonation of the actors and therefore, these subtitles do not reflect possible infractions of the norm in paralinguistic levels” (18). This means that in subtitling, the translator only transmits the message not the voice (or the gestures) of the characters. In the case of the subtitling of sitcoms, the recording of the laughter is also one of the characteristic features to maintain the comical effect which can be different from one culture to another. In fact, in both, linguistic and cultural terms, it is not always easy to translate comical elements from one language into another, even when we are talking about varieties within the same language. This is the case of the two varieties of Spanish which are the focus of this work: Peninsular Spanish and Latin American Spanish, which show differences not only at a cultural but also at a linguistic level that could imply different translation products. Since the purpose of the present work is to compare the translation of cultural elements (most of them comical but not only) in both Spanish varieties and how these elements are related to specific linguistic characteristics, it is convenient to present the main differences between them so that the differences in terms of translation can be observed more objectively.

3. LATIN AMERICAN SPANISH *versus* PENINSULAR SPANISH: TWO LANGUAGES VARIETIES IN AVT

Latin American (LA) Spanish presents great differences compared to Peninsular (P) Spanish. These differences play an important role in the linguistic and cultural aspects in translation, more specifically in subtitling. In fact, phonetic, morphologic and lexical aspects are the most notable features that separate both varieties. Concerning phonetics, the pronunciation of monosyllabic vowels in LA Spanish (aú or aí) as in, *baúl*, *maíz* do not present any difference with P Spanish (Malmberg 6) but, there are consonant variations as in letters *s* and *z* that are pronounced in a different manner in P Spanish while in LA Spanish the phoneme /s/ represents the same pronunciation of both the letters *s* and the letter *z*, a phenomenon called “seseo”. For instance, the word *caza* is pronounced with the sound *s* in LA Spanish.

As for the morphosyntactic contrast between both varieties, the use of certain clitic pronouns like the dative *le* for masculine human objects (*le amo*) is not generalized in Latin America, (*lo amo*). Besides, generally speaking, the use of personal pronouns is more informal in P Spanish: Malmberg argues that LA Spanish lost the plural personal pronoun of the second person *vosotros* and its possessive *vuestro* that are being substituted by *usted/ustedes* (122), as example in (1) shows:

(1)

Original Version:

00:003

Oh, that`s too bad

You guys `d make a cute couple

# Latin American Spanish Version: Ay, qué mal, ustedes harían una pareja linda.	# Peninsular Spanish Version: ¡Que pena! haríais una buena pareja
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------

¹[The Bing Bang Theory]

Other characteristic (inflectional) morphological feature that differs in both varieties of Spanish is the verbal inflection: the subjunctive verbal form that ends in *-ara* (jugara, estudiara) is used in LA Spanish while in P Spanish other inflections are used such as *-ase* (jugase, estudiase) and *-ais*, *-asteis* and other verbal forms ending in for the second person in plural (jugasteis, estudiasteis) (123) is used in P Spanish and not so often in LA Spanish, as example in (2) shows:

(2)

Original Version:

00:00:46 – 00:00:48

Hi guys! Did you get my mail?

# Latin American Spanish Version: ¿Hola chicos, recibieron mi correo?	# Peninsular Spanish Version: Hola, chicos ¿ Recibísteis mi correo?
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

As for the syntactic aspect, in LA Spanish an atypical grammatical structure is used in *hubieron animales* where there is plural person and number concordance of the subject with the verb *haber* (an impersonal verb and so only the singular form should be used *hubo*, *habia*, *hay*) instead of *hubo animales*, the standard use of P Spanish.

