

The lexicon of oral mediation in a contrastive and historical study I: the case of [interpret-]

Juan José Calvo García de Leonardo

Universitat de València Estudi General

calvojj@uv.es

Abstract

International relations and commerce have always relied on either one of two pillars: an accepted *koiné* or trustworthy linguistic mediation, with the various pidgin attempts as an interesting *tertium comparationis*. This linguistic mediation has had to fall back upon individuals capable of shedding light upon an otherwise opaque code of communication and thus of facilitating mutual understanding. From the point of view of the lexicon and so as to better define this vital activity, the corresponding culture imports foreign lexemes, coins new ones, surcharges others with additional senses, or even puts past currency back into circulation. The present paper offers an onomasiological and a semasiological overview of the present and historical values of the verb, noun and agent nouns of the Latin root [interpret-] in Spanish and English with greater detail, but also touching upon other major West European languages: Italian, French and German.

Key Words: contrastive linguistics, historical linguistics, onomasiology, semasiology, register

Resumen

Estudio contrastivo e histórico del léxico de la mediación oral I: el caso de [interpret-]

Las relaciones internacionales y el comercio siempre han descansado sobre uno de dos pilares: una *koiné* aceptada o una mediación lingüística digna de crédito; con los diversos intentos de pidginización como un interesante *tertium comparationis*. Esta mediación lingüística ha tenido que recurrir a individuos capaces de proyectar algo de luz sobre unos códigos de comunicación opacos y, con ello, facilitar el entendimiento mutuo. Desde el punto de vista del léxico y con el fin de definir con mayor exactitud esta actividad vital, la cultura correspondiente importa lexemas foráneos, acuña nuevos, sobrecarga otros con semas nuevos, o incluso vuelve a poner en circulación algunos pretéritos. El presente artículo ofrece un panorama onomasiológico y semasiológico de los valores presentes e históricos del verbo, el nombre y el agente de la raíz latina [interpret-], más detalladamente

en castellano y en inglés, pero también en otras lenguas principales de Europa Occidental: italiano, francés y alemán.

Palabras clave: lingüística contrastiva, diacronía, onomasiología, semasiología, registros

0. Introduction

In its etymological origin, [interpret-] is Latin *interpres* (from *interpretium*, “commercial benefit”): a transparent derivative referring to the middleman, the go-between necessary to establish the barter value, the ‘price’, in trading with barbarians. This individual was usually a captured native, a hostage or any other person forcibly brought into contact with the alien language and culture. Consequently ‘contaminated’ and ‘tabooed’, he was despised by his fellows, who would always sense treason. But at the same time, for the ‘superior’ culture he remained a barbarian, generally a *de facto* or *de jure* slave, and likewise despicable. This universal contempt has adhered not only to *interpreter* itself but also to many of its synonyms and lives on *e.g.* in the deep-seated scorn felt by many Mexicans towards Cortés’ *nahuatlato*¹ and mistress Malinche. From the very beginning, in Latin culture, the initial meaning and social value became augmented, by analogical and associative derivations with other senses, that delved into various intermediations, including those of deciphering secret codes and symbols and reformulating and explaining something in one’s own language. Yet the technolectic values and their translation functions are never totally abandoned. Throughout its historical development, [interpret-] –albeit not always *prima facie*– continues to be associated with registers: that of law (also of legal aspects of international relations and trade) from Latin times onwards. Eventually, the registers of philosophy, and, at least in English, those of computer technology shall also find their nook in the general array of the derived senses. Today as in the Roman Empire, [interpret-] is the adequate root for inter-linguistic, oral mediation.² But the profession is, by nature, ancillary and its practitioner remains a human tool: either the anonymous intermediary inside the dark booth, scarcely visible –if at all– by speaker and audience alike; or the discreet figure behind and askance the ‘great person’, an icon that does not come across as the sombre raven whispering knowledge to the omniscient ears, but rather looks like the enclosed character of Hamlet’s dumb show dripping poison into the sovereign ears. When we now turn both to historical and to present-day dictionaries, we shall see that this sense, our core and departure value, neither is nor has been foremost or principal.

1. The synchronic values

1.1. The present-day lexicographic values in Spanish and English

Bearing in mind the two principal languages of our analysis and in order to start off with what is known, before proceeding to less well known, we shall start with the bilingual comparison as given today. To do so we shall consult two dictionaries in Spanish and two in English. The 22nd edition (2001) of the Real Academia's *Diccionario de la Lengua Española* (henceforth DRAE) gives “traducir de una lengua a otra, sobre todo cuando se hace oralmente” and “persona que explica a otras, en lengua que entienden, lo dicho en otra que les es desconocida” for the verb and agent noun senses in second place, between “explicar o declarar el sentido de algo y principalmente el de un texto” and “explicar acciones, dichos o sucesos que pueden ser entendidos de diferentes modos” in the verbal senses and the obvious “persona que interpreta” and the rather vague “cosa que sirve para dar a conocer los afectos y movimientos del alma” in the agent noun ones. The second dictionary used, the 1st edition of Moliner's *Diccionario de uso del español* (1975) gave “traducir” in the third place out of six (pointing out that the sense was ‘not frequent’), while “persona que traduce o explica a otras en lengua de éstas lo que alguien dice en otra” was the first of three agent noun senses. Among the English dictionaries, the *Collins English Dictionary* in its 5th edition (2000) leaves “to act as an interpreter; translate orally” in the fourth and last place, while “a person who translates orally from one language to another” comes first among the agent noun entries. Similarly, the 2nd edition of the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (1987) left “to put (something spoken) in one language into the words of another language” in the third and last place, while “a person who interprets especially as a job –compare translator,” also came first. Quantitatively speaking, both languages stress the marked language aspects of this oral mediation, the mantic, artilectic (poetry, drama, music, dance) and technolectic senses; but, while the latter values correspond to the register of philosophy (logic) and computer technology in English; in Spanish, they concentrate in the registers of law with five noun and agent noun and four verbal senses respectively versus only one philosophical (metaphysical) sense.

1.2. Synonymy³

The first two groupings will gather those found in Spanish, the third and fourth those found in English. In each case, the sources are separated by the copula “and.” The fifth and last group lists those synonyms that are common to Spanish and at least one of the other four languages of our study.

The verbal synonyms

The verb *interpretar* gives the following Spanish synonyms:

explicar, comentar, entender(se), traducir, comprender, descifrar, glosar, parafrasear, alegorizar, exponer, leer

and

actuar, captar, comentar(se), parafrasear, representar(se), comprender, entender, glosar

The verb *to interpret* gives the following English synonyms:

interpret, diagnose; construe, put a construction on; infer, deduce, draw and infer; understand, understand by, be given to understand, gather from, take to mean; read, read into; read between the lines

explain, explicate, expound, exposit, enucleate, spell out, unfold; account for, give reason for; clarify, elucidate, clear up, make clear, make plain, simplify, popularize; illuminate, enlighten, shed/throw light upon, shed new or fresh light upon; tell/show how, show the way; demonstrate, show, illustrate, exemplify; solve; explain oneself; explain away

define, describe, delineate, determine, formulate, give the meaning, tell the meaning of comment upon, remark upon; annotate, gloss

translate, render, transcribe, put/turn into, transfuse the sense of, make a new version of paraphrase, rephrase, reword, restate, rehash, give a free translation

and

EXPLAIN with the following, derived synonyms:

elucidate, expound, explicate, clarify, make clear, make plain, illuminate, shed light on, throw light on, gloss, simplify, spell out

UNDERSTAND, with the following, derived synonyms:

construe, take to mean, take, read, see, regard, explain

DECIPHER with the following, derived synonyms:

decode, solve, resolve, untangle, unravel, make intelligible, understand, comprehend, make sense of, *informal* crack

TRANSLATE with the following, derived synonyms:

transcribe, transliterate, rewrite, convert, paraphrase

PORTRAY with the following, derived synonyms:

depict, present, perform, execute, enact, render

These are the plurilingual, contrasted, verbal synonyms:

explicar, explain, spiegare, expliquer	glosar, gloss, gloser
comentars(se), comment, commentare, commenter	parafrasear, paraphrase, parafrasare
entender(se), understand, intendere, entendre	exponer, expound, esporre, auslegen
traducir, translate, tradurre, traduire	leer, read, lire
comprender, understand, capire/ comprendre, comprendre	sacar, trainer
decifrar, decipher, déchiffrer	actuar, perform, jouer
	captar, saisir
	representar, enact, représenter

The noun synonyms

The noun *interpretación* gives the following Spanish synonyms:

glosa, lección, intelección, comentario, exégesis, cábala, inteligencia, sentido, significado, paráfrasis, hermenéutica, comprensión, explicación, impugnación, justificación, sugerimiento, tergiversación

and

alcance(s), captación, comentario, comprensión, entendimiento, exégesis, glosa, hermenéutica, inteligencia, paráfrasis, sentido, significado, valor

The noun *interpretation* gives the following English synonyms:

interpretation, construction, light, way of putting; diagnosis, prognosis, prophesis [med.]

rendering, rendition, reddition; version, reading, lection

translation, transcription, paraphrase, free translation, amplification, restatement, rewording; metaphorise, literal verbal word for word translation, gloss, interlinear, interlinear translation; key, clavis, Bohn; pony [U.S.], horse [Eng.], trot [U.S.], cab [Eng.], crib [all school slang]; Targum, Chaldee paraphrase

explanation, explication, elucidation, clarification, illumination, enlightenment, *éclaircissement* [F.], enucleation, simplification; exposition, expounding, exegesis, illustration, demonstration, exemplification; reason, rationale; solution

definition, description, delineation, determination, formulation, meaning

(explanatory remark), comment, commentary, commentation, word of explanation; gloss, exegesis, scholium

interpretability, construability, explicability, explainableness, accountableness; definability, determinability, describability, translatability

(science of interpretation), exegetics, hermeneutics, diagnostics, prognostics, symptomatology, pathognomy, semeiology, semeiotics [all med.]; physiognomics, physiognomy; metoposcopy; oneirology, oneirocriticism; epigraphy; glossology; paleography

and

EXPLANATION with the following, derived synonyms:

elucidation, expounding exposition, explication, exegesis, clarification, definition, simplification

MEANING with the following, derived synonyms:

understanding, construal, connotation, reading, explanation, inference, conclusion, supposition

ANALYSIS with the following, derived synonyms:

reading, evaluation, review, study, examination, diagnosis, decoding, decoding, deciphering, *rare* anatomization

TRANSLATION with the following, derived synonyms:

transcription, transliteration, paraphrasing

RENDITION with the following, derived synonyms:

rendering, execution, presentation, performance. reading, playing, singing, enactment, portrayal, depiction

These are the plurilingual, contrasted, noun synonyms:

glosa, gloss, glossa, glose	paráfrasis, paraphrase,
lección, lection/reading	parafrasihermenéutica, hermeneutics,
comentario, comment/commentary,	ermenéutica, hérmenéutique,
commento, commentaire,	Hermeneutik
Kommentar	inteligencia, inteligencia
entendimiento, intendimento	comprensión, understanding,
exégesis, exegesis, esegesi, exegèse	comprensione
cabala, cabale	explicación, explanation, spiegazione,
sentido, meaning, sens	explication, Erklärung
	adaptación, adaptation

The agent noun synonyms

The agent noun *intérprete* gives the following Spanish synonyms:

comentador, exégeta, expositor, lengua, parafraseador, parafraste, decretalista, escriba, faraute, vocabulario

and

comentador, exegeta, glosador, parafraseador, traductor, trujamán

The agent noun *interpreter* gives the following English synonyms:

interpreter, interpretess [fem.], dragoman [Near East & Persia], exegete, explainer, definer, explicator, exponent, expositor, expounder, demonstrator; linguist [obs. exc. local] linguister/lingster [dial. U.S.]; interlocutor, interlocutress/interlocutrice /interlocutrix [fem.]; go-between; translator, translatress/translatrix [fem.]; metaphrast, paraphrast; oncirocritic (interpreter of dreams)

and

TRANSLATOR and the following, derived synonyms:

transcriber, transliterator, decipherer, *rare* dragoman

PERFORMER and the following, derived synonyms:

presenter, portrayer, exponent, singer, player

ANALYST and the following, derived synonyms:

evaluator, reviewer, commentator, annotator, *rare* exegete, *rare* scholiast, *rare* glossator

These are the plurilingual, contrasted, agent noun synonyms:

comentador, commentator,	faraute, porte-parole
commentatore, commentateur	glosador, glossator
exégeta, exegete, esegeta, exegetè	traductor, translator, traducteur,
expositor, expositor, espositore	traduttore
parafraseador, paraphraseur	trujamán, dragoman, dragomanno,
parafraste, parafraste	drogman/truchement, Dragoman

1.3. Semantic fields

Semantically speaking, three main fields result from our stem [interpret-]: CREATION, RECODING (with the two linguistic subcategories INTRALINGUISTIC RECODING and

INTERLINGUISTIC RECODING and a SYMBOLIC RECODING in third place) and MANCY (divination):

CREATION is very similar to symbolic recoding, but derives from the values that associate [interpret-] with the poeiolectic capacity of the human being to express its own ideas, concepts and thoughts through verbal or non-verbal means.