On the other hand, the different use of certain vocabulary in some language varieties is a linguistic phenomenon that depends on cultural influence and adaptation of new terms. As Malmberg explains, “it is not necessary that a new word influences phonetically nor

¹ “Unless indicated otherwise, all the examples from now on are taken from our compilation of extracts of The Big Bang Theory series”.

grammatically in the system; as a general rule, the word adapts with facility to the pronunciation and grammatical habits of the language that borrowed it” (my own translation 124). This is the case of anglicisms, which either LA Spanish or P Spanish can borrow differently adapting them to their own phonological and/or morphological systems. For instance, there are terms that maintain the same meaning in English and in LA Spanish after certain phonological adaptation as for instance, (car < carro), while, in P Spanish there are terms that have different meaning in relation to LA Spanish. (piso < apartamento). Other differences between LA Spanish and P Spanish that appear at the lexicon level are usually related to cultural issues: The word *plata*, for instance is more used in Latin America than in Spain (dinero) by historical reasons. Also, there are expressions with adjectives that are reserved to LA Spanish such as ¡qué lindo! in contrast with P Spanish ¡qué bonito!. All these words or expressions are characteristic of a culture. For that reason, the translator should have a cultural and linguistic knowledge to find an equivalence of such terms in his/her own Spanish variety. In fact, the linguistic varieties can evidence that the task of the translator may differ due to all the differences at the linguistic level (i.e. morphological, lexical and syntactic). The task of the translator is especially difficult when cultural differences also appear. The following section will focus on the translation of different cultural elements and how this type of translation depend on cultural background of the original language, which., the translator must take into account maintaining the closest meaning in the target version and to maintain the linguistic forms in the language variety used in the translation.

4. THE TRANSLATION IN DIFFERENT SPANISH VARIETIES AND THE USE OF TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES

We consider that the translation of cultural terms is difficult since there is not a specific technique to transfer them from a language into another. For this reason, we should take into account the meaning of "culture" since, this concept maybe different depending on the perception of this term by each country. Some authors such as Díaz and Remael think that the translation of cultural elements is not only based on the translation of words but also of the cultural background. Therefore, they define the translation of cultural elements as follows:

"Culture - bound terms are extra linguistic references to items that are tied up with a country's culture, history or geography, and tend therefore to pose serious translation challenges" (200).

It is an appropriate definition since culture in general represents an intellectual knowledge in our days and is characterized by the contact of different elements that reflect the identity of each nation. For this reason, the translation of culture - bound terms can present problems since a similar term in the original culture must be rendered in the culture that receives those terms. From this perspective, Hurtado argued that the terms "native language" and "target language" should be replaced by "culture of origin " and " target culture." And so, the translation is defined as intercultural communication. "(qtd. in Schäpers 7). This means that the translation is meant to be a "cultures exchange". Therefore, the translator is responsible to transfer the same information and the cultural elements attached to it in the target language.

Taking into account other definitions of the term "culture", i.e. that in the Merriam Webster Dictionary (2019), this is defined as "the integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behavior that depends upon the capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations." Some other authors present a more complete definition, like that of Boas or a more recent one, that of Katan's as the following quotes show:

Culture or civilization, a wide ethnographic sense, it is a network that includes knowledge, beliefs, art, moral, rights, customs, and any other habits and capacities acquired by the

man as a member of the society (my own translation Katan 1999 qtd. in Schäpers 10).

Culture includes all manifestations of social habits of a community, reactions of the individual to the extent that they are affected by the group customs in which he/she it lives, and the products of human activity are determined by those customs (my own translation Boas 1930 qtd. in Schäpers 11).

The first definition (similar to that offered by the Merriam Webster Dictionary) includes a series of independent elements which make reference to different dimensions associated with a society's behavior, which are those that will be typically found in the AVT, more specifically in sitcoms (i.e. customs, habits, beliefs, etc.). However, the definition of Boas, more anthropological, makes reference to the habits that determine the individual which are less usually found as cultural elements in the AVT.

In the case of the AVT of sitcoms, Hurtado's (2001) statement is especially interesting when pointing out that the subtitling of sitcoms in other language depends mainly on maintaining the communication between the source culture and the target culture. Díaz and Remael argued that "translators must then find an alternative that will allow the viewers to fill in the target culture gap as adequately as possible" (201). These alternatives are based on techniques taken by translators which are reflected, for instance, when words are not translated in the target language (e.g. names of cities, specific places, etc.) since they are usually well-known places for a general audience. Also, literal translation is a frequent strategy in the AVT to facilitate the comprehension of the message although in some cases target terms should be more explicit (and so explicitation as a technique should be used) as literal translations not always fill in the culture gap adequately.