INTRALINGUISTIC RECODING includes any explanation or reformulation within the same language, be it a standard pattern or any geolectic, sociolectic or technoelectic variety.

INTERLINGUISTIC RECODING corresponds to our core and departure sense: oral translation between natural, human languages.

SYMBOLIC RECODING includes any verbal transformation of ‘meaningful messages’, either sensed or else manifested through non verbal optical, aural, olfactory or tactile means. It logically is highly subjective.

MANCY is one of the core values of [interpret-] as it implies making sense out of and giving meaning to unuttered, ciphered or otherwise incomprehensible manifestations, be they written or spoken. Like the previous field, it is highly subjective

All three were already present, as we shall see in a moment, among Classical Latin authors and largely remain extant, albeit suffering gaps and undergoing wavering emphasis throughout time.

2. The diachronic values

2.1. Latin

The Classical and Low Latin authors

As mentioned above, in Latin literature *interpres* also numbers different senses. For Cicero it means “mediator,” “agent,” “oral translator” and “text translator,” though with the same blurry distinctions we shall find half a millennium later in Luther’s *Dolmetschen, Dolmetscher* and, two thousand years later, among the lay persons today. Within the wider range of the transferred senses, *interpres extorum* is the soothsayer, the haruspex capable of extracting information of things to be from the entrails of a recently sacrificed animal; *interpres cali* is the astrologist who obtains that self-same information from gazing at the stars, but also the astronomer; and the *interpres pacis* is the political mediator in peace talks.⁴ Lastly, Cicero identifies the fundamental function of language as ‘translation’ of ideas and concepts when he states: *interpres*

mentis est oratio. Another of the Classical prose authors, the historian Livy, coincides with Cicero in his understanding of *interpres pacis*,⁵ though he will typically refer to *interpretes* in the core sense mentioned in the Introduction. They are mediators with the others, the aliens, the barbarians, the enemy ... those outside the *latinitas*, the civilised orb: *peruenerunt litteræque lectæ per interpretem sunt et ex captiuis percentatio* ('Ab urbe condita' xxvii, 8, 43). For the scientist Pliny, the interpreter can also be identified, say, with the Biblical decipherers of dreams and wonders, with Joseph and with Daniel, when he talks about *interpretatio ostentorum et somniorum*. But, there is still one major sense worth commenting, that of the Homeric tradition of the *interpres diuum* that we find among poets and rhetors. Virgil uses it several times in the 'Aeneid', notably in iv, 356 *Nunc etiam interpres diuum Iove missus ab ipso (Testor utrumque caput) Celeres mandata per auras Detulit: ipse deum manifesto in lumine uidi*, where the image reproduces the Socratic *hermeneos*, evokes the steppe and prairie shamans and forebodes the Pauline ('1 Corinthians', 14) glossolalia.⁶ When illustrating in the 4c A.D. the rhetorical figure of the zeugma in the 'De schematibus' of his 'Ars grammatica' (also known as 'Ars maior'), Donatus falls upon another of Virgil's passages: *Zeugma est unius verbi conclusio diversis clausulis apte coniuncta ut Troiægenæ interpres diuum, qui numina Phæbe, qui tripodas Clarii aurosque sideras sentis et cetera*.⁷ As we said above, for Latin authors [interpret-] already presents our three principal semantic fields: CREATION (Cicero's *interpres mentis est oratio*), LINGUISTIC RECODING (the general sense found in Cicero, Livy and others), SYMBOLIC RECODING (Pliny's *interpretatio ostentorum et somniorum*) and MANCY or divination (Cicero's *interpres extorum*, Virgil's *interpres diuum*).

The Canon Law

The 'Codex (or Corpus) Juris Canonici' of the Roman Catholic Church understands two different things under *interpres*. For Caput IV, canon 1090 it will be the legal representative, the proxy or solicitor, when it states that marriage is valid through the mediation of an intermediary (*matrimonium per interpretem quoque contrahi potest*). Caput IV, canon 1106 retakes our core meaning, when it allows marriage to be celebrated with the mediation of an oral interpreter –though only if the parish priest ascertains his *fidelitas*: his linguistic skills and technical know-how.

The rhetorical values

For the traditional, Classical and Alexandrian rhetoric, *interpretatio* entails a kind of *amplificatio* by means of rewording: *Rempublicam radicibus evertisti, civitatem funditus deiecisti*, to quote the example included by Lázaro Carreter (1974: 244). In this rewording it will coincide with the figure of the *expolitio*. A further rhetorical value is

that of the typically Low Latin and Medieval ‘etymological’ decoding of terms (e.g. *cadaver: carnem data vermibus*, again taking Lázaro Carreter’s example) that we still observe in the Modern Period among theologically constrained lexicographers like Covarrubias trying to prove Hebrew etyma, or among ardent linguistic nationalists like Versteegan⁸ inventing a Germanic, monosyllabic, Adamitic *Ursprache* apparently meshed with the roots of the tree of life and the tree of knowledge.

2.2. Dissemination in the vulgar languages

The basic Latin terms will disseminate in the different Western European languages during the Middle Ages, Humanism, Renaissance and the Modern Period, alongside with those stemming from other linguistic sources like Greek, Germanic and Syriac, that we shall consider elsewhere.

The etymological dictionaries used are the following (acronyms between parentheses): Corominas’ *Diccionario crítico etimológico de la lengua castellana* for Spanish (Cor); Prat’s *Vocabulario etimológico italiano* (P); Migliorini and Duro’s *Prontuario etimológico della lingua italiana* (MD), Battisti and Alessio’s *Dizionario etimologico italiano* (BA), and Cortelazzo and Zolli’s *Dizionario etimologico della lingua italiana* (CZ) for Italian; Bloch and Wartburg’s *Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue française* (BW), Picoche’s *Nouveau dictionnaire étymologique du français* (Pi) and Rey’s *Dictionnaire historique de la langue française* (Re) for French; the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) -by default- together with Onion’s *Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology* (O) and Skeat’s *Etymological Dictionary of the English Language* (S) for English; and, both Kluge’s ‘*Etymologisches Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache*’ (K) and Duden’s vol. 7, *Herkunfts Wörterbuch* (D7) for the German language.