In some other cases, other translation techniques are used such as (the use of hypernyms (Diaz and Remael) (203), that is, when a specific term in the original language is translated into a more general target term). All these techniques (and many others) are important in subtitling although may be the technique of omission is the one used more frequently in this type of AVT because of the characteristic format already described in section 2. (e.g. time and space restrictions).

The contrast of the translation into P Spanish versus LA Spanish does not only imply the

differences in the translation itself but the translation strategies selected by the translator. In addition, these strategies are reflected by the use of diverse techniques (e.g. explicitation, omission, etc.). Therefore, one of the purposes of the present study will be to compile and classify the different translation techniques used when both varieties of Spanish differ in the AVT of an American sitcom.

5. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the present work is to provide a description of the English- Spanish translation performed through the subtitling of the TV sitcom *The Big Bang Theory* in order to find out if there is an any difference between P Spanish and LA at the level of translation.

Secondly, the translation of certain English items or expressions included in this TV series will be collected and classified according to (1) the differences in the translation product depending on the variety of Spanish (i.e. P Spanish translation in contrast in LA Spanish translation); and (2) the different techniques used by the translators in those cases were the Spanish varieties differ in their translation. This way, this will help us to comprehend different interpretations of the source text paying attention to the specificity of the cultural and linguistic elements associated with Peninsular *versus* Latin American Spanish varieties as well.

Some examples from these two varieties of translation will illustrate the analysis.

6. METHODOLOGY

This section is centered on how the critical and descriptive analysis of the famous American sitcom, *The Big Bang Theory*, was carried out in this dissertation. The methodology consists of extracting all the subtitles that appear in the two different target versions of P Spanish and LA Spanish translations of the 17 episodes of the first season of this famous TV series. Special attention was paid to the presence of linguistic elements in the original text that could imply the difference in the translation into the P and LA Spanish variety and how this would affect the translation technique used by the translators of each Spanish variety.

In the first season of the sitcom, all characters are presented to the audience as having distinctive roles and each character experiences different situations in each episode. After compiling the cultural elements and their corresponding different translations into both varieties of Spanish, at different grammatical levels (i.e. phonological, morphological, syntactic and lexical²) we have classified the information according to the techniques used by the translator when the translation of both varieties differed.

² Since it is not the purpose of the present dissertation to analyze the differences of both varieties of Spanish at the phonological level (not really important for the subtitling in this case), this level will not be taken into consideration.

5.1 The Big Bang Theory sitcom



Before starting with an analysis of *the Big Bang Theory* subtitling, it is important to obtain some background information of this TV series to understand the analysis of linguistic and cultural elements in both varieties of Spanish. This comedy is composed of 12 seasons and is created by Chuck Lorre and Bill Prady (2007) and the plot is focused on two main characters, Sheldon and Leonard, two physicists who work in a technological institute. Leonard is portrayed as an intelligent but unattractive man who attempts to seduce to an attractive girl, Penny, another main character, creating a comical effect for the audience. There are other two main characters in the series: Howard, and Raj, who are Leonard's friends and who provide a counterpart to most of the comical situations. The vocabulary used is either too colloquial or too specialized, depending on the topic, the character or the context where the interaction of the characters takes place since the main topics are usually related to friendship, love and possible solutions to physical theories.

As the key element of this dissertation is to observe the differences between the translations in both varieties of Spanish, we have classified both target versions taking into account different variables, e.g. linguistic and/or cultural elements on one hand, and the translations techniques used translate them, on the other. These two dimensions in our analysis will be described in the following section.