Verb values

Classical Latin *interpretare* results in Renaissance Spanish *interpretar* (1490, Fernández de Palencia; 1493 or 1495, Nebrija) (Cor). Together with *interpretari*, it gives Medieval (1294, Guittone d’Arezzo) (CZ) and Modern Italian *interpretare*. On its own, *interpretari* will give Old French *entreprenere* and both *interpréter* (1155) and *interpréter* (1321) (B). The latter will further result in Middle English *interpret* (1382, Wyclif).

Noun values

Classical Latin *interpretatio* gives Renaissance Spanish *interpretación* (1490, Fernández de Palencia; 1493 or 1495, Nebrija) (Cor) but also Medieval (14c, ‘Fatti di Giuseppe Ebreo’ e D. Cavalca) (BA, CZ) and Modern Italian *interpretazione*. The derived form *interpretationem* gives Old Northern French/Anglo-Norman *interpretation* (1160-1174,

Wace, ‘Roman de Rou’) (Re; not documented in OED) and Old French *entreprétation* (BW, Re) and ultimately Middle English *interpretation* (1390, Gower) though Old French popular derivation gives Anglo-Norman *interpretisoun* (1292, Britton) a century before.

Agent noun values

The agent noun offers the widest range. *Interpres -etis* results in an Old Spanish *entreprtador* (1220-1250, Berceo, ‘Milagros de Nuestra Señora’; ca. 1270-1290, ‘1^a Crónica general’) that continues into Renaissance Spanish *entreprtador* (Cor) and a Medieval Italian *entreprtatore* (14c) (BA) with a Renaissance feminine *entreprtatrice* (1546) (BA). The Latin form reappears in Renaissance Spanish *intérprete* (1490, Fernández de Palencia; 1493 or 1495, Nebrija), *entreprte* (1493 or 1495, Nebrija) and the feminine *entreprta* (1625, Vélez de Guevara) (Cor), today reduced and levelled to *intérprete*. Similarly, *entpres -etis* lives on both in Medieval Italian *entreprte* and Medieval *entreprte* (e.g. 1342, D. Cavalca and 1364, ‘Zanobi de Strata’) (CZ) and Modern Italian *intèrprete*. In the medieval French and English chronoclects the [interpret-] agent nouns can stem from two different lexemes. Firstly *entpres, -etis* deriving both into *entreprte* (1321) (Re) and (14c) *entreprte* extant today. Secondly, Low Latin *entreprtatorum* results both in Old French *entreprteur/entreprteur* (14c) (Re) –that does not outlive the Classical French period– and in Anglo-Norman *entreprtour* that derives into Middle English *entreprtour* (1382, Wyclif), *entreprtor* (1400, ‘Apology of Lollards’), *entreprtour* (1400, ‘Secreta Secretorum Gov. Lordsh.’) and Modern English *interpreter* (1535, Coverdale), the latter out of analogy with the other agent nouns ending in *-er*. The feminine, *entreprtess* (1717, Lady Montagu) and *entreprtress* (1775, Adair) were late Modern English options that did not prosper, the last OED entries being 1792 and 1865 respectively.

3. The changes in meaning

The second part of our paper studies the historical process and progress in order to establish the ‘inherited’ semasiological homogeneity or diversity of the [interpret-] *onomata*. Diachronically, we usually distinguish two main types of semantic change: that of quantity and that of quality. Among the first we include changes in polysemy and oligosemy, generalisation or specification, with addition or loss of sememes. The second relates to changes in evaluation: ameliorations and pejorations. Here we shall only deal with the first type of changes and, while doing so, regret the fact that the existing lexicons should so radically differ in their approach and exemplification.

3.1. Historical values in Spanish

Concentrating once more upon our polar languages, Spanish and English, the diachronic analysis for Spanish will start with Covarrubias' (1610) *Tesoro de la lengua castellana o española* (henceforth (Co)) and make a first stop at the first edition (1726-1737) of the Real Academia's *Diccionario de la Lengua Española*, commonly referred to as *Autoridades* (henceforth (A)). A second survey will pinpoint the incorporations or losses as reflected in the subsequent editions of the DRAE.

The senses until 1734

The verb senses

interpretar

(Co)

1. “declarar”

(A)

The first sense of *Autoridades* coincides with intralinguistic recoding:

1. “explicar o explicar alguna cosa y el sentido de ella”

The second sense is that of interlinguistic recoding:

2. “volver en otro idioma, ò traducir en orden al sentido de lo que se dice, ò está escrito en idioma distinto”

The third sense refers to symbolic recoding:

3. “significa asimismo dár otro sentido, ò entender de otro modo lo que se dice, ò el ánimo con que se dice o se hace algo”

The noun senses

interpretación

(Co)

Covarrubias first meaning corresponds to interlinguistic recoding, while the second can be understood as intralinguistic recoding or mancy and the same can be said of the first entry of *Autoridades*.

1. “declaración o versión de una lengua en otra”
2. “declaración de cosa oscura, como enigma”

(A)

1. “declaración ò interpretación de alguna cosa oscura y de difícil inteligencia”

The agent noun senses

intérprete

Covarrubias first entry retakes our core meaning of interlinguistic recoding:

(Co)

1. “el que buelve las palabras y conceptos de una lengua en otra, en el qual se requiere fidelidad, prudencia y sagacidad y tener igual noticia de ambas lenguas y lo que en ellas se dize por alusiones y términos metafóricos mirar lo que en estotra lengua le puede corresponder”

The first entry of *Autoridades* can also be understood as interlinguistic recoding, while the second is clearly symbolic recoding:

(A)

1. “el que intérpreta, explica ù declara alguna cosa o idioma”
2. “se llama en sentido analógico, lo que explica ù dá a conocer la voluntad ù otros afectos del ánimo”

The latter definition remains practically unchanged to the present day, as we shall see.

The senses since 1734

Let us now observe the changes from the mid-eighteenth century to the end of the twentieth century.⁹ The year of the edition appears between parentheses before each definition. We disregard changes that only affect accents.