5.2 The classification of different translations at various linguistic levels

The Big Bang Theory includes various cultural references and differences between both varieties of Spanish at the linguistic level. Each one of these references and differences is localized into a target language translation. This method helps to keep the same sense of the message when it is removed from the original version. Therefore, the translation is not only focused on linguistic aspects, but also cultural elements that are analyzed in every episode of this comical series. Many lexical elements appear in the sitcom and they are also associated with different linguistic levels (as described in section 3) and so they have been classified as table 1 shows:

Table 1 Classification of lexical elements at different linguistic levels and the translation techniques used.

English original	P Spanish Target	LA Spanish	Linguistic
Hey, is there a trick to getting it to switch from tub to shower?	¿Hay algún truco para que el agua salga de la ducha ?	¿Oigan y que hacen para cambiar de tina a regadera ?	Lexical
Juice box?	¿Un zumito ?	¿Un jugo?	Morphological
Are you sure? Come on, it's Halloween.	¿ Seguros ? Vamos es noche de brujas.	¿ Seguro ? Pero es Halloween.	Syntactic

As can see in the classification, one of the great differences that there is in both translations is the lexical aspect. This aspect is related with the different terms used in each version. For instance; the word “*ducha*” in the P Spanish translation is substituted by another term “*regadera*.” in the

LA Spanish translation. Both terms have the same meaning although adapted to its culture and language. In the case of the morphological aspect, there are terms which are different with regard to its form. For instance, in P Spanish the translator uses the word “*zumito*”. However, in LA Spanish the term is translated by “*jugo*”. In this case, in the P Spanish version use the diminutives (*ito, ita*) in substantives and adjectives.

In the syntactic aspect, the concordance in sentences, and the order of the words are part of the different translations. In this case, we have identified a clear example of the concordance of the sentences in both versions. In the original version, Penny tries to convince to her neighbors to go to a costume party and in P Spanish use the word *¿seguros ?* and in LA Spanish use the word “ *¿seguro?*”. As can see, in P Spanish the translator use the plural since it refers to many people. However, in LA Spanish the translator prefers to use the term in singular. All these cultural and linguistic terms are developed through strategies used by the translator. These strategies are methods that facilitate the process of translation, which will be explained in the following section.

5.3. Techniques in the P Spanish and LA Spanish translations

The purpose of translation is not only to render words into different languages but also to attempt to provide a reflection of any cultural changes. For this reason, the translator has the responsibility of transmitting the same message from the original version into another language (P Spanish and LA Spanish in this case), taking into account the linguistic and cultural peculiarities of each variety. In subtitling, the translator must use specific and well – established techniques to aid the process of translation. We have identified some techniques that have influenced the resulting linguistic differences. These differences are shown in table 2, which clearly illustrates our proposed classification of the abovementioned translation techniques using examples extracted from season 1 of *The Big Bang Theory*.

Table 2. Techniques in the P Spanish and LA Spanish translations.

English original	P Spanish Target	LA Spanish	Translation Techniques
Yeah, you turned your stereo down with your lap top	Sí, bajásteis el volumen del estéreo con el ordenador	Sí, le bajo al estéreo con la laptop .	Word by Word translation P Spanish vs. Borrowing in LA Spanish
You know, you can get one of those Universal remotes at Radio Shack	Podrías comprar un mando universal En cualquier parte	Oye se puede comprar un control Remoto universal... Enserio, son bien baratos	Adaptation
If everyone could please take your seats?	Por favor, sentaros	Por favor, tomen asiento	Omission
Are you sure? Come on, it is Halloween	Seguros, vamos es noche de brujas .	Seguro, vamos es Halloween	Calque
Sheldon, this is not your home.	Sheldon, esta no es tu casa.	Sheldon, esta no es su casa.	Word by word translation
Someone touched my board	Alguien ha tocado mi pizarra	Alguien tocó mi pizarrón	Amplification

Borrowing is a linguistic process in which a word from the original version is not changed when transmitted by the target language. As demonstrated in table 2, borrowing has been used with the word “*laptop*”, which comes from the English language and, at the same time, is paced directly

into the LA Spanish translation. In P Spanish, this word is literally translated (translated word by word) as “*ordenador*”, although the lexical meaning has been maintained in both translated versions.

Adaptation is also a method frequently used by translators; it consists of replacing one cultural term by another. We have found other examples of this lexical element in episode 11 of season 1. For instance, the word “*Radio Shack*” is translated in each version as “*mando universal*” in P Spanish and “*control remoto*” in LA Spanish. In this case, the translator uses a specific word to the target culture maintaining the same lexical meaning.

Another common technique used in subtitling is *Omission*. Taking into account the rules of translation explained in section 2, the translator has the choice to omit some information if it is considered irrelevant, especially in the case of subtitling. In table 2, we have recognized the omission in both versions. In this case, the omitted element is “*if everyone*”. The translator omits these words, since it is included in verbal inflections such as “*sentaros*” in P Spanish and “*tomen*” in LA Spanish. These morphological inflections allude to the word “*everyone*”.

Also, we have also identified calque as another important method used in the subtitling translations process. “A *calque* is when an expression from the source text (ST) is transferred literally into the TT” (Umamaheshwari, 41). In the example shown in table 2 is, the word “*Halloween*”, which is borrowed from the original language and placed into the target language. In this case, the translator maintains the same word in LA Spanish “*Halloween*” whilst in P Spanish the translator uses the phrase “*noche de brujas*”. The English term is used more frequently in LA Spanish than in P Spanish version since LA Spanish is closer to the source in cultural terms.

And finally, one of the main differences that we have found from examining the two Spanish varieties is that *literal translation* is used more often in the LA Spanish than in the P Spanish version. This is due to Latin American’s adoption of certain terms and expressions from English vocabulary, whereas in P Spanish, the translator tends to favor an attempted translation or adaptation. In some other cases, literal translation (word by word translation) chosen in both P Spanish and LA Spanish versions. For instance; “*Sheldon, esta no es tu casa*” in P Spanish and “*Sheldon, esta no es su casa*” in LA Spanish as illustrated in table 2.

In some other cases, there are examples of *amplifications*, particularly in P Spanish, such as “*someone touched my board*” which is literally translated in the LA Spanish version but in P

Spanish, it is translated using present perfect “*ha tocado*”, therefore adding words to the translation due to the specific verbal morphology of this Spanish language variety.

6. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF PENINSULAR SPANISH VS. LATIN AMERICAN SPANISH TRANSLATION.

In this section, we will analyze the cultural and linguistic elements communicated in the original version and how they are translated differently into LA Spanish and in P Spanish subtitles.

With this proposal in mind, we have carried out a detailed analysis of all of the lexical elements and syntactic structures that appear in one episode of *The Big Bang Theory* taking into account only the instances where there was a clear difference between the translation into P Spanish and that LA Spanish. Therefore, each example at different linguistic levels, providing a percentage for each translation technique used as tables 3 and 4 show.

Table3. P Spanish version: The linguistic classification and the corresponding translation techniques

Linguistic Class	Borrowing	Adaptation	Omission	Calque	Word by word translation	Amplification
Morphological		4%	6%		13,5%	11,5%
Lexical	4%	18%	2%		31%	4%
syntax		4%	2%			

Total 51 items = 100%

It can be noted from the above table that, in the P Spanish translation, the most noticeable statistic belongs to the *word by word translation*. This method is strongly linked to the lexical aspect of the translation. Likewise, there are other techniques that resulted in a high percentage, such as *adaptation*. Regarding the morphological aspect *word by word translation* and *amplification* show a high percentage. However, it is evident from the results that the techniques of *adaptation* and *omission* are used fewer times in this sitcom. The results in the table show that syntax was the least prominent of the three aspects, resulting in lower percentages.

Table4. LA Spanish version: The linguistic classification and the corresponding translation techniques

Linguistic Class	Borrowing	Adaptation	Omission	Calque	Word by word translation	Amplification
Morphological		12%			19%	
Lexical	4%	15,5%	6%	6%	23,5%	6%
Syntax		2%		2%		4%

Total 51 items = 100%

Examining the LA Spanish translations, *word by word translation* presents the highest percentages in both the lexical and morphological aspects. That aside, *adaptation* is highly used in the same two aspects. Some remaining techniques show decreased percentages, although other appear to have been used more often, such as *omission*, *calque*, and *amplification* lexically speaking. Finally, the table illustrates again that the syntactical aspect is the linguistic class least used by the translator.