The verb senses

interpretar

The first entry of the different editions understands the verb as intralinguistic recoding:

- (1780, 1783, 1791, 1843, 1884) 1. “explicar, ó explanar alguna cosa y el sentido de ella”
- (1803, 1817, 1822, 1832, 1837, 1852, 1869) 1. “explicar o declarar el sentido de alguna cosa”
- (1899, 1914) 1. “explicar ó declarar el sentido de una cosa”
- (1950, 1989) 1. “explicar el sentido de una cosa, y principalmente el de textos faltos de claridad”
- (1925, 1927, 1936, 1939, 1947, 1956, 1970, 1984, 1992) 1. “explicar o declarar el sentido de una cosa y principalmente el de textos faltos de claridad”

The second entry (or sense) covers interlinguistic recoding in general:

- (1780, 1783, 1791, 1843, 1884) 2. “lo mismo que volver en otro idioma ó traducir, en orden al sentido de lo que se dice, ó está escrito en idioma distinto”
- (1803, 1869, 1899, 1914, 1925, 1927, 1936, 1939, 1947, 1950, 1956, 1970, 1984) 2. “traducir de una lengua a otra”
- (1817, 1822, 1832, 1837, 1852) 2. “traducir de una lengua en otra”
- (1989 labels it as obsolete (sic!) from 1900 onwards, 1992) 2. “traducir de una lengua a otra, sobre todo cuando se hace oralmente”

The third, fourth, fifth, sixth and partly seventh entries of the different editions entail the symbolic recoding possibilities:

- (1780, 1783, 1791, 1843, 1884) 3. “dar otro sentido ó entender de otro modo lo que se dice; ó el ánimo con que se dice, ó se hace algo”
- (1803, 1852, 1899, 1914, 1925, 1936, 1939, 1947, 1956, 1970) 3. “entender, ó tomar en buena, ó mala parte una acción, ó palabra”
- (1817, 1822, 1832, 1837, 1869, 1914) 3. “entender, ó tomar en buena, ó mala parte alguna acción, ó palabra”
- (1927, 1950) 3. “tomar en buena o mala parte una acción o palabra”
- (1984, 1989, 1992) 3. “explicar, acertadamente o no, acciones, dichos o sucesos que pueden ser entendidos de diferentes modos”
- (1803, 1817, 1822, 1832, 1837, 1852, 1869) 4. “atribuir una acción á algun fin, ó causa particular”
- (1899, 1914) 4. “atribuir una acción á un fin, ó causa particular”
- (1925, 1927, 1936, 1939, 1947, 1950, 1956, 1970) 4. “atribuir una acción a determinado fin o causa”
- (1927, 1950) 5. “comprender y expresar bien o mal el asunto o materia de que se trata”
- (1925, 1936, 1939, 1947, 1956, 1970) 5. “comprender y expresar bien o mal el asunto o materia de que se trata. Dícese especialmente de los actores o de los artistas en general”
- (1899, 1914, 1950) 5. “comprender y representar un actor su papel bien ó mal”
- (1950) 6. “representar una obra de teatro o ejecutar una composición musical”
- (1984, 1989) 4. “representar un texto de carácter dramático”
- (1989) 5. “ejecutar un artista una obra”

(1992) 4. “representar una obra teatral, cinematográfica, etc.”

(1984, 1989 gives it in sixth place, 1992) 5. “ejecutar una pieza musical mediante canto o instrumentos”

(1984, 1989 gives it in seventh place, 1992) 6. “ejecutar un baile, con propósito coreográfico”

The seventh and eighth entries of the different editions refer to the creation field:

(1984, 1992) 7. “concebir, ordenar o expresar de un modo personal la realidad”

(1989) 8. “concebir, ordenar o expresar de un modo personal el asunto o materia de que se trata”

The noun senses

intepretación

The first sense of the 1780, 1783, 1791, 1843 and 1884 editions can be understood as intralinguistic recoding or as mancy:

(1780, 1783, 1791, 1843 1884) 1. “declaración, ó explicación de alguna cosa obscura y de difícil inteligencia”

(1803, 1817, 1822, 1832, 1837, 1852, 1869) 1. “la acción y efecto de interpretar”

(1899, 1914, 1925, 1927, 1936, 1939, 1947, 1950, 1956, 1970, 1984, 1989, 1992) 1. “acción y efecto de interpretar”

The second and third entries of the different editions deal fully with legilectic values that can understood as intralinguistic or as symbolic (‘the spirit of the law’) recoding values:

(1899). 2. [‘interpretación] auténtica’ *For*: “la que de la ley hace el mismo legislador”

(1914, 1925, 1927, 1936, 1939, 1947, 1950, 1956, 1970, 1984, 1989, 1992). 2. [‘interpretación] auténtica’ *For*: “la que de una ley hace el mismo legislador”

(1817, 1822, 1832, 1837) 2. “secretaría en que se traducen al castellano los documentos y papeles escritos en otras lenguas”

(1852, 1869 1899 and 1914 give it in third place) 2. [‘Interpretación] de lenguas’ “Secretaría en que se traducen al castellano los documentos y papeles legales escritos en otra lengua”

(1950) 3. [‘Interpretación] de lenguas’ “Secretaría en que se traducen al castellano documentos escritos en otras lenguas y que han de hacer fe ante los tribunales o autoridades”

- (1989) 3. '[Interpretación] de lenguas' "secretaría en que se traducen al español documentos escritos en otras lenguas"
- (1925, 1927, 1936, 1939, 1947, 1956, 1970, 1984) 3. '[Interpretación] de lenguas' "Secretaría en que se traducen al español y a otras lenguas documentos y papeles legales escritos en otra distinta"
- (1992) 3. '[Interpretación] de lenguas' "Secretaría en que se traducen al español o a otras lenguas documentos y papeles legales"
- (1899, 1914, 1925, 1927, 1936, 1939, 1947, 1950, 1956, 1970, 1984, 1989, 1992) 4. '[interpretación] doctrinal' *For.* "la que se funda en las opiniones de los juriconsultos"
- (1899, 1914, 1925, 1927, 1936, 1939, 1947, 1950, 1956, 1970, 1984, 1989, 1992) 5. '[interpretación] usual' *For.* "la autorizada por la jurisprudencia de los tribunales"

The agent noun senses

intérprete

The first entry of the 1780, 1783, 1791, 1843 and 1884 editions can be understood as intralinguistic recoding or interlinguistic recoding:

- (1780, 1783, 1791, 1843, 1884) 1. "el que interpreta, explica ó declara alguna cosa, ó idioma"
- (1803, 1817, 1822, 1832, 1837, 1852, 1869) 1. "el que interpreta"
- (1899, 1914, 1925, 1927, 1936, 1939, 1947, 1950, 1956, 1970, 1984, 1989, 1992) 1. "persona que interpreta"

The second and third entries of the different editions refer to symbolic recoding:

- (1780, 1783, 1791, 1843, 1884) 2. *met.* "lo que explica, ó da á conocer la voluntad, ú otros afectos del ánimo"
- (1817, 1822, 1832, 1837, 1852, 1869, 1899, 1914, 1925, 1936, 1939, 1956, 1970, 1984, 1989 and 1992 give it as *figurative* in third place) 2. *met.* "cualquier cosa que sirve para dar á conocer los efectos y movimientos del alma"
- (1927, 1950) 3. "cosa que sirve para dar a conocer los afectos y movimientos del alma"

In these two groups, the second entries correspond to interlinguistic recoding:

- (1899, 1914, 1950, 1984) 2. "persona que se ocupa en explicar á otras, en idioma que entiendan (1925, 1927, 1936, 1939, 1947, 1956, 1970 and 1989 write *entienden*), lo dicho en lengua que les sea desconocida"
- (1992) 2. "persona que explica á otras, en idioma que entienden, lo dicho en otra que les es desconocida"

The fourth and legilectic entry is also to be understood as interlinguistic communication:

- (1956, 1970, 1984, 1989, 1992) 4. intérprete de buques. Corredor intérprete de buques “agente colegiado y con fé pública que interviene en los actos de comercio marítimo, especialmente tratándose de buques extranjeros”

3.2. Historical values in English

The diachronic analysis of the English values will make use of the data given in a dictionary based upon chronologically sequenced citations: the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

The verb senses

To interpret

1. “to expound the meaning of (something abstruse or mysterious),” “to render (words, writings, an author, etc.) clear or explicit”; “to elucidate,” “to explain.” Formerly also “to translate” (now only contextually, as included in the general sense)

This entry includes symbolic recoding, intralinguistic recoding and –partly– also interlinguistic recoding, with aspects of mancy. It is the second oldest and first found in the late Middle English translation that Wyclif undertakes of the Bible:

1382, Wyclif, ‘Daniel’ v, 16 *I herde of thee, that thou mayst interpret derke thingis, and unbynde bounden thingis* (Vulgate: ... *ego audiui de te, quod possis obscura interpretari, et ligata dissoluere* ...)

- b. “to make out the meaning of,” “to explain to oneself”

A rather recent semasiological addition, this symbolic recoding is first found in the late Modern English period:

1795, Cowper, ‘Pairing Time Anc.’ 6 *The child who knows no better than to interpret by the letter A story of cock and bull.*

- c. In recent use: “to bring out the meaning of (a dramatic or musical composition, a landscape, etc.),” “to render”

The second latest of all additions, this symbolic recoding, is first found in the late Modern English, late nineteenth century:

1880, ‘Athenaeum’ 25th December 876/1 *The two female characters (...) were interpreted with striking success.*

“to obtain information *esp.* from a photograph used, *esp.* of aerial photographs taken for military purposes”

A mid-twentieth century incorporation of symbolic recoding is:

1950, A. Lee, ‘Soviet Air Force’ vii, 154 *Photographs developed in mobile front-line vans, were interpreted and the main points signalled (...) to army and corps headquarters.*

2. “to give a particular explanation of,” “to expound or take in a specified manner,” “to construe (motives, actions, etc.) favourably or adversely”

The chronologically oldest entry, again due to Wyclif:

1380, Wyclif, ‘Sermons’ (in ‘Selected Works’ I, 206) *As princes of prestis and Phariseis joined wiþ them, wolen interpretre Goddis lawe aff hem shal it be taken.*

- b. “to render,” “to explain,” “to translate by a specified term”

Another specific technolectic usage and, for the first time, a legilect. The other two are: an intercultural substitution (Verstegan in 1605, establishes the ‘equivalence’ of the Germanic goddess Frigga and the Latin Venus) and a botanical example (in 1690, Temple says that –generally speaking– Latin *mala* is equivalent to *apples* in English):

1530-1531, ‘Act 22 of Henry VIII’ c. 13 *No person ... being a common Baker, Brewer ... shall be interpreted or expounded handicrafts men.*

3. “to make an explanation,” “to give an exposition,” *spec.* “to act as interpreter or dragoman.” Formerly also in general sense “to translate”

As seen in our previous synchronic analysis, the core sense and semantic field of interlinguistic recoding we are interested in, does not appear foremost. Two are the main entries:

1382, Wyclif, ‘1Cor.’ xii, 30 *Wber alle speken with langages? wber alle interpretren [gloss or expowmen]? (Vulgate: numquid omnes linguas loquuntur? numquid omnes interpretantur?)*

1588, Parke’s translation of Mendoza’s ‘Hist. China’ 285 *Euery one wil construe and interpret thereon at his pleasure.*

4. *obs.* “to signify,” “to mean”

A symbolic recoding value that is not extant:

1614, Selden ‘Titles Hon.’ 107 *Sopbi by all likelihood was giuen him with regard to his reformed profession, as the word interprets.*

The noun senses

Interpretation

1. “The action of interpreting or explaining,” “explanation,” “exposition”

Again the first entry of this intralinguistic or symbolic recoding value is found in Wyclif:

1382, Wyclif, ‘2Pet’ I, 20 *Ech prophete of scripture is not maad bi propre interpretacioun* (Vulgate: ... *omnis prophetia Scripturae propria interpretatione non fit*)

- b. “The faculty or power of interpreting”

This mantic *charisma*, this Pauline gift of God, now understood as obsolete.

1526, Tindale, ‘1Cor’ xii, 10 *To won is geven the vitteraunce off wisdom ... To another the interpretacion of tonges* (Vulgate: ... *alii genera linguarum, alii interpretatio sermonum.*)

2. “an explanation give,” “a way of interpreting or explaining,” “a comment” (obsolete), “a commentary” (obsolete)

1390, Gower, ‘Confessio Amantis’ I, 145 *Of ... straunge interpretations, Problemes and demaundes eke His wisdom was to finde and seke*

- b. ‘a construction put upon actions, purposes, etc.’