Following the description of both tables, a developed comparison of the two translated version is required. We have noted that 31% of the P Spanish translations have been processed by *word by word translation*, opposing that of LA Spanish, which stands at 23,5%. Furthermore, there are of course instances where parts have been translated literally. Having considered the morphological aspect carefully, the technique of *word by word translation* is used frequently in LA Spanish than in P Spanish, as proved by their percentages; 19% and 13,5% respectively. This is due to the use of the verb tenses in each language. For instance, in the LA Spanish translations “pretérito indefinido” is commonly used, whilst in P Spanish translator opts for the “pretérito perfecto”. Likewise, in the LA Spanish of *The Big Bang theory* subtitles, *adaptation* is used more in LA Spanish than in P Spanish, which is noticeable in the use of pronouns. In relation to the morphological aspect the results echo this idea; P Spanish with 4% adaptation and LA Spanish with 12% of adaptation. In P Spanish the characters use the pronoun *tú/vosotros*, whereas in LA Spanish they use the pronoun *usted/ustedes* which is deemed as more polite. In P Spanish, the

pronoun *usted* is used more often in dialects such as Andalucía and Canary islands but here we can see that the translator decides to implement the use of *tú* in the P Spanish translation. Furthermore, there are terms that differ in the use of diminutives in nouns and adjectives, as well as the notable difference in the use of verb tenses in each language. Morphologically speaking, the technique of amplification is only used in P Spanish in 11,5% of the cases analyzed

With regard to the lexical part, we can see a slight decrease in some techniques. For instance, in P Spanish there is 2% of *omission* and 4% in *amplification* whilst in LA Spanish the same percentage of 6% is shown in *omission*, *calque* and *amplification*. On some occasions, the translator chooses the calque technique, since there are parts of the original text that are translated in the same manner, but without losing the meaning established in the source language. We have also identified that there is no difference when observing the technique of *borrowing*, as both versions adopt words from the English language. Finally, we could not bring this section to a close without highlighting the dramatic change within the syntax section in P Spanish.

Due to the variety of translation techniques and cultural references localized and analyzed in this dissertation, a conclusion, bibliography and glossary will be included.

CONCLUSION

The main aim of this dissertation is to analyze linguistic elements within two different translations using subtitles extracted from the TV series *The Big Bang theory*. This study is focused on three languages: English, Peninsular and Latin American Spanish. All the information compiled is separated into distinctive on different sections that aid the understanding of different techniques used in the field of audiovisual translation, and especially subtitling.

Firstly, we have created a theoretical frame to help describe the main points researched and observed within audiovisual translation, and we have studied subtitling in particular. This modality provides a series of norms which are necessary in the process of translation.

In order to analyze the different linguistic elements, the translator firstly needs to have knowledge of both languages to be able to adapt the references used in the source language. Having arrived at a finished translation, an analysis will always provide elements that differ in morphological, lexical, and even syntactical aspects.

Regarding the practical part of this paper, we expected to find strategies that are used by the translator. We discovered that these strategies are necessary in the translation of both versions, since they help to create a fluid translation, appropriate for the target audience. For that reason, we noticed that both versions are adequately translated and adapted to the target culture. We have noted, however, that in the LA Spanish translations there are many linguistical terms that differ morphologically, such as the aforementioned use of diminutives when compared to P Spanish.

To conclude, we appreciate that all aspects of audiovisual translation can be complex to achieve since all tasks require a detailed study of translation and a wider knowledge of the source and target cultures and languages. Lastly, we consider audiovisual translation, and especially subtitling to be a method of learning since the translator is constantly learning new skills. We therefore value the experience as a very important element in the field translation as it will in most cases help to produce the best translations.

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