1387, Trevisa’s translation of Higden’s ‘Polychronicon’ (Rolls) vii, 153 *Ge augt for to soften De opininouns of fonde men wiD better interpretacioun.*

- c. “the representation of a part in drama, or the rendering of a musical composition, according to one’s conception of the author’s idea”

As with the corresponding verbal senses, the first entry of this symbolic recoding value is found in the 1880 Christmas number of ‘Athenæum’:

1880, ‘Athenæum’ 25th December 876/1 *The part of Cassandra ... is capable of more various interpretation than that of her rival.*

3. “the way in which a thing ought to be interpreted,” “proper explanation” and, hence “signification,” “meaning”

A late Medieval symbolic recoding value:

ca. 1440, ‘Secreta Secret., Gov. Lordsh.’ 106 *Bytokenyng or enterpretysoun of wordes ys so as De esprit of word, and De endytinge ys De body, and De writyng ys De clethyng of wordys and spekyng.*

4. “the action of translating,” “a translation or rendering of a book, a word, etc.”

These interlinguistic recoding values referred to written material are considered obsolete, the last entry being dated 1646. As usual, the first entry is due to Wyclif:

1382, Wyclif, ‘Prologue to Joshua’ *If the oold oonliche interpretacioun please to hem*

The agent noun senses

interpreter

1. “one who interprets or explains,” *obs.* “an official or professional expounder of laws, texts, mysteries, etc.,” “a commentator”

The first entry can be understood as intralinguistic or symbolic recoding. The immediate sense rejects, as obsolete, one of the most common values in Spanish even today and is first found in the wake of the Wycliffite movement:

ca. 1400, ‘Apology Lollards’ 32 *God seiþ bi Ysaie ... þin enterpretors þan brokyn De lawe agenis Me.*

- b. “one who interprets a particular thing, or interprets something in a particular way,” “one who explains or puts a construction upon the meaning or purposes of a person.” Also *transf.* of things.

Purely symbolic recoding entries:

1531, Elyot, ‘Gov.: Proheme’ *I ... beseche your hyghnes to dayne to be ... defendour of this little warke agayne the assaultes of maligne interpretours.*

- c. Formerly a frequent title of books explaining the meaning of technical terms or unusual words:

On the other hand, this obsolete value refers to intralinguistic recoding of technolectic written material:

1607, Cowell (title) *The Interpreter; or booke containing the Signification of Words.*

2. “one who translates languages,” *obs.* “a translator of books or writings”

Once more interlinguistic, mainly written, recoding values:

ca. 1400, tra. ‘Secreta Secret. Gov. Lordsh.’ 48 *Iohan þat translatyd þis booke ... ful wys, & leel enterpretour of langages*

- b. “one who translates the communication of persons speaking different languages”; *spec.* “one whose office it is to do so orally in the presence of the persons,” “a dragoman”

Almost at the end we come to the sense we are primarily interested in: chronologically the first of them all and again due to the Wycliffite translation of Paul's 'First Letter to the Corinthians':

1382, Wyclif, '1Cor' xiv, 28 *If ther be not an interpretour, be he stille in the chirche* (Vulgate: *Si autem non fuerit interpres, taceat in Ecclesia ...*)

specifically as an oral intermediary between heterolingual parties:

1535, Coverdale, 'Gen' xlii, 23 *They knew not that Ioseph vnderstode it, for he spake vnto them by an interpreter.* (Vulgate: *Nesciebant autem quod intelligeret Ioseph: eo quod per interpretem loqueretur ad eos*)

and also specifically as an intralingual or interlingual intermediary in legal affairs:

1752, Louthian, 'Form of Process' (second edition) 212 *In cases where the Prisoner and Witnesses do not understand the British Language, Interpreters must be procured and sworn as follows ...*

3. "one who makes known the will of another"; "a title of Mercury the messenger of the gods"

The third entry corresponds both to symbolic communication and to mancy. In the latter we find the Homeric (and Socratic) *hermeneos* who must repeat *expressis verbis* and minutely, to the ultimate prosodic and rhetoric values, the message he (Hermes) or she (Iris) has been commended with. But is is also the intralingual medieval messenger who benefits (*¡dadme albricias!*) and suffers (remember the popular Spanish saying imbedded in the 'Quixote': *mensajero eres amigo, no mereces culpa non*) the effect of the news he has been charged to utter.

1490, Caxton, 'Encydos' xvi, 61 *Iupyer ... called to hym Mercuryus, whiche ys interpretour of the goddess.*

4. *Rhet.* "an explanation of one expression by another," SYNONYMY.

This intralingual recoding value is also considered obsolete:

1589, Puttenham 'Eng. Poesie' iii, xix (Arb.) 223 *The Greekes call it Sinonimia ... the Latines ... called it by a name of euent for (said they) many words of one nature and sence, one of them doth expound another. And therefore they called this figure the interpreter.*

4. Summary

In our review of the present and historical values of the lexemes that derive from the Latin root [interpret-] in the main Western European languages we have seen that the

core value of interlinguistic oral mediation is only predominant as a technolact, for the specialist and professional and that neither the historical nor the present-day references award it any predominance. We have also established three main semantic fields for [interpret-]: CREATION, RECODING (subclassified as INTRALINGUISTIC, INTERLINGUISTIC and SYMBOLIC) and MANCY (or divination). These fields are historically found in Latin and also in the synchronic and diachronic values of the Western European languages of our study.

(Paper received December 2005)

REFERENCES

- Battisti, C. & G. Alessio (1975). *Dizionario etimologico italiano*. Firenze: Barbèra Editore. 5 vols.
- Bloch, O & W. Von Wartburg (1968). *Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue française*, 5e éd., revu et augmenté par Walther von Wartburg. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France.
- Cobarruvias, S. de (1977). *Tesoro de la lengua castellana o española*. Madrid: Turner.
- Corominas, J. (1955-1957). *Diccionario crítico-etimológico de la lengua castellana*. Madrid: Gredos. 4 vols.
- Cortelazzo, M. & P. Zolli. (1992). *Dizionario etimologico della lingua italiana*. Bologna: Nicola Zanichelli, S.p.A. Editore. 5 vols.
- De Miguel, R. & el Marqués de Morante. (1889). *Nuevo diccionario latino-español etimológico*, 9ª ed., corregida y aumentada. Madrid: Agustín Jubera.
- Drosdowski, G. & P. Grebe (eds.) (1963). *Der grosse Duden 7. Herkunftswörterbuch. Die Etymologie der deutschen Sprache*. Mannheim/Wien/Zürich: Bibliographisches Institut.
- Espasa-Calpe. (1989). *Gran diccionario de sinónimos y antónimos*, 2ª ed. Madrid: Espasa-Calpe.
- Gredos. (1976). *Diccionario de Autoridades*, ed. facsímil. Madrid: Gredos. 3 vols.
- HarperCollins. (2000). *Collins English Dictionary*, 5th ed. Glasgow: HarperCollins Publishers.
- Cicero, M. T. *Pro A. Cluentio Oratio*. Available at: <http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/icicero/cluentio.shtml>.
- Kluge, F (1960). *Etymologisches Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache*, 18. Ausgabe. Bearbeitet von Walter Mitza. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.
- Lázaro Carreter, F. (1974). *Diccionario de términos filológicos*, 3ª ed. Madrid: Gredos.
- Longman. (1987). *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, 2nd ed.. Burnt Mill, Harlow: Longman Group UK Limited.
- Manguin, J. L. & D. Dutoit (coord.), at: <http://elsap1.unicaen.fr/dicosyn.html>.
- Miglorini, B & A. Duro (1965). *Prontuario etimologico della lingua italiana*, 4ª ed.. Torino: G. B. Paravia.
- Moliner, M. (1975). *Diccionario de uso del español*. Madrid: Gredos. 2 vols.
- Müller, W. (ed.) (1972). *Der grosse Duden 8. Sinn und sachverwandte Wörter*. Mannheim: Duden Verlag.
- Onion, C. T. (ed.) (1966). *Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press.
- Oxford University Press (1971). *The compact edition of the Oxford English dictionary (complete text reproduced micrographically) (+ 1987 vol. 3 A Supplement...)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2 vols. Available at: <http://dictionary.oed.com/entrance.dtl>.
- Oxford University Press (2000). *New Oxford Thesaurus of English*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Picoche, J. (1971). *Nouveau dictionnaire étymologique du français*. Paris: Hachette-Tehou.
- Prat, A. (1970). *Vocabolario etimologico italiano*. Milano: Aldo Garzanti.
- Real Academia Española (2001). *Diccionario de la lengua española*, 22ª ed. Madrid: Espasa-Calpe. Available at: <http://www.rae.es/>.
- Real Academia Española. *Nuevo Tesoro Lexicográfico de la Lengua Española*. Available at: <http://buscon.rae.es/nttle/SrvltGUILoginNttle>.
- Rey, A. (dir.) (1992). *Dictionnaire historique de la langue française*. Paris: Dictionnaires Le Robert. 2 vols.
- Roget, P. M. (1962). *Roget's International Thesaurus*, 3rd ed. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell.
- Roselli, R. (1989). *Dizionario guida alla scelta dei sinonimi e dei contrari nella lingua italiana*. Firenze: Ed. Remo Sandron.
- Sáinz de Robles, F. (1967). *Ensayo de un diccionario español de sinónimos y antónimos*, 8ª ed. Madrid: Aguilar.
- Skeat, W. W. (1988). *Etymological Dictionary of the English Language*. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press.
- Virgil, P. *Æneis* in IntraText Digital Library. Available at: <http://www.intratext.com>.

Dr. **Juan José Calvo** is tenured lecturer at the University of Valencia since 1992. He has taught History of the English Language and Translation subjects. His publications and main areas of academic interest are centered on translation studies, English diachronic linguistics and language contact.

NOTES

¹ It is worth noting that the Spanish language (albeit seldom if ever used) retains *nahuatlato* for “oral interpreter” as a result of contact with the Mexican Nahuatl speaking culture, yet has not done the same with any oral communication term related to the other great pre-Columbine empire, that of the Quechua speaking, Peruvian Incas, nor for that matter with the Tagalog speaking peoples of the Philippines.

² This does not deter public bodies from plodding along their well-known paths: the long and winding roads of pompous administrative lingo. The midday news on the Spanish TVE1 informs, on the fourth of December 2005, that the Barcelona hospitals make use not of interpreters but of *mediadoras interculturales* (“female intercultural mediators”) in the maternity wards to facilitate communication with the foreign mothers.

³ The first Spanish group lists those found in Sáinz de Robles (1967) and Espasa-Calpe (1989). The first of the English groupings are those found in *Roget's International Thesaurus* (1960); while the fourth refers those included in (2000). *New Oxford Thesaurus of English*. As for the other languages, the Italian synonyms are taken from Roselli (1989), the French from Manguin & Dutoit (coord.) and the German ones from Müller (ed.) (1972).

⁴ In his *Pro A. Cluentio Oratio* xxxvi, 101 *egestas domestica quastus forensis in medium proferabatur, numerarius interpres pacis et concordia non probatur.*

⁵ *Ab urbe condita* xxi, 1, 12 *adfirmans se pacis eius interpretem fore pollicetur.*

⁶ The iii, 358-360 full citation reads: *His natem aggredior dictis, ac talia quaso: Troiugena, interpres diuum, qui numina Phæbi Qui tripoda, Clarii auros ,qui sideras sentis.* Other ‘Æneid’ [interpret-] *loci* include the following: iii, 473 *Quem Phæbi interpres multo compellat bonor;* iv, 378-380 *Interpres diuum fert horrida iussa per auras, scilicet is superis labor est, ea cura quietos sollicitat, neque te teneo neque dicta refello,* iv, 608 *tuque harum interpres curarum et conscia Luno* and x, 175 *Tertius ille hominum diuumque interpres Asilas.*

⁷ This reference, albeit with partly different spelling, can be found at http://www.fh-augsburg.de/~harsch/Chronologia/Lspost04/Donatus/don_intr.html (consulted 31-10-05). Cicero’s *Pro Cluentio* citation can also be found at <http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/cicero/cluentio.shtml>; Virgil’s at the splendid <http://www.intratext.com> (all consulted 31-10-05).

⁸ Richard Verstegan was born Richard Rowlands, but his ideology led him to adopt the surname of his Teutonic grandfather.

⁹ We follow the DRAE editions, chronologically and as listed in <http://buscon.rae.es/ntlle/SrvltGUILoginNtllle:Autoridades>, 1780, 1783, 1791, 1803, 1817, 1822, 1832, 1837, 1843, 1852, 1869, 1884, 1889, 1914, 1925, 1927, 1936, 1939, 1947, 1950, 1956, 1970, 1984, 1989 and 1992. All of them are ‘Usual’, while ‘Manual’ is 1927 and one of the 1984 editions